

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 אֲזַרְבָּא לְבָנָיו לְבָנָי אֲשֶׁר
H227 assembled Solomon H853 the elders of Israel H853 H3605
H6950 H8010 H2205 H3478

וְאֶת כָּפָב וְתִשְׁיאָה הַמִּפְטוֹת בְּאַשְׁר
and all the heads of the tribes the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel
H7218 H4294 H5387 H1 H1121 H3478

אֶל שְׁלָמָה הַמֶּלֶךְ יְרֹשָׁלָם מִן לְבָנָל וְאֶת אָרֶן
unto king Solomon in Jerusalem that they might bring up the ark
H413 H4428 H8010 H3389 H5927 H853 H727

בְּרִית צִוְּן יְהֹוָה מִן יְהֹוָה אֶל דָּוִיד
of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David
H1285 H3068 H5892 H1732 H1931 H6726

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org