

1 Kings 9:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.

Analysis

These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.

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 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

בְּמִלְאָכָה: עַל אֲשֶׁר יִמְלָא אֶלְהָה
These were the chief of the officers H834 H5921 in the work
H428 H8269 H5324 H4399

בְּרִיךְ יִם מֵא וָתִים שְׁמֵשׁ יִם
that were over Solomon's and fifty five hundred which bare rule
H8010 H2572 H2568 H3967 H7287

בְּמִלְאָכָה: בְּעֵשֶׂת יִם
over the people that wrought in the work
H5971 H6213 H4399

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 5:16 (Parallel theme): Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work.

2 Chronicles 8:10 (Parallel theme): And these were the chief of king Solomon's officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.

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