

1 Kings 12:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

Analysis

Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

עַל	אֲשֶׁר	אָדָרָם	לְגַם	רְמִבָּעַת	אֵת	וְיָפְתָח	מִן	שָׁלַח	חָ
sent	Then king	Rehoboam			H853	Adoram		H834	H5921
H7971	H4428	H7346				H151			
who was over the tribute	stoned		בְּמִן	וְיָרַגְמָן	כָּל	וְיִשְׁרָאֵל	בְּ	אֶבֶן	
H4522	H7275					H3478	H0	him with stones	H68
that he died	Then king	Rehoboam	רְמִבָּעַת	הַתִּאמְצָא	לְגַם	וְיָמָת	לְעַל	בְּמִרְכָּבָה	הַ
H4191	H4428	H7346		H553		H5927		H4818	
to flee	to Jerusalem								
H5127	H3389								

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 4:6 (Parallel theme): And Ahishar was over the household: and Adoniram the son of Abda was over the tribute.

1 Kings 5:14 (Parallel theme): And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses: a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home: and Adoniram was over the levy.

2 Samuel 20:24 (Parallel theme): And Adoram was over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder: