

1 Kings 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.

Analysis

But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of temple furnishings and Solomon's palace, 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְאֵת	בֵּיתוֹ:	בָּנָה	שְׁלֹמֹה	שָׁלֹשָׁה	עָשָׂר	שָׁנָה
H853	all his house	was building	But Solomon	thirteen	H6240	years
	H1004	H1129	H8010	H7969		H8141
וַיִּכְלֶה	אֶת	כָּל	בֵּיתוֹ:			
and he finished	H853	H3605	all his house			
H3615			H1004			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:10 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD, and the king's house,

2 Chronicles 8:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the LORD, and his own house,

Matthew 6:33 (Parallel theme): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

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