

# 1 Kings 7:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the mouth of it within the chapter and above was a cubit: but the mouth thereof was round after the work of the base, a cubit and an half: and also upon the mouth of it were gravings with their borders, foursquare, not round.

## Analysis

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**And the mouth of it within the chapter and above was a cubit: but the mouth thereof was round after the work of the base, a cubit and an half: and also upon the mouth of it were gravings with their borders, foursquare, not round.**

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

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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**

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## **Study Questions**

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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

פִּי יָהּ      מִבֵּית      לַכֶּתֶב רֶתֶם      וְעַל      הָאֵמָּה      פִּי יָהּ  
**And the mouth**    **of it within**    **the chapter**    **and above**    **a cubit**    **And the mouth**  
 H6310                      H1004                      H3805                      H4605                      H520                      H6310

וְגַם      הָאֵמָּה      הָאֵמָּה      וְחֶצֶי      הָאֵמָּה      כִּי      מַעֲשֵׂה      עֲגֻלֹת:  
**not round**    **after the work**    **of the base**    **a cubit**    **and an half**    **a cubit**    **not round**  
 H5696                      H4639                      H3653                      H520                      H2677                      H520                      H1571

לֹא      מִרְבָּע      וְתֵּימָנָה      וּמִסְגֵּרֵיהֶם      מִקְלָע      פִּי יָהּ      עַל  
**with their borders**    **foursquare**    **of it were gravings**    **And the mouth**  
 H4526                      H7251                      H4734                      H6310                      H5921

עֲגֻלֹת:  
**not round**  
 H5696