

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

תִּדְבֹּר	אֶל יוֹ	הַיְלָדִים	אֲשֶׁר	גָּדְלוּ	אֹתוֹ
that spake	H413	And the young men	H834	that were grown up	H854
H1696		H3206		H1431	
לֵאמֹר	כֹּה	לֵאמֹר	לְעַם	הֵן הִיא	
Thus shalt thou speak	H3541	Thus shalt thou speak	unto this people	H2088	
H559		H559	H5971		
אֲשֶׁר	תִּדְבֹּר	אֶל יְיָ	לֵאמֹר	אָבִי:	הַכֶּבֶד יָד
H834	that spake	H413	Thus shalt thou speak	Thy father	heavy
	H1696		H559	H1	H3513
נוֹ	עַל הַ	יָאֵת הַ	הַקָּל לְ	מַעַל יָנוּ	כֹּה
our yoke	H859	but make thou it lighter	H5921	H3541	that spake
H5923		H7043			H1696
אֵלַיָּהּ	קִטְנֵי יְ	עָבָהּ	מִמֶּתְנֵי יְ	אָבִי:	
H413	unto them My little	finger shall be thicker	loins	Thy father	
	H6995	H5666	H4975	H1	