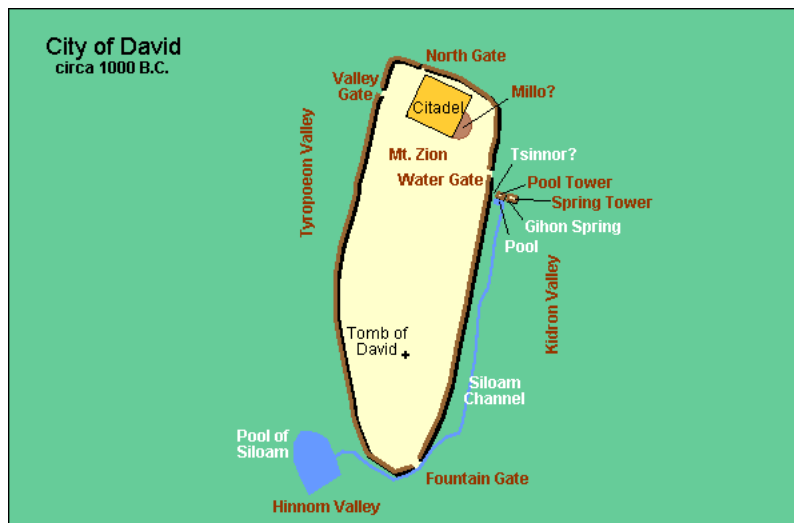


OT-OV

Lesson 95

1. Earlier I began a study of the Book of 1st Kings by way of the Doctrine of Solomon and when time expired last week we were about to begin a study of one of Solomon's replacements - Jeroboam.

2. Jeroboam I (931-910 B.C.), was of the tribe of Ephraim, son of Nebat and Zeruah. His energy and skill were recognized by Solomon in connection with the building of the tower of Millo.



3. When the prophecy of Ahijah, that Jeroboam would become king of the ten northern tribes instead of Rehoboam, was communicated to Solomon, Jeroboam fled to Egypt for safety. (1Ki 11:26-40)

1Ki 11:26 Also, Jeroboam son of Nebat rebelled against the king. He was one of Solomon's officials, an Ephraimite from Zeredah, and his mother was a widow named Zeruah.

1Ki 11:27 Here is the account of how he rebelled against the king: Solomon had built the supporting terraces and had filled in the gap in the wall of the city of David his father.

1Ki 11:28 Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the house of Joseph.

1Ki 11:29 About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country,

1Ki 11:30 and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces.

1Ki 11:31 Then he said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes.

1Ki 11:32 But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe.

1Ki 11:33 I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molech the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in my ways, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my statutes and laws as David, Solomon's father, did.

1Ki 11:34 "But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who observed my commands and statutes ...

1Ki 11:40 Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt, to Shishak the king, and stayed there until Solomon's death.

4. Returning to Palestine after the death of Solomon, he headed up the delegation of the northern tribes seeking from Rehoboam an alleviation of the oppressions practiced by his father.

5. When this was refused, the northern tribes broke away from the house of David and made Jeroboam king (1Ki 12:1-15, 19-20).

1Ki 12:1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all the Israelites had gone there to make him king.

1Ki 12:2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt.

1Ki 12:3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him:

1Ki 12:4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

1Ki 12:5 Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away ...

1Ki 12:7 They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants."

1Ki 12:8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him ...

1Ki 12:10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'--tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.

1Ki 12:11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions ...

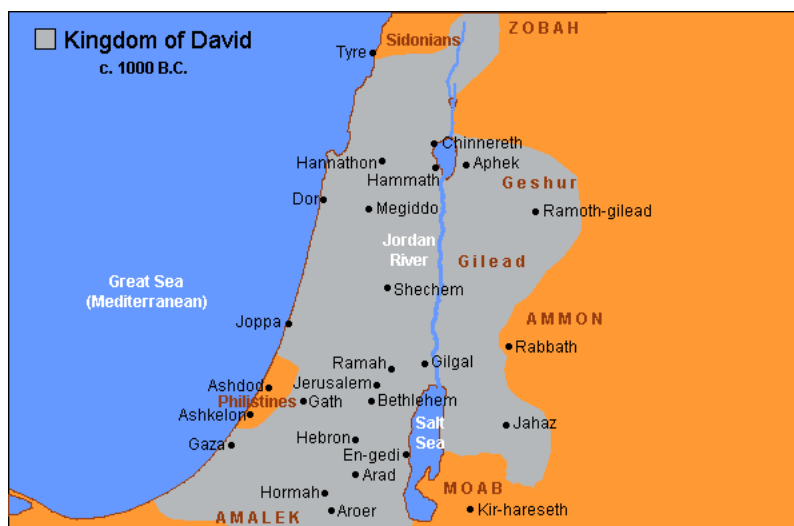
1Ki 12:15 So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the LORD, to fulfill the word the LORD had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite ...

