

1 Kings 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:

Analysis

And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:

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. Temple architecture followed patterns common to ancient Near Eastern sanctuaries, but Israel's temple distinctly lacked any image of Yahweh, emphasizing His transcendence. 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וַיִּבֶן he built H1129	עַל H5921	קִיר וְאֵת And against the wall H7023	הַבַּיִת of the house H1004	יָצַו chambers H3326	סָבִיב: round about H5439	אֶת H853
קִיר וְאֵת And against the wall H7023	קִיר וְאֵת And against the wall H7023	הַבַּיִת of the house H1004	סָבִיב: round about H5439	לְהִיכָל both of the temple H1964	וּלְדִבְיָר and of the oracle H1687	
וַיַּעַשׂ and he made H6213	צָלַע chambers H6763	סָבִיב: round about H5439				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 6:16 (Parallel theme): And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place.

Psalms 28:2 (Parallel theme): Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.

1 Kings 6:31 (Creation): And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall.

2 Chronicles 5:9 (Parallel theme): And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day.

2 Chronicles 4:20 (Parallel theme): Moreover the candlesticks with their lamps, that they should burn after the manner before the oracle, of pure gold;

2 Chronicles 5:7 (Parallel theme): And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims: