

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

עַל עִמָּד	עַל עִמָּד	עַל עִמָּד	עַל עִמָּד	עַל עִמָּד	עַל עִמָּד
It stood	H5921	upon twelve	H6240	oxen	and three
H5975		H8147	H1241	H7969	H6437
וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה
toward the north	and three	looking	and the sea	and three	looking
H6828	H7969	H6437	H3220	H7969	H6437
וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה
toward the south	and three	looking	toward the east	and the sea	H5921
H5045	H7969	H6437	H4217	H3220	
וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה	וְשָׁלֹשָׁה
was set above	H3605	upon them and all their hinder parts	were inward		
H4605		H268	H1004		

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.