

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

Psalms 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

כָּכ ל וְעַשׂ יֵת שְׁבֵתָּךְ מָכּוֹן הַשָּׁמַיִם תִּשְׁמַע אֶת הַ
H859 Hear H8085 thou in heaven H8064 place H4349 thy dwelling H3427 and do H6213 H3605

לִּמְעַן הַנִּזְכָּר יֵאלֶּךְ יְיָ נִקְרָא אֲשֶׁר
H834 calleth H7121 H413 according to all that the stranger H5237 H4616

שְׁמִי אֶת הָאֶרֶץ כְּעַמְּךָ כָּל וְלֵד עַת
and that they may know H3045 H3605 thee as do thy people H5971 of the earth H776 H853 by thy ~ H8034

כִּי וְלֵד עַת יִשְׂרָאֵל ל כְּעַמְּךָ אֶתְּךָ לִירָא הַ
to fear H3372 H853 thee as do thy people H5971 Israel H3478 and that they may know H3045 H3588

בְּנִיתִי: אֲשֶׁר הִזָּה הַבַּיִת עַל נִקְרָא א שְׁמִי
by thy ~ H8034 calleth H7121 H5921 that this house H1004 H2088 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 carcasses 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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