

1 Kings 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

Analysis

And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

כִּי קָרָעַ יְמֵינֵךְ אֶת לְבָבֶךָ	לִרְבּוֹעַ מֵעֶשֶׂר הַיּוֹם	לְבָבֶךָ קָרָעַ יְמֵינֵךְ אֶת כִּי
And he said to Jeroboam Take H559	H3379 H3947	H0 H6235 H7168
אֶת קָרְבָּן יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנָּנוּ בְּלִבְבָּךְ אֶת קָרְבָּן יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת	Behold I will rend the LORD the God of Israel H559 H3068 H430	H2005 H7167
עֶשֶׂר הַיּוֹם אֶת לְבָבֶךָ וְנִתְמַתֵּת מֵיד שְׁלֹמֹן וְנִתְמַתֵּת מֵיד שְׁלֹמֹן וְנִתְמַתֵּת מֵיד	the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give H4467 H3027 H8010	H0 H853 H5414
הַשְׁבָּטִים tribes H7626		H6235

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