

1 Kings 9:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day.

Analysis

Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

אֶשְׁר	בָּא	רָצֶן	אֶשְׁר	בָּנִים
that were left	after	them in the land	that were left	after
Their children	H3498	H310	Their children	H3498
H1121		H310	H1121	
לֹא	יָכַל	בָּנִים	יִשְׁכַּא	לִפְנֵי
also were not able	Their children	of Israel	utterly to destroy	levy
H3201	H1121	H3478	H2763	H5927
שְׁלָמָה	לִמְסָדָה	עֲבָדָה	עַד	בִּזְהָבָב
upon those did Solomon	a tribute	of bondservice	unto this day	unto this day
H8010	H4522	H5647	H3117	H2088

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:63 (Parallel theme): As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day.

Joshua 17:12 (Parallel theme): Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities; but the Canaanites would dwell in that land.

Judges 1:21 (Parallel theme): And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.

Nehemiah 7:57 (Parallel theme): The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida,

Nehemiah 11:3 (References Israel): Now these are the chief of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem: but in the cities of Judah dwelt every one in his possession in their cities, to wit, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants.