



# SOLOMON

Bible Series – KINGS 1

# Introduction...

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- Solomon is the last of the trilogy of Kings who reigned over the united kingdom of Israel.
- The nation fractured into North - Israel and South - Judah after Solomon.
- Both volumes 1 and 2 Kings is one Book in the Hebrew Bible.
- Some ancient commentaries ascribe the authorship to Jeremiah the Prophet.
- 2 Kings 24 and 25 appear in Jeremiah 39-42.
- The book 1Kings naturally unfolds in two parts. Chapters 1-11 – Solomon whilst 12-22 chronicles the other Kings after Solomon and the splitting of the nation.





# Introduction...

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- The book of 1 Kings covers a period of about 120 years.
- From the death of David around 971 BC to the reign of the 4<sup>th</sup> King in the South – Jehoshaphat and the 9<sup>th</sup> King in the North – Ahaziah.
- As you read this book, you will notice a pattern of constant change, chaos and challenges.
- Enemies of the nation from outside and conflicts within.
- This is not a good period overall within the history of Israel, but we have periods of good Kings within the same era.

# Introduction...

- The Holy Spirit inspired the writer of Kings to reflect on WHY God's people were taken captives and exiled to foreign pagan nations.
- The Book shows that the persistent violation of God's Covenant with Israel as a Nation led to this inevitable outcome.
- So the whole Book is a Reflection to move those in exile to return to God.





# Introduction...

- And The Book of Kings is not a history compilation but a Moral and Religious view on events.
- So we see the Holy Spirit emphasise certain events for the purpose of Understanding and Discernment of what God is doing through the unfolding events.
- In all, the Book shows God's providential working through the dark and chaotic lives of His people for His Redemptive purpose and Agenda.
- God's Covenant with Israel is constant and His Promise to David is the Key to understanding His Love for Israel despite her continuous violation of the agreement.
- David's Heart for God and the Davidic covenant is the core to understanding this Book. All the King's are measured against David's 'Gold Standard'.
- Did they Love God wholeheartedly? They they keep the covenant and Law? Did they promote or instigate Idolatry?



# Adonijah

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- **Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king”; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.**
- **Exalted himself:** 2 Samuel 3:25 describes the sons of David and lists Adonijah as the fourth son.
- We know that two of the three sons older than Adonijah were dead (Amnon and Absalom), and we suspect that the other older son (Chileab) either also died or was unfit to rule because he is never mentioned after 2 Samuel 3:3
- As the oldest living son of David, by many customs Adonijah would be considered the heir to the throne. But the throne of Israel was not left *only* to the rules of hereditary succession; God determined the next king.



# Adonijah...

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- Adonijah violated a basic principle in the Scriptures — that we should let God exalt us and not exalt ourselves.
- *For exaltation comes neither from the east  
Nor from the west nor from the south.  
But God is the Judge: He puts down one,  
And exalts another. (Psalm 75:6-7)*
- *Humble yourselves in the sight of the LORD, and  
He will lift you up. (James 4:10)*
- **He prepared for himself chariots and horsemen,  
and fifty men to run before him:**
- Adonijah had a good marketing campaign, and he knew how to present himself as king. He hoped that if he put forth the *image* of a king, he would become king in *reality*.





# Adonijah...

- (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, “Why have you done so?” He *was* also very good-looking. *His mother* had borne him after Absalom.)
- a. **His father had not rebuked him at any time:** Sadly, David did not do a very good job raising his own sons. David failed to restrain his passions in some areas of his life; his sons showed a much greater inability to restrain their passions. In part, this was because David did not discipline his own sons well.
- i. David did not seem to have a very good relationship with his father ([1 Samuel 16:11](#)). The godly influence in his life seems to have come more from his mother than from his father. Twice in the Psalms he referred to his mother as a *maidservant* of the LORD ([Psalm 86:16](#) and [116:16](#)). It is likely that David did not have a good example of parenting from his father.
- ii. Yet this does not excuse David’s deficiencies as a father. He knew how his Heavenly Father treated him — how he was comforted and helped by the correcting rod and staff of his Shepherd ([Psalm 23:4](#)). He could have learned how to be a good father from his Father in heaven. Even before it was written, David could have known the counsel of [Proverbs 29:17](#): *Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.*





# Adonijah...

- **Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah. They followed and helped Adonijah:**
- Sadly, Joab (David's chief general) and Abiathar (the high priest of Israel) each supported Adonijah. They did not consult the LORD or David in giving their support to this unworthy son of David.
- It is sad to see these once trusted associates of David turning against him late in his life. Joab may have sought revenge for David's choice of Amasa over him (2 Samuel 19:13), and because Benaiah now had more authority over military affairs. Abiathar might have been jealous of Zadok the high priest (2 Samuel 8:17). "Professional rivalry had darkened into bitter hate" (Maclaren).
- "Joab, the most powerful of Adonijah's supporters, had always been fiercely loyal to David, but not to David's wishes. In supporting Adonijah's pretensions to the throne, Joab was acting characteristically." (Patterson and Austel)
- "Joab and Abiathar tarnished a life's devotion and broke sacred bonds, because they thought of themselves rather than of God's will." (Maclaren)



# Adonijah...

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- **So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know *it*?”**
- **And David our lord does not know it:** This shows both the wrong of Adonijah’s attempt to take the throne and how far removed from power David really was. He didn’t know what was going on around him in the kingdom.
- **That you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon:** Nathan knew that if Adonijah became king, he would immediately kill every potential rival to his throne, including Bathsheba and Solomon.
- **Your son Solomon shall reign after me:** David made this promise to Bathsheba. The specific promise is not recorded before, but we know from 1 Chronicles 22:5-9 that David did in fact intend for Solomon to succeed him as king.
- This was a remarkable display of grace — that a son of the wife David took through adultery and murder in the most infamous scandal of his life should become his heir to the throne.
- **While you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words:** Nathan knew that David was generally indulgent towards his sons and would find it hard to believe that Adonijah would do such a thing. He arranged it so the message would be presented in a convincing way.



