

# 1 Kings 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

## Analysis

**And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?**

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

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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כִּי אָשָׁר	בְּזִקְנִים	אַתָּה רַמְבָּע מִתְּעֵץ יְמִינְךָ	לְגֹן	מִתְּעֵץ מִתְּעֵץ	אַתָּה	רַמְבָּע	מִתְּעֵץ	לְגֹן	מִתְּעֵץ יְמִינְךָ	כִּי אָשָׁר
How do ye advise	And king	Rehoboam	H854	with the old men	H2205					H1961
H3289	H4428	H7346				H834				
that stood	before	Solomon	his father							
H5975	H6440	H8010	H1							
and said										
H349	H859									
answer										
H2088	H1697									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 32:7** (Parallel theme): I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.

**Job 12:12** (Parallel theme): With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.