

2 Chronicles 9:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.

Analysis

And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on International recognition of God's blessing. The Chronicler presents Solomon's faithfulness in temple building and worship as paradigmatic for post-exilic Israel. Unlike the Kings account which includes Solomon's failures, Chronicles emphasizes his positive example during his faithful years.

Theologically, the passage demonstrates that wholehearted seeking of God results in His manifest blessing and presence. The temple construction and dedication represent the climax of God's dwelling with Israel, foreshadowing the incarnation when God would dwell among humanity in Christ. The elaborate preparations and careful adherence to divine pattern emphasize that worship must occur on God's terms.

Cross-references to the tabernacle (Exodus 25-40), Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17), and Messianic prophecies illuminate how Solomon's temple points toward Christ as the true meeting place between God and humanity. The material glory of Solomon's kingdom anticipates the greater glory of the Messianic age.

Historical Context

The reign of Solomon (970-930 BCE) represents Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity. The temple construction began in Solomon's fourth year (966 BCE), exactly 480 years after the Exodus according to 1 Kings 6:1. The Chronicler writes from a post-exilic perspective (450-400 BCE), emphasizing themes relevant to the restored community: temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Archaeological evidence confirms Solomon's extensive building projects and international trade relationships. The temple's design incorporated Phoenician architectural elements, evidenced by parallel structures discovered in Syria and Lebanon. Solomon's alliance with Hiram of Tyre provided both materials (Lebanese cedar) and craftsmen for the construction.

The post-exilic audience, having returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple, needed encouragement that God's presence and blessing could be restored through faithful worship. The Chronicler presents Solomon's reign as paradigmatic—when leaders and people seek God wholeheartedly, He dwells among them and prospers them.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen understanding of God's presence as the source of true blessing and success?
2. What does this passage teach about the importance of following God's prescribed patterns in worship and service?
3. How does Solomon's example in Queen of Sheba and Solomon's Wealth point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

עַל שֵׁם עֲמֹד יָם אֲרִיּוֹת עָשָׂה וּשְׁנַיִם יָם

And twelve

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lions

H738

stood

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שֵׁשׁ

there on the one side and on the other upon the six

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וּמִזֶּה הַמַּעַל וְהַמַּעַל

steps

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H2088

H4609

לֹא

H3808

בַּעֲשֵׂה הַ

There was not the like made

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כִּי

H3651

לְכָל

H3605

מִמְלָכָה:

in any kingdom

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