

1 Kings 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the house.

Analysis

And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the house.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us'). The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

offer	did Solomon	And three	times	in a year	burnt offerings
H5927	H8010	H7969	H6471	H8141	H5930
and peace offerings	upon the altar	upon the altar	which he built	which he built	the LORD
H8002	H4196	H834	H1129	H3068	H3068
and he burnt incense	that was before	the LORD	the LORD	So he finished	So he finished
H6999	H854	H834	H6440	H3068	H7999
the house					
H853	H1004				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 16:16 (References Lord): Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

2 Chronicles 8:16 (References Lord): Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was perfected.

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