

**The Kings of Judah**  
**Rehoboam: His Background and the Beginning of His Reign**  
**Lesson I**

*Written: February 23, 1986*

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Chronicles 9:31

2 Chronicles 10:1

2 Chronicles. 11:1

2 Chronicles 12: 1,16

His story is also found in 1 Kings 13:1-9 and 1 Kings 14:21-31.

And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

2 Chronicles 9:31

And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king.

2 Chronicles 10:1

And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen *men*, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam.

2 Chronicles 11:1

**Verse 1** And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him. **Verse 16** And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.

2 Chronicles 12:1,16

And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before. And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

Page 1 of 6

And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

1 Kings 13:1-9

And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem: And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house. And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber. Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

1 Kings 14:21-31

## BACKGROUND HISTORY

1. The Kingdom was united for 120 years.
  - a. Saul was King for 40 years.
  - b. David was King for 40 years.
  - c. Solomon was king for 40 years.The prophet was Abijah. ( 1 Kings 11:29)

And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two *were* alone in the field:

1 Kings 11:29

## 2 After Solomon the kingdom was divided.

### Northern Kingdom

- a. Israel
- b. 10 tribes
- c. Capital-Samaria
- d. Stood for 200 years
- e. Destroyed Amos 9:8
- f. Many families, "houses" of Kings
- g. Jeroboam, son of Nebat first king.

### Southern Kingdom

- Judah
- 2 tribes
- Capital-Jerusalem.
- Stood 300 years
- Preserved Luke 1:17-32
- All kings of David's house
- Rehoboam, son of Solomon first king.

Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD *are* upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith the LORD.

Amos 9:8

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luke 1:17-32

## 1. REHOBOAM WAS THE SON OF KING SOLOMON.

2 Chronicles 9:31

.... and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

2 Chronicles 9:31

Solomon had been given the gift of wisdom, but he could not pass-on such to his son. Humans cannot impart intelligence to their children, nor wisdom, nor abilities, nor talents of any kind. All of these things are God's doing. Read again Deuteronomy. 8:18 God gives abilities of every kind.

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

Deuteronomy. 8:18

1 Corinthians. 4:7 “what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Ecclesiastes 6:2 God giveth riches wealth and honour. An illustration in the Vancouver Sun, Feb 18,1986,of what God can do which according to men should be impossible. John LaFond, severely retarded and blind; yet the piano player, 36 year old, profoundly retarded, blind epileptic and spastic on his right side. He can't do the simplest addition or even understand the difference between a circle or a square. But the moment he sits down at a piano and plays with only his left hand, the severely disabled man is transformed into a supremely talented human being. He has never received formal piano training and will never be able to read music, but that has not stopped him from developing a vast repertoire that includes Mozart, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Gershwin, as well as jazz show tunes etc. He has become a celebrity , playing the organ in conventions and churches, in the Cedar Springs area,80 km east of Windsor Ontario. Explain that apart from God!

For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?

1 Corinthians. 4:7

A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this *is* vanity, and it *is* an evil disease.

Ecclesiastes 6:2

2. Rehoboam was the son of an Ammorite woman. 2 Chronicles 12:13 cf 1 Kings 11:1,2. Genesis 19:38 gives us the origin of the Ammonites and vs 37 that of the Moabites. They were the result of an incestuous relationship. They became perpetual enemies of Israel. Remember their origin was the fruit of backslidden behaviour. They developed into a Nation of idol worshippers. The Ammonites were barred from entering the congregation of Israel. When Israel entered Canaan, they were instructed to destroy and utterly drive out the Ammonites. But later history, Judges 1:34-36, reveals that Israel failed to destroy them. So take note: They came into being because of Lot's failure. They remained in the land because of later failure. Then Solomon again failed to follow the Word of the Lord by marrying an Ammonite, and of her, Rehoboam is born.

So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam *was* one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name *was* Naamah an Ammonitess.

2 Chronicles 12:13

Page 4 of 6

**Verse 1** But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, *and* Hittites;

**Verse 2** Of the nations *concerning* which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: *for* surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love .

1 Kings 11:1,2

And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same *is* the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

Genesis 19:38

**Verse 34** And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley: **Verse 35** But the Amorites would dwell in mount Heres in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim: yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tributaries. **Verse 36** And the coast of the Amorites *was* from the going up to Akrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

Judges 1:34-36

So we observe: Rehoboam was the son of a mixed marriage. Therefore he was the child of the permissive will of God. He was not a child of the perfect will of God. That language does not satisfy the theologians, but I know of no better terms to be used. Now as we have seen; Solomon's marriage to an Ammorite was against the revealed will of God in the same way that a marriage of a believer to an unbeliever is against the revealed, perfect will of God. See Nehemiah. 13:23-26.

**Verse 23** In those days also saw I Jews *that* had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, *and* of Moab: **Verse 24** And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. **Verse 25** And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, *saying*, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. **Verse 26** Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin .

Nehemiah. 13:23-26

Notice that we are told that in this matter, Solomon had sinned. We want to also notice that in these stories of the Kings the mothers are often named, and we ask ,why? We answer: because in the majority of cases mothers have the greatest influence on their children. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." And as a doctor said in my hearing, "as goes our mothers so goes our society."

Getting back to Rehoboam. We can see that his mother and her heathen religion had a greater influence on him than did the religion of his father. So although Solomon had a great gift, great wealth, great abilities, by his backslidding, he failed his son! May we all be challenged if needs be,even from today , that we will not fail God; that we will not fail our children! That we will not fail our grandchildren.

Page 5 of 6

### 3. REHOBOAM BEGAN HIS REIGN FACING A PROBLEM.

1 Kings 10:1-5 and 2 Chronicles. 9:1-4 are identical. 2 Chronicles. 10:14 The problem: taxes were too heavy! Problems create pressure. Remember God allows such because pressure reveals character. You will never know yourself unless you are put under pressure. When they lay pipe-lines, it is put to the test by pressure for the purpose of revealing the weak spots. Yes, pressure reveals both weakness and strength. In recent days the nine years of pressure in a Russian prison revealed how strong Anatoly Shcharansky really is. Moses under terrific pressure revealed his terrible temper! Elijah under pressure of Jezebeel revealed his weakness when he requested for himself that he might die. Under the pressure of fear, Abraham lied about his wife. Under the pressure of Saul's continued conflict, David revealed weakness when he fainted himself to be mad. And each of us can testify that it has taken the pressure of problems to reveal our weaknesses. And we are all weak somewhere. The pressure of his problem revealed Rehoboam's weakness: he was easily swayed by others.

And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not *any* thing hid from the king, which he told her not. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

1 Kings 10:1-5

And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not. And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

2 Chronicles. 9:1-4

And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I *will chastise you* with scorpions.

2 Chronicles. 10:14