

# 1 Kings 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains;

## Analysis

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**And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains;**

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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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סְבִּלְתָּן אֲלֵי שְׁבָעָ יָמִים לְשִׁלְמָה הִיָּה

H1961 And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens

H8010

H7657

H505

H5375

H5449

בְּהָרִים אֲלֵי וְשָׁמְנָ יָמִים חֲצֵבָה

and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains

H8084

H505

H2672

H2022