

1 Kings 4:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

Analysis

And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וְיַדְבֵּר	שִׁיר	וְ	מִשְׁנֶה	שְׁלֵשֶׁת	וְאֶלָּף:	וְיַדְבֵּר
And he spake	three	thousand	proverbs	H1961	and his songs	and five
H1696	H7969	H505	H4912		H7892	H2568

אֶלָּף:

thousand

H505

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 12:9 (Parallel theme): And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

Matthew 13:35 (Parallel theme): That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

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