

1 Kings 8:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

Analysis

And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְסָלַחְתָּ	לְעַמְּךָ	אֲשֶׁר	חָטְאוּ	לְךָ	וְלָכֵל
And forgive	thy people	H834	that have sinned	H0	H3605
H5545	H5971		H2398		
	כְּפִשְׁעֵיָּךְ	אֲשֶׁר	כְּפִשְׁעוֹ		
	against thee and all their transgressions	H834	wherein they have transgressed		
	H6588		H6586		
כִּי	וְנָתַתָּ	לָרַחֲמֵי	לִפְנֵי		
H0	against thee and give	them compassion	before		
	H5414	H7356	H6440		
	שְׂבִיָּה	וְרַחֲמוּם:			
	them who carried them captive	that they may have compassion			
	H7617	H7355			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:46 (Parallel theme): He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

2 Chronicles 30:9 (Parallel theme): For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

Acts 7:10 (Parallel theme): And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.