

1 Kings 12

King James Version (KJV)

(Israel becomes 2 nations)

12 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. (All 12 tribes came to coronate him. It won't take him long to lose 10 of them)

²And 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;) (Egypt seems to have liked taking in exiles from Israel. They did it many times throughout the Old Testament)

³That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, (They saw Jeroboam as a speaker for the people because he had the courage to speak against Solomon's forced labor. Solomon tried to murder him for that)

⁴Thy 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. (Solomon created a lot of hate and resentment with his forced labor of the people, while he lived in luxury and decadence. He turned out to be very different than David, whom the people loved)

(They people will serve him in spite of what Solomon did to them. All Rehoboam has to do is be a fair and just king. He will fail miserably even at that. He was raised in the decadence of Solomon's reign. He must have been an ego maniac like his father)

Mathew-11:29-30 (Jesus' yoke makes our burden lighter; not heavier as Solomon's did) (Only God can be a just King; man cannot)

⁵And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed. (He wants to think about their proposal. This is a good decision - to think before he answers. We should all think before we speak)

⁶And 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? (Seeking advice from experienced people is always a good idea)

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. (They were right. The king should serve the people, not the other way around. Unfortunately, it always ends up the other way – the people end up serving the king)

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: (These young men are spoiled, entitled brats who think that they know everything. During their whole lives, Israel had never seen any hardship. They had never lived through a war; thanks to God's blessing upon David's family)

NOTE: (Strong men make good times; good times make weak men; weak men make bad times; bad times make strong men)

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? (That was a very reasonable request by the people)

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. (Their arrogance results in foolish advice. They are advising him to tell the people that his burden will be so heavy that it will make Solomon's burden seem like nothing)

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. (Scorpions are multi-tailed leather whips with barbs of sharp metal on the ends. They inflict much more damage than plain whips)

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; (Rehoboam is an idiot. He should also have sought the council of God. Instead, he chose to side with the spoiled, elitist young m)

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. (God didn't make him answer the way that he did. HE knew Rehoboam's soul. HE knew that Rehoboam would answer the people with pride and arrogance)

(Rehoboam was a spoiled, arrogant idol worshipper; just like Solomon had become in his later years)

NOTE: (Look at our corrupt government today. The elected officials pass unjust laws upon the people. They live in the luxury of ill gotten gains, bribes and corruption, while the people are getting poorer and poorer each year. People never change)

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. (They are telling the king to just look after Judah. The others will take care for themselves and will not follow him. In other words, they declared their independence from the king)

¹⁷ But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. (Ephraim became the dominant tribe of the 10 northern tribes of Israel. Jeroboam, being from Ephraim, became the king of the 10 tribes)

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. (Adoram = lord of height) (He was sent to collect taxes from the other tribes)

¹⁹ So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day. (They are still divided today. The 10 tribes inhabit Western Europe and North America. Judah has inhabited Israel since 1948)

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. (This also included Benjamin. Jerusalem was on the border of Judah and Benjamin)

NOTES: (From this time forward, the chapters of Chronicles deal with the kings of Judah mostly. That is because Jeroboam led the 10 northern tribes into total idolatry and perversion. They turned their backs on God, so He did the same to them)

(Chronicles is basically the same time period as Samuel and Kings, but it is written as God saw these times – from God's perspective. Since Israel was no longer with God, they are only mentioned when they came in contact with Judah)

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. (The idiot is now trying to start civil war, which he caused)

²² But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, (Shemaiah = Yah has heard; this man was a prophet of God)

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, (Rehoboam has already lost the 10 tribes. He is king of Judah in God's eyes)

(The remnants of the people were the members of other tribes who had relocated to Judah)

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. (God hates civil war. Israel is being chastised for their idolatry and perversion)

²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. (built = re-fortified)

(That gave him a fortified city on each side of Jordan. Penuel was where Jacob wrestled with the angel of God)

²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: (He was afraid that the people would cool off and

eventually return to Rehoboam. If that happened, Jeroboam would be executed as a traitor)

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. (Paranoia set in. He didn't trust God. He didn't even ask God for advice. He was about to fail his first test)

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. (He made up his own religion so he could hang on to power)

(The people were so perverted and self-centered by then that they accepted Jeroboam's new "religion". 40 years of Solomon's corruption and idolatry had resulted in a new generation of idol worshippers)

NOTES: (One generation after God's Word was removed from our public schools has resulted the same in the US, Canada and Western Europe today. Secularism has replaced Christianity in all these governments, and young people are OK with that)

(Every fascist, communist or Muslim dictator does the same thing. As soon as they gain control, they outlaw Christianity; because Jesus taught us that "the truth will set you free"; not enslave you) John-8:32

²⁹ And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. (Bethel = House of God) (Putting an idol to worship there is an insult to God)

³⁰ And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. (The Levites and the righteous people fled the idolatry of Israel and moved into Judah & Benjamin) 2Chronicles-11:14

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. (Jeroboam started his own religion, complete with false priests)

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. (He made up his own feast days)

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. (This is similar to what Cora tried to do against Moses. God killed him and his followers for their rebellion)

(Here, God didn't put up with Jeroboam's idolatry either. HE took the king line away from Jeroboam's progeny)