

# 1 Kings 8:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

## Analysis

---

**Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)**

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

---

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

---

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

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

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of 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

---

וְעַשׂ יָתִי	וְסָלַחְתָּ	שְׁבִתָּךְ	מִכּוֹן	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וְתִשְׁמָעַ	אֶתְּהָ
and do	and forgive	thy dwelling	place	thou in heaven	Then hear	H859
H6213	H5545	H3427	H4349	H8064	H8085	
אֲשֶׁר	דְּרָכָיו	כָּכָל	לְאִישׁ	וְנָתַתָּ		
H834	according to his ways	H3605	to every man	and give		
	H1870		H376	H5414		
אֶתְּהָ	כִּי	לְבַב	אֶתְּ	יְדָעְתָּ		
H859	H3588	the hearts	H853	for thou even thou only knowest		
		H3824		H3045		
בְּנֵי	כָּל	לְבַב	אֶתְּ	לְבַדְּךָ	יְדָעְתָּ	
of all the children	H3605	the hearts	H853	H905	for thou even thou only knowest	
H1121		H3824			H3045	
						הָאָדָם׃
						of men
						H120

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Chronicles 28:9** (Parallel theme): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

**Jeremiah 17:10** (Parallel theme): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

**Acts 1:24** (Parallel theme): And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

**1 Samuel 16:7** (Parallel theme): But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)