

1 Kings 5:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work.

Analysis

Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work.

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

בְּמַלְאָכָה עַל אֲשֶׁר לְשִׁלְמָה הַנִּצְבֵּי מִשְׁרֵי בְּדָק H905 Beside the chief officers of Solomon's H834 H5921 H4399 in the work

בְּעַם בָּרֶךְ יְמִינָה וְשָׁלַשׁ מֵאֹת אֶלְף יְמִינָה וְשָׁלַשׁ H7969 H505 H7969 H3967 H7287 H5971 and three thousand and three hundred which ruled over the people

בְּמַלְאָכָה בְּעַשְׁיָה that wrought in the work H6213 H4399

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:23 (Parallel theme): These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.

2 Chronicles 2:2 (Parallel theme): And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.

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