

HORSES BROUGHT OUT OF EGYPT

1 KINGS 10:23 – 12:33

^^^^^^

~ Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Whatever a man shall sow; that shall he also reap. Isaiah repeats three times that the unrighteous have no peace in their hearts. We examined those two Scriptural principles ad nauseum as we considered the life of David in the second book of Samuel; and those principles are beginning to work out equally as tragically in the later life of King Solomon. Our Spiritual Safari will say farewell to the wise King Solomon as his life ends in a sorry and sad way in this report. From here forward in the book of Kings, we'll see the consequences of Solomon's departure from the Lord as Israel is divided and ultimately taken into captivity. The history of Israel is still unfolding to this day; and the result is their continuing rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, our True and Living God.

At this point in our study, the kingdom of Israel, under the rule of King Solomon, has reached its zenith as far as witnessing the Word of God to the known world is concerned. As we know, David had actually set the events in order for Solomon to reach this level of prosperity, peace and plenty. The good life Solomon is enjoying accrued by way of aristocratic benefit, which we need to understand. Solomon didn't work or fight for anything Israel had. All the nations round about brought goods and riches to Solomon because of the wisdom God gave him. Unfortunately, that also makes it easier for other nations to demand reparations when Israel becomes divided and weakened. That will become a real problem for them later on. But, at the time in which we are studying, Israel was faithful in witnessing for God in Jerusalem. We saw that illustrated in the account of the queen of Sheba in our previous report. She and others came from the ends of the earth because they had heard there was a way they could approach the True and Living God....

X

23 So King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.

1 KINGS 10:23 – 12:33

^^^^^^

24 And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

25 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and garments, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

26 And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem.

27 And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance.

28 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price.

29 And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means.

~ Remember, God had specifically forbidden the kings of Israel from multiplying wives and horses. Solomon is totally disobeying God from verse twenty-six through twenty-nine. Solomon would have made our modern horse tracks like Churchill Downs or Belmont – with all of their money and luxury – look like a tenant farmers barnyard in western Georgia. We have already seen excessive wealth hoarded in the kingdom in previous reports; we saw Solomon corner the worlds gold market in our last report. Well, Solomon also cornered the markets for silver and precious stones, too....

XI

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

~ Gathering so many women was a sin Solomon picked up from his old man David – and that’s unfortunate. God clearly prohibits polygamy AND expressly forbade the children of Israel from intermarrying with women from other nations – not to mention the horses – in the Mosaic System of Levitical Law that Solomon was professing to the world he practiced. See, Solomon, having been brought up in the women’s court of the king’s palace, was an effeminate individual. He needed these women around and he wanted to appear very masculine in their presence. I’m sure they were extremely contentious with each other, and I’m sure Solomon sadistically enjoyed and exploited that dynamic. In verse two we could change the word “love” to “sex!” These women turned Solomon to idolatry and caused Solomon to permit idolatry in the kingdom. And God is going to deal with Solomon in this connection; just as the Lord had dealt so severely with David. Solomon knew nothing about rough and rugged warfare as David did. Even with all the horse shows Solomon must have produced, he was no man of war. His army was a bunch of pretty boys who knew all about women – but nothing about fighting....

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.

3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

~ The Word of God tells us of the thousand women Solomon married because it is an accurate historical statement – but it wasn't God's will – and God does not approve of it. God became angry with Solomon over these things, friends. We're going to have to actually read the Bible if we ever hope to learn it. God's attitude towards this is revealed in verse nine. If the next two verses don't drive this point home, then I don't know what will. Solomon's disobedience is bringing the promise of judgment upon the king and his kingdom. The next thing that happens is the two tribes of Benjamin and Judah are divided from the other ten tribes of Israel in the northern kingdom. Well, that division immediately brings up Solomon's first adversary in verse fourteen....

10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

14 And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

15 For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;

16 (For six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every male in Edom)

17 That Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; Hadad being yet a little child.

18 And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land.

19 And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen.

20 And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

21 And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country.

22 Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.

