

### The Death of Solomon (932t BC)

1 Kings 11:41–43	2 Chronicles 9:29–31
<p>41 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?</p> <p>42 Thus the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.</p> <p>43 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.</p>	<p>29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?</p> <p>30 Solomon reigned forty years in Jerusalem over all Israel.</p> <p>31 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.</p>

### The Division of the Kingdom (931n BC)

1 Kings 12:1–24	2 Chronicles 10:1–11:4
<p><b>Rehoboam Is Confronted by Jeroboam</b></p> <p>1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.</p> <p>2 Now when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard <i>of it</i>, he was living in Egypt (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon).</p> <p>3 Then they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,</p> <p>4 “Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.”</p> <p>5 Then he said to them, “Depart for three days, then return to me.” So the people departed.</p> <p><b>Rehoboam Consults His Older Advisers</b></p> <p>6 King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, “How do you counsel <i>me</i> to answer this people?”</p> <p>7 Then they spoke to him, saying, “If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them and grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.”</p> <p><b>Rehoboam Listens to the Young Men</b></p>	<p>10:1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.</p> <p>2 When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard <i>of it</i> (for he was in Egypt where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), Jeroboam returned from Egypt.</p> <p>3 So they sent and summoned him. When Jeroboam and all Israel came, they spoke to Rehoboam, saying,</p> <p>4 “Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.”</p> <p>5 He said to them, “Return to me again in three days.” So the people departed.</p> <p>6 Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, “How do you counsel <i>me</i> to answer this people?”</p> <p>7 They spoke to him, saying, “If you will be kind to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.”</p>

8 But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him.

9 So he said to them, "What counsel do you give that we may answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

10 The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!' But you shall speak to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins!

11 Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

12 Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, "Return to me on the third day."

13 The king answered the people harshly, for he forsook the advice of the elders which they 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 disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

15 So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn *of events* from the LORD, that He might establish His word, which the LORD spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

### **The Northern Tribes Revolt**

16 When all Israel *saw* that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, "What portion do we have in David? *We have* no inheritance in the son of Jesse; To your tents, O Israel! Now look after your own house, David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

17 But as for the sons of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam made haste to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

8 But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him.

9 So he said to them, "What counsel do you give that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

10 The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall say to the people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter for us.' Thus you shall say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins!

11 Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I *will discipline you* with scorpions.'"

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

13 The king answered them harshly, and King Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the elders.

14 He spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it; my father disciplined you with whips, but I *will discipline you* with scorpions."

15 So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn *of events* from God that the LORD might establish His word, which He spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

16 When all Israel *saw* that the king did not listen to them the people answered the king, saying, "What portion do we have in David? *We have* no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Every man to your tents, O Israel; Now look after your own house, David." So all Israel departed to their tents.

17 But as for the sons of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18 Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was over the forced labor, and the sons of Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam made haste to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

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

20 It came about when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, that they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. None but the tribe of Judah followed the house of David.

### God Prevents a Civil War

21 Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel to 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, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin and to the rest of the people, saying,

24 ‘Thus says the LORD, “You must not go up and fight against your relatives the sons of Israel; return every man to his house, for this thing has come from Me.”’” So they listened to the word of the LORD, and returned and went *their way* according to the word of the LORD.

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

11:1 Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

2 But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

3 “Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying,

4 ‘Thus says the LORD, “You shall not go up or fight against your relatives; return every man to his house, for this thing is from Me.”’” So they listened to the words of the LORD and returned from going against Jeroboam.

## The North and the South (931–929 BC)

1 Kings 12:25; 2 Chronicles 11:5–12

### Jeroboam Fortifies the Northern Kingdom

1 Kgs 12:25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel.

### Rehoboam Fortifies the Southern Kingdom

2 Chr 11:5 Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and built cities for defense in Judah.

6 Thus he built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

7 Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam,

8 Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

9 Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

10 Zorah, Aijalon and Hebron, which are fortified cities in Judah and in Benjamin.

11 He also strengthened the fortresses and put officers in them and stores of food, oil and wine.

12 He put shields and spears in every city and strengthened them greatly. So he held Judah and Benjamin.

## Jeroboam’s Sin and Rehoboam’s Obedience (931–929 BC)

1 Kings 12:26–31; 2 Chronicles 11:13–17

### Jeroboam Institutes a Religious System of His Own Making

1 Kgs 12:26 Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will return to the house of David.

27 “If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”

28 So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.

31 And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi.

### **The Priests and Levites Move to Judah**

2 Chr 11:13 Moreover, the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel stood with him [*Rehoboam*] from all their districts.

14 For the Levites left their pasture lands and their property and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had excluded them from serving as priests to the LORD.

15 He set up priests of his own for the high places, for the satyrs and for the calves which he had made.

16 Those from all the tribes of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the LORD God of Israel followed them to Jerusalem, to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers.

17 They strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam the son of Solomon for three years, for they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.

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### **Chronological Notes**

- 1) The Hebrew calendar was (and is) lunar-solar. Each month started with the new moon. Since twelve lunar months fall short of a full solar year, in some years a thirteenth month was added. In later years the formula was worked out with some exactitude as to when this should be done. The month that began near the spring equinox was called Nisan. The northern kingdom (Israel) considered the year to start in Nisan throughout its history, whereas for civil purposes Judah considered the year to start in the seventh month, Tishri, corresponding roughly to our October.
- 2) The Scriptures often give the number of the month instead of the month’s name, and when this is done the numbering always starts from Nisan, independently of whether the official year started in Nisan or Tishri. In the readings, the expression “931n” is used to represent the year beginning on Nisan 1, 931 BC and ending the day before Nisan 1, 930 BC. This is the kind of year that would be used in the court records of the northern kingdom. “931t” represents the year beginning Tishri 1, 931 BC and ending the day before Tishri 1, 930 BC; this is the kind of year that would be used in Judah. The six-month overlap of these two dates is written as 931t/930n, meaning the time period that began on Tishri 1 of 931 BC and ended the day before Nisan 1 of 930 BC. The overlap of 932t and 931n is written 931n/931t. This method of expressing dates may be called the “Nisan/Tishri” notation.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rodger C. Young, “Tables of Reign Lengths from the Hebrew Court Recorders,” *JETS* 48/2 (June 2005): 225.