

1 Kings 8:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

Analysis

Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וְשִׁמְעֵת	הַשָּׁמֶן	מִן	מִכְּלֵי	שְׁבָתָבָן	אֶת	תְּפִלָּת	מִן	אֶת
Then hear	in heaven		place	thy dwelling	H853	thou their prayer		H853
H8085	H8064		H4349	H3427		H8605		

תְּחִזְקָת	מִשְׁפָטָם:	
and their supplication	and maintain	their cause
H8467	H6213	H4941

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