

שבת חנוכה ב

First Kings, chapter 2, verses 1 to 12

Introduction

The choice of this haftarah:

When there are two Shabbatot during the festival, the selection for the second one is the same as that for the sidra Vayakhel. Why this choice?

Various suggestions have been brought forward. The simplest is the explanation of Rashi [Commentary on B. Megillah 31a], who says that Chanukah is the festival of lights, and lights are one of the subjects of the haftarah (verse 49).

Issachar Jacobson [*Chazon Hamikra*, vol. 2, p. 177] calls attention to the comment of Rabbenu Nissim (14th century), who suggests the following reason for the choice of the haftarah: on the first Shabbat of Chanukah we read Zechariah's prophecy about lights; and on the second, we read about Solomon's. Zechariah (though he lived after Solomon) was placed first because his prophecy deals with the future.

For text and commentary, see the haftarah for Vayakhel.