

1 Kings 12:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God,
saying,

Analysis

But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיְהִי	דָּבַר	הָאֱלֹהִים	אֶל	שְׁמַעְיָאֵל	אִישׁ
H1961	But the word	of God	H413	came unto Shemaiah	the man
	H1697	H430		H8098	H376
לֵאמֹר:					
הָאֱלֹהִים					
of God	saying				
H430	H559				

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 11:2 (Word): But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,