

1 Kings 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

Analysis

And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְנִשְׁאַל יְמִינְךָ מִן הַאֲלֵיךָ מִלְּאָמֵן רְאֵת מִמֶּנּוּ אַתָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
unto them What counsel give
And he said H413 H4100 H859 H3289
H559

דְּבָרָךְ 1 אֲשֶׁר רְפִיעָה בְּנֵי הָעָם אֲתָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
who have spoken
ye that we may answer this people H2088 H834 H1696
H7725 H1697 H5971

אֲבָבָיךְ יְמִינְךָ מִן הַקְּלָל לִאמְמֵן רְאֵת
did put which thy father
And he said Make the yoke H834 H5414 H1
H413 H7043 H4480 H5923

עַל יְמִינְךָ

H5921

