

- Recap of last week: Solomon's son Rehoboam takes over for him and goes to Shechem to be officially made King. (1 Kings 12:1) (2 Chronicles 10:1) Jeroboam hears about this and comes out of hiding in Egypt to join the people. (1 Kings 12:2) (2 Chronicles 10:2) Against the counsel of the elders and upon the advice of his friends, Rehoboam promises to burden the people even more than Solomon his father did. (1 Kings 12:12-14) (2 Chronicles 10:13-14) The tribes of Israel revolt, with only the tribe of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) following Rehoboam. Jeroboam become the leader of the 10 tribes of the North. (1 Kings 12:16-20) (2 Chronicles 10:16-19) Rehoboam assembled a large army of 180,000 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)
- We also read an account of Rehoboam raising the army and Shemaiah the prophet receiving and instruction from God that they not fight so they all go home in 2 Chronicles 11:1-4.
- Jeroboam builds up Shechem and decided to live there. He also builds up a city called Peniel. (1 Kings 12:25)
- Jeroboam is concerned that if the people of the 10 tribes he is ruling go back to Jerusalem to worship that they will turn against him by acknowledging Rehoboam as king. (1 Kings 12:26-27)
- Then he makes two golden calf idols (kind of like the Israelites did under Aaron while Moses was getting the Ten Commandments Exodus 32). He puts one in a city called Dan and one in a city called Bethel. He tells the people that it will be a lot more convenient for them to worship these there and even appoints priests who were not of the priestly tribe of Levi. This whole thing was sin. (1 Kings 12:28-33)
- Remember that because of their loyalty to God, Levi had been designated as the priestly tribe (Exodus 32:26-29) who had been given cities but were not allowed to be landowners when the Lord gave Canaan to Israel (Deuteronomy 18:2).
- Our idols today are anything we put ahead of God. We are to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. (Matthew 6:33)
- Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he started his reign, and he reigned over Judah (the Southern Kingdom where Jerusalem is) for seventeen years. (1 Kings 14:21) (2 Chronicles 12:13)
- In the beginning of his reign, Rehoboam strengthens the cities in the South. (2 Chronicles 11:5-12)
- In the first three years of his reign, the priestly tribe of Levi migrates entirely to the Southern Kingdom and make sure Rehoboam stays faithful to God. (2 Chronicles 11:13-17)
- Rehoboam has twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters from eighteen wives and sixty mistresses. His favorite of all these is Abijah his son whom he appoints chief prince and heir to the throne 2 Chronicles 11:11-23)
- During the fifth year of his reign, King Shishak of Egypt invades Judah. King Shishak has a huge army of 1200 chariots and 60,000 horseman and people from Libya and Ethiopia too. (2 Chronicles 12:1-4)
- King Shishak drives everyone into the city of Jerusalem, where a prophet of God named Shemaiah says this is happening because Judah forsook God. The King and the royal court are humbled and contrite. Shemaiah says because of their repentance God will not destroy them but they will still lose everything and have to serve Shishak. (2 Chronicles 12:5-8)
- Shishak and his army does come and carry everything away (including the things Solomon built and the treasures of the house of Lord which presumably means the Ark of the Covenant also). (1 Kings 14:25-28) (2 Chronicles 12:9-12)

- During the rest of his reign the tribe of Judah (which is most of the Southern Kingdom) is not faithful to God. They build altars and idols and temples to other Gods, and they even have male cult prostitutes. They actually behaved exactly like the people they drove out of the lands. (I Kings 14:22-24) (2 Chronicles 12:14)
- During his reign there was constant war with the North (led by Jeroboam) also. (I Kings 14:29-30) (2 Chronicles 12:15)
- Rehoboam dies and he was succeeded in the South by his son Abijam. (I Kings 14:31) (2 Chronicles 12:16)

### Questions

1. Why does Jeroboam build two Golden Calves?
2. Who is the tribe of Levi and what is their significance?
3. What are idols to us today? Can you think of some examples?
4. How old was Rehoboam when he started his reign? How long did he reign?
5. What does Rehoboam do immediately after he starts his reign?
6. What does the tribe of Levi do within the first three years of Rehoboam's reign? What is the effect?
7. How many wives and mistresses does Rehoboam have? How many sons and daughters does Rehoboam have by them?
8. Who is Rehoboam's favorite son?
9. What happens during the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign? Why does it happen?
10. In the final years of Rehoboam's reign, what two things happen?
11. Who succeeds Rehoboam after his death?