23 And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

24 And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.

25 And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad did: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

26 And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman; even he lifted up his hand against the king.

~ Here, we are introduced to Jeroboam. Solomon lifted this son of a servant up to a high position, and Jeroboam returned the favor by rebelling. No good deed goes unpunished, friends. By the end of the reign of King Solomon, God is bringing all kinds of troubles upon him. Verse fourteen has already brought Hadad the Edomite onto the scene – and Hadad hated Solomon with every fiber of his being, friends. God said there is no peace for the wicked. God also says He creates the wicked man for the day of evil. Both happen to be true. There's no sense becoming overly sensational; just take your complaint up with the Lord if you don't like this section of Scripture. Solomon has enjoyed many peaceful decades up until this point – but those days are over now as he begins to reap what he has sown, and it is tragic....

27 And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father.

28 And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

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:

~ From here, Ahijah takes a garment and divides it twelve ways into some sort of spooky spiritual speak to Jeroboam. Well, It is because of the sins of Solomon that the kingdom will now be divided by God. Interestingly, because of *DAVID*, two tribes are going to be preserved in the family. If it weren't for David, I think the entire nation may have gone into captivity at this time. Either way, they would have experienced a bitterly cruel oppressive rule over the entire land if not for the grace of God. Of course, we know all about David's sin concerning Bathsheba and Uriah. I suggest we all think this through to its final conclusion, friends! The next step now for Solomon is into the realm of death....

30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes:

35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes.

36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee.

39 And I will for this afflict the seed of David, but not for ever.

40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

41 And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

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

~ Solomon was a colorful king and worthy national leader during his reign. He accumulated so much of this worlds goods that he would have been the Rockefeller, Gates and Morgan's rolled all into one. Everything about Solomon denoted wealth, affluence, prosperity and power. Even the Lord Jesus Christ referred to the glory that was Solomon's. There was certainly an earthly glory in his kingdom; so, it's too bad the record ends so dismally! Anyways, Rehoboam now comes to the throne; and our complicated safari through Kings will become almost impossible to follow. Pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment. We're going to need it.

The account we have in the first part of chapter twelve is of the people asking Rehoboam for their taxes to be lowered. What an opportunity this young ruler briefly had. He could have united the kingdom by simply reducing the taxes. Remember, Solomon had carried on an extravagant building program for the women; and, naturally, it cost a whole lot of money. Today, if you want to understand why our taxes are so high, then just go to the capital building of any state, or to the county seat of any county – or to Washington D.C. – and you’ll see a big part of the problem of why our taxes are as disproportionate as they are. The rest can be found in the mistresses’ bank accounts of politicians – but I digress, sort of. Let’s not kid ourselves to the reality of what is actually happening today. God has spelled it out so we can know. There’s no sense continuing to be gullible and naive.

The number one problem in today’s world governments is that they simply cost too much. That applies to every governing entity globally. The United States of America spends billions of dollars *each day* to continue wars that we have already lost. The buildings we construct to prosecute those wars are shameful, actually. The wasteful committees and unproductive workers occupying those structures render governing a losing proposition in our current society. Politicians have discovered how to profit from our loss. We need an elected official who will fire about half – or more – of all current governmental workers. If someone were to do that, they would find themselves quite popular. But no one seems willing to attempt that first correct step. The industry we label government will ultimately conclude with more people employed by said government than not. It will be an international concern. That’s the problem Solomon had created at the time in which we are studying.

So, a meeting is called by Rehoboam between the wise old men and the so-called wise young men. Well, the wise young men whom Rehoboam listened to turned out to be very unwise; in fact, they were stupid. The old wise men who had been with Solomon gave excellent advice. Their advice would have reunited the kingdoms and ended the warring between them – but that was totally rejected by this new king. Rehoboam’s first decision in office was the foolish decision to *INCREASE* the taxes. Instead of being

compassionate and less severe, Rehoboam obviously intends to rule with an iron fist. What happens next is utter rebellion and the kingdom is officially split. That will eventuate into full blown civil war – again....

XII

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

2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt)

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

9 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?

10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

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

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

16 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,

24 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.

