

# 1 Kings 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

## Analysis

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**Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.**

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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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## 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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H227	<b>Then</b> <b>came</b>	תִּבְאַלְמָנָה	שְׁתִּים	נְשָׁיִם	זָנָה וְתָ	אֶל	בְּפָנֵי	לְהַ
	H935	H8147	H802	H2181		H413	H4428	
	<b>and stood</b>	<b>before</b>						
	H5975	H6440						

לְפָנֵי: וַיַּעֲמֹד דָּבָר  
and stood before

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 18:16** (Parallel theme): When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

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