

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְבָכַל	לְבָבָם	וְבָכַל
בְּכָל	אֶל יְבָבָם	בְּכָל
אֶל יְבָבָם	וְבָבָם	אֶל יְבָבָם
And so return	unto thee with all their heart	unto thee with all their heart
H7725	H3605	H3605
	H3824	
נְפָשׁ מָ	אֶרְצָם	אֲשֶׁר
and with all their soul	in the land	of their enemies
H5315	H776	H341
	H3834	
שָׁב וְ	וְהַמְּפָלֵל וְ	דְּכָר וְ
which led them away captive	and pray	unto thee toward
H7617	H853	H413
	H6419	H1870
אֲשֶׁר רְ	לְאָבוֹתָם	אֲשֶׁר רְ
in the land	which thou gavest	the city
H776	H834	H834
	H5414	H5892
בְּתַם רְ	בְּנֵי יְהָוָה	לְשָׁמְךָ:
which thou hast chosen	and the house	for thy ~
H977	H1004	H8034
	H834	
	H1129	

Additional Cross-References

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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