

1 Kings 8:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

Analysis

Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

כִּי לְוַעֲשֵׂת יְתַשֵּׂמֶת עַל אֶת הָ

H839

Hear

H8085

תְּשִׁמְתִּים

thou in heaven

H8064

מִכְּלֵי

place

H4349

שְׁבָתֵּת בָּ

thy dwelling

H3427

שְׁבָתֵּת בָּ

and do

H6213

H3605

לֹמַעַן נְקֻבָּא אֲשֶׁר

H834

calleth

H7121

H413

according to all that the stranger

H5237

H4616

שָׁמַךְ אֶת בָּאָרֶץ

and that they may know

H3045

כֶּל

H3605

כְּעֵמֶךְ

thee as do thy people

H5971

בָּאָרֶץ

of the earth

H776

שָׁמַךְ

by thy ~

H8034

כִּי לֹמַעַן יְשַׁרְאֵל

to fear

H3372

אֶתְתָּה

H853

כְּעֵמֶךְ

thee as do thy people

H5971

יְשַׁרְאֵל

H3478

לֹמַעַן

and that they may know

H3588

בְּנִיתִי נִזְמָנָה אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵיתְךָ הַ

by thy ~

H8034

calleth

H7121

עַל נְקֻבָּא

H5921

בְּבֵית הַ

that this house

H1004

אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית

H834

which I have builded

H1129

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 102:15 (Parallel theme): So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.

1 Samuel 17:46 (References Israel): This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

Isaiah 11:9 (Parallel theme): They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Psalms 86:9 (Parallel theme): All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

Psalms 22:27 (Parallel theme): All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Psalms 67:2 (Parallel theme): That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

2 Kings 19:19 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

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