

1 Kings 8:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

לְהַיּוֹת	עֵינֶיךָ	פָּתַחַת	אֶל	הַבַּיִת	הַזֶּה	לַיְלָה
H1961	That thine eyes	may be open	H413	toward this house	H2088	night
	H5869	H6605		H1004		H3915
וְיָ וּמִ	אֶל	הַמָּקוֹם	אֲשֶׁר	אָמַרְתָּ	יְהוָה	
and day	H413	even toward the place	H834	of which thou hast said	H1961	
H3117		H4725		H559		
יִשְׁמַע	שָׁמָּה	לְשִׁמְעָ	אֶל	הַתַּפִּלָּה		
My ~	H8033	shall be there that thou mayest hearken	H413	unto the prayer		
H8034		H8085		H8605		
אֲשֶׁר	יִתְּפֵל	עַבְדְּךָ	אֶל	הַמָּקוֹם	הַזֶּה	
H834	shall make	which thy servant	H413	even toward the place	H2088	
	H6419	H5650		H4725		

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 6:20 (Prayer): That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.

Nehemiah 1:6 (Prayer): Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

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 8:16 (Parallel theme): 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.

Nehemiah 1:9 (Parallel theme): But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

2 Kings 23:27 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.

2 Chronicles 33:4 (Parallel theme): Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever.

Daniel 9:18 (Parallel theme): O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.