

# 1 Kings 8:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

## Analysis

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**And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which 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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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וּבְכָל	לִבָּבָם	בְּכָל	אֶל יְיָ	וְשָׁבוּ
H3605		H3605	H413	H7725
unto thee with all their heart				And so return
	H3824			
אֲשֶׁר	אֹיְבֵיהֶם	אֶרְצָם	נַפְשָׁם	וְ
H834			H5315	
	H341	H776		
אֲשֶׁר	וְהִתְפַּלֵּל וְ	אֶתְּ	שָׁבוּ	וְ
		H853		
	H413			
unto thee toward	and pray	which led them away captive		
H1870	H6419	H7617		
אֲשֶׁר	הָעִיר	לְאֲבוֹתָם	נָתַתָּה	אֶרְצָם
H834				
the city		unto their fathers	which thou gavest	in the land
H5892		H1	H5414	H776
לְשִׁמְךָ:	בְּנֵי יִתְ	אֲשֶׁר	וְהֵבִיתִי	בְּחֵרָתְךָ
		H834		
for thy ~	which I have built	and the house	which thou hast chosen	
H8034	H1129	H1004	H977	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 4:29** (Parallel theme): But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

**Daniel 6:10** (Prayer): Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

**Nehemiah 1:9** (Parallel theme): But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

**Jonah 2:4** (Parallel theme): Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

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