

# 1 Kings 8:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.

## Analysis

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**For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.**

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

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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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## 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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כִּי	אֶתְּ הָ	הַבְּדַלְתָּ מִ	לְךָ	לְנַחֲלָה	מִכֹּל ל
H3588	H859	<b>For thou didst separate</b>	H0	<b>to be thine inheritance</b>	H3605
		H914		H5159	
	עִמָּי	הָאָרֶץ	בְּאִשְׁרִי	דִּבַּרְתָּ	בְּיָדוֹ
	<b>them from among all the people</b>	<b>of the earth</b>	H834	<b>as thou spakest</b>	<b>by the hand</b>
	H5971	H776		H1696	H3027
מֹשֶׁה	עַבְדְּךָ	בְּהוֹצִיאֲךָ	אֶת	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	מִמִּצְרַיִם
<b>of Moses</b>	<b>thy servant</b>	<b>when thou broughtest</b>	H853	<b>our fathers</b>	<b>out of Egypt</b>
H4872	H5650	H3318		H1	H4714
יְהוָה:	אֲדֹנָי				
<b>O Lord</b>	H3068				
H136					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 32:9** (References Lord): For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

**Deuteronomy 14:2** (References God): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.