

1 Kings 12:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

Analysis

And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַיְהִי י'	הַדָּבָר ר	הַזֶּה ה	לְחַטָּאת	וְלָכֵן ו	הָעָם
H1961	And this thing H1697	H2088	became a sin H2403	H1980	for the people H5971
לִפְנֵי י'	הָאֶחָד ד	עַד	דָּן:		
to worship before H6440	the one H259	H5704	even unto Dan H1835		

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 17:21 (Sin): For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

1 Kings 13:34 (Sin): And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

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