# Solomon...

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- So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and took him to Gihon.
- Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"
- And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth *seemed to split* with their sound.
- And had Solomon ride on King David's mule: Apparently, this was the Old Testament equivalent to a presidential motorcade.
- The **mule** was something special in ancient Israel. "Since Hebraic law forbade crossbreeding (Leviticus 19:19), mules had to be imported and were therefore very expensive. So while the common people rode donkeys, the mule was reserved for royalty." (Dilday)







# Solomon...

- **Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so, he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. And it was told Solomon, saying, “Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar,**
- **Took hold of the horns of the altar:** According to almost universal custom in the ancient world, a religious altar was a place of sanctuary against justice or vengeance. An accused man might find safety if he could flee to an altar before he was apprehended. This is why Adonijah **took hold of the horns of the altar.**
- **If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth:** Solomon gave Adonijah a limited reprieve. This went against all custom in the ancient world. It was common, even expected, that when a new king assumed the throne, he would execute every potential rival.
- Solomon not only let a potential rival live, but one who *openly tried to subvert his reign*. This was a large measure of grace and mercy on the part of Solomon, and a good start to his reign.
- **c. He came and fell down before King Solomon:** Adonijah knew he received great mercy from Solomon, and he wanted to show his gratitude for it and his reliance upon Solomon’s mercy.
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# Solomon...

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- Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: “I go the way of all the earth;
- be strong, therefore, and **prove yourself a man**.
- And keep the charge of the LORD your God:
- to walk in His ways,
- to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses,
- that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me,
- saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’



# Solomon...

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- **Do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace:** David wanted Solomon to begin his reign in justice, and to first give justice to **Joab**, who was guilty of the murder of both **Abner**, the general of Israel's army under Saul (2 Samuel 3:27) and **Amasa**, one of David's military commanders (2 Samuel 20:9-10).
- Joab is one of the more complex characters of the Old Testament. He was fiercely loyal to David, yet not strongly obedient. He disobeyed David when he thought it was in David's best interest, and he was cunning and ruthless in furthering his own position.
- David didn't mention Joab's killing of Absalom, which David commanded him not to do ([2 Samuel 18](#)). Perhaps by this time David recognized that Absalom did in fact have to die for his treason and attempted murder against David.
- Many people think that David did not command Joab's execution during his lifetime because Joab knew about the murder of Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba ([2 Samuel 11:14-25](#)). The idea is that Joab used this knowledge as blackmail against David. This may be true, but it seems that others knew of David's sin with Bathsheba and against Uriah also (such as Nathan the prophet and servants in David's court). It would seem that Joab's knowledge was only effective as blackmail if no one else knew it.
- At the very least, David knew the complexity of Joab's character. He knew the loyalty and sacrifices Joab made for David over the years, and he knew his violence and ruthlessness. "David felt under obligation to Joab, and though David was certainly not lacking in courage, he was not able to cope with the mixture of Joab's loyalty and his misdeeds" (Patterson and Austel).



# Solomon...

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- **David rested with his fathers:** This phrase will become common throughout 1 and 2 Kings to describe the passing of a king from this world. Truly, David passed from this life to eternal rest and reward.
- So ended the earthly life of one of the greatest men ever to walk the earth. *So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor.* (1 Chronicles 29:28) “Of his adultery and murder we hear not a word, because he had made a thorough peace with God for those sins in his lifetime” (Trapp).
- “He was a shepherd, a soldier, an outlaw, a king, a fugitive, a sinner, a saint, a poet... His experiences were the writing of God on his life, making him into a man after God’s own heart.” (Redpath)
- “In general he lived well, and it is most evident that he died well; and as a king, a general, a poet, a father, and a friend, he has had few *equals*, and no *superior*, from his own time to the present day.” (Clarke)
- **And was buried in the City of David:** The tomb of David was known in the time of Jesus and the apostles, according to [Acts 2:29](#). Afterwards, the Christian writer Jerome speaks of it being known in his time. What is currently known in Jerusalem as David’s Tomb is almost certainly *not* the genuine one that was known in ancient times.



# Solomon....

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- Solomon has his throne established fully by dealing wisely with the following people
- Adonijah – Executed
- Abiathar is removed from the priesthood and exiled
- Joab is executed for all his sins
- Shimei is placed under perpetual house arrest.





# Solomon...

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- **Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter:**
- This was not Solomon's first marriage. 1 Kings 14:21 tells us that his son Rehoboam came to the throne when he was 41 years old, and 1 Kings 11:42 tells us that Solomon reigned 40 years.
- This means that Rehoboam was born to his mother, a wife of Solomon named Naamah the Ammonitess, before he came to the throne and before he married this daughter of Pharaoh.
- ii. Solomon's multiple marriages, and marriages to foreign women, would cause great disaster in his life. Later in the Book of Nehemiah, Nehemiah was angry and frustrated because the people of Israel married with the pagan nations around them. In rebuking the guilty,
- Nehemiah remembered Solomon's bad example: *So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves.*
- *Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin. Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?"* ([Nehemiah 13:25-27](#)).



# Solomon...

- At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?”
- And Solomon said: “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You;
- You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David,
- but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.
- Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”
- The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream: This remarkable visitation from God happened **in a dream**. This is one of the more significant dreams in the Bible.



# Solomon...

- The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him:
- “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,
- behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.
- And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.
- So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”
- Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.



# Solomon....

- **So King Solomon was king over all Israel. And these were his officials: Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest; Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, over the army; Zadok and Abiathar, the priests; Azariah the son of Nathan, over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest *and* the king's friend; Ahishar, over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda, over the labor force.**
- a. **And these were his officials:** Just as the story of the mothers contending over one baby was an example of Solomon's great wisdom, this chapter also shows Solomon's wisdom. The wise way he selected, trained, empowered, and supervised leaders is clearly seen.
- i. *Solomon was a leader of leaders.* No wise leader does it all themselves. They know how to delegate responsibility and authority and get the job done. Solomon's great wisdom enabled him to see the needs to get, train, and employ the right people to meet those needs.
- b. **The priest... scribes... the recorder:** Solomon's government was structured much like that in modern nations. He had **officials** who served as ministers or department secretaries over their specific areas of responsibility.
- i. *Solomon's leadership was organized.* He knew that God is a God of design and organization, and that things simply operate better and more efficiently when organized.





