

1 Kings 7:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on the borders that were between the ledges were lions, oxen, and cherubims: and upon the ledges there was a base above: and beneath the lions and oxen were certain additions made of thin work.

Analysis

And on the borders that were between the ledges were lions, oxen, and cherubims: and upon the ledges there was a base above: and beneath the lions and oxen were certain additions made of thin work.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

הַשְּׁלֵב יִם בֵּין אֲשֶׁר רָא הַמִּסְגֵּר וְעַל וְעַל
H5921 **And on the borders** H834 H996 **and upon the ledges**
H4526 H7948

הַשְּׁלֵב יִם וְעַל וְכְרוּבִים יִם וְלִבְקָר לְאֶרֶץ וְעַל
and upon the ledges H5921 **and cherubims** H3742 **and oxen** H1241 **and beneath the lions** H738

וְלִבְקָר לְאֶרֶץ וְעַל וְעַל וְעַל וְעַל
and oxen H1241 **and beneath the lions** H738 **above** H4605 **there was a base** H3653 **and beneath the lions** H738

מִוֶּכֶד: מְעֵשֶׂה לִי וְעַל
made of thin H4174 **work** H4639 **were certain additions** H3914