

1 Kings 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.

Analysis

I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

בָּנִי יְתִי	בָּנִי יְתִי	בֵּית	זֶה לִּי	לִי הֵא	מָכֹן
I have surely	I have surely	thee an house	to dwell in	H0	a settled place
H1129	H1129	H1004	H2073		H4349
לְשִׁבְתְּךָ	עוֹלָמִים:				
for thee to abide in	for ever				
H3427	H5769				

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 7:13 (Parallel theme): He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Hebrews 9:24 (Parallel theme): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Exodus 15:17 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

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