

# 1 Kings 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

## Analysis

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**But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:**

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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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## 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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וַיַּעַזְבֵּן	אֶת	עֲצַת	הַזְקֵנִים	אֲשֶׁר	וַיַּעַזְבֵּן
But he forsook	H853	the counsel	of the old men	H834	him and consulted
H5800		H6098	H2205		H3289
וַיַּעַזְבֵּן	אֶת	הַיְלָדִים	אֲשֶׁר	גָּדְלוּ	אֶת
him and consulted	H853	with the young men	H834	that were grown up	H854
		H3206		H1431	
אֲשֶׁר	הָעֹמֵד	לִפְנָיו:			
H834	with him and which stood	before			
	H5975	H6440			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 19:20** (Parallel theme): Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

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