

1 Kings 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.

Analysis

Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

אֶתְּ הַ	יָדָעְתָּ	אֶתְּ	דָּוִד	אָבִי	כִּי	לֹא	יָכֹל
H859	Thou knowest	H853	how that David	my father	H3588	H3808	could
	H3045		H1732	H1			H3201
לִבְנוֹת	בֵּית	לְשֵׁם	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	מִפְנֵי	הַ	הַמִּלְחָמָה
not build	an house	unto the ~	of the LORD	his God	for		the wars
H1129	H1004	H8034	H3068	H430	H6440		H4421
אֲשֶׁר	סָבִיב	הוּא	עַד	תֵּת	יְהוָה	אֶתְּ	מֵ
H834	which were about him on every side		H5704	put	of the LORD	H853	
	H5437			H5414	H3068		
תַּחַת	כַּף	רַגְלֵוֹ					
H8478	them under the soles	of his feet					
	H3709	H7272					

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 28:3 (References God): But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

1 Chronicles 22:8 (References Lord): But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.

1 Corinthians 15:25 (Parallel theme): For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.