

# 1 Kings 12:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

## Analysis

**So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.**

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## 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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אַלְפָם	אֶלְפָתָם	רָא	כָּל	לֹא	כִּי	יִשְׁרָאֵל	לֹא	שָׁמַע	לְרֹא	כִּי	יְהִי
now	see	H3605	O Israel	H3588	H3808	hearkened	H8085	that the king	H4428	H413	
H7200			H3478								
בָּן	בָּנִים	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	אֶת	אֶת	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	רַבָּה	לְאָמֵן	רַבָּה	מָה
So	not unto them the people	H853	that the king	H4428	answered	saying	H559	H1697	H4100	H559	
H7725			H5971								
לְקָנָה	לְקָנָה	לְקָנָה	לְקָנָה	לְקָנָה	לְקָנָה	נִסְלָה	הַנִּסְלָה	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	יְשָׁעִי	יְשָׁעִי
What portion	David	H3808	neither have we inheritance	H5159	in the son	of Jesse	H1121	H3448	H1980	H1732	H2506
H0											
לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	
to your tents	O Israel	H6258	now see	H7200	to thine own house	David	H1004	H1732	H1980	H1732	H3478
H168											
לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	לְאַפְלִיּוֹן	
O Israel	to your tents	H168									

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 20:1** (References David): And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.

**Jeremiah 33:21** (Kingdom): Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers.

**2 Chronicles 10:16** (Kingdom): And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? and we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents.

