

1 Kings 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

Analysis

And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

אַתָּה גָּדוֹל וְאֶתְּנָאָתָן
that were grown up H854
that spoke H413 And the young men H3206
H1696 H834
H1431

פֶּן הַלְּעָם מִלְּאָמֵר כִּי
unto this people H2088
Thus shalt thou speak H3541
H559 H559
H1431

אֶת הַכְּבֵד יָד אָבִינוּ
heavy H853
that spoke H413 Thus shalt thou speak H559
H1696 H1
H3513

תִּתְּנַבֵּר כִּי מִשְׁלֵל יְכוֹנֵן
but make thou it lighter H5921
our yoke H859
H1696 H7043

אָבִינוּ מִמְּלֹתָן
Thy father H1
unto them My little finger shall be thicker H5666
H413 H6995