

1 Kings 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Baana the son of Ahilud; to him pertained Taanach and Megiddo, and all Beth-shean, which is by Zartanah beneath Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, even unto the place that is beyond Jokneam:

Analysis

Baana the son of Ahilud; to him pertained Taanach and Megiddo, and all Beth-shean, which is by Zartanah beneath Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, even unto the place that is beyond Jokneam:

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's administration and prosperity, 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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

בַּעֲנָא	בֶּן	אֲחִיל וֹד	תַּעֲנֶה	וּמִגִּדּוֹ	וְכָל
Baana	the son	of Ahilud	to him pertained	Taanach	and Megiddo
H1195	H1121	H286	H8590	H4023	H3605
יְבִית	שָׁאֵן	אֲשֶׁר	אֵל צֵל	צָרְתָּנָה	מִתַּחַת
H0	and all Bethshean	H834	which is by	Zartanah	H8478
	H1052		H681	H6891	
לִיזְרֶעַל	מִבֵּית	שָׁאֵן	עַד	אֶבֶל	מְחוֹלָה
beneath Jezreel	H0	and all Bethshean	H5704	H0	to Abelmeholah
H3157		H1052			H65
עַד	מֵעַבֵּר	לִיקְנֶעָם:			
H5704	even unto the place that is beyond	Jokneam			
	H5676	H3361			

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 17:11 (Parallel theme): And Manasseh had in Issachar and in Asher Bethshean and her towns, and Ibleam and her towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of En-dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and her towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns, even three countries.

Joshua 3:16 (Parallel theme): That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

1 Kings 19:16 (Parallel theme): And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

Judges 5:19 (Parallel theme): The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.

