

1 Kings 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.

Analysis

And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.

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

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

וַיַּעַל	וְהָמֶלֶךְ	שְׁלֹמֹה ה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	מִכָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וְיָהּ	הַמֶּלֶךְ
raised	And king	Solomon	a levy	H3605	out of all Israel	H1961	a levy
H5927	H4428	H8010	H4522		H3478		H4522
שְׁלֹשִׁים	אֶלְפִּי	אִישׁ:					
was thirty	thousand	men					
H7970	H505	H376					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:15 (Kingdom): And this is the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build the house of the LORD, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer.

1 Kings 4:6 (Parallel theme): And Ahishar was over the household: and Adoniram the son of Abda was over the tribute.

