

1 Kings 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

Analysis

And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַיִּהְיֶה י'	כָּשָׁם עַן	יָרֹבָעַם	בֶּן	נָבָט	וְהוּא
H1961	heard	And it came to pass when Jeroboam	the son	of Nebat	H1931
	H8085	H3379	H1121	H5028	
וְהָמֶלֶךְ	מִפְּנֵי י'	בָּרַח	אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִצְרַיִם:	עוֹדָה בּוֹ
H4428	of king	from the presence	of it (for he was fled	in Egypt	H5750
	H4428	H6440	H1272	H4714	
			יָרֹבָעַם	וַיָּשָׁב	שְׁלֹמֹה ה'
			And it came to pass when Jeroboam	Solomon	dwelt
			H3379	H8010	H3427
					in Egypt
					H4714

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:40 (Kingdom): Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.