1Ki 12:20 When all the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the house of David.

6. Jeroboam rebuilt Shechem of Ephraim, which Abimelech, son of Gideon, had destroyed, and made it the royal residence.

7. Next he built Peniel in Transjordan (1Ki 12:25), either as a winter residence or as an alternate capital because of Pharaoh Shishak's campaign c. 926 B.C.

1Ki 12:25 Then Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built up Peniel.



8. Jeroboam moved his royal residence to Tirzah a city NE of Shechem. His training under Solomon made him a great builder.

9. He is chiefly known as "Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin." His sin was the erecting of the calves at Dan and Bethel, establishing in Israel the calf worship which he had doubtless seen in Egypt.

10. His purpose was political, to keep the people away from the temple in Jerusalem, where their hearts might be drawn back to the house of David. The priests and Levites whose homes were in his territory were given no place in the new worship, others being indiscriminately chosen for the priesthood.

1Ki 12:25 Then Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built up Peniel.

1Ki 12:26 Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David.

1Ki 12:27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam."

1Ki 12:28 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt ...

1Ki 12:31 Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites.

11. His support of idolatry was undeterred by the warnings of an unnamed prophet from Judah.

1Ki 13:1 By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering.

1Ki 13:2 He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD: "O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who now make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.'"

1Ki 13:3 That same day the man of God gave a sign: "This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out."

1Ki 13:4 When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back.

1Ki 13:5 Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.

1Ki 13:6 Then the king said to the man of God, "Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored." So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before.

12. Though he saw a miracle, Jeroboam continued in his idolatry.

1Ki 13:33 Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places.

1Ki 13:34 This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.

13. While his reign was prosperous, his sin brought on him the stern judgment of God, seen in the death of his young son Abijah, and in the tragic ending of his dynasty in the second generation. (1Ki 14:1-20)

1Ki 14:1 At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill,

1Ki 14:2 and Jeroboam said to his wife, "Go, disguise yourself, so you won't be recognized as the wife of Jeroboam. Then go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there-- the one who told me I would be king over this people.

1Ki 14:3 Take ten loaves of bread with you, some cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy."

1Ki 14:4 So Jeroboam's wife did what he said and went to Ahijah's house in Shiloh. Now Ahijah could not see; his sight was gone because of his age.

1Ki 14:5 But the LORD had told Ahijah, "Jeroboam's wife is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill, and you are to give her such and such an answer. When she arrives, she will pretend to be someone else."

1Ki 14:6 So when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why this pretense? I have been sent to you with bad news.

1Ki 14:7 Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I raised you up from among the people and made you a leader over my people Israel.

1Ki 14:8 I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.

1Ki 14:9 You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back.

1Ki 14:10 "Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel--slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone ...

1Ki 14:17 Then Jeroboam's wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died.

1Ki 14:18 They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the LORD had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah.

1Ki 14:19 The other events of Jeroboam's reign, his wars and how he ruled, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel.

1Ki 14:20 He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his fathers. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king.

14. Rehoboam succeeded Solomon on the throne in 931 B.C. and reigned for 17 years over the southern Kingdom; his reign ended somewhere around 913 B.C.

1Ki 14:21 Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite.

15. Judah displayed no apparent opposition to Rehoboam at his accession, but the northern tribes were manifestly dissatisfied.

16. Before the coronation ceremonies scheduled at Shechem, the chief city of northern Israel, the people stated the conditions under which they would serve Rehoboam as king. In short, they demanded lighter taxation. (2Ch 10:4-5)

2Ch 10:4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

2Ch 10:5 Rehoboam answered, "Come back to me in three days." So the people went away.

17. Determined to pursue the course of his father, Rehoboam rejected the counsel of the experienced advisers for the wild and merciless schemes of the young men. (2Ch 10:6-15)

2Ch 10:13 The king answered them harshly. Rejecting the advice of the elders,
2Ch 10:14 he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions."

