

# 1 Kings 4:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fatted fowl.

## Analysis

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**Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fatted fowl.**

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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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רֵעַ יְהִי בְּקָר וְעִשָּׂר יִם בְּרָא יִם בְּקָר וְעִשָּׂר הַ  
Ten oxen fat and twenty oxen out of the pastures  
H6235 H1241 H1277 H6242 H1241 H7471

וַיְחִימַת וְרָא וְצָבֵבִי וְצָבֵבִי וְלִבְדֵּךְ אֶתְתְּמִימָה  
and an hundred sheep beside harts and roebucks and fallowdeer  
H3967 H6629 H905 H354 H6643 H3180

אֲבוֹסִים וּבְרָבָר יִם  
fowl and fatted  
H1257 H75