

1 Kings 8:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

Analysis

Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְשָׁבָוּ	אֶל	לְבָם	בָּאָרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר
Yet if they shall bethink	H413	H3820	themselves in the land	H834
	H7725		H776	
שְׁבִיאָם	שָׁם	וְשָׁבָוּ		
of them that carried them captives	H8033	Yet if they shall bethink		
	H7617	H7725		
וְהַתְּפַנֵּן וְ	אֶל יְהָ	בָּאָרֶץ		
and make supplication	H413	themselves in the land		
	H2603	H776		
שְׁבִיאָם	לִאמְרָה	שְׁבִיאָם		
of them that carried them captives	saying	We have sinned		
	H7617	H559	H2398	
וְפָעָנוּ יְכוּ	רְשָׁעָנוּ:			
and have done perversely	we have committed wickedness			
	H5753	H7561		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:6 (Sin): We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.