

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

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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וַיְהִי י'	לְשֹׁלֹמֹה ה'	שְׁבַע יָם	אֶלָּף	נִשְׁ א	סִבָּ ל
H1961	And Solomon	had threescore and ten	thousand	that bare	burdens
	H8010	H7657	H505	H5375	H5449
וּשְׁמֹנֶ יָם	אֶלָּף	חִצֵּי ב	בְּהָרִ:		
and fourscore	thousand	hewers	in the mountains		
H8084	H505	H2672	H2022		