

1 Kings 7:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, even two rows of pomegranates for one network, to cover the two bowls of the chapters that were upon the pillars;

Analysis

And four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, even two rows of pomegranates for one network, to cover the two bowls of the chapters that were upon the pillars;

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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְאַתָּה רְמָנִים מֵאַת שְׁתִּים לְשָׁבֶכֶת שְׁתִּים
H853 of pomegranates And four hundred even two network even two
H7416 H702 H3967 H8147 H7639 H8147

תּוֹר יְמִינִים שְׁתִּים אַת לְכַס וְתַכְאַפֵּת לְשָׁבֶכֶת שְׁתִּים
rows of pomegranates network for one to cover H853 even two
H2905 H7416 H7639 H259 H3680 H8147

בְּכֶתֶר תְּגֵל וְתַכְאַפֵּת עַל אֲשֶׁר פָּנִים בְּעִמּוֹדִים
bowls of the chapters that were upon the pillars
H1543 H3805 H834 H5921 H6440 H5982

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 7:20 (Parallel theme): And the chapters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network: and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter.

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