

1 Kings 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

Analysis

And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

לְאָמֵן רִ	פִּילְדִּים	לְאָמֵן רִ	פִּילְדִּים
And spake	אֶלָּיכֶם	כִּנְצָתְתָה	of the young men
H1696	H413	H6098	H3206
My father	heavy	אֶת הַכְּבֵדָה	saying
H1	H853	H5923	H559
My father	also chastised	אֶת יָדֶךָ	עַל
H1	H3256	H589	אֶת יָדֶךָ
		H7752	to your yoke
		H3254	H5921
			H5923
בְּעַקְבָּרִים:	אֶת יָדֶךָ	אֶת יָדֶךָ	אֶת יָדֶךָ
H853	H6137	H589	H3256

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org