

## Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

### 2 Chronicles 12:1-16

- Because of sin and disobedience there are now two kingdoms within the nation of Israel instead of one, as you have the Southern Kingdom of Judah which consist of two tribes Judah-Benjamin, while the northern Kingdom was made up from the rest of the ten tribes. The northern Kingdom will have **9** dynasties in about **250** years before the Assyrians will come and take them into captivity, and the Southern Kingdom about **350** years and the Babylonians will come for them.
- Yet because of the overruling Hand of the Sovereign God He still used this disobedient people to bring into the world the **worship** of the one and True Living God, the **writing** of the Holy Scriptures, and the **fulfillment** of the coming of the Savior into the world. Only a merciful and gracious God can navigate through all this confusion and Chaos and bring into existence such a glorious plan of redemption for the entire world to see, marvel, and surrender themselves to.

### V1-16

- **Chapter 11:17** says after the Kingdom split and “**Shemaiah**” the prophet told Rehoboam not to go to war against Jeroboam and the northern Kingdom for brother should not be fighting brother, that the Lord strengthened the Kingdom of Judah because those who wanted to serve the Lord came and dwelt in the Southern Kingdom, this blessing went on for as long as Rehoboam the King obeyed the commandments of the Lord, which was only three years.
- **V1** once the Lord allowed him to build up his defenses around the cities and villages of Judah, and fortify his military which took three years then Rehoboam forsook the Law of the Lord and so did the majority of the people, as they followed him into this defiant attitude that I will do it my way. **V2-4** that which he gained by obeying the Lord was then taken away from him for his disobeying the Lord by someone who was supposed to be Judah’s ally as Solomon his father had taken the daughter of Pharaoh as his first wife in order to ensure peace with Egypt > **Prov 14:12**.
- Just so we correctly understand how depraved this disobedience went, because some might think that this was harsh of the Lord to allow this > **1Kings 14:21-24**- we find some interesting facts here, **1<sup>st</sup>**- that Rehoboam’s mother was an Ammonite, or descendant from Lot’s incestuous relationship with his daughters, and Israel was forbidden to marry them in **Deut 23:3**, and Nehemiah, and this showed how deep Solomon’s disobedience ran, so we see exactly where Rehoboam got the attitude to do things his way despite all that the Lord had done for him.
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** - after repenting when the priests returned to Jerusalem, they now have allowed the perverted people to start to practice their sin and it led to sexual immorality and cultic prostitution, which brought right back into society Idolatry to justify their lifestyles.

- So the very things that God had delivered them from, ungodly nations like Egypt and Syria and unhealthy lifestyles like idolatry, sexual immorality, cultic practices, sacrifices your children, are all going to come back to torment them. **V5** so God allowed “**Shishak**” and Egyptian Pharaoh to have his way with Judah, if you won’t serve the Lord make no mistake about it you will serve the world, and it is and has always been a hard task master, and “**Shishak**” is no different!
- In **Num 33:55-56**- when God told Israel to drive out all the ungodly nations from the promise land because if they don’t then they will start to practice the same sinful practices of those before them then the things God said He’d do to them for their disobedience He will now have to do to them because they followed the same ungodliness as the enemy. Satan knows he’s limited in what he can do to us, but if he can get us out of position, he knows that then we’ve put ourselves in harm’s way and into the danger zone instead of the blessing of the Lord.
- **V6-8** God is so forgiving, gracious and merciful, that He gives Judah a reprieve, and won’t allow “**Shishak**” to fully have his way with them, just as the Lord does for you and I, for if we humble ourselves He will forgive us, but that doesn’t mean we won’t have to suffer some of the consequences of our disobedience, as Judah is now taken from the place of leadership where the other nations are to serve them, they now are told to serve Egypt. If you forsake the Law of the Lord you then offer yourselves as servants to another master, and God will allow us to experience what that experience feels like so that we can appreciate being under His authority.
- **V9-12** “**Shishak**” took all the gold and its shields from the house of the Lord, the king’s house, all the things Judah took pride in that Solomon made as a glory to the nation God allowed the enemy to take away to show them what’s really important, which is to serve Him and no other, for whatever we are taking pride in can easily be taken away and then what do we have? In five short years the dynasty went from gold to bronze, as it’s the perfect picture of the decline under the rule of Rehoboam, but after all that we still see the mercy of God as their not destroyed.
- **V13-16** here is the difference between crying out to the Lord just because we want relief from the consequences or crying out because we’re ready to repent and fully serve the Lord. Rehoboam and Judah survived the threat of Egypt and “**Shishak**”, but as you see he didn’t fully turn from his evil, he merely cried out for relief. So scripture says things went well in Judah, but it could have been a lot better, for out of God’s mercy He still allowed Judah to stand. The question to all of us is do you want to survive in and out of sin or do you want to flourish in the Lord? Only you can answer that question, and it will show by the way we live.