

Key words in 1 Kings

Baal: Hebrew *ba'al*—16:31; 18:19, 21, 26, 40; 19:18; 22:53—literally means “master,” or “husband.” Baal refers to pagan gods of fertility and storms throughout the ancient Middle East. Canaanite literature links Baal with the fertility goddess Asherah, who is mentioned numerous times in the OT (2 Kin. 21:7). Worship of these pagan deities included self-mutilation, ritual prostitution, and infant sacrifice. God punished the Israelites for adopting the worship of Baal and Asherah (Judg. 2:11–15; Jer. 19:4–6).

Supplication: Hebrew *techinnah*—8:28, 33, 45, 47, 52, 54, 59; 9:3—refers to the petitioning of God or a specific person for favor or mercy (Jer. 37:20; 38:26). Solomon uses this word repeatedly in his dedication prayer over the temple (8:23–9:3; 2 Chr. 6:14–42). Supplication is often used in relation to impending distress in the midst of one’s enemies (Ps. 55:1–3; 119:70; Jer. 36:7). The Bible describes the supplications of David (Ps. 6:9), Solomon (9:3), and of wicked King Manasseh, who humbled himself before God (2Chr. 33:12, 13).

Name: Hebrew *shem*—1:47; 3:2; 5:5; 7:21; 8:17; 9:3; 11:36; 18:24—most likely means “to mark.” In biblical history, a person’s name often described personal characteristics such as destiny or position (see 1 Sam. 25:25 for the explanation of Nabal’s name, which meant “fool”). Sometimes, God renamed people to reflect a change in their character or status (see Gen. 35:10). The various names of God reveal important aspects of His nature (for example, God Most High, Almighty God, I AM). The name of God should be used with honor and respect (Ex. 20:7). God shared His name with Israel to express His intimate covenantal relationship with them (Ex 3:13-15).

Gold: Hebrew *zahab*— 6:21, 28; 7:49; 9:28; 10:14; 12:28; 15:15; 20:3 — describes both the substance and the color of gold (1Kin 10:16; Zech 4:12). Gold, usually mentioned with silver, symbolizes wealth (Gen 13:2; 2Chr 1:15; Ezek 16:13). Most references to gold in the OT relate to Solomon’s temple and place (Ex 25:3; 2Chr 2:7; 9:13-27). However precious gold appears, nothing compares to the value of wisdom (Job 28:17), loving favor (Prov. 22:1), and the commandments of the Lord (Ps 19:9, 10; 119:72, 127).