

# 1 Kings 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

## Analysis

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**And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of 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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by 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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בְּ יַתְּ לִבְנָה וְתַּעֲמִיד עַמְּ יִרְאָה  
H1961 H5973 **And it was in the heart** of David my father to build an house  
H3824 H1732 H1 H1129 H1004

לְשֵׁם יְהָוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:  
for the ~ of the LORD God of Israel  
H8034 H3068 H430 H3478

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