

# 1 Kings 8:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.

## Analysis

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**Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.**

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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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מִן יוּמֵי רַאשׁ רַחֲצָת אֲתָּה עַמִּי אֶת  
H4480 Since the day H834 that I brought forth H853 my people H853  
H3117 H3318 H5971

יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁבָטִים מִכָּל בָּעֵיר אֲבָתָר לֹא מִמְּצָרִים  
Israel out of Egypt H3808 I chose no city H3605 out of all the tribes  
H3478 H4714 H977 H5892 H7626

יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי דָבָר שְׁמָם שְׁמָם אֲבָתָר בְּנֵי יְהוָה וְתִּבְנֵה  
Israel to build an house H1961 that my ~ H8033 I chose David  
H3478 H1129 H1004 H8034 H977 H1732

יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמִּי עַל לְהִי וְתִּבְנֵה  
H1961 H5921 my people Israel  
H5971 H3478

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 16:1** (References Israel): And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

**1 Chronicles 28:4** (References Israel): Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel:

**Deuteronomy 12:11** (Parallel theme): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

**1 Kings 8:29** (Parallel theme): That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be

there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

**Psalms 132:13** (Parallel theme): For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

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