

1 Kings 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?

Analysis

And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this 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 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

1 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

וְלִבִּי יֵת	הַזֶּה	יְהִי ה	עָלֵי וֶן	כָּל	עֲבֵר
And at this house	H2088	H1961	which is high	H3605	every one that passeth
H1004			H5945		H5674
עַל יוֹ	יֵשׁ מִ	וְשָׁכַח	וְאָמְרוּ	עַל	מִה
H5921	by it shall be astonished	and shall hiss	and they shall say	H5921	H4100
	H8074	H8319	H559		
עָשָׂה	יְהוָה	כֵּן	לָאֵרֶץ	הַזֹּאת	
done	Why hath the LORD	H3602	thus unto this land	H2063	
H6213	H3068		H776		
וְלִבִּי יֵת	הַזֶּה				
And at this house	H2088				
H1004					

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 7:21 (References Lord): And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?

Jeremiah 22:28 (Parallel theme): Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?

Jeremiah 19:8 (Parallel theme): And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof.