

1 Kings 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days.

Analysis

Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those 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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us'). 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. 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

בְּקִי	הָעָם	מִזִּבְחֵי יָם	בְּבָמֹת	כִּי	לֹא	נִבְנְהָ
H7535	Only the people	sacrificed	in high places	H3588	H3808	built
	H5971	H2076	H1116			H1129
בְּיָת	לֹא	יְהוָה	עַד	הָיָה	יָמֵינוּ	
because there was no house	unto the ~	of the LORD	H5704	until those days		
H1004	H8034	H3068		H3117		
הָיָה:						
H1992						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:43 (References Lord): And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

2 Chronicles 33:17 (Sacrifice): Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, yet unto the LORD their God only.

Leviticus 26:30 (Parallel theme): And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

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