

# 1 Kings 8:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

## Analysis

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**Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.**

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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

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

## 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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עֲבָדֶיךָ	לַחַט־אֵת	וְסִי לַחַת־	הַשָּׁמַיִם יְיָ	תִּשְׁמָע ע	וְאֵת הַ
	the sin	and forgive	thou in heaven	Then hear	H859
	H2403	H5545	H8064	H8085	
הַטּוֹב הַ	הַדֶּךָ אֶת	תּוֹרָה	כִּי יִשְׁכָּא ל	לְעַמְּךָ	
them the good	way	that thou teach	Israel	and of thy people	
H2896	H1870	H3384	H3478	H5971	
נָתַתָּה	אֲשֶׁר	אֶרְצְךָ	עַל מָטָר	וְנָתַתָּה	כִּי הַ
and give	H834	upon thy land	H5921	and give	H0
H5414	H776		H4306	H5414	H834
לְעַמְּךָ	לְנַחֲלָה:				
and of thy people	for an inheritance				
H5971	H5159				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 27:11** (Parallel theme): Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

**1 Samuel 12:23** (Sin): Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

**Jeremiah 6:16** (Good): Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

**Psalms 94:12** (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

**Jeremiah 14:22** (Parallel theme): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

**1 Kings 18:1** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

**1 Kings 18:45** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

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