

1 Kings 4:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon.

Analysis

And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

גַּם־נָא כַּתְּבָת אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֵּשֶׁב
under his vine
dwelt And Judah and Israel safely every man H8478 H1612

כִּי מִתְּמִתְּבָנָת וְתַּאֲנָת־יְהוָה מִזְבֵּחַ מִזְבֵּחַ בְּאֵר עֵדָה בְּאֵר עֵדָה
even to Beersheba
and under his fig tree from Dan H8384 H1835 H5704 H0 H884 H3605

שְׁלֹמֹה: יְמִינֵי
all the days of Solomon
H3117 H8010

Additional Cross-References

Micah 4:4 (Parallel theme): But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

Zechariah 3:10 (Parallel theme): In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.

2 Kings 18:31 (Parallel theme): Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern:

Judges 20:1 (References Israel): Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpeh.

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