

# 1 Kings 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

## Analysis

**And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.**

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 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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## 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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אַשְׁר־שְׁלֹמֹה כָּל־מְנֹתָרָיו  
gathered Solomon all the men  
H6950 H3605 H376

בְּיֹם אַתָּה שְׁבָעָה לְיְהוָה  
on the seventh day of the month  
H388 H2282 H1931 H2320

הַשְׁבִיעִי  
which is the seventh  
H7637

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 23:34** (References Israel): Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

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