

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

כָּל	כָּשָׁמַע	וַיְהִי	וַיָּבֹא	כִּי	שָׁב
H3605	H1961 heard H8085		And it came to pass when all Israel	H3588	was come again H7725
וַיִּשְׁלַח	וַיִּקְרָא	אֵלָיו	אֶל	הָעֵדָה	
H7971	H7121	H853	H413	H5712	him unto the congregation
וַיַּרְבֵּעַ	וַיַּמְלֵךְ	עָלָיו	וַיָּבֹא	לְאֵל	
H3379	H4427	H853	H5921 H3605	H3808	
that Jeroboam	and made him king	And it came to pass when all Israel			
אֲחֵרִי	בֵּית	דָּוִד	זֶלְתָּהּ	שִׁבְט	הָיָה
H310	H1004	H1732	H2108	H7626	H1961
there was none that followed	the house	of David	but	the tribe	
לְבִדּוֹ	יְהוּדָה				
H905	H3063				
of Judah					

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.