

1 Kings 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

Analysis

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of dedication of the temple, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy. God's covenant faithfulness remains steadfast despite human unfaithfulness, ultimately fulfilled in the new covenant through Christ.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and 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

כָּל	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	זִקְנֵי י	אֶת	שְׁלֹמֹה ה	יָקָה ל	אָז
	H853	H3605	H2205	H853	H8010	H6950	H227
		of Israel	the elders		Solomon	assembled	
יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְבָנָיו	הָאָבֹת	נָשִׂיא י	הַמִּטּוֹת	רָאשֵׁי י		
	H1121	H1	H5387	H4294	H7218		
	of the children	of the fathers	the chief	of the tribes	and all the heads		
אָרֹן	אֶת	לְהֵעָלֹת	יְרוּשָׁלַם	שְׁלֹמֹה ה	הָמָּלֶךְ	אֶל	
	H853	H5927	H3389	H8010	H4428	H413	
		that they might bring up	in Jerusalem	Solomon	unto king		
צִיּוֹן׃	הָיָא	דָּוִד	מֵעִיר	יְהוָה ה	בְּרִית		
	H1931	H1732	H5892	H3068	H1285		
	which is Zion	of David	out of the city	of the LORD	of the covenant		

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 15:25 (Covenant): So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obed-edom with joy.