

1 Kings 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David.

Analysis

And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of preparations for building the temple, 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

שְׁלֹמֹה הָאֵל עֲבָדָיו אֶת צֹר לִמְלֶךְ חִירָם וַיִּשְׁלַח
sent And Hiram him king of Tyre H853 his servants H413 unto Solomon
H7971 H2438 H4428 H6865 H5650 H8010

בְּיָמָיו שָׁמַע עַל אֲתוֹנוֹ מְשָׁחוּ לִמְלֶךְ
H3588 for he had heard H3588 H853 that they had anointed H4886 him king H8478
H0805 H4428

כָּל לְדָוִד חִירָם הָיָה אֵיבָב בְּיָמָיו אֲבִי יְהוֹ
in the room of his father H3588 a lover H1961 And Hiram of David H3605
H1 H157 H2438 H1732

הָיָה:
was ever
H3117

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 14:1 (Kingdom): Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and timber of cedars, with masons and carpenters, to build him an house.

2 Chronicles 2:3 (Kingdom): And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, even so deal with me.

2 Samuel 5:11 (Kingdom): And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

1 Kings 5:10 (Parallel theme): So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire.

Psalms 45:12 (Parallel theme): And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

Amos 1:9 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they

delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant:

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