

1 Kings 6:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

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 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וּשְׁתֵּי	בִּלְתֹּת	וְצִי	שֶׁמֶן	וְקָלַע	עַל לֵיהֶם			
The two	doors	tree	also were of olive	and he carved	H5921			
H8147	H1817	H6086	H8081	H7049				
מִקְלָע	וְעַל	הַכְּרוּבִים	וְעַל	וְעַל	וְעַל			
upon them carvings	of cherubims	and palm trees	H6358	flowers	and overlaid			
H4734	H3742	H8561		H6731	H6823			
הַזָּהָב:	וְיָרַד	עַל	הַכְּרוּבִים	וְעַל	וְעַל	אֶת	וְעַל	הַזָּהָב:
gold	and spread	H5921	of cherubims	H5921	and palm trees	H853	gold	
H2091	H7286		H3742		H8561		H2091	

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