

1 Kings 8:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

Analysis

That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our 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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

לִּמָּעַן H4616	יִירָאוּ וְכָל H3372	הַיָּמִים H3605	אֲשֶׁר H834	חַיִּים H1992	לְאֲבֹתֵינוּ: H2416
	That they may fear	thee all the days			
עַל H5921	בְּאֶרֶץ H6440	אֲשֶׁר H834	נָתַתָּה H5414	לְאֲבֹתֵינוּ: H1	
in	the land	which thou gavest	unto our fathers		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 130:4 (Parallel theme): But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

Revelation 19:5 (Parallel theme): And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

