

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

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

עַם	לִבִּי	דָּוִד	אָבִי	לְבַנּוֹת	בֵּית
H1961	H5973				
	And it was in the heart	of David	my father	to build	an house
	H3824	H1732	H1	H1129	H1004
לְשֵׁם	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל:		
for the ~	of the LORD	God	of Israel		
H8034	H3068	H430	H3478		

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