

1 Kings 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.

Analysis

Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.

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.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

אָז	אָמַר	שְׁלֹמֹה	יְהוָה	אָמַר	לְשֹׁכַה
H227	Then spake	Solomon	The LORD	Then spake	that he would dwell
	H559	H8010	H3068	H559	H7931

בְּעֲרֵפָל:

in the thick darkness

H6205

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 97:2 (Darkness): Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

Leviticus 16:2 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil

before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

Hebrews 12:18 (Darkness): For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

Isaiah 45:15 (Parallel theme): Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.

Exodus 20:21 (Darkness): And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Deuteronomy 4:11 (Darkness): And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

Deuteronomy 5:22 (Darkness): These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.