

## 1 Kings 12:1-24 **Rehoboam (son of Solomon) lost ten tribes of Israel**

### The Revolt Against Rehoboam (2 Chron 10:1-19, 11:1-4)

1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

2 So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt), 3 that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, 4 "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

5 So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.

6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

7 And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

8 But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. 9 And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

10 Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us' — thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist!

11 And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'"

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."

13 Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; 14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!" 15 So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the Lord, that He might fulfill His word, which the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

16 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying:

"What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

17 But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem.

19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

20 Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

21 And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

22 But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying,

24 "Thus says the Lord: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.""

Therefore they obeyed the word of the Lord, and turned back, according to the word of the Lord.  
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Facts Revealed:

**The Revolt Against Rehoboam** [1 Kings 12:1-24] (2 Chron 10:1-19, 11:1-4)

- ✧ 1 And **Rehoboam** went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. [1 Kings 12:1]
  - ◇ All of Israel was gathered to Shechem to make Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Israel.
- ✧ 2 So it happened, when **Jeroboam** the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt), 3 that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, 4 "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you." [1 Kings 12:2-4]
  - ◇ Jeroboam son of Nebat came from Egypt to join all Israel in making Rehoboam son of Solomon King of Israel.
  - ◇ Jeroboam had fled to Egypt when Solomon attempted to have him put to death. [1 Kings 11:26-40]
  - ◇ Jeroboam son of Nebat led the leaders of Israel in requesting Rehoboam son of Solomon to lighten the tax load on the people of Israel from the burden Solomon had laid on them. [1 Kings 12:3-4, 2 Chronicles 10:3-4]
  - ◇ The people pledged continued allegiance to Rehoboam son of Solomon if he would comply with their request for tax relief.
- ✧ 5 So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed. [1 Kings 12:5]
  - ◇ Rehoboam son of Solomon requested three days to seek counsel regarding the request of the people.
  - ◇ The people complied and left for the appointed time.
- ✧ 6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

7 And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

8 But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. 9 And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?'"

10 Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us' — thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist! 11 And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'" [1 Kings 12:6-11]

- ✧ The next generation, as is so common, the generation which has seen no hardship but has been raised in the lap of luxury insulated from the struggles of the people has a distorted vision of the responsibilities of royalty and righteousness.
- ✧ Rehoboam son of Solomon, of the younger generation, had only known the luxury of his royal environment as son of the wealthy Solomon.
- ✧ To appear interested, Rehoboam requested the advice of the older generation, but rejected their good counsel outright.
- ✧ Turning then to the younger generation who had also been raised in the lap of luxury for their counsel, Rehoboam chose their arrogant counsel for his answer to the people.
- ✧ It is unwise to choose rich young men as national leaders because they are unable to relate to the struggles of the masses and will expect the masses to be their servants.
- ✧ Our politicians today view themselves as rulers over the people, rather than public servants elected to protect the people in righteousness and justice.

### The People Revolt

✧ 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."

13 Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; 14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

15 So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the Lord, that He might fulfill His word, which the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. [1 Kings 12:12-15]

- ✧ The people returned the third day as suggested by Rehoboam.
- ✧ Rehoboam answered the people in accordance to the counsel of the younger pampered generation, arrogantly refusing to comply with the peoples request.
- ✧ As with Pharaoh of Egypt when Moses went to request the release of the people of Israel, the Lord used the arrogance of Rehoboam to accomplish His will regarding the division of the nation of Israel after the sins of Solomon. [1 Kings 12:15, Exodus 4:21, 7:3, 9:16, 14:4] [1 Kings 11:19-38]

✧ 16 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying:

"What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O

Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

17 But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah. [1 Kings 12:16-17]

✧ Thus the intent of the Lord was fulfilled against the sins of Solomon. [1 Kings 11:29-36]

✧ We most often only see the actions and words of people, but fail to realize that in it all there is a force at play from the Divine Will working in the affairs of mankind to set up a kingdom and to bring another down.

✧ 18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem. [1 Kings 12:18]

✧ When the people had rebelled against the tax load and told the king to see to his own house, it is not a good time to send the tax collector especially if the king accompanies the tax collector.

✧ Rehoboam escaped with his life to Jerusalem.

✧ 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. [1 Kings 12:19]

✧ That applied to the day the story was recorded.

✧ 20 Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that **Jeroboam** had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only. [1 Kings 12:20]

✧ **Jeroboam son of Nebat** was made king of all the tribes of Israel except for the tribe of Judah.

✧ 21 And when **Rehoboam** came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to **Rehoboam the son of Solomon**. [1 Kings 12:21]

✧ The closest tribes to Jerusalem are Judah and Benjamin, so from these tribes Rehoboam son of Solomon assembled 180,000 chosen men to fight against the northern tribes of Israel to bring them back under his rule by force.

✧ 22 But **the word of God** came to **Shemaiah the man of God**, saying, 23 "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying,

24 **'Thus says the Lord: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me."'** [1 Kings 12:22-24]

✧ The Lord gave the word and put a stop to the battle by letting the people know that God was behind the flow of events that divided the kingdom.

✧ Therefore they obeyed the word of the Lord, and turned back, according to the word of the Lord. [1 Kings 12:24]

✧ For once, Rehoboam the son of Solomon and the people listened to the man of God and turned back before blood was shed.