

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

וְאֵת H853	רִמְנִים of pomegranates H7416	וְאַרְבַּע And four H702	מֵאֵת hundred H3967	שְׁנַיִם even two H8147	לְשֶׁבַע network H7639	שְׁנַיִם even two H8147
טוֹרֵם rows H2905	רִמְנִים of pomegranates H7416	לְשֶׁבַע network H7639	לְאֶחָד for one H259	לְכַסּוֹת to cover H3680	אֵת H853	שְׁנַיִם even two H8147
גָּלִים bowls H1543	הַכִּתְרֹת of the chapters H3805	אֲשֶׁר H834	עָלָיו H5921	כִּנֵּי that were upon H6440	הָעֲמֻדִים: the pillars 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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