

1 Kings 12:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.

Analysis

Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kingdom divided: rehoam 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וַיִּבְנֶה	יָרְבֹּעַ מֶלֶךְ	אֶת	שֶׁכֶם	בְּהַר	אֶפְרַיִם	וַיָּשָׁב	בְּהַר
built	Then Jeroboam	H853	Shechem	in mount	Ephraim	and dwelt	H0
H1129	H3379		H7927	H2022	H669	H3427	
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וַיֵּצֵא	מִשָּׁם	וַיִּבְנֶה	אֶת	פְּנוּאֵל			
therein and went out	H8033	built	H853	Penuel			
H3318		H1129		H6439			

Additional Cross-References

Judges 8:17 (Parallel theme): And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.

Judges 8:8 (Parallel theme): And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered him.