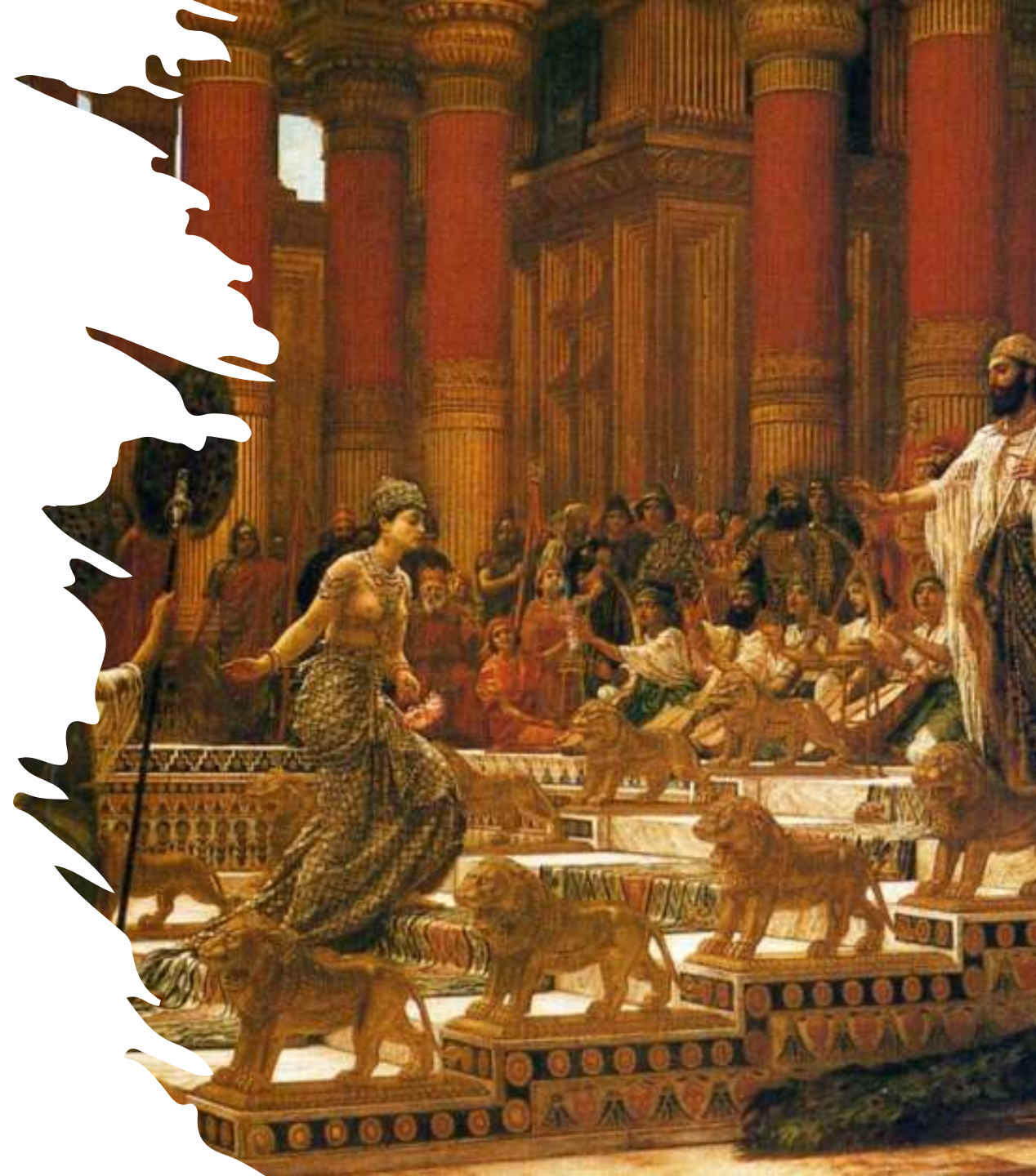
# Solomon...

- Judah and Israel *were* as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. *They* brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.
- a. **Numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing:** The reign of Solomon was a golden age for Israel as a kingdom. The population grew robustly and it was a season of great prosperity, allowing plenty of leisure time and pursuit of good pleasures.
- b. **So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt:** Solomon was not a warrior or a general. This peace was achieved by King David and was enjoyed by King Solomon. It was also assisted — under God's providence — by a season of decline and weakness among Israel's neighbor states.



# Solomon....

- For he had dominion over all *the region* on this side of the River from Tiphseh even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River;
- and he had peace on every side all around him. And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.
- Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. And these governors, each man in his month, provided food for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table.
- There was no lack in their supply. They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, each man according to his charge.
- Each man under his vine and his fig tree: This was a proverbial expression for a time of peace and prosperity in Israel ([Isaiah 36:16](#), [Micah 4:4](#), [Zechariah 3:10](#)), indicating safety from both internal and external enemies.





