

1 Kings 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

Analysis

And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וַיִּצַו	וְהָמֶלֶךְ	וַיָּבִיאוּ	אֲבָנֵי	גְדֹלֹת	אֲבָנֵי
commanded	And the king	and they brought	stones	great	stones
H6680	H4428	H5265	H68	H1419	H68
וַיִּקְרָא	לִיסֹד	הַבַּיִת	אֲבָנֵי	גְזִיתִּים:	
costly	to lay the foundation	of the house	stones	and hewed	
H3368	H3245	H1004	H68	H1496	

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 22:2 (Parallel theme): And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.

1 Kings 6:7 (Parallel theme): And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

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