

1 Kings 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the great court round about was with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for the inner court of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the house.

Analysis

And the great court round about was with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for the inner court of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

רַצְחָנָן	וְلֹא	רַצְחָנָן	הַ	פְּגֻדָּל	וְ	פְּגֻדָּל	וְ	יְבָשָׂה	סְבִיבָה	שְׁלָשָׁה	וְ	וְ	יְתָהָרָה	
court	And the great	round about		was with three		and a row	of hewed stones							
H2691	H1419	H5439		H7969		H2905	H1496							
וְ	רַצְחָנָן	רַצְחָנָן	הַ	פְּגֻדָּל	וְ	פְּגֻדָּל	וְ	יְבָשָׂה	סְבִיבָה	שְׁלָשָׁה	וְ	וְ	יְתָהָרָה	
and a row	beams	of cedar		court		of the house	of the LORD							
H2905	H3773	H730		H2691		H1004	H3068							
וְ	רַצְחָנָן	רַצְחָנָן	הַ	פְּגֻדָּל	וְ	פְּגֻדָּל	וְ	יְבָשָׂה	סְבִיבָה	שְׁלָשָׁה	וְ	וְ	יְתָהָרָה	
both for the inner	and for the porch	of the house												
H6442	H197	H1004												

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 6:36 (Parallel theme): And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

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