

# 1 Kings 12:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

## Analysis

**And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.**

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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וְעַתָּה הַ	אָבִ	הַעֲמִים יָסַ	עַלְכָּם מִ	עַלְכָּם מִ
H6258	And now whereas my father	H1	did lade	H5921
			H6006	to your yoke
				H5923
you with a heavy	אָסָר יְ	עַל	עַלְכָּם מִ	אָבִ
H3515	H589	H3254	H5921	H1
	I will add		to your yoke	And now whereas my father
but I will chastise	אִסְרָאֵל	בְּשִׁׁלְטָה יְ	אָסָר יְ	אָסָר יְ
H3256	H853	H7752	H589	H853
	you with whips		but I will chastise	

בְּעִקְבָּתִים:  
you with scorpions

H6137

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