

1 Kings 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

Analysis

And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

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 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וְיָבֹעַ יְהוָה	בָּנָה	רַאשׁ	וְיָבֹעַ יְהוָה	שְׁלֹמֹה	לְיִהְיֶה
And the house	built	which king	Solomon	for the LORD	
H1004	H834	H1129	H4428	H8010	H3068
שְׁשָׁים	אָמִת	אָמִת	יָמִים	וְעִשְׂרֵה	וְחִמְצֵה
thereof was threescore	cubits	the length	thereof twenty	and the breadth	
H8346	H520	H753	H6242	H7341	
וְשְׁלֹשׁ יָמִים	אָמִת	קְוִמְתָּן			
thereof thirty	cubits	cubits and the height			
H7970	H520	H6967			