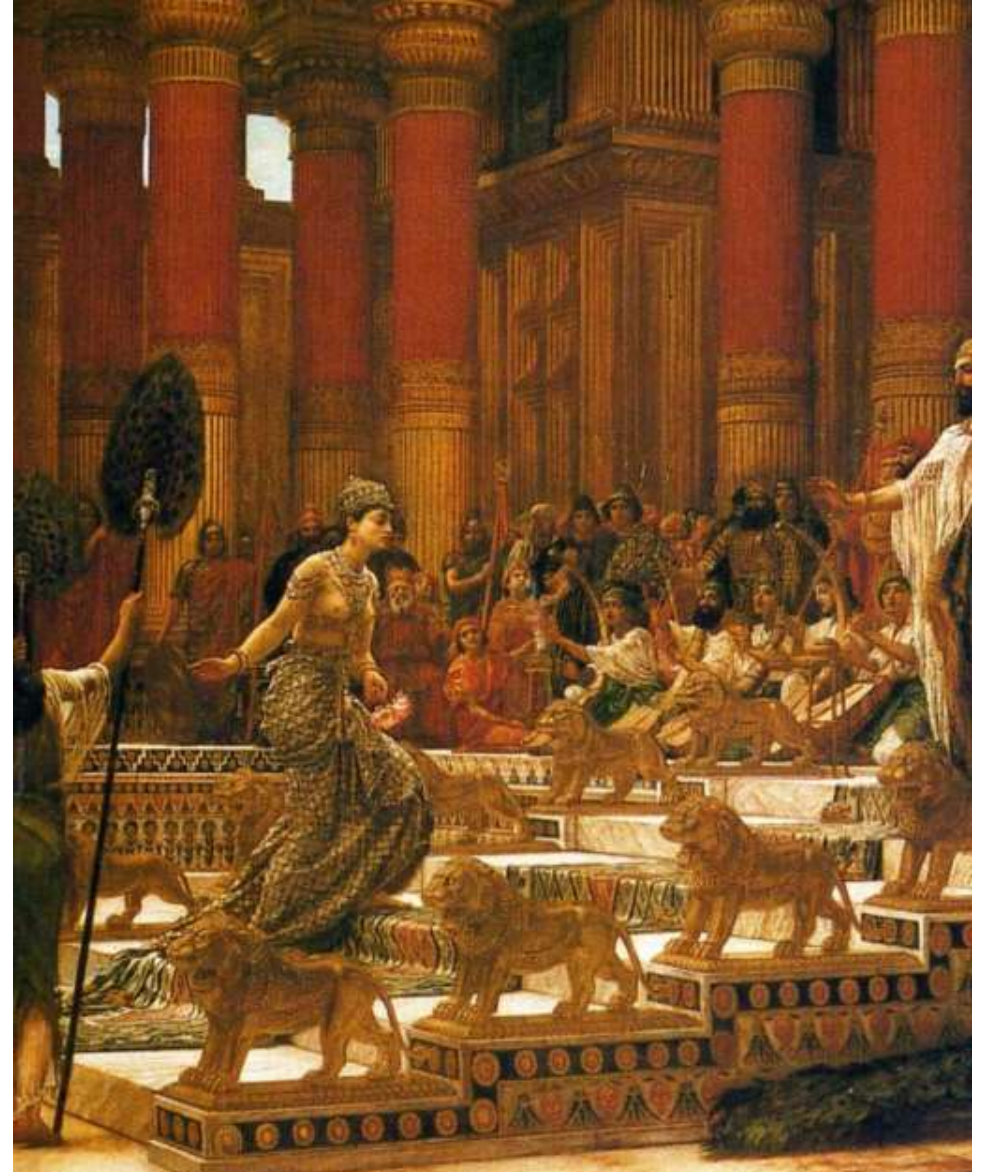
# Solomon...

- **And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men — than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.**
- **God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding:** In the glory years of Solomon's kingdom, he *used* the great wisdom God gave. Sadly, he did not always use this wisdom, and later fell away from his devotion and worship of God ([1 Kings 11:1-11](#)).
- **His fame was in all the surrounding nations:** Solomon became a prominent and famous man even among kings. In a strong sense, this is the fulfillment of the great promises to an obedient Israel described in [Deuteronomy 28](#).
- *Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.* ([Deuteronomy 28:1](#))
- *Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.* ([Deuteronomy 28:10](#))
- In a sense, these blessings came upon Solomon more for *David's* obedience than for his own. David was far more loyal and intimate with God than Solomon; yet God outwardly blessed Solomon more for *David's* sake than He blessed David himself.



# Solomon...

- **He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.**
- a. **He spoke three thousand proverbs:** Solomon's great wisdom — divinely inspired wisdom in fact — makes up a considerable portion of the Book of Proverbs.
- b. **His songs were one thousand and five:** Solomon composed many **songs** but few *psalms* in the sense that David was the *sweet psalmist of Israel* ([2 Samuel 23:1](#)). This goes back to Solomon's inferior relationship to God (compared to his father David).
- c. **He spoke of trees... also of animals... of creeping things, and of fish:** Solomon's wisdom was not only applied to understanding life and human problems, but also to understanding the world around him. He had a divinely gifted intellect and ability to understand.
- i. "Ancient rankings put the cedar tree at the top of the list of plants and hyssop at the lowest level; thus Solomon's botanical interests were all-inclusive." (Dilday)
- ii. "While this account reflects Solomon's education as a wise man comparable with those of other contemporary states of his day in literary and scientific attainment, it was no mere rhetoric. The creation of zoological and botanical gardens in the capital city was an achievement boasted by many kings." (Wiseman)





# The Temple...

- Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, because he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always loved David.
- Then Solomon sent to Hiram, saying: You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the LORD put *his foes* under the soles of his feet.
- But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; *there is* neither adversary nor evil occurrence.
- And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name."
- Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and my servants will be with your servants, and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know *there is* none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians.



# The Temple...

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- Solomon built the House of the Lord...
- This is a major statement in the context of the generation and time in history that he was born into.
- If David was the spiritual highpoint in the history of Israel in the Promised Land, then Solomon was the political and prosperity high point in their history.
- Without going into battle, Solomon strengthened and grew the boundaries of Israel through Wisdom, enterprise and trade.
- Let us look into the Temple construction in some more detail..





# The Temple...

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- Solomon dealt very wisely and honourably with King Hiram of Tyre and the Sidonians.
- He continued and even grew the relationship which his father had nurtured for the sake of the Kingdom.
- Solomon is a type of the modern day marketplace Christian who can operate beyond the religious and theological walls of Church with non-believers for the sake of the Kingdom.
- Solomon was one of those rare Kings who had great discernment of God's Grace and Gifts upon people who were not considered God's people but had God's signature on them.







