

1 Kings 9:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.

Analysis

And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

אֶשֶׁר	גַּבֵּר	בְּעֶצְיוֹן	שְׁלֹמֹה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	עָשָׂה	וְאֵן יֵא
a navy of ships	made	And king	Solomon			
H590	H6213	H4428	H8010			
בְּאֶרֶץ	סוּף	יָם	שֹׁפֵט	עַל	אֵל	אֶת
in Eziongeber	of the Red	sea	on the shore		which is beside Eloth	
H6100	H5488	H3220	H8193	H5921	H359	H854
בְּאֶרֶץ	רֶץ	אֶדוֹם:				
in the land		of Edom				
H776		H123				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:48 (Creation): Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-geber.

Deuteronomy 2:8 (Parallel theme): And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, through the way of the plain from Elath, and from Ezion-geber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab.

Numbers 33:35 (Parallel theme): And they departed from Ebronah, and encamped at Ezion-geber.

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