

1 Kings 11:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

Analysis

Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's apostasy and death, 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

אֲכָל	שָׁבֵט	בָּנָי	בְּקָרָב	אֶלְעָזָר	לְאֶלְמָנָה	כָּל	אֶת	בְּקָרָב	אֶלְעָזָר	אֶלְמָנָה	כָּל	אֶת	בְּקָרָב
Howbeit	H853	H3605	all the kingdom	H4467	H3808	I will not rend away			tribe		one		
H7535					H7167			H7626		H259			
אֶלְמָנָה	עַבְדֵּךְ	לְבָנָךְ	לְמַעַן	לְבָנָךְ	לְמַעַן	לְמַעַן	עַבְדֵּךְ	אֶלְמָנָה	לְבָנָךְ	לְמַעַן	עַבְדֵּךְ	אֶלְמָנָה	
but will give		to thy son	H4616	for David	H1732	my servant's	H4616				H5650		
H5414		H1121						H977					
יְרֻשָּׁלָם	אֲשֶׁר			בְּמִרְצָה									
sake and for Jerusalem's	H834	sake which I have chosen											
H3389													

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 12:20 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

Deuteronomy 12:11 (Parallel theme): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

1 Kings 11:32 (References David): (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

Deuteronomy 12:5 (Parallel theme): But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

Isaiah 62:7 (References Jerusalem): And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

