

1 Kings 8:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thy people go out to battle against their enemy,
whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the
LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the
house that I have built for thy name:

Analysis

If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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 יֵצֵא עַמְּךָ לְמִלְחָמָה עַל אֹיְבָיו וְיֵצֵא	כִּי	go out	If thy people	to battle	against their enemy	toward
	H3588	H3318	H5971	H4421	H5921 H341	H1870
וְיֵצֵא אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁלֶה וְהִתְפַּלֵּל וְיֵצֵא אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁלֶה וְהִתְפַּלֵּל וְיֵצֵא	אֲשֶׁר	thou shalt send	them and shall pray	unto the LORD	toward	
	H834	H7971	H6419	H413 H3068	H1870	
אֲשֶׁר תִּבְנוּ וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה	אֲשֶׁר	which thou hast chosen	and toward the house			
	H5892	H834 H977	H0 H1004			
וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	for thy ~				
	H1129	H8034				

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