

1 Kings 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Geber the son of Uri was in the country of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan; and he was the only officer which was in the land.

Analysis

Geber the son of Uri was in the country of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan; and he was the only officer which was in the land.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

סֵיחַ זַיִן בְּאָרֶץ: גָּלַע דְּבָאָרֶץ: אַרְבָּה בְּנֵי בָּרֶכֶת
Geber **the son** **of Uri** **in the country** **of Gilead** **in the country** **of Sihon**
H1398 H1121 H221 H776 H1568 H776 H5511

וְנִצְּבָא יְבָשָׂה | לְרַבְבָּשָׂה וְעַגְגָּה פָּאָמָרִי מִלְּגָד
king **of the Amorites** **and of Og** **king** **of Bashan** **officer**
H4428 H567 H5747 H4428 H1316 H5333

בְּאָרֶץ: אֲשֶׁר רָאָה דָּבָר אֲמָת
and he was the only H834 **in the country**
H259 H776