

1 Kings 9:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this is the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build the house of the LORD, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer.

Analysis

And this is the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build the house of the LORD, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of God's covenant with Solomon and his building projects, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy. The temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Study Questions

1. How did Solomon's disobedience to God's clear commands lead to his downfall, and what warnings does this provide?
2. What role do relationships and alliances play in either strengthening or compromising our faith?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וְזֹאת	דְּבָר	סִמְכָה	הַמְּשֻׁרֶת	הַמְּלָאֵךְ	שְׁלֹמֹן
H2088	And this is the reason	H1697	of the levy	H834	raised
		H4522		H5927	which king
				H4428	Solomon
				H8010	
לְבִנּוֹת	אֶת	בֵּיתוֹ	וְאֶת	בֵּיתוֹ	וְאֶת
for to build	H853	and his own house	of the LORD	and his own house	H853
H1129		H1004	H3068	H1004	
וְאֶת	כְּמַלְלָה	וְאֶת	חַצְרָה	וְאֶת	מִגְדָּל
and Millo	H853	and the wall	of Jerusalem	H853	and Hazor
H4407		H2346	H3389	H2674	H853
וְאֶת	גֵּזֶר	וְאֶת	מְגִידְדֹּה		
and Megiddo	H853	and Gezer			
H4023		H1507			

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 17:11 (Parallel theme): And Manasseh had in Issachar and in Asher Beth-shean and her towns, and Ibleam and her towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of En-dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and her towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns, even three countries.

1 Kings 9:24 (Parallel theme): But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which Solomon had built for her: then did he build Millo.

1 Kings 5:13 (Kingdom): And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.

2 Samuel 5:9 (Parallel theme): So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.

Joshua 19:36 (Parallel theme): And Adamah, and Ramah, and Hazor,

Joshua 11:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor had heard those things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph,

Joshua 16:10 (Parallel theme): And they drave not out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer: but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites unto this day, and serve under tribute.

Judges 1:29 (Parallel theme): Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

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