

# 1 Kings 6:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high.

## Analysis

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**And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high.**

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 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

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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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיַּעַשׂ	בְּדִבּ יְר	שְׁנֵי י	כְּרוּבִים	עֵצִי	שֶׁן מֶן	עֶשְׂרִים
he made	And within the oracle	two	cherubims	tree	of olive	each ten
H6213	H1687	H8147	H3742	H6086	H8081	H6235

אֶמְתָּוִי	קוֹמָתוֹ
cubits	high
H520	H6967