

1 Kings 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

Analysis

Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's wisdom and the famous judgment, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy.

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. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the temple as God's dwelling place help us understand Christ's incarnation and the church as God's temple today?
2. What does Solomon's prayer and dedication teach about approaching God in worship and prayer?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|---|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------|
| הִנֵּה ה | עָשָׂה יְהוָה | כְּדִבְרֵי יְהוָה | הִנֵּה הוּא | נָתַתִּי יְהוָה | לִבִּי |
| H2009 | Behold I have done | according to thy words | H2009 | lo I have given | H0 |
| | H6213 | H1697 | | H5414 | |
| לִבִּי | חָכָם | וְנָבִין | אֲשֶׁר | כָּמוֹךָ | לֹא |
| heart | thee a wise | and an understanding | H834 | H3644 | H3808 |
| H3820 | H2450 | H995 | | | H1961 |
| | לִפְנֵי יְהוָה | וְאַחֲרָיְךָ | לֹא | יִקְוּ וְאֵין | |
| | so that there was none like thee before | thee neither after | H3808 | thee shall any arise | |
| | H6440 | H310 | | H6965 | |
| בְּמִוְלָךְ: | | | | | |
| H3644 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 1:16 (Parallel theme): I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

Matthew 12:42 (Resurrection): The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

1 Kings 5:12 (Parallel theme): And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

1 Kings 3:28 (Parallel theme): And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

Isaiah 65:24 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

2 Chronicles 2:12 (Parallel theme): Hiram said moreover, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

Colossians 2:3 (Parallel theme): In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1 Kings 2:9 (Parallel theme): Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

Psalms 10:17 (Parallel theme): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: