

1 Kings 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place.

Analysis

And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of construction of 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

וַיִּבֶן	אֶת	עֶשְׂרִי יָמִים	אַמָּה	הַ	מִדְּבָרֹתַי	יָמִית	מִבַּיִת	וְעָלָה
And he built	H853	twenty	cubits		on the sides	of the house		with boards
H1129		H6242	H520		H3411	H1004		H6763
יָמִים	מִן	עַל	הַקִּיר	וְעַל	הַקִּיר	וְעַל	וְעַל	וְעַל
of cedar	both	the floor	H5704	and the walls	And he built	H0	of the house	
H730	H4480	H7172		H7023	H1129		H1004	
לְדָבָר	יָרָא	הַקִּדְשִׁים	הַקִּדְשִׁים	הַקִּדְשִׁים				
even for the oracle		even for the most	even for the most	even for the most				
H1687		H6944	H6944					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:6 (Holy): And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.

2 Chronicles 3:8 (Holy): And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents.

Hebrews 9:3 (Parallel theme): And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

Leviticus 16:2 (Holy): And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

Ezekiel 45:3 (Holy): And of this measure shalt thou measure the length of five and twenty thousand, and the breadth of ten thousand: and in it shall be the sanctuary and the most holy place.