

# 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

---

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלֶיָּהֶם	מֶה	אֶתָּה	נֹעֲצֵי יָם
<b>And he said</b> H559	H413	H4100	H859	<b>unto them What counsel give</b> H3289
וְנָשׂ יָב	אֶת דְּבַר	הָעָם	הַזֶּה	אֲשֶׁר דִּבְּרוּ
<b>ye that we may</b> H7725	<b>answer</b> H1697	H853	<b>this people</b> H5971	H2088
				H834
				<b>who have spoken</b> H1696
אֵלַי	וַיֹּאמֶר	הַקֵּל	מִן	הָעֹלָם
H413	<b>And he said</b> H559	<b>Make</b> H7043	H4480	<b>the yoke</b> H5923
				H834
				<b>did put</b> H5414
				<b>which thy father</b> H1
עָלֵינוּ:				
H5921				