# The Temple....

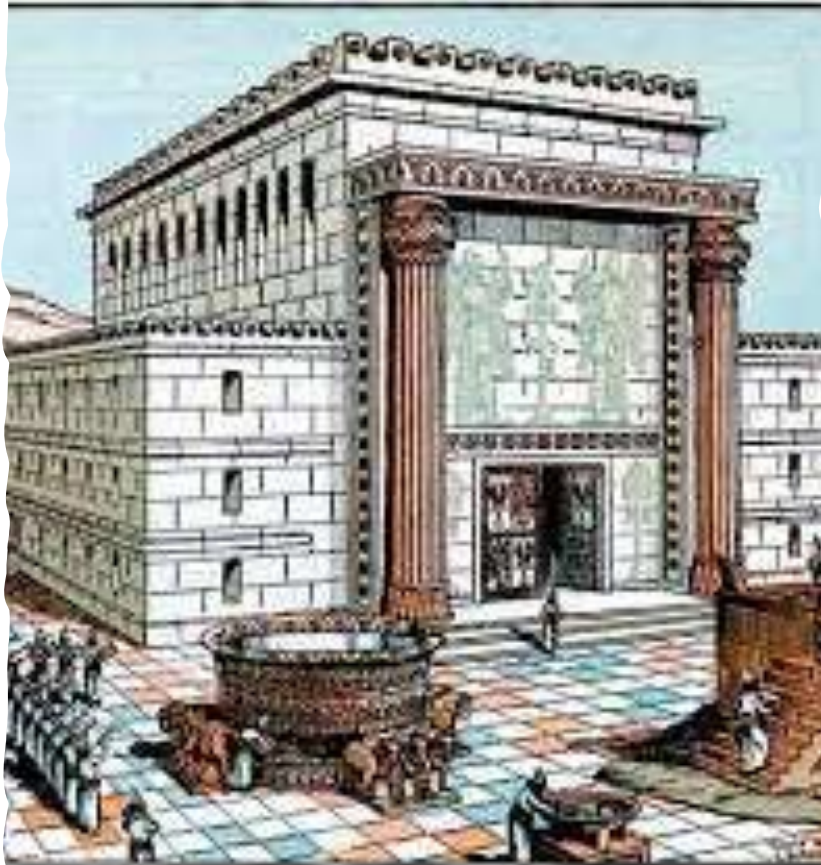
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- **Cut down cedars for me from Lebanon:**  
The cedar trees of Lebanon were legendary for their excellent timber. This means Solomon wanted to build the temple out of the best materials possible.
- “The Sidonians were noted as timber craftsmen in the ancient world, a fact substantiated on the famous Palmero Stone. Its inscription from 2200 b.c. tells us about timber-carrying ships that sailed from Byblos to Egypt about four hundred years previously. The skill of the Sidonians was expressed in their ability to pick the most suitable trees, know the right time to cut them, fell them with care, and then properly treat the logs.” (Dilday)
- It also means that Solomon was willing to build this great temple to God with Gentile wood and using Gentile labor. This was a temple to the God of Israel, but it was not only for Israel. Only Jews built the tabernacle, “But the temple is not built without the aid of the Gentile Tyrians. They, together with us, make up the Church of God” (Trapp).



# The Temple...

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- Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel; and the labor force was thirty thousand men. And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts: they were one month in Lebanon *and* two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the labor force.
- **The labor force was thirty thousand men:** This huge labor force shows the temple could only be built when Israel could afford the manpower and the materials. It could only be built under the peace and prosperity won by David and enjoyed by Solomon.
- **Adoniram was in charge of the labor force:** Solomon's wisdom was evident in the way he employed this great workforce. First, he wisely delegated responsibility to men like **Adoniram**. Second, instead of making the Israelites work constantly away from Israel and home, he worked them in shifts.



# The Temple...

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- Note the following qualities in Solomon:
- Honouring God first
- Relational dynamics
- Power of delegation
- Excellent Administration
- Attention to detail
- Project Management
- Good Leadership appointment
- Turned a Nation of War into Peace

# The Temple....

- **Costly stones:** This is literally *quality stones*, showing that Solomon used high-quality materials even in the foundation where the stones could not be seen.
- This speaks *to the way we should work for God*. We don't work for appearance only, but also to excel in the deep and hidden things. "I want, dear friends, to urge that all our work for God should be done thoroughly, and especially that part of it which lies lowest, and is least observed of men" (Spurgeon).
- This speaks *to the way God works in us*. He works in the deep and hidden things when others are concerned with mere appearances. "We have been the subjects of a great deal of secret, unseen, underground work.
- The LORD has spent upon us a world of care. *to the way God builds the church*. He wants to do a work of deep, strong foundations instead of a work a mile wide but an inch deep.
- "To maintain solid truth you need solid people. Vital godliness is therefore to be aimed at. Twenty thousand people, all merely professing faith, but having no energetic life, may not have grace enough among them to make twenty solid believers. Poor, sickly believers turn the church into an hospital, rather than a camp" (Spurgeon).



# The Temple...

- **He began to build the house of the LORD:**
- This was when the actual construction began. Solomon probably started to organize the work right away.
- There is some evidence that it took three years to prepare timber from Lebanon for use in building. If Solomon began the construction of the temple in the fourth year of his reign, he probably started organizing the construction in the very first year of his reign.
- i. Yet the work was carefully organized and planned even before Solomon became king. 1 Chronicles 28:11-12 tells us,
- *Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things*





# The Temple...

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- It is interesting that the Bible gives space and detail into the construction of the Temple.
- There is a lot of details like the chapters in Exodus (36-40).
- This goes to show that God is particular about the building of His Temple – YOU!
- The detail and depth God goes to in these chapters within the context of the historical narrative is striking.
- God is particular! This should leave us with the acute impression that He does not like shoddy, careless work where no heart and effort as been applied.
- This in my view gives us an insight into why God was impressed with Abel's sacrifice as opposed to that of Cain's.
- Do not do anything for God where your heart is not applied!



