

1 Kings 4:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

Analysis

And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

שְׁלָמָה הַמֶּלֶךְ וְתַּחַת from the river	מִן H5104	בְּכָל H4467	מָוֵל H3605	רְגָנֵן H4910	וְתַּחַת H1961	וְתַּחַת the river
אֶרֶץ unto the land	H776	מִזְרָחֵם of the Philistines	H6430	בְּעֵד H5704	גַּבְּרֵל and unto the border	H1366
מִבְּשָׁרֵם they brought	H5066	מִנְחָה presents	H4503	עָבֵדֵם and served	H5647	שְׁלָמָה And Solomon
יְמִינֵי of his life	H2416	כָּל H3605	אֶת H853	עָבֵדֵם and served	H8010	יְמִינֵי all the days

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 15:18 (References Egypt): In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Joshua 1:4 (Parallel theme): From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

Psalms 68:29 (Kingdom): Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee.

Exodus 23:31 (Parallel theme): And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

1 Kings 4:24 (Kingdom): For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphsah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him.

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