

1 Kings 8:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.

Analysis

On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

אֶת	וַיְבָרֶכְהוּ	עַמּוֹ:	אֶת	שָׁלַח	הַשְּׁמִינִי	בִּי	וּם
	and they blessed	his people		away	On the eighth	day	
	H1288	H5971	H853	H7971	H8066	H3117	
כָּל	עַל	לֵב	הַטּוֹב	הַטּוֹב	וְלֹכְו	הַמֶּלֶךְ	לְ
	of heart	and glad	joyful	unto their tents		the king	
	H5921	H3820	H8056	H168	H1980	H4428	
וְלִישָׂא	לְ	עַבְדּוֹ	לְדָוִד	יְהוָה	עָשָׂה	אֲשֶׁר	הַטּוֹב
and for Israel		his servant	for David	that the LORD	had done		and glad
H3478		H5650	H1732	H3068	H6213	H834	H2896
עַמּוֹ:							
his people							
H5971							