

1 Kings 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

Analysis

But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וּבְנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	הַיֹּשֵׁב ים	בְּעָרֵי י	יְהוּדָה ה	וַיִּמְלֹךְ
But as for the children	of Israel	which dwelt	in the cities	of Judah	reigned
H1121	H3478	H3427	H5892	H3063	H4427

רְחִבְעָם:	עָלֶיהָ ׀
Rehoboam	
H7346	H5921

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:13 (Kingdom): Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

1 Kings 11:36 (Parallel theme): And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org