

# 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

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**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

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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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**Psalms 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 וְאֵשֶׁר	הַזְקֵנִים	אֶת	רְחֹבַעַם	הֶמָּה לֵךְ	כִּי וְאֵשֶׁר
H1961	H834	H854	H7346	H4428	H3289
	with the old men		Rehoboam	And king	How do ye advise
	H2205				H5975
וְעַד יָמָיו	בְּהִיט וְ	אָבִיו	שְׁלֹמֹה ה	פָּנֵי	אֶת
H2416	H1961	H1	H8010	H6440	H853
	while he yet lived	his father	Solomon	before	that stood
הָעָם	אֶת	לְהֵשִׁיב	כִּי וְאֵשֶׁר	אֶתְּ	אֵין
H5971	H853	H7725	H3289	H859	H349
	this people	that I may	How do ye advise		and said
יָדָבָר:	הִנֵּה ה				
H1697	H2088				
answer					

## 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.