

1 Kings 6:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

Analysis

And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

שָׁנִים:	הָעֲשֶׂרֶת	עֶשְׂרֵה	בִּיָּחַד	בַּיּוֹל	הָוָא	הַחֹדֶשׁ
year	And in the eleventh	H6240	in the month	Bul	H1931	month
H8141	H259		H3391	H945		H2320
הַשְּׁמִינִי	כָּלָה	הָיָה	לְכֹל	דִּבְרֵי	יּוֹ	וּלְכֹל
which is the eighth	finished	was the house	H3605	throughout all the parts		H3605
H8066	H3615	H1004		H1697		
מִשְׁפָּטָו	וּבְנֵהוּ	שֶׁבַע	שָׁנִים:			
thereof and according to all the fashion	in building	of it So was he seven	year			
H4941	H1129	H7651	H8141			

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 4:9 (Parallel theme): The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

1 Kings 7:1 (Parallel theme): But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.

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