

# 1 Kings 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.

## Analysis

**Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.**

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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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עִם תֵּל סִמְמִין וְלֹא תַּעֲלֹם לֹא יְהֹוָה אָמַר כֵּה  
H3541 Thus saith of the LORD H3808 Ye shall not go up H3808 nor fight H5973  
H559 H3068 H5927 H3898

אַשׁוּב בְּנֵי אֶחָיוָה לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאַשׁוּב  
against your brethren the children of Israel and returned every man  
H251 H1121 H3478 H7725 H376

בְּזַה כִּי לְבִתְּהֵר מִאֵת הַמִּתְּחִילָה כִּי לְבִתְּהֵר  
to his house H3588 H853 is according to the word H2088  
H1004 H1961 H1697

וְאַשׁוּב בְּנֵי יִהְוָה לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאַשׁוּב  
from me They hearkened H853 according to the word of the LORD and returned  
H8085 H1697 H3068 H7725

לְלִכְתָּב כִּי לְלִכְתָּב כִּי  
H1980 according to the word of the LORD H1697 H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 12:15** (References Lord): Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

**Hosea 8:4** (Parallel theme): They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

**2 Chronicles 25:10** (Parallel theme): Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

**2 Chronicles 11:4** (Word): Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house: for this thing is done of me.

And they obeyed the words of the LORD, and returned from going against Jeroboam.

**Numbers 14:42** (References Lord): Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.

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