

1 Kings 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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. Solomon's God-given wisdom points to Christ, 'in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Colossians 2:3).

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

שָׁפֵט	אָשָׁר	מִשְׁפָּט	אָתָּה	יִשְׁרָאֵל	כָּל	וַיִּשְׁמַע	וְ
heard	H3605	And all Israel	H853	judgment	H834	had judged	
	H8085		H3478		H4941		H8199
בָּםְלָרְגָם	בָּמְלָרְגָם	מִפְנֵי	בָּמְלָרְגָם	בָּמְלָרְגָם	בָּמְלָרְגָם	בָּמְלָרְגָם	בָּמְלָרְגָם
which the king	and they feared	the king	which the king	for they saw			
H4428	H3372	H6440	H4428	H7200			H3588
מִכְמַת	בְּקָרְבֵן	אֱלֹהִים	לְעֵשׂ וְתַ	מִשְׁפָּט			
that the wisdom	of God	was in him	to do	judgment			
H2451	H430	H7130	H6213	H4941			

Additional Cross-References

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

Daniel 2:47 (Kingdom): The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

1 Corinthians 1:24 (References God): But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Proverbs 24:21 (Kingdom): My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

Ecclesiastes 7:19 (Parallel theme): Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

Daniel 2:21 (Kingdom): And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Ezra 7:25 (Judgment): And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond

the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not.

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