



STUDY TEXT:

1 Kings 11:38-40; 12:12-13, 16-20 (KJV)

1 Kings 11:38 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.

1 Kings 12:12 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;

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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.

APPLICATION POINT:

As fully shown in this inspired account, our wayward actions of spiritual desertion from the Lord will always result in the immediate cutoff of the bountiful flow of the blessings of Heaven; but too, perhaps also may irreversibly set into motion more immense consequential actions, as shown in this example that led to major separation of Israel's once United Kingdom (which to date) becoming divided.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

FOCUS TEXT: 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.

1 Kings 12:20 (K)

The sure realities of divine decree can never be altered regardless of how visible life circumstances presently may visibly seem to contradict that fact.

Psalms 119: 89 accurately declares, “Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

And despite the elapse of time the present account testifies to the fact that the Lord will bring His Word to pass.

Regardless of Solomon’s earlier futile attempt to override the will of God (i.e., **1 Kings 11:40** had reported: “**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.**”), years later we observe that the prophetic declaration that the Lord had declared unto him transpired to the exact detail that the Lord God has specified.

Notably, this inspired commentary related to Solomon graphically frames for us the final condition of his spiritual state, as he had backslidden and drifted far from the model spiritual profile the Lord conveyed to us concerning in Him in **1 Kings 3:3**: “**And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.**”

Sadly, much of what had been achieved and experienced during his earlier reign was now only mere “once was” history.

2 Chronicles 9:26 reported concerning the span of Heaven’s blessings over which Solomon had been allowed to reign: “**And he**

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reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.”

However, his subsequent actions of spiritual desertion from the Lord had cutoff the bountiful flow of the blessings of Heaven and ultimately had irreversibly resulted in the United Kingdom becoming divided.

And as Scripture reported, no events of interruption and diversion that transpired in the years preceding the commissioned prophetic divine decree declared by the prophet Ahijah were able to block its surety.

The Climate of Division

As is the case when the pervasive practices of sin and wicked as permitted to dominate both the heart and in the public sphere, that sharp breach from the way of the Lord will instantly create a climate of corresponding consequences associated with the ways of darkness.

From the comments of the contingent of leaders that came to Rehoboam with the present state of weighty grievance that they were compelled to live under with Solomons deliberated fall from grace, we are shown the magnitude of public misery and discontentment that replaced the earlier climate of joy and peace.

In **1 Kings 12:4** they posed the challenge: **“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.”**

Herein, we are able to observe, first that life conditions during the season of imposed idolatry in the land was characterized by the key depiction of “heavy yoke.”

Second, they commented that life conditions amounted to “overbearing servitude.”

This fact was supported by Rehoboam response in **verse 12:11** where he subsequently remarked: **“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.”

The broader point highlighted by this observation is that prior to this pivotal leadership conference the life conditions in the “United Kingdom” had progressively become completely intolerable to the point the heart flame of open rebellion had been kindled, which ultimately introduced and perpetuated a heart sentiment of rebellion.

And eventually that pivotal moment of crisis was used by the directing hand of divine providence to become the precise means to execute the fulfillment of divine will.

Now although the inspired commentary here in **1 Kings 12:13** shows us that naturally Rehoboam chose to follow the foolish advance of the counselors from his peer generations (the young men), **verse 15** reveals the true reason why he made this decision, namely: **“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.”**

Thus, we again are shown the inescapable, timeless spiritual truth of **Proverbs 21:1** that declared: **“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”**

And too, in **Daniel 2:21a** we are taught: **“And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings.”**

Hence, the present account reminds us of the inevitable and tangible sureties of divine sovereignty, namely, as declared in **Daniel 4:35**, **“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”**

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The Staunch Resistance of Pride and Arrogance

Clearly from **verse 18** we observe that Rehoboam rejected the decision that was made by the Ten Tribes and believed that he had the power to impose his self-will upon his brethren.

As such, the ensuing details we learn: **“Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute.”**

Obviously, this gross underestimation of their resolve was a costly mistake; hence we observe in their defiant retaliation: **“and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died.”**