

1 Kings 4:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

Analysis

And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

למְרַכֶּב וְסֻס יְמֵן אֲרוֹת אֶלְף אֶרְבָּע יְמֵן לְשָׁלָם הַיְהוָה	H1961 And Solomon	H8010	H705 had forty	H505 thousand	H723 stalls	H5483 of horses	H4817 for his chariots
פָּרְשִׁים אֶלְף עָשָׂר וְשָׁנִים	and twelve	H6240	H505 thousand	H6571 horsemen			

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 1:14 (Parallel theme): And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 9:25 (Parallel theme): And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 8:4 (Parallel theme): And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.

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