

1 Kings 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year.

Analysis

And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year.

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 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְשֶׁלֹמֹה ה	וְיָתָן	לְחִירָם	וְעֶשְׂרִים	אֶלֶף	כֹּר	חֲטִיִּם
And Solomon	gave	Hiram	and twenty	thousand	measures	of wheat
H8010	H5414	H2438	H6242	H505	H3734	H2406

מִכֹּל לֶחֶם	לְבֵיתוֹ	וְעֶשְׂרִים	כֹּר	שֶׁמֶן	כֶּתֶת יֵת	כֹּה	וְיָתָן
for food	to his household	and twenty	measures	oil	of pure	H3541	gave
H4361	H1004	H6242	H3734	H8081	H3795		H5414

וְשֶׁלֹמֹה ה	לְחִירָם	בְּשָׁנָה:	בְּשָׁנָה:
And Solomon	Hiram	by year	by year
H8010	H2438	H8141	H8141

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 2:10 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.