

1 Kings 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

Analysis

And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְאֵת הַ	אִם	הָלַךְ	לִפְנֵי י	בְּאֵשׁ ר	הָלַךְ	דָּוִד	אָבִיךָ
H859	H518	walked	before	H834	walked	me as David	thy father
		H1980	H6440		H1980	H1732	H1
בְּתָם	לֵב ב	וּבִי שָׁר	לַעֲשׂוֹת	אֵשׁ ר	כָּכָל ל		
in integrity	of heart	and in uprightness	to do				
H8537	H3824	H3476	H6213		H3605		H834
	צִוִּית יְ	חֻקֵּי י	וּמִשְׁפָּטֵי י				
	according to all that I have commanded	my statutes	and my judgments				
	H6680	H2706	H4941				
תִּשְׁמֹר:							
thee and wilt keep							
H8104							

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:5 (References David): Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

1 Kings 3:14 (References David): And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

Genesis 17:1 (Parallel theme): And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

1 Kings 11:4 (References David): For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

1 Kings 11:6 (References David): And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Psalms 26:11 (Parallel theme): But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.

Proverbs 28:18 (Parallel theme): Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

Zechariah 3:7 (Judgment): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

Luke 1:6 (Parallel theme): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

1 Kings 11:38 (References David): And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee.