

# 1 Kings 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

## Analysis

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**Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.**

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

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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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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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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וְלֹא	שָׁמַע	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֵל	הָעָם	כִּי	הָיְתָה
H3808	hearkened	Wherefore the king	H413	not unto the people	H3588	H1961
	H8085	H4428		H5971		
סִבָּה	מִעַם	יְהוָה	לִמַּעַן	הֵקֵץ	יָמָיו	אֶת
for the cause	H5973	was from the LORD	H4616	that he might perform	H853	
H5438		H3068		H6965		
דְּבַר	אָשָׁר	דִּבֶּר	יְהוָה	בְּיַד	אֶחָיו	הַשִּׁילֹנִי
his saying	H834	spake	was from the LORD	by	Ahijah	the Shilonite
H1697		H1696	H3068	H3027	H281	H7888
אֶל	יֶרְבֹּעַם	בֶּן	נֶבַט:			
H413	unto Jeroboam	the son	of Nebat			
	H3379	H1121	H5028			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 2:30** (Kingdom): But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.

**1 Kings 12:24** (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.

**Judges 14:4** (References Lord): But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

**1 Kings 11:11** (Kingdom): Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

**2 Chronicles 25:20** (Parallel theme): But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.

**2 Chronicles 22:7** (References Lord): And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.

**2 Chronicles 10:15** (Kingdom): So the king hearkened not unto the people: for the cause was of God, that the LORD might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

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