

1 Kings 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz.

Analysis

And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz.

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. Temple architecture followed patterns common to ancient Near Eastern sanctuaries, but Israel's temple distinctly lacked any image of Yahweh, emphasizing His transcendence. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and 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

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|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| וְיָדַעַת | בְּעֵמָה | לֹאֶלְמָן | בְּהִיכָּל | וְיָדַעַת | וְיָדַעַת |
| And he set up | in the porch | of the temple | And he set up | | |
| H853 | H197 | H1964 | H853 | | |
| וְיָדַעַת | בְּעֵמָה | לֹאֶלְמָן | בְּהִיכָּל | וְיָדַעַת | וְיָדַעַת |
| pillar | the right | and called | the ~ | thereof Jachin | And he set up |
| H5982 | H3233 | H7121 | H8034 | H3199 | H6965 |
| בְּעֵמָה | לֹאֶלְמָן | בְּשִׁמְאָל | בְּעֵמָה | בְּעֵמָה | וְיָדַעַת |
| pillar | the left | and called | the ~ | thereof Boaz | And he set up |
| H5982 | H8042 | H7121 | H8034 | H1162 | H853 |

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 3:17 (Temple): And he reared up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

1 Kings 6:3 (Temple): And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

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