

1 Kings 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

דָּיוֹד	עָבֹדָה	לְךָ	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ
said	And Solomon	H859	Thou hast shewed	H5973	unto thy servant
H559	H8010		H6213		H5650
my father	kindness	for him this great	according as he walked		David
H1	H2617	H1419	H834	H1980	H1732
before	thee in truth	and in righteousness	and in uprightness	of heart	H5973
H6440	H571	H6666	H3483	H3824	
with thee and thou hast kept	kindness	for him this great			H2088
H8104	H853	H2617			
that thou hast given	him a son	to sit	on his throne	as it is this day	
H5414	H1121	H3427	H3678	H3117	

בְּרוּךְ:

H2088

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:4 (References David): And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

1 Kings 1:48 (Parallel theme): And also thus said the king, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it.

2 Corinthians 9:11 (Parallel theme): Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

1 Kings 2:4 (Truth): That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

Psalms 15:2 (Righteousness): He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Psalms 116:7 (Parallel theme): Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.

Psalms 119:17 (Parallel theme): Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

2 Corinthians 9:5 (Parallel theme): Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

2 Kings 20:3 (Truth): I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Numbers 12:7 (Parallel theme): My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.