

# 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

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**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

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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**

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## **Study Questions**

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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

כֹּה פִּי קִרְעֵ יָם עֲשֶׂה לִּי קַח לִירֵבֶעַם אָמַר  
**And he said** **to Jeroboam** **Take** <sup>H0</sup> **ten** **pieces** <sup>H3588</sup> <sup>H3541</sup>  
<sup>H559</sup> <sup>H3379</sup> <sup>H3947</sup> <sup>H6235</sup> <sup>H7168</sup>

אֶת קִרְעֵ הִנֵּנִי וְשָׂא לֵאלֹהֵי יְהוָה אָמַר  
**And he said** **the LORD** **the God** **of Israel** <sup>H2005</sup> **Behold I will rend** <sup>H853</sup>  
<sup>H559</sup> <sup>H3068</sup> <sup>H430</sup> <sup>H3478</sup> <sup>H7167</sup>

עֲשֶׂה אֶת לִי וְנָתַתִּי שְׁלֹמֹה מִיַּד הַמֶּמְלָכָה  
**the kingdom** **out of the hand** **of Solomon** **and will give** <sup>H0</sup> <sup>H853</sup> **ten**  
<sup>H4467</sup> <sup>H3027</sup> <sup>H8010</sup> <sup>H5414</sup> <sup>H6235</sup>

הַשְּׁבָטִים:  
**tribes**  
<sup>H7626</sup>