

1 Kings 6:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.

Analysis

And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיֵּט	אֶת	הַכֶּרֶב	וּב	תּוֹךְ	הַבַּיִת	הַפְּנִימִי
And he set	H853	cherub		in the midst	house	the inner
H5414		H3742		H8432	H1004	H6442
<hr/>						
וַיִּפְרְשׁוּ	אֶת	כַּנְפֵּי:	הַכֶּרֶב	וּב	נִגְעַת	כַּנְף:
and they stretched forth	H853	and the wing	cherub		touched	and the wing
H6566		H3671	H3742		H5060	H3671
<hr/>						
הָאֶחָד	בֵּין	כַּנְף:	הַכֶּרֶב	וּב	הַשֵּׁנִי	נִגְעַת
of the one	the one wall	and the wing	cherub		of the other	touched
H259	H7023	H3671	H3742		H8145	H5060
<hr/>						
בֵּין	הַשֵּׁנִי	כַּנְף:	אֶל	תּוֹךְ	הַבַּיִת	נִגְעַת
the one wall	of the other	and the wing	H413	in the midst	house	touched
H7023	H8145	H3671		H8432	H1004	H5060
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כַּנְף:	אֶל	כַּנְף:				
and the wing	H413	and the wing				
H3671		H3671				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 25:20 (Parallel theme): And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

Exodus 37:9 (Parallel theme): And the cherubims spread out their wings on high, and covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims.

2 Chronicles 5:8 (Parallel theme): For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

1 Kings 8:7 (Parallel theme): For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

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