

1 Kings 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

Analysis

And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וַתֹּאמֶר	וְהָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת	אֶת הַיְּהוָה	אֶתְּיָדִי	וְאֶתְּיָדִי	אֶתְּיָדִי	וְהָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת
said	I and this woman	And the one	O	my lord	H589	I and this woman
H559	H802	H259	H994	H113		H802

הָיָה אֵת	בְּבֵיתִי, יֹשֵׁב תִּשְׁבּוּ	אֶת הַיְּהוָה	וְאֶתְּיָדִי	וְאֶתְּיָדִי	עַמִּי הַזֶּה
H2063	dwelt	house	And the one	and I was delivered of a child	H5973
	H3427	H1004	H259	H3205	

בְּבֵיתִי:
house
H1004