

# 1 Kings 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

## Analysis

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**And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.**

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

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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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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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וְאֵם	הָלַךְ	בְּדַרְכֵי	לִשְׁמֹר	חֻקֵּי	וּמִצְוֹתַי
H518	did walk	in my ways	to keep	my statutes	and my commandments
	H1980	H1870	H8104	H2706	H4687
כְּאִשׁ	הָלַךְ	דָּוִד	אֲבִי	וְהִאֲרַכְתִּי	אֶת יְמֵיךָ
H834	did walk	David	as thy father	then I will lengthen	thy days
	H1980	H1732	H1	H748	H3117

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 91:16** (Parallel theme): With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

**Proverbs 3:2** (Parallel theme): For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

**Zechariah 3:7** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

**1 Kings 15:5** (References David): Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

**Proverbs 3:16** (Parallel theme): Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

**1 Kings 3:6** (References David): And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

**2 Chronicles 34:2** (References David): And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

**Acts 13:22** (References David): And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

**Psalms 132:12** (Parallel theme): If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.

**Psalms 21:4** (Parallel theme): He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.