

# 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

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**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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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אֵלֶּה	שָׂרֵי	הַנִּצָּבִים	אֲשֶׁר	עָל	בְּמִלְאָכָה:
H428	H8269	H5324	H834	H5921	H4399
	<b>These were the chief</b>	<b>of the officers</b>			<b>in the work</b>
לְשֹׁלֹמֹה	וְחִמֵּשׁ	וְחִמֵּשׁ	מֵאֵלֶּפֶת	וְחִמֵּשׁ	הָיָה
H8010	H2572	H2568	H3967	H7287	
<b>that were over Solomon's</b>	<b>and fifty</b>	<b>five</b>	<b>hundred</b>	<b>which bare rule</b>	
בְּעַם	הָעֹשִׂים	בְּמִלְאָכָה:			
H5971	H6213	H4399			
<b>over the people</b>	<b>that wrought</b>	<b>in the work</b>			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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