# The Temple...Dedication

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- **Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem,**
- **that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the City of David, which *is* Zion.**
- **Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which *is* the seventh month. 1 Kings 8:1-2**
- **This was a great occasion in the life and history of the nation of Israel where all the tribes, generations and people were together for God and His House.**



# The Dedication...

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- **The cloud filled the house of the LORD:**
- This was the cloud of glory, seen often in the Old and New Testaments, sometimes called the cloud of *Shekinah* glory. It is hard to *define* the glory of God; we could call it the radiant outshining of His character and presence. Here it was manifested in a cloud.
- This is the cloud that stood by Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22).
- This is the cloud of glory that God spoke to Israel from (Exodus 16:10).
- This is the cloud from which God met with Moses and others (Exodus 19:9, 24:15-18, Numbers 11:25, 12:5, 16:42).
- This is the cloud that stood by the door of the Tabernacle (Exodus 33:9-10).
- This is the cloud from which God appeared to the High Priest in the Holy Place inside the veil (Leviticus 16:2).
- This is the cloud of Ezekiel's vision, filling the temple of God with the brightness of His glory (Ezekiel 10:4).
- This is the cloud of glory that overshadowed Mary when she conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).
- This is the cloud present at the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:34-35).
- This is the cloud of glory that received Jesus into heaven at His ascension (Acts 1:9).
- This is the cloud that will display the glory of Jesus Christ when He returns in triumph to this earth (Luke 21:27, Revelation 1:7).





# The Dedication....

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- Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. And he said:
- “Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled *it*, saying,
- ‘Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel *in which* to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel
- At this point, Solomon was acting as a King, Spiritual Leader and Prophet. Gathering the people to God, praying for and blessing them.



# God's Second Appearance...

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- **And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do,**
- **that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon.**
- **Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you,**
- ***and* if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever,**
- **as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'**



# God's Second Appearance...

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- ***But* if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments *and* My statutes which I have set before you,**
- **but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name**
- **I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And *as for* this house, *which* is exalted,**
- **everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?'**





# Solomon's Greatness

- Relations with Tyre and Egypt
- Megiddo, Gezer, Hazor & Jerusalem
- Subdued The Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites to forced labour.
- Uncountable Work force and Officers in all the realm
- Fleet of ships.
- Gold was so abundant that silver had no value in Israel during the reign of Solomon
- International dignitaries like the Queen of Sheba came to visit and be inspired.
- Kings of Arabia paid tribute to Solomon
- His personal wealth was something like the Sultan of Brunei in modern comparisons
- SO King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the Earth in riches and wisdom, Now all the Earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom....



# Solomon's Decline...

- **But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh:**
- **women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, *and* Hittites —**
- **from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.”**
- **Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines;**
- **and his wives turned away his heart.**





# Solomon's Decline....

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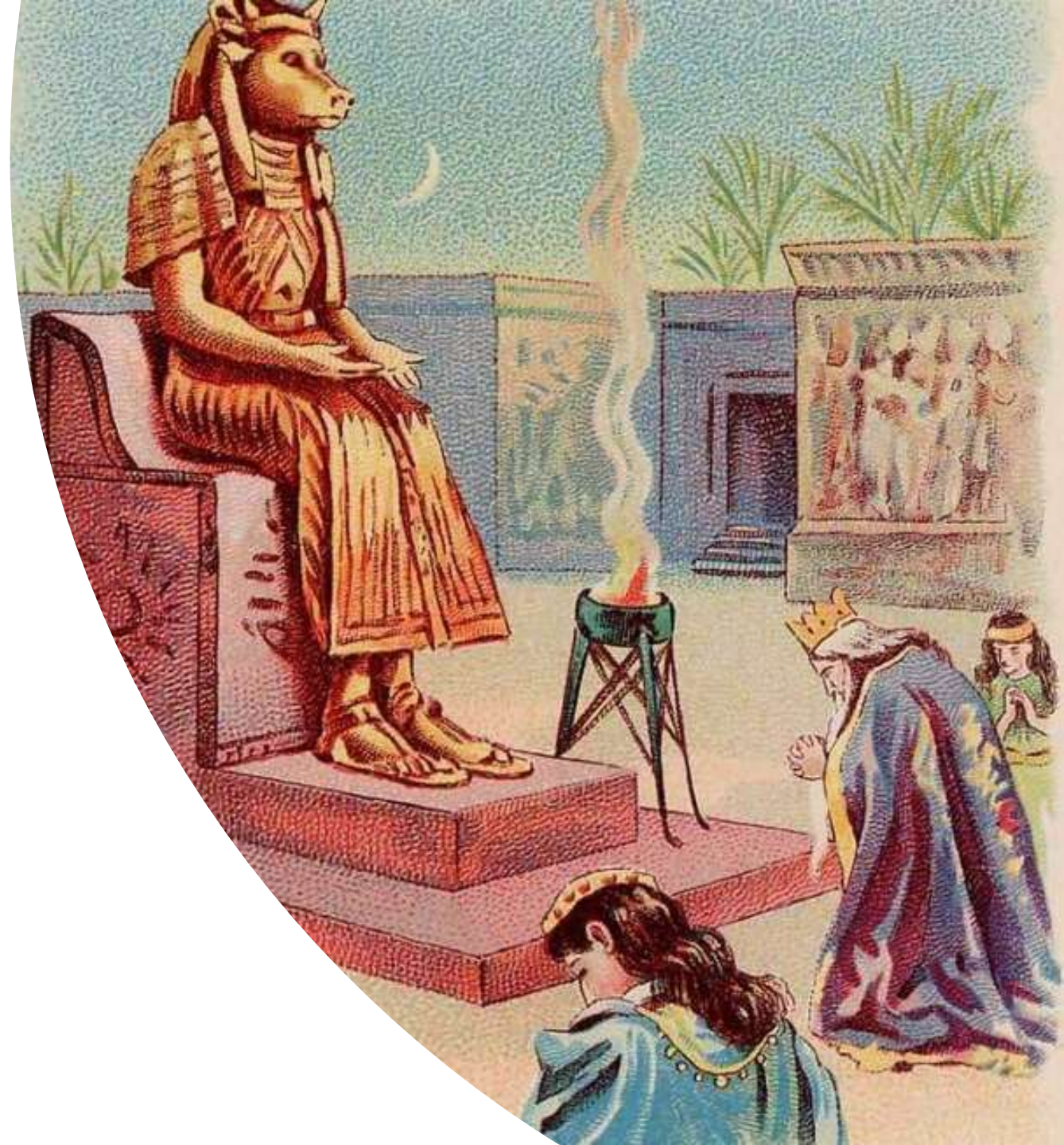
- For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods;
- and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of his father David.
- For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.
- Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as *did* his father David.
- Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that *is* east of Jerusalem,
- and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.
- And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods



# Solomon's Decline...

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- So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel,
- **who had appeared to him twice,**
- and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods;
- but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you,
- I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, **for the sake of your father David;**
- I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son **for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."**



# Solomon's Decline...

- God raised up adversaries...
- Hadad the Edomite
- Rezon of Syria
- Jeroboam of Ephraim
- Rehoboam's immaturity
- Solomon died after reigning for forty years and then everything fell apart!!

