

1 Kings 12:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

Analysis

And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

עָזָה	תִּשְׁעַלְתָּה	בְּנֵי עַמּוֹ	לְהַפְּנֵי	אַתָּה	מִשְׁמָרָה	הַקְשֵׁת	בְּנֵי עַמּוֹ	לִפְנֵי	אַתָּה	עָזָה
counsel										
answered	And the king		the people		roughly	and forsook				
H6030	H4428	H853	H5971	H7186	H5800	H853				H6098

יְמִינֵי	רַבְבָּנִים	אֲשֶׁר	יְמִינֵי	יְמִינֵי	אֲשֶׁר	רַבְבָּנִים	יְמִינֵי	רַבְבָּנִים	אֲשֶׁר	יְמִינֵי
the old men's			that they gave							
H2205	H834		H3289							

Additional Cross-References

James 3:17 (Parallel theme): But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

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