

1 Kings 12:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

Analysis

And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

כָּל אֶת וַיִּקְהֶל יְרוּשָׁלַם לְרִחְבֹּעַם וַיָּבֹאוּ
was come And when Rehoboam to Jerusalem he assembled H853 H3605
H935 H7346 H3389 H6950

מֵאָה הַ בְּנֵימָן שִׁבְט וְאֶת יְהוּדָה בֵּית
against the house of Judah H853 with the tribe of Benjamin an hundred
H1004 H3063 H7626 H1144 H3967

לְהִלָּחֵם מֶלֶכֶתָּה עֲשֵׂה בָּחֹר וְאַלְפֵי וּשְׁמֹנִים
and fourscore thousand chosen men which were warriors H4421 to fight
H8084 H505 H977 H6213 H3898

הַמְּלוּכָה אֶת לְהִשָּׁיב יִשְׂרָאֵל בֵּית עַם
H5973 against the house of Israel again H853 the kingdom
H1004 H3478 H7725 H4410

לְרִחְבֹּעַם בֶּן שְׁלֹמֹה:
And when Rehoboam the son of Solomon
H7346 H1121 H8010