# 1 Kings 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea was set above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward.

### **Analysis**

It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea was set above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward.

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**

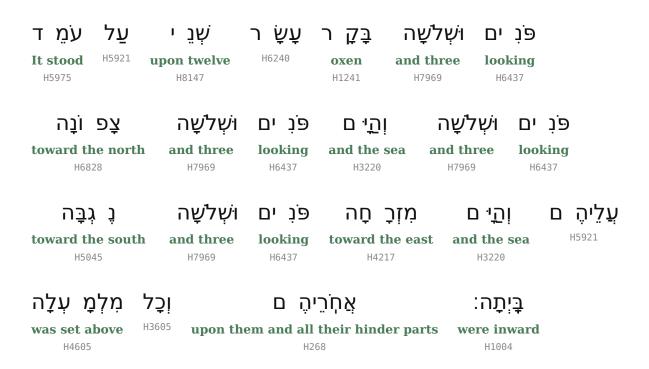
**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

## **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**



### **Additional Cross-References**

**Jeremiah 52:20** (Kingdom): The two pillars, one sea, and twelve brasen bulls that were under the bases, which king Solomon had made in the house of the LORD: the brass of all these vessels was without weight.

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