

1 Kings 8:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house:

Analysis

When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house:

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

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|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| בְּהִנֵּג רַ | עַמֶּךָ | יִשְׂרָאֵל ל | לִפְנֵי י | אֹיֵב | אֶשׁ ר |
| be smitten down | When thy people | Israel | before | the enemy | H834 |
| H5062 | H5971 | H3478 | H6440 | H341 | |
| יִחָטְאוּ | לָךְ | וְשׁ בּוֹ | אֶל יָבֹ | | |
| because they have sinned | H0 | against thee and shall turn again | H413 | | |
| H2398 | | H7725 | | | |
| וְהוֹדִיתִי | אֶת | וְשָׁמְרָה | וְהִתְפַּלֵּל וְ | וְהִתְחַנֵּן וְ | אֶל יָבֹ |
| to thee and confess | H853 | thy ~ | and pray | and make supplication | H413 |
| H3034 | | H8034 | H6419 | H2603 | |
| בְּבֵיתִי | הַזֶּה: | | | | |
| unto thee in this house | H2088 | | | | |
| H1004 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 26:17 (Parallel theme): And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

Deuteronomy 28:25 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Deuteronomy 28:48 (Parallel theme): Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Leviticus 26:25 (Parallel theme): And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