25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

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

30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

~ Verse eighteen is a good way to get rid of the tax man. The rebellion will continue from verse nineteen all the way until Judah returns from the Babylonian captivity. Never again will the nation Israel be united until that day. So, Rehoboam has made a very unwise decision, of course; and that permitted Jeroboam to gather the remaining ten tribes under him and build his own kingdom in the northern section of the land.

We end this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with the Davidic line being followed, and Rehoboam ruling the southern kingdom of Judah. The golden calves of idolatry Jeroboam made in verse twenty-eight had one purpose: prevent the northern kingdom from having to go to Jerusalem to worship. Our Spiritual Safari closes this report with a completely divided kingdom; the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel. This begins a tragic and sad portion of history

for the nation Israel. We're going to get some unbearably harsh lessons from here on out in first Kings. Apparently, according to Scripture, the only thing we have learned from history is that people do not learn from history.

From here forward, we'll follow a divided kingdom to their respective captivities; and things will become very complicated, indeed, as we turn back and forth between the histories of the two kingdoms. Below I have a chart of the two kingdoms and their respective kings; I trust it will be invaluable to your understanding. Understanding the kingdoms that were contemporary to each other – that is, which northern and southern kingdoms existed at the same times – and the prophets that prophesied to which kings during those reigns, is absolutely imperative to understanding the Bible properly, correctly and completely, friends. With the exception of the post-captivity prophets, almost all of the other prophets prophesied during this period we are now in. I hope you'll continue with us as we continue to plow in our expedition through the entire Word of God, my beloved readers. When we complete second Kings, we will detour through the Book of Romans before returning to Chronicles. We all have a lot to learn about the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ ~

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

JUDAH					ISRAEL				
King	Reign	Character	Prophet		King	Reign	Character	Prophet	
1. Rehoboam	931-913 bc	(17 yrs.)	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910 bc	(22 yrs.)	Bad	Ahijah
2. Abijam	913-911	(3 yrs.)	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	(2 yrs.)	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	(41 yrs.)	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	(24 yrs.)	Bad	
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	(25 yrs.)	Good	Obadiah	4. Elah	886-885	(2 yrs.)	Bad	Elijah Micaiah
5. Jehoram	848-841*	(8 yrs.)	Bad		5. Zimri	885	(7 days)	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	(1 yr.)	Bad		6. Omri	885-874	(12 yrs.)	Bad	
7. Athaliah	841-835	(6 yrs.)	Bad	Joel	7. Ahab	874-853	(22 yrs.)	Bad	Elisha
8. Joash	835-796	(40 yrs.)	Good		8. Ahaziah	853-852	(2 yrs.)	Bad	
9. Amaziah	796-767	(29 yrs.)	Good		9. Joram	852-841	(12 yrs.)	Bad	
10. Azariah (or Uzziah)	767-740*	(52 yrs.)	Good	Isaiah	10. Jehu	841-814	(28 yrs.)	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
11. Jotham	740-732*	(16 yrs.)	Good		11. Jehoahaz	814-798	(17 yrs.)	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716*	(16 yrs.)	Bad		12. Jehoash	798-782*	(16 yrs.)	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687*	(29 yrs.)	Good	Jeremiah	13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	(41 yrs.)	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	(55 yrs.)	Bad		14. Zechariah	753-752	(6 mo.)	Bad	
15. Amon	642-640	(2 yrs.)	Bad		15. Shallum	752	(1 mo.)	Bad	
16. Josiah	640-608	(31 yrs.)	Good		16. Menahem	752-742*	(10 yrs.)	Bad	
17. Jehoahaz	608	(3 mo.)	Bad		17. Pekahiah	742-740	(2 yrs.)	Bad	
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	(11 yrs.)	Bad		18. Pekah	740-732*	(20 yrs.)	Bad	
19. Jehoiachin	597	(3 mo.)	Bad		19. Hoshea	732-722	(9 yrs.)	Bad	
20. Zedekiah	597-586	(11 yrs.)	Bad		<i>(Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel)</i>				

(Destruction of Jerusalem and captivity of Judah)
*Co-regency

*Co-regency