

1 Kings 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

Analysis

But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

אֵם	תִּשְׁבֶּן	וְאֵין	אַתָּה	מִבְנֵיכֶם
H518	But if ye shall at all	But if ye shall at all	H859	me ye or your children
	H7725	H7725		H1121
מִמְּאָתָר	תִּשְׁמַרְתָּ	מִצְוֹת	וְעַד	מִשְׁׁמָרָת
from following	H3808	and will not keep	my commandments	and my statutes
H310		H8104	H4687	H2708
אֲשֶׁר	נָתַתִּי	לִפְנֵיכֶם	וְעַבְדָּתֶם	אֱלֹהִים
H834	which I have set	before	you but go	and serve
	H5414	H6440	H1980	H5647
וְעַבְדָּתֶם	לְפָנֶיךָ	וְלֹא תַּעֲבֹד	אֱלֹהִים	gods
other	and worship	H0		H430
H312	H7812			

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 28:9 (References God): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

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