

- Recap of last week: Because Solomon defies God by building idols to the Gods some of his wives' worship, God tells Solomon he will take the kingdom from him and give it to one of his servants but for David's sake he will wait until Solomon's son takes over AND he will leave one tribe (ultimately it turns out to be two) with his son. God starts raising up adversaries against Solomon including his servant Jeroboam who a prophet named Ahijah explains what is going to happen. Solomon dies. (1 Kings 11) Solomon writes a book of great wisdom before he dies, explaining that since everyone dies and you can't take anything with you - the conclusion of the matter is to "fear God and keep his commandments." (Ecclesiastes)
- Solomon's son Rehoboam takes over for him. He goes to a town called Shechem where all of Israel had come to make him king (1 Kings 12:1) (2 Chronicles 10:1)
- Jeroboam heard about this and came back from Egypt (where he was hiding from Solomon) to join that assembly. (1 Kings 12:2) (2 Chronicles 10:2)
- All the assembly, including Jeroboam, petition Rehoboam to lighten the taxes. Rehoboam tell them to go away for three days so he can think about it. (1 Kings 12: 3-5) (2 Chronicles 10:3-5)
- Rehoboam seeks counsel from the court. The old men tell him to be kindly in his response. The younger men tell him to make them even worse and use harsh words in his response. (1 Kings 12:6-11) (2 Chronicles 10:6-11)
- Rehoboam goes with the counsel of the young men, and after three days when the people come back he tells them it is going to get worse. (1 Kings 12:12-14) (2 Chronicles 10:13-14)
- All this was done so that God's word about the division of the Kingdom would be fulfilled. (1 Kings 12:15) (2 Chronicles 10:15)
- That is exactly what happened. Israel rebels against Rehoboam, drives him back into Jerusalem where only the tribe of Judah (where Jerusalem is) follows Rehoboam and the rest call for Jeroboam and make him King. (1 Kings 12:16-20) (2 Chronicles 10:16-19)
- Rehoboam assembled a large army to fight and put down the rebellion but God sent a prophet called Shemaiah to tell them not to fight so everyone goes home. (1 Kings 12:21-24)
- A prophet named Ahijah (the new Kingmaker, remember Samuel was kingmaker before him?) comes to Jeroboam and cuts his own garment into twelve pieces. He tells Jeroboam to take ten of them because God will give him ten tribes to rule over. He tells Jeroboam that God will give Solomon's descendant one tribe. (1 Kings 11:29-36)
- There are different views of why only 11 tribes are referred to. The one tribe that God promises will remain loyal to Solomon's descendants is most certainly Judah, where Jerusalem is also. The most probably explanation for the "unaccounted for" tribe is that it is the priestly tribe of Levi, which had no political voice and no land – they were a tribe of priests. Because of their alignment with David it is most likely that they choose to stay with Solomon's son, even though they are not mentioned here.
- Solomon tries to have Jeroboam killed but he flees. Solomon dies. His son Rehoboam takes over for him. (1 Kings 11:37-43)

Questions

1. Why did Rehoboam go to Shechem?
2. Why did Jeroboam go to Shechem?
3. What does the assembly ask Rehoboam to do?

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4. How long does Rehoboam say he needs to think about it?
5. What counsel does Rehoboam get on the situation?
6. What does Rehoboam tell the people?
7. Why did all of this happen?
8. Where does Rehoboam go when the rebellion starts?
9. What tribe follows Rehoboam?
10. Why does Rehoboam stop his efforts to fight against the rebellion?
11. Who is Shemaiah and what is his role?

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