

1 Kings 8:65

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days.

Analysis

And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	שְׁלֹמֹם ה	בְּעֵת	יְאֵן	בְּעֵת	יְאֵן	אֶת	בְּעֵת	וְעַד	וְשָׁבָא ל	וְיָכֹל
held	Solomon	And at that time		H1931	H853	a feast	H3605	and all Israel		
H6213	H8010	H6256				H2282			H3478	
עַמּוֹן	קָרְבָּן ל	גָּד וְל	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת	מִלְבָּד וְאֶת
H5973	congregation	with him a great	from the entering	in of Hamath		H935			H5704	
	H6951	H1419		H2574						
יּוֹם:	וְשְׁבַע תָּ	אֱלֹהִים יְכוֹנֵן	לִפְנֵי הָ	יְהָנָן הָ	מִצְבָּה יְמִ	בְּרִאָה	וְשְׁבַע תָּ	יּוֹם:	וְשְׁבַע תָּ	יּוֹם:
unto the river	of Egypt	before	the LORD	our God	and seven	days				
H5158	H4714	H6440	H3068	H430	H7651	H3117				
יּוֹם:	וְשְׁבַע תָּ	אָרְבַּעteen רָ	עָשָׂר אָרְבַּעteen רָ	יּוֹם:	וְשְׁבַע תָּ	יּוֹם:				
and seven	days	even fourteen		H6240	days					
H7651	H3117	H702			H3117					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 34:5 (References Egypt): And the border shall fetch a compass from Azmon unto the river of Egypt, and the goings out of it shall be at the sea.

1 Kings 8:2 (References Israel): And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

Numbers 34:8 (Parallel theme): From mount Hor ye shall point out your border unto the entrance of Hamath; and the goings forth of the border shall be to Zedad:

Genesis 15:18 (References Lord): In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Joshua 13:5 (Parallel theme): And the land of the Giblites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrising, from Baal-gad under mount Hermon unto the entering into Hamath.

2 Kings 14:25 (References God): He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of

Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-hepher.

Judges 3:3 (References Lord): Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baal-hermon unto the entering in of Hamath.

Exodus 23:31 (Parallel theme): And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

Joshua 13:3 (References Lord): From Sihor, which is before Egypt, even unto the borders of Ekron northward, which is counted to the Canaanite: five lords of the Philistines; the Gazathites, and the Ashdothites, the Eshkalonites, the Gittites, and the Ekrionites; also the Avites:

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