

1 Kings 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon built Gezer, and Beth-horon the nether,

Analysis

And Solomon built Gezer, and Beth-horon the nether,

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 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 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 – God is love

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

וְ בָּנָה	שְׁלֹמֶה	אַתָּה	זָר	בְּ יַתְּרֵאֹת	בְּ יַתְּרֵאֹת	חֶרְבָּן	תְּחִתּוֹן
built	And Solomon	H853	Gezer	H853	H0	and Bethhoron	the nether
H1129	H8010		H1507			H1032	H8481

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 16:3 (Parallel theme): And goeth down westward to the coast of Japhleti, unto the coast of Beth-horon the nether, and to Gezer: and the goings out thereof are at the sea.

Joshua 21:22 (Parallel theme): And Kibzaim with her suburbs, and Beth-horon with her suburbs; four cities.

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