18. The ten tribes openly rebelled. When Rehoboam sought to enforce his authority by sending his taskmaster to quell the disturbance, Hadoram was stoned to death. Rehoboam realized the peril to his own life so he fled the city of Shechem ignominiously returning to Jerusalem. (2Ch 10:16-19)

2Ch 10:16 When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, O Israel! Look after your own house, O David!" So all the Israelites went home.

2Ch 10:17 But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

2Ch 10:18 King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, but the Israelites stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem.

19. Rehoboam mobilized an army of 180,000 men against Israel, but civil war was averted by the stern words of the Lord through Shemaiah the prophet. (2Ch 11:1-4)

2Ch 11:1 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mustered the house of Judah and Benjamin-- a hundred and eighty thousand fighting men-- to make war against Israel and to regain the kingdom for Rehoboam.

2Ch 11:2 But this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God:

2Ch 11:3 "Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah and to all the Israelites in Judah and Benjamin,

2Ch 11:4 "This is what the LORD says: Do not go up to fight against your brothers. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing." So they obeyed the words of the LORD and turned back from marching against Jeroboam.

20. Nevertheless throughout the period of his reign "there were military skirmishes between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually" (2Ch 12:15).

2Ch 12:15 As for the events of Rehoboam's reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer that deal with genealogies? There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

21. Scripture traces all these unfortunate events ultimately to the sin of Solomon. (1Ki 11:1-13)

1Ki 11:10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD'S command.

1Ki 11:11 So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.

1Ki 11:12 Nevertheless æ, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

1Ki 11:13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

22. Judah fell into open idolatry under the direction of Rehoboam (2Ch 12:1 and 1Ki 14:21-24).

2Ch 12:1 After Rehoboam's position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD.

1Ki 14:21 Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite.

1Ki 14:22 Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than their fathers had done.

1Ki 14:23 They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree.

1Ki 14:24 There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

23. Like his father, he practiced polygamy, taking to himself 18 wives and 60 concubines, and actually promoted the same thing among his sons. (2Ch 11:18-23)

2Ch 11:18 Rehoboam married Mahalath, who was the daughter of David's son Jerimoth and of Abihail, the daughter of Jesse's son Eliab.

2Ch 11:19 She bore him sons: Jeush, Shemariah and Zaham.

2Ch 11:20 Then he married Maacah daughter of Absalom, who bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza and Shelomith.

2Ch 11:21 Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of Absalom more than any of his other wives and concubines. In all, he had eighteen wives and sixty concubines, twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

2Ch 11:22 Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah to be the chief prince among his brothers, in order to make him king.

2Ch 11:23 He acted wisely, dispersing some of his sons throughout the districts of Judah and Benjamin, and to all the fortified cities. He gave them abundant provisions and took many wives for them.

24. Rehoboam because of the threat of an invasion from Egypt built defenses in southern Judah. (2Ch 11:5-12).

2Ch 11:5 Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and built up towns for defense in Judah:

25. A test of his military soon came; in his fifth year (926 B.C.) Shishak invaded the land. He destroyed the fortified cities and besieged Jerusalem.

26. Advised by Shemaiah, Rehoboam humbled himself for the moment under the hand of the Egyptian potentate and thus escaped utter destruction.

27. It was necessary to surrender the temple and palace treasures to Shishak, and even the golden shields which Solomon had made. (2Ch 12:1-12)

2Ch 12:1 After Rehoboam's position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD.

2Ch 12:2 Because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem in the fifth year of King Rehoboam.

2Ch 12:3 With twelve hundred chariots and sixty thousand horsemen and the innumerable troops of Libyans, Sukkites and Cushites that came with him from Egypt,

2Ch 12:4 he captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

2Ch 12:5 Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the LORD says, 'You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.'"

2Ch 12:6 The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is just."

2Ch 12:7 When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: "Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak.

2Ch 12:8 They will, however, become subject to him, so that they may learn the difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands."

2Ch 12:9 When Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem, he carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including the gold shields Solomon had made.

2Ch 12:10 So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace.

2Ch 12:11 Whenever the king went to the LORD'S temple, the guards went with him, bearing the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom.

2Ch 12:12 Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD'S anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah.

28. Rehoboam's reign is classified as one of infamy because he rejected God.

2Ch 12:14 He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD.

2Ch 12:15 As for the events of Rehoboam's reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer that deal with genealogies? There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

End of Lesson