

1 Kings 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household.

Analysis

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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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

עַבְדֵי	יָרֵדוּ	מִן	הַלְבָּנוֹן	בָּיָם	וְאֶנִּי
My servants	shall bring them down	H4480	from Lebanon	them by sea	H589
H5650	H3381		H3844	H3220	
אֲשִׁימָם	דָּבָר וְתֵי	בָּיָם	עַד	הַמָּקוֹם	אֲשֶׁר
and I will convey	in floats	them by sea	H5704	unto the place	H834
H7760	H1702	H3220		H4725	
תִּשְׁלַח	אֵלַי	וְנִפְצְתִּי	יָם	שָׁם	
that thou shalt appoint	H413	me and will cause them to be discharged		H8033	
H7971		H5310			
וְאַתָּה	תִּשָּׂא	וְאַתָּה	תַּעֲשֶׂה		
H859	there and thou shalt receive	H859	them and thou shalt accomplish		
	H5375		H6213		
אֶת	חֲפָצִי	לִתְּתִי	לָהֶם	בֵּיתִי:	
H853	my desire	in giving	food	for my household	
	H2656	H5414	H3899	H1004	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 27:17 (Parallel theme): Judah, and the land of Israel, they were thy merchants: they traded in thy market wheat of Minnith, and Pannag, and honey, and oil, and balm.

Ezra 3:7 (Parallel theme): They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

Acts 12:20 (Parallel theme): And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

2 Chronicles 2:16 (Parallel theme): And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in flotes by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem.

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