

1 Kings 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.

Analysis

He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.

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. Solomon's God-given wisdom points to Christ, 'in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Colossians 2:3).

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

בָּן	אֲשֶׁר	הִנֵּה	אֶלְמָנָה	הַיְאָה	מִמְּטָה	יְנַפְּתַל	אָבִיו
son	He was a widow's		H490	H1931	of the tribe	of Naphtali	and his father
H1121	H802				H4294	H5321	H1
וְאֵשׁ	צָרִי	שְׁתַחַת	חֲרֵשׁ	בְּבָנָה	וְאֶלְמָלָא	אָתָה	הַסְכִּימָה
was a man	of Tyre	a worker	in brass	and he was filled	H4390	H853	with wisdom
H376	H6876	H2790	H5178				H2451
וְאֵת	בְּתִבְוֹנָה	וְאֵת	בְּתִבְוֹנָה	בְּכָעֵת	וְיִעַשׂ	כָּל	מְלָאכָתָנוּ
H853	and understanding	H853		and cunning	and wrought	H3605	all his work
	H8394			H1847	H6213		H4399
בְּבָנָה	וְיִבּוֹא	אֶל	לְרַגְלֵי	בְּמִלְחָמָה	וְיִעַשׂ	כָּל	
in brass	And he came	H413	H4428	Solomon	and wrought	H853	H3605
H5178	H935			H8010	H6213		
מְלָאכָתָנוּ							
all his work							
H4399							

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 4:16 (Kingdom): The pots also, and the shovels, and the fleshhooks, and all their instruments, did Huram his father make to king Solomon for the house of the LORD of bright brass.

2 Chronicles 2:14 (Parallel theme): The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.