## The Kingdom of Israel Divides

1 Kings 11:26-12:33





# Things Fall Apart!!

- **Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king:** This was a logical continuation of the Davidic dynasty. Solomon succeeded David, and now **Rehoboam**, the son of Solomon, was assumed to be the next king.
- i. Rehoboam was the only son of Solomon that we know by name. Solomon had 1,000 wives and concubines, yet we read of *one son* he had to bear up his name, and he was a fool. This demonstrates that sin is a bad way of building up a family.
- ii. “It is difficult to believe that he had no other sons; yet it is a fact that Rehoboam is the only one mentioned ([1 Chronicles 3:10](#)).” (Knapp)





# Things Fall Apart!

- iii. **Shechem** was a city with a rich history. Abraham worshipped there ([Genesis 12:6](#)). Jacob built an altar and purchased land there ([Genesis 33:18-20](#)). Joseph was buried there ([Joshua 24:32](#)). It was also the geographical center of the northern tribes. All in all, it showed that Rehoboam was in a position of weakness, having to meet the ten northern tribes on *their* territory, instead of demanding that representatives come to Jerusalem.
- b. **When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it:** Jeroboam was mentioned previously in [1 Kings 11:26-40](#). God told him through a prophet that he would rule over a portion of a divided Israel. Naturally, Jeroboam was interested in Solomon's successor. He was specifically part of the group of elders that addressed Rehoboam.





## Things Fall...

- . **Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father:** Solomon was a great king, but he *took* a lot from the people. The people of Israel wanted relief from the heavy taxation and forced service of Solomon's reign, and they offered allegiance to Rehoboam if he agreed to this.
- i. God warned Israel about this in [1 Samuel 8:10-19](#), when through Samuel He spoke of what a king would *take* from Israel. After the warning, the people still wanted a king, and now they knew what it was like to be ruled by a *taking* king.
- ii. Sadly, the elders of Israel made no *spiritual* demand or request on Rehoboam. Seemingly, the gross idolatry and apostasy of Solomon didn't bother them at all.



## Fall Apart...

- a. **Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived:** Wisely, Rehoboam asked the counsel of these older, experienced men. They seemed to advise Solomon well, so it was fitting that Rehoboam asked for their advice.
- b. **If you will be a servant to these people today... then they will be your servants forever:** The elders knew that Rehoboam was not Solomon, and could not expect the same from the people that Solomon did. Rehoboam had to relate to the people based on who *he* was, not on who his father was. If he showed kindness and a servant's heart to the people, they would love and serve him forever. This was good advice.



# Rehoboam...

- **But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men:** Before Rehoboam ever consulted with the younger men, **he rejected the advice** of the elders.
- i. This is a common phenomenon today — what some call *advice shopping*. The idea is that you keep asking different people for advice until you find someone who will tell you what you want to hear. This is an unwise and ungodly way to get counsel. It is better to have a few trusted counselors you will listen to even when they tell you what you don't want to hear.
- b. **And consulted the young men who had grown up with him:** These men were much more likely to tell Rehoboam what he already thought. By turning to those likely to think just as he did, it shows that Rehoboam only asked for advice for the sake of appearances





# Rehoboam...

- **And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke:** The younger men offered the opposite advice to the elders. They suggested an adversarial approach, one that would make Rehoboam more feared than Solomon was.
- i. Solomon asked a lot of Israel, in both taxes and service. Yet we don't have the impression that Israel followed Solomon out of fear, but out of a sense of shared vision and purpose. They believed in what Solomon wanted to do, and were willing to sacrifice to accomplish it. Rehoboam did not appeal to any sense of shared vision and purpose — he simply wanted the people to follow his orders out of the fear of a tyrant.
- ii. “With a dozen rash words, Rehoboam, the bungling dictator, opened the door for four hundred years of strife, weakness, and, eventually, the destruction of the entire nation.” (Dilday)



# Rehoboam...!

- **So the king did not listen to the people:** In this case, Rehoboam clearly should have listened to the people.
- This is not to say that a leader should always lead by popular vote, but a leader needs the wisdom to know when what the people want is actually best for them.
- i. Rehoboam was a fool. Ironically, his father Solomon worried about losing all he worked for under a foolish successor:
  - *Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?*
  - *Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19).*





# Rehoboam...!

- **For the turn of events was from the LORD:** God managed this whole series of events, but He did not *make* Rehoboam take this unwise and sinful action.
- God simply left Rehoboam alone and allowed him to make the critical errors his sinful heart *wanted* to make.
- i. “Notice also, dear friends, that God is in events which are produced by the sin and the stupidity of men.
- This breaking up of the kingdom of Solomon into two parts was the result of Solomon’s sin and Rehoboam’s folly; yet God was in it: “This thing is from me, saith the Lord.”
- God had nothing to do with the sin or the folly, but in some way which we can never explain, in a mysterious way in which we are to believe without hesitation, God was in it all.”  
(Spurgeon)





# The Divided Kingdom

- . **What share have we in David:** Rehoboam's foolishness made Israel reject not only Rehoboam, but also the entire dynasty of David.
- They rejected the descendants of Israel's greatest king.
- b. **King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones:**
- Apparently, Rehoboam did not take the rebellions seriously until this happened. When his chief tax collector was murdered, he knew that the ten tribes were serious about their rebellion.



