

# 1 Kings 8:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

## Analysis

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**Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.**

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

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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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עֲבָד יְהֹוָה אֶת שְׁפָטֶת וְעַש יְמִינְךָ תְּשִׁמְעָם עַת הַ

H859 Then hear H8085 thou in heaven H8064 and do H6213 and judge H8199 thy servants H5650

וְלֹבֶד יְק בְּרָאשׁ וְדַרְךָ וְלֹתָת רְשָׁעָם לְפָרָשׁ יְעַמֵּד

condemning the wicked to bring his way upon his head and justifying

H7561 H7563 H5414 H1870 H7218 H6663

ל וְלֹתָת צְדָקָתוֹן צְדָקָתְךָ

the righteous to bring him according to his righteousness

H6662 H5414 H0 H6666

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 25:1** (Righteousness): If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.

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