

1 Kings 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him:
and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they
two made a league together.

Analysis

And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

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. Solomon's God-given wisdom points to Christ, 'in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Colossians 2:3).

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וַיְהִי הַ	נָתַן	חִכְמָה	שְׁלֹמֹה	כְּאֲשֶׁר	דִּבֶּר	לֹא
And the LORD	gave	wisdom	Solomon	H834	as he promised	H0
H3068	H5414	H2451	H8010		H1696	
וְיָהִי יְ	שָׁלֵם	בֵּין	חִירָם	וּבֵין	שְׁלֹמֹה	
H1961	him and there was peace	H996	between Hiram	H996	Solomon	
	H7965		H2438		H8010	
וַיַּכְתּוּ	בְּרִית	שְׁנֵיהֶם:				
made	a league	and they two				
H3772	H1285	H8147				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 3:12 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

Amos 1:9 (Covenant): 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: