

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

אֱלֹהִים	הֵם לְכֹן	שָׁמַע ע	לֹא	כִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	כָּל	רָא ה		
	now see	H3605	O Israel	H3588	H3808	hearkened	that the king	H413
	H7200		H3478			H8085	H4428	
מָה	יֹאמַר ר	דָּבָר ר	הֵם לְכֹן	אֶת	הָעָם	וַיֵּשׁ בּוֹ		
	So	not unto them the people	H853	that the king	answered	saying	H4100	
	H7725	H5971		H4428	H1697	H559		
יֵשׁ י	בְּבֶן	נֶחֱלָה ה	וְלֹא	דָּוִד	חֵלֶק	לָנוּ		
	neither have we inheritance	in the son	of Jesse		What portion	David	H0	
	H5159	H1121	H3448		H2506	H1732		
וַיֵּלֶךְ	דָּוִד	בֵּיתוֹ	רָא ה	עַתָּה ה	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	לְאֹהֲלָיו:		
	now see	to thine own house	David	H1980	O Israel	to your tents	H168	
	H7200	H1004	H1732		H6258	H3478		
לְאֹהֲלָיו:	יִשְׂרָאֵל							
	O Israel	to your tents						
	H3478	H168						

Additional Cross-References

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.

