

1 Kings 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

Analysis

That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְשָׁלְחוּ	וַיִּקְרָאוּ	לֹ	וַיָּבֹאוּ	יָרֵבֶעַם	וְכָל
That they sent	and called	H0	came	him And Jeroboam	H3605
H7971	H7121		H935	H3379	
וְכָל	וְיִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיְדַבֵּר	אֶל	רֵחָבֶעַם	לֵאמֹר:
and all the congregation	of Israel	and spake	H413	unto Rehoboam	saying
H6951	H3478	H1696		H7346	H559
