

# 1 Kings 8:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.

## Analysis

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**Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.**

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## 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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וְעַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע עַל הַשֵּׁמַיִם יְיָ וְסַלַּח לַחַטָּאת אֶת לְחַטֵּי אֶת עַמֶּךָ  
H859 Then hear H8085 thou in heaven H8064 and forgive H5545 the sin H2403 of thy people H5971

וְהָשַׁבְתָּם אֶל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָשַׁבְתָּם אֶל הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר רָאִיתָ  
H413 Israel H3478 and bring them again H7725 unto the land H127 H834 which thou gavest H5414

לְאֲבוֹתָם:  
unto their fathers  
H1

