

1 Kings 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the chapters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network: and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter.

Analysis

And the chapters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network: and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter.

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

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

גַּם	הָעַמּוּדִים	שְׁנֵי	עַל	הַכְּתָרִת
H1571	H5982	H8147	H5921	H3805
	pillars	upon the two		And the chapters
לֵעַ בָּר	אֲשֶׁר	הַבֶּטֶן	מִלְעָמָה	מִמֶּנּוּ עַל
H5676	H834	H990	H5980	H4605
which was by		the belly	over against	had pomegranates also above
עַל	סָבִיב	טֶרֶם	יָמָיו	שְׁבָכָה
H5921	H5439	H2905	H3967	H7639
	round about	in rows	were two hundred	the network
				and the pomegranates
				וְהָרְמוֹנֵי יָמָיו
				הַכְּתָרִת
				And the chapters
				וְהַשְּׂנִיתִית:
				upon the other

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 3:16 (Parallel theme): And he made chains, as in the oracle, and put them on the heads of the pillars; and made an hundred pomegranates, and put them on the chains.

2 Chronicles 4:13 (Parallel theme): And four hundred pomegranates on the two wreaths; two rows of pomegranates on each wreath, to cover the two pommels of the chapters which were upon the pillars.