

1 Kings 12:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

Analysis

So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kingdom divided: rehoboam and jeroboam, within the book's focus on kingdom division as judgment for Solomon's idolatry. The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

Historical Context

First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. The kingdom division (c. 930 BCE) created the northern kingdom (Israel, 10 tribes) and southern kingdom (Judah, 2 tribes).

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can leaders today avoid Rehoboam's mistakes and lead with wisdom rather than pride?
2. What does the kingdom division teach about the long-term consequences of generational sin and compromise?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַל	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	אֲשֶׁר	וַיַּעַשׂ	בְּבֵית	אֵל
So he offered	H5921	upon the altar	H834	and ordained	H0	in Bethel
H5927		H4196		H6213		H1008
בַּחֲמִישֵׁהָ	עֶשְׂרִי	יוֹם	בַּחֲדָשׁ	הַשְּׁמִינִי	בַּחֲדָשׁ	
the fifteenth	H6240	day	even in the month	of the eighth	even in the month	
H2568		H3117	H2320	H8066	H2320	
אֲשֶׁר	בָּדָא	מִלִּבּוֹ	וַיַּעַשׂ	חֵג		
H834	which he had devised	of his own heart	and ordained	a feast		
	H908	H3820	H6213	H2282		
לְבָנָיו	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיַּעַל	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	לְהַקְטִיר:	
unto the children	of Israel	So he offered	H5921	upon the altar	and burnt incense	
H1121	H3478	H5927		H4196	H6999	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 13:1 (Sacrifice): And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

Numbers 15:39 (Parallel theme): And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: