

1 Kings 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

Analysis

And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	הַיָּם	מוֹצָק	עֶשְׂרֵה	בָּאֲמָה	מִשְׁפָּט וְ	עַד
And he made	H853	sea	a molten	ten	cubits	from the one brim	H5704
H6213		H3220	H3332	H6235	H520	H8193	
שְׁפָט וְ	עָגֹל	סָבִיב:	וְחֵמֶשׁ	בָּאֲמָה	קוֹמָת וְ	יָקוּהָ	
H8145	it was round	all about	was five	cubits	and his height	and a line	
	H5696	H5439	H2568	H520	H6967	H6957	
שְׁלֹשִׁים	בָּאֲמָה	יָסַב	אֶת וְ	סָבִיב:			
of thirty	cubits	did compass	H853	all about			
H7970	H520	H5437		H5439			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 25:13 (Parallel theme): And the pillars of brass that were in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brasen sea that was in the house of the LORD, did the Chaldees break in pieces, and carried the brass of them to Babylon.

2 Chronicles 4:2 (Creation): Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

Jeremiah 52:17 (Parallel theme): Also the pillars of brass that were in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brasen sea that was in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans brake, and carried all the brass of them to Babylon.

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