

1 Kings 12:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

שׁ	בְּ	יָšׁ̄רָאָל	כֹּל	כִּשְׁמָעָה	יָהּ	וְ	שׁ	בְּ	יָšׁ̄רָאָל	כֹּל	כִּשְׁמָעָה	יָהּ	וְ	שׁ	בְּ	יָšׁ̄רָאָל	כֹּל	כִּשְׁמָעָה	יָהּ	וְ							
H1961	heard	H3605	And it came to pass when all Israel	H3478	H3588	was come again	H7725																				
H8085																											
תְּהִלָּחָה	מִבְּרִכָּה	וְ	יְקִרְאָה	וְ	יְשִׁלָּחָה	וְ	יְרִבָּעָה	וְ	אֶל	אֶתְּךָ	וְ	בְּעֵד	הָ	וְ	תְּהִלָּחָה	מִבְּרִכָּה	וְ	יְקִרְאָה	וְ	יְשִׁלָּחָה	וְ	יְרִבָּעָה	וְ				
that Jeroboam	that they sent	and called		H853	H413	him unto the congregation	H5712																				
H3379	H7971	H7121																									
וְ	יָשַׁרְאָל	כֹּל	עַל	אֶתְּךָ	וְ	יָמַלְכָה	וְ	לֹא	וְ	יָשַׁרְאָל	כֹּל	עַל	אֶתְּךָ	וְ	לֹא	וְ	יָשַׁרְאָל	כֹּל	עַל	אֶתְּךָ	וְ	יָמַלְכָה	וְ				
and made him king		H853	H5921	H3605	And it came to pass when all Israel	H3478	H3808																				
H4427																											
בֵּית	אֶחָד	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית	בֵּית			
H1961	there was none that followed	H310	H1004	H1732	H2108	H7626																					
וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ	זָוְלָת	וְ			
of Judah		H905																									
H3063																											
לְבָדָהוּ	וְ	יְהוָה	וְ	הָ																							

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:32 (References David): (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

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.