

1 Kings 7:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For on the plates of the ledges thereof, and on the borders thereof, he graved cherubims, lions, and palm trees, according to the proportion of every one, and additions round about.

Analysis

For on the plates of the ledges thereof, and on the borders thereof, he graved cherubims, lions, and palm trees, according to the proportion of every one, and additions round about.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וַיִּפֹּת ח thereof he graved H6605	עַל H5921	הַלְּחֹת For on the plates H3871	יְדֵת יְהוָה of the ledges H3027	וְעַל H5921
וּמִסְגָּרֶת יְהוָה thereof and on the borders H4526	כְּרוּבִים cherubims H3742	אֲרִי וְתִמְרֵי lions H738	וְתִמְרֵי and palm trees H8561	
כְּמִעַר according to the proportion H4626	אֶיּוֹן of every one H376	וְלִי וְלִי and additions H3914	סָבִיב: round about H5439	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 7:29 (Parallel theme): 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.

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