

1 Kings 11:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

Analysis

And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

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 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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

אֶת	שְׁלֹמֹה ה	וַיֵּרָא	חַיִּל	גִּבּוֹר	יִרְבֶּעַם	וְהָאִישׁ
	and Solomon	seeing	of valour	was a mighty man	Jeroboam	And the man
H853	H8010	H7200	H2428	H1368	H3379	H376
ה	וְאֵל	מְלָאכָה	עֹשֶׂה	כִּי	הַנָּעַר	
		that he was industrious	the young man			
H1931	H4399	H6213	H5288	H3588		
יוֹסֵף:	בֵּית	סָבֵל	לְכָל	אֶת	וַפָּקַד	
of Joseph	of the house	over all the charge			he made him ruler	
H3130	H1004	H5447	H3605	H853	H6485	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 22:29 (Parallel theme): Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.