

1 Kings 12:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

Analysis

If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

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 sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

אִם	יַעַל הֵן	הָעָם	הִנֵּה	לַעֲשׂוֹת	זִבְחֵי	בַּבַּיִת
H518	go up H5927	If this people H5971	H2088	to do H6213	sacrifice H2077	in the house H1004
יְהוָה	בִּירֹושָׁלַם	וְשָׁבוּ	וְשָׁבוּ	לֵב	הָעָם	
of the LORD H3068	at Jerusalem H3389	me and go again H7725	then shall the heart H3820	If this people H5971		
הִנֵּה	אֶל	אֲדֹנֵיהֶם	אֶל	רְחֹבָם	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה
H2088	H413	unto their lord H113	H413	even unto Rehoboam H7346	king H4428	of Judah H3063
וְהָרְגוּ	וְשָׁבוּ	אֶל	רְחֹבָם	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה	
and they shall kill H2026	me and go again H7725	H413	even unto Rehoboam H7346	king H4428	of Judah H3063	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:25 (References Lord): The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Deuteronomy 16:6 (Sacrifice): But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 12:14 (Sacrifice): But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.