

1 Kings 12:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

Analysis

And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kingdom divided: rehoboam and jeroboam, within the book's focus on kingdom division as judgment for Solomon's idolatry.

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. The kingdom division (c. 930 BCE) created the northern kingdom (Israel, 10 tribes) and southern kingdom (Judah, 2 tribes).

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can leaders today avoid Rehoboam's mistakes and lead with wisdom rather than pride?
2. What does the kingdom division teach about the long-term consequences of generational sin and compromise?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

כָּל בְּ אֶשְׁכָּן רַמְבָּע מִשְׁכָּן כִּי שָׁכָן שָׁכָן וְיָלֹן
H1980 And Rehoboam to Shechem H3588 to Shechem were come H3605
H7346 H7927 H935

אֶתְנָה לְמַלְךָ יְהָוָה שָׁבָא לְ
for all Israel to make him king H853
H3478 H4427

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 60:6 (Parallel theme): God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.

Joshua 20:7 (Parallel theme): And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjath-arba, which is Hebron, in the mountain of Judah.

Judges 9:6 (Kingdom): And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem.

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