

1 Kings 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household: each man his month in a year made provision.

Analysis

And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household: each man his month in a year made provision.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

וְלִשְׁלֹמֹה הַ	שְׁנָיִם	עֹשֶׂר ר	נֹצְרִים	עַל	כָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל
And Solomon	had twelve	H6240	officers	H5921	H3605	over all Israel
H8010	H8147		H5324			H3478
לְכֹלֵל:	אֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְאֶת	בֵּית ו	חֹדֶשׁ	בְּשָׁנָה ה
made provision	H853	for the king	H853	and his household	his month	in a year
H3557		H4428		H1004	H2320	H8141
עַל יְהִי הַ	אִם ד	לְכֹלֵל:				
H1961	H5921	each man	made provision			
	H259		H3557			
