

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

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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

מִן	הַיּוֹם	אֲשֶׁר	הוֹצֵאתִי	אֶת	עַמִּי	אֶת
H4480	Since the day	H834	that I brought forth	H853	my people	H853
	H3117		H3318		H5971	
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	מִמִּצְרַיִם	לֹא	בָּעִיר	מִכָּל	שְׁבִטֵי	
Israel	out of Egypt	H3808	I chose	no city	H3605	out of all the tribes
H3478	H4714		H977	H5892		H7626
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	לְבַנּוֹת	בֵּית	לְהִיוֹת	שְׁמִי	שֶׁ	בְּדָוִד
Israel	to build	an house	H1961	that my ~	H8033	I chose
H3478	H1129	H1004		H8034		H977
						H1732
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	עַל	עַמִּי				
H1961	H5921	my people	Israel			
		H5971	H3478			

Additional Cross-References

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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