

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

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

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| אֵלָא | שְׁמָעָ | פָּתָח | אֶל | בְּשָׁמָעָ | כִּי | בִּתְהָמָת |
| H3808 | hearkened | Wherefore the king | H413 | not unto the people | H3588 | H1961 |
| H8085 | | H4428 | | H5971 | | |
| סְבָה | מַעַם | יְהוָה | לֹמַעַן | בְּקָרָם | אֲתָה | |
| for the cause | H5973 | was from the LORD | H4616 | that he might perform | H853 | |
| H5438 | | H3068 | | H6965 | | |
| דְּבָרָו | דְּבָרָאֵשׁ | יְהוָה | בִּידָה | אֲתָיָה | פְּשִׁילָה | |
| his saying | H834 | spake | by | Ahijah | the Shilonite | |
| H1697 | H1696 | H3068 | H3027 | H281 | H7888 | |
| אֶל | יְרֵבָעָם | בֶּן | נְבָטָה | | | |
| H413 | unto Jeroboam | the son | of Nebat | | | |
| H3379 | H1121 | H5028 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org