

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 יְהוָה
to Jerusalem he assembled
was come And when Rehoboam to Jerusalem he assembled
H935 H7346 H3389 H6950 H853 H3605

מִאָה בְּנֵי־בְּנִים | שְׁבָט וְאֶת יְהוָה בְּ יַת
an hundred with the tribe of Benjamin against the house of Judah
H3967 H1144 H7626 H853 H3063 H1004

לְהַלְכָּם מִלְּפָנָה הַעֲשֵׂה הַבָּח וְאֶל־שְׁמַנְיָם
to fight chosen men which were warriors and fourscore thousand
H3898 H4421 H6213 H977 H505 H8084

בְּ יַת וְאֶת לְשִׁבְיָה יְשַׁרְאֵל
the kingdom again to sit against the house of Israel
H4410 H7725 H853 H3478 H1004 H5973

שְׁלֹמֹה: בְּ לְרַמְבָּעַ מִ
the son of Solomon And when Rehoboam the son of Solomon
H8010 H1121 H7346

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