

1 Kings 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers: and Zabud the son of Nathan was principal officer, and the king's friend:

Analysis

And Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers: and Zabud the son of Nathan was principal officer, and the king's friend:

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְאֶזְרָיָה	בֶּן	נָתָן	וְעַל	פָּנָצָב	וְעַל	זָבָד	בֶּן	וְעַזְרָיָה
And Azariah	the son	of Nathan	H5921	was over the officers	and Zabud	the son		
H5838	H1121	H5416		H5324	H2071			H1121
וְנָתָן	פָּנָצָב	רָצֵחַ	בָּמָלֵךְ					
of Nathan	was principal officer	friend	and the king's					
H5416	H3548	H7463	H4428					

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 27:33 (Kingdom): And Ahithophel was the king's counsellor: and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion:

2 Samuel 15:37 (Parallel theme): So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 16:16 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.

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