

1 Kings 12:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places which he had made.

Analysis

And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places which he had made.

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 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

עָשָׂה:	יִרְבֵּעַ מֶלֶךְ	כָּחַ גֹּ	לַח דָּשׁ	הַשְּׁמִינִי י	בַּחֲמִשָּׁה	עָשָׂר
So did	And Jeroboam	a feast	month	in the eighth	on the fifteenth	H6240
H6213	H3379	H2282	H2320	H8066	H2568	
עַל	וַיַּעַל	בִּיהוּדָה ה	אֲשֶׁר ר	כָּחַ גֹּ	לַח דָּשׁ	י וְסוֹמֶן
day	month	a feast	H834	that is in Judah	and he offered	H5921
H3117	H2320	H2282		H3063	H5927	
לְעֹגְלֵי יָם	לִזְבֹּחַ ה	אֵל ל	בְּבֵית עָשָׂה:	כֹּן	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ ה	
upon the altar	H3651	So did	H0	he in Bethel	sacrificing	unto the calves
H4196		H6213		H1008	H2076	H5695
כֹּהֲנֵי י	אֶת	אֵל ל	בְּבֵית ית	וַהֲעִמִּיד	עָשָׂה:	אֲשֶׁר
H853	H853	H1008	H0	he in Bethel	So did	H834
the priests				H1008	H6213	H5975
					עָשָׂה:	אֲשֶׁר ר
					H834	H6213
					of the high places	H1116

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:5 (Parallel theme): And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

1 Kings 8:2 (Parallel theme): And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.