

1 Kings 7:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold,

Analysis

And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold,

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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	וְמִנְרוֹת	בְּ	מִנְרוֹת	מֵתִים	וְ	מֵתִים	וְאַל	וְמֵתִים	וְ	מֵתִים	וְאַתָּה
H853	And the candlesticks			five	on the right		five	on the left			
	H4501			H2568		H3225		H2568			H8040
בְּפָנֵי	פָּנָא	בְּ	פָּנָא	סָגָר	וְ	סָגָר	בְּ	וְ	בְּ	וְ	בְּפָנֵי
before	the oracle			gold	of pure	with the flowers		and the lamps			
H6440	H1687			H2091	H5462		H6525				H5216
וְ	מְלָקֵט	וְ	מְלָקֵט	וְ	מְלָקֵט	וְ	מְלָקֵט	וְ	מְלָקֵט	וְ	מְלָקֵט
and the tongs	gold										
H4457	H2091										

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 4:7 (Parallel theme): And he made ten candlesticks of gold according to their form, and set them in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left.

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