

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| פָּנִים | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | עַשְׁרָה | שְׁנִים | עַל | עַמְדָה | וְ | עַמְדָה | וְ | עַמְדָה | וְ | עַמְדָה | |
| It stood | H5921 | upon twelve | H8147 | oxen | H6240 | and three | H1241 | looking | H7969 | and three | H7969 | looking | H6437 |
| | H5975 | | H8147 | | H6240 | | H1241 | | H7969 | | H7969 | | H6437 |
| פָּנִים | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | עַשְׁרָה | שְׁנִים | עַל | עַמְדָה | וְ | עַמְדָה | וְ | עַמְדָה | וְ | עַמְדָה | |
| toward the north | H6828 | and three | H7969 | looking | H6437 | and the sea | H3220 | and three | H7969 | looking | H6437 | and three | H6437 |
| | H6828 | | H7969 | | H6437 | | H3220 | | H7969 | | H6437 | | H6437 |
| עַלְיָם | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | עַשְׁרָה | שְׁנִים | עַלְיָם | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | עַשְׁרָה | שְׁנִים | עַלְיָם | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | |
| toward the south | H5045 | and three | H7969 | looking | H6437 | toward the east | H4217 | toward the east | H4217 | and the sea | H3220 | toward the east | H4217 |
| | H5045 | | H7969 | | H6437 | | H4217 | | H4217 | | H3220 | | H4217 |
| בִּזְמָה | אַחֲרִיקָם | עַלְיָם | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | עַלְיָם | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | עַלְיָם | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | בְּקָר | עַלְיָם | וּשְׁלֹשָׁה | |
| was set above | H3605 | upon them and all their hinder parts | H268 | and all their hinder parts | H268 | and all their hinder parts | H268 | were inward | H1004 | were inward | H1004 | were inward | H1004 |
| | H3605 | | H268 | | H268 | | H268 | | H1004 | | H1004 | | 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.

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