

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

גִּזְ יֵת	וְטוֹר	שְׁלֹשָׁה	סָבִיב	הַגָּדוֹלָה	וְלִחְצֵר
of hewed stones	and a row	was with three	round about	And the great	court
H1496	H2905	H7969	H5439	H1419	H2691
יְהוָה	הַבַּיִת:	וְלִחְצֵר	אֲרָזִים	כְּתָרֵת	וְטוֹר
of the LORD	of the house	court	of cedar	beams	and a row
H3068	H1004	H2691	H730	H3773	H2905
הַבַּיִת:	וְלִאֲלֵם	הַפְּנִימִי	יֵת		
of the house	and for the porch	both for the inner			
H1004	H197	H6442			

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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