

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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

כָּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה:	לֹא	תַעֲלוּ	וְלֹא	תִלָּחֶמְוּ	עִם
H3541	Thus saith	of the LORD	H3808	Ye shall not go up	H3808	nor fight	H5973
	H559	H3068		H5927		H3898	
אֶחָיִךְ	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיָּשׁוּ	בּוֹ	אֵשׁ	אֵשׁ	
against your brethren	the children	of Israel	and returned		every man		
H251	H1121	H3478	H7725		H376		
לְבֵיתוֹ	כִּי	מֵאֵת יְהוָה	כַּדְּבָר	הַזֶּה			
to his house	H3588	H853	is	according to the word	H2088		
H1004		H1961	H1697				
וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ	אֶת	כַּדְּבָר	יְהוָה:	וַיָּשׁוּ	בּוֹ		
from me They hearkened	H853	according to the word	of the LORD	and returned			
H8085		H1697	H3068	H7725			
לְלֶכֶת	כַּדְּבָר	יְהוָה:					
H1980	according to the word	of the LORD					
	H1697	H3068					

Additional Cross-References

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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