

1 Kings 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made two chapters of molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars: the height of the one chapter was five cubits, and the height of the other chapter was five cubits:

Analysis

And he made two chapters of molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars: the height of the one chapter was five cubits, and the height of the other chapter was five cubits:

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 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 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וּשְׁתֵּי י	הַכֶּתֶּרֶת	עָשָׂה	לֵתֵת	עַל	רֹאשֵׁי י	הָעַמּוּדִים
two	chapter	And he made	to set	H5921	upon the tops	of the pillars
H8147	H3805	H6213	H5414		H7218	H5982
מִצֵּק	נְחֹשֶׁת	וְחֲמִשָּׁה	אֲמֹת	קוֹמָהּ	הַכֶּתֶּרֶת	הָאֶחָד
of molten	brass	was five	cubits	and the height	chapter	of the one
H3332	H5178	H2568	H520	H6967	H3805	H259
וְחֲמִשָּׁה	אֲמֹת	קוֹמָהּ	הַכֶּתֶּרֶת	הַשֵּׁנִית:		
was five	cubits	and the height	chapter	of the other		
H2568	H520	H6967	H3805	H8145		

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