

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

לְהִיּוֹת	בְּ	עִין בָּ	תִּפְתַּח	אֶל	בְּהִזְהָה	לְאֶלְהָה
H1961		H5869	H6605	H413	H1004	H2088
That thine eyes		may be open		toward this house		night
						H3915
וְיֻמָּה יְמִינְךָ	וְ	אֶל	בְּמִקְדָּשׁ	אֲשֶׁר	אִם רָתַת	יְהִי הָ
and day	H413		H4725	H834	of which thou hast said	H1961
	H3117				H559	
שָׁם יְ	שָׁם	עַ	לְשֹׁמֶן	אֶל	בְּתַפְלָה	
My ~	H8033		H8085	H413		unto the prayer
	H8034					H8605
אֲשֶׁר יְתַפֵּל	לְ	עֲבָדָךְ	אֶל	בְּמִקְדָּשׁ	בְּזָהָה	
H834		H6419	H5650	H413	H4725	H2088
shall make		which thy servant		even toward the place		

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.