

1 Kings 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up.

Analysis

And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up.

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 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

בָּאֵל	אָתָּה	יְהוָה	אָרְזֵן	אָתָּה	בָּאֵל
and the tabernacle	the ark	of the LORD		and the tabernacle	
H168	H853	H3068		H168	
מֹעֵד	כָּל	כָּל	כָּל	בָּקָר	אֲשֶׁר
of the congregation	H853	H3605	H3627	and all the holy	H834
H4150				H6944	
בָּאֵל	אָתָּה	אָתָּה	אָתָּה	בָּקָר	פְּקֻדָּנִים
and the tabernacle	And they brought up		H853	even those	did the priests
H168	H5927			H3548	
וּפְלִימָם:					
and the Levites					
H3881					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 3:4 (Parallel theme): And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

2 Chronicles 1:3 (Temple): So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

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