# The Divided Kingdom

- **So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day:**
- From this point on in the history of Israel, the name “Israel” referred to the ten northern tribes and the name “Judah” referred to the southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah.
- i. There was a long-standing tension between the ten northern tribes and the combined group of Judah and Benjamin.
- ii. “Rehoboam ought to have been thankful that God’s love to David had left him even two tribes.” (Knapp)



# Jeroboam

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- **When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king:**
- Thus, the prophecy of Ahijah in 1 Kings 11:29-39 was fulfilled. At the time the prophecy was made, it seemed unlikely — but God’s word through His prophet was fulfilled.
- i. This King Jeroboam is sometimes called Jeroboam I to distinguish him from a later king of Israel also named Jeroboam, usually known as Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23-29).
- b. **To fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam:**
- Rehoboam intended to make war against the seceding tribes of Israel, but God spoke through a prophet and stopped him. To his credit — or perhaps due to a lack of courage — Rehoboam listened to God’s word through **Shemaiah the man of God**.



# Jeroboam...

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- **Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim:**
- Jeroboam needed a capital city because Jerusalem was in the territory of Judah and Benjamin. The city of **Schechem** became the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel.
- **b. He went out from there and built Penuel:** It seems that Jeroboam's reign began with energy and opportunity.
- He had a significant promise from God through the prophet Ahijah:
- *that if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you (1 Kings 11:38).*



# North vs South

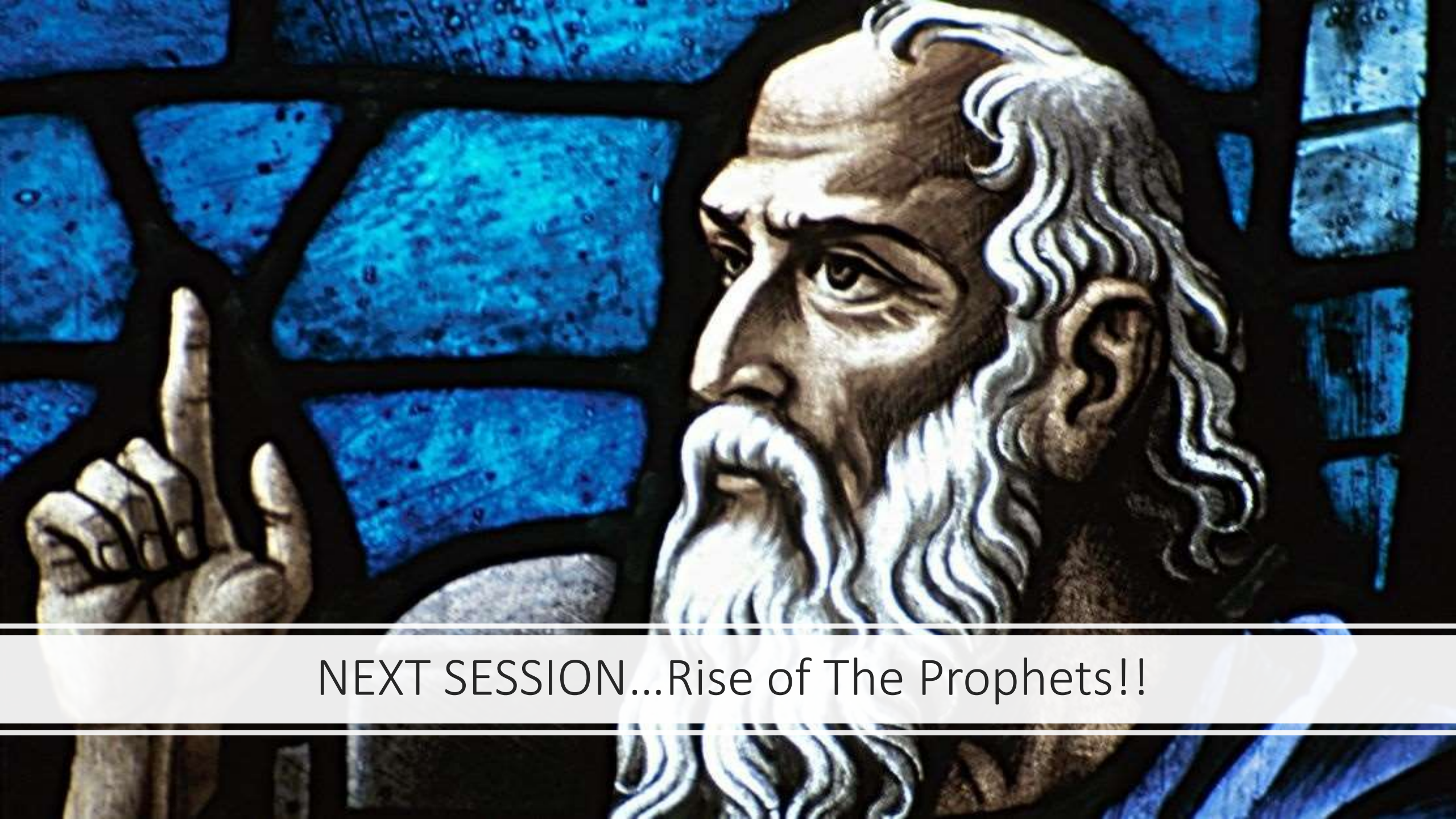
- Rehoboam ruled over Judah and Benjamin which is JUDAH
- Rehoboam tried to recapture the rest of the nation but was stopped by Prophecy
- Under the reign of Rehoboam, Judah did evil in the sight of God
- They were invaded by Shishak King of Egypt who took all of the accumulated treasures of Solomon and all the gold – EVERYTHING!
- He replaced the gold shields with bronze replicas
- There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam throughout their reign
- Jeroboam ruled over the other 10 tribes which is ISRAEL
- Jeroboam was a very industrious man but did not know God
- He built up the North and Shechem became his north capital
- He started a false religious order to compete with Jerusalem
- Emergence of Prophets began during this period of apostasy by Israel
- Jeroboam reigned for 22 years



# Parable of The Prophet

- Heard direct from God
- Delivered the message well
- Miracles and Signs following
- Turned down the King's invite
- Lied to by the older prophet
- Accepted Old Prophet's invite
- Judgement on Young Prophet
- Death by lion





NEXT SESSION...Rise of The Prophets!!