

1 Kings 7:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he put five bases on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house: and he set the sea on the right side of the house eastward over against the south.

Analysis

And he put five bases on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house: and he set the sea on the right side of the house eastward over against the south.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וַתֵּן	אֶת	הַמִּכָּנֹה	וְחֵמֶשׁ	עַל	מִן־תֵּף	הַבַּיִת
And he put	H853	bases	and five	H5921	side	of the house
H5414		H4350	H2568		H3802	H1004
מִן־יָמִין	וְחֵמֶשׁ	עַל	מִן־תֵּף	הַבַּיִת	וְיָמִין	הַיָּם
on the right	and five	H5921	side	of the house	on the left	H853 the sea
H3225	H2568		H3802	H1004	H8040	H3220
וַתֵּן	מִן־תֵּף	הַבַּיִת	הַיָּמִין	קִדְמָה	וְעַל־	
And he put	side	of the house	on the right	eastward	over against	
H5414	H3802	H1004	H3233	H6924	H4136	
נָגִב:						
the south						
H5045						

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