

1 Kings 9:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen: but they were men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen.

Analysis

But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen: but they were men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וּמִבְנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לֹא	נָתַן	שְׁלֹמֹה	וְעַבְדָּיו	כִּי
But of the children	of Israel	H3808	make	did Solomon	and his servants	H3588
H1121	H3478		H5414	H8010	H5650	
הֵם	אֲנֹשִׁי	הַמִּלְחָמָה	וְעַבְדָּיו	וְשָׂרָיו	וְשָׁלִיטָיו	
H1992	H376	of war	and his servants	and his princes	and his captains	
		H4421	H5650	H8269	H7991	
וְשָׂרָיו	רֶכֶב	וּפָרָשָׁיו:				
and his princes	of his chariots	and his horsemen				
H8269	H7393	H6571				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 25:39 (Parallel theme): And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:

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