

God's Promise and Israel Divided



Circa 931 BC

Following the death of King Solomon, Rehoboam, his son, succeeded him as king.

When Jeroboam, a royal official, heard there was a new king, he came to the king and said, "Your father, King Solomon, was harsh. Now lighten this harsh labor he put on us, and we will serve you."

King Rehoboam replied, "Go away for three days and then come back to me."



The king then consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon.

The elders said, "If today you will be a servant to these people and give them a kind answer, they will always be your servants."

But King Rehoboam, rejecting the advice, asked his young friends, "What is your advice?"

They said, "Tell these people, my father made you work hard; I will make it even harder."



Three days later, when Jeroboam returned, the king gave his reply.

He answered them harshly.

The king did not listen to the people. For this was from the LORD to fulfil a promise given to Jeroboam.

King Rehoboam's harsh reply stirred the Israelites. They rebelled against the king and instead made Jeroboam their new king over all Israel.

Only the tribe of Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to King Rehoboam.



Mustering his tribes, King Rehoboam planned to make war against the new house of Israel to regain back his kingdom.

But God said, "King of Judah, do not fight your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing."

Obeying the LORD, they went home.

The kingdom was now divided. Ten tribes in the north followed Jeroboam. This was the kingdom of Israel. The remnant, in the south, was from the line of David. They became the kingdom of Judah.

1 Kings 11-12

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