

1 Kings 7:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then made he ten lavers of brass: one laver contained forty baths: and every laver was four cubits: and upon every one of the ten bases one laver.

Analysis

Then made he ten lavers of brass: one laver contained forty baths: and every laver was four cubits: and upon every one of the ten bases one laver.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

כִּי וְ	יָכַל	בַּת	אַרְבָּעִים	נְחֹשֶׁת	כִּי וְ	לָעֵשָׂר	וַיַּעַשׂ
laver	contained	baths	forty	of brass	laver	he ten	Then made
H3595	H3557	H1324	H705	H5178	H3595	H6235	H6213
עַל	הָאֵם תְּ	כִי וְ	הָאֵם תְּ	כִי וְ	בְּאַמָּה	אַרְבַּע ע	הָאֵם תְּ
and every	laver	laver	and every	laver	cubits	was four	and every
H5921	H259	H3595	H259	H3595	H520	H702	H259
הַמְּכֻנּוֹת:	לָעֵשָׂר	הָאֵם תְּ	הַמְּכֻנּוֹת:				
bases	he ten	and every	bases				
H4350	H6235	H259	H4350				