

1 Kings 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of 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

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| בְּאָמֵר | בְּיְהִי | אָל | אָבִי | אָבִי | רָאשֶׁן | בְּיְהִי |
| said | And the LORD | H413 | unto David | my father | Whereas | H1961 |
| H559 | H3068 | | H1732 | H1 | H3282 | |
| עַם | לְבָבֶךָ | לְבָבֶךָ | וְתָבִיב | בְּיְהִי | לְשָׁמֶן | כְּ |
| H5973 | it was in thine heart | | to build | an house | unto my ~ | thou didst well |
| | H3824 | | H1129 | H1004 | H8034 | H3588 |
| הָיָה | בְּ | לְבָבֶךָ | וְ | לְשָׁמֶן | תָּבִיב | כְּ |
| H1961 | H5973 | it was in thine heart | | | | |
| | | H3824 | | | | |