

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

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

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

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

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

מֵ	לְ	לְנַחַל	הַ	לְבָ	מִ	בְּדִלָּת	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	כִּי
H3588	H859			H0					H3605
		For thou didst separate					to be thine inheritance		
			H914					H5159	
		עַמִּ		בָּאָרֶץ	רֹאשׁ	כִּאֵשׁ	רֶפֶת	בְּנֵי	דָּלִי
		them from among all the people	of the earth			H834	as thou spakest	by the hand	
		H5971	H776				H1696		H3027
מֹשֶׁ	הָ	בָּנֵ	עָבֹד	בְּהַזְּרָבָ	אֶת	אָתָּה	אָבִתִּים	מִמִּצְרָיִם	
of Moses		thy servant	when thou broughtest		H853	H1	our fathers	out of Egypt	
H4872		H5650	H3318				H4714		
וּ	הָ	אָדָן							
O Lord		H3068							
H136									

Additional Cross-References

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.