

1 Kings 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen.

Analysis

And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen.

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

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְפִתּוֹר יְמֵינָה בְּבֵית אֶל אֶרְז מִקְלָע עַת הַבְּנִיה פָנָה יְמֵה אֶל אֶרְז
And the cedar of the house within was carved with knobs H6358
H730 H1004 H6441 H4734 H6497

בְּרָאָה:	אָבִי	אָבִי	אָבִי	אָבִי	אָבִי	אָבִי
flowers	H3605	And the cedar	H369	there was no stone	seen	
H6731		H730		H68		H7200

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 7:24 (Parallel theme): And under the brim of it round about there were knops compassing it, ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about: the knops were cast in two rows, when it was cast.

