

1 Kings 6:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without.

Analysis

And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without.

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

וְאֵת	כָּל	קִיר	וְתֵי	הַבַּיִת	בְּמִסָּבָה	עָלָה	פְּתוּחֵי
H853	H3605	all the walls	of the house	round about	And he carved	with carved	
		H7023	H1004	H4524	H7049	H6603	

מִקְלָעוֹת	כְּרוּבִים	וְתִמְרֵי	וּפְטוֹרֵי	צִפְרִי	מִלְפָּנָיו
figures	of cherubims	and palm trees		flowers	within
H4734	H3742	H8561	H6358	H6731	H6441

וְלִחְצִיזוֹן:

and without

H2435

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 6:32 (Parallel theme): The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees.

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