

# 2 Chronicles 12 - Egypt Attacks Judah; The End of Rehoboam's (Judah) Reign

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(A) Rehoboam's repentance halts Shishak's destruction of Jerusalem (12:1-16)

## 2 Chronicles 12

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(Cf. 1 Kings 14:25-28)

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1 At the height of his power, after he had consolidated his rule, Rehoboam abandoned the LORD's Law, along with all of Israel with him.

1 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

- Rehoboam's three years of blessing preceded a fourth year of rebellion, which God judged in his fifth year by the hand of the Egyptians

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2 And it came about in King Rehoboam's fifth year, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem

2 Because he had been unfaithful to the LORD, during the fifth year of King Rehoboam's reign, King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem

2 And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD,

- "...Shishak" - Solomon's father-in-law, but no relation to Rehoboam (however there is a strong probability that he belonged to another dynasty, Cf. 2 Chr 12:2)

— He was the Sheshonk I of Egyptian records (945–924 BC), founder of the 22nd Dynasty

— He was used as God's instrument to punish Judah's national defection

— He had given refuge to Jeroboam earlier (Cf. 11:40)

- This was the first serious foreign invasion of Israelite territory since the days of Saul
- With this invasion, Shishak tried to establish Egyptian supremacy over Palestine. His military campaign into Judah, Israel, Edom, and Philistia netted him control of 156 cities.
- In the temple of Karnak, the record of his campaigns is inscribed on the exterior of the Amon temple's south wall in a relief picturing
- A briefer, more sober account is given in the Bible, wherein it is honestly admitted that Shishak despoiled the beautiful Temple of Solomon before he agreed not to pillage Jerusalem fully

### **Egypt's Invasion**

Rehoboam had not been ruling long when it became apparent that his border fortifications were inadequate to guard Judah against the invasion of the Egyptian army under King Shishak I (~935-914 BC). Shishak was the founder of Egypt's 22nd dynasty. Shishak had earlier given asylum to Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:40). In Rehoboam's fifth year (926 BC), the Lord brought Shishak as a punishment for Rehoboam's sin of abandoning the Law of the Lord (1 Kings 14:22-24).

3 with 1,200 chariots and sixty thousand horsemen. And the people who came with him from Egypt were innumerable: the **Lubim**, the **Sukkiim**, and the **Ethiopians**.

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3 with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 cavalry. The Lubim, Sukkiim, and the Ethiopians who invaded from Egypt with Shishak<sup>1</sup> were innumerable.

3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians.

- "...Lubim" - Libyans

- "...Sukkiim" - other desert tribes, perhaps from western Libya; Egyptian foreign mercenaries

- "...Ethiopians" - Cushites; from modern day Sudan, south of Egypt

- With 1,200 chariots and 60,000 cavalry, and aided by his Libyan, Sukkite (Egyptian foreign mercenaries), and Cushite allies, the Egyptian king had no difficulty in overrunning the fortresses and was ready to attack Jerusalem itself

4 And he captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

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4 Shishak captured the fortified cities of Judah and invaded as far as Jerusalem.

4 And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.

- On the walls of the temple of Amon at Karnak, Egypt, he carved the names of Israelite cities he conquered

5 Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the LORD says: 'You have abandoned Me, so I also have abandoned you to Shishak.'"

5 Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, 'You have forsaken Me, so I also have forsaken you to Shishak.'"

5 Right then, Shemaiah the prophet approached Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered together in Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he told them, "This is what the LORD says: 'You abandoned me, so I've abandoned you to Shishak.'"

5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.

- Judah's strength and wealth began to diminish as a result of Rehoboam's idolatry...

6 So the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous."

6 So the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous."

6 In response, the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and declared, "The LORD is righteous."

6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The LORD is righteous.

- This resulted in Rehoboam and the leaders humbling themselves before the Lord, and God spared Jerusalem from destruction

7 When the LORD saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves, so I will not destroy them; and I will grant them a little deliverance, and My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem by means of Shishak.

7 When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves so I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some *measure* of deliverance, and My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by means of Shishak.

7 When the LORD observed that they had humbled themselves, the LORD spoke to Shemaiah, "They have humbled themselves, so I won't destroy them. Instead, I'll grant

them some deliverance by not pouring out my indignation on Jerusalem, using Shishak to do it.

**7** And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

**8** But they will become his slaves, so that they may learn *the difference between My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.*"

**8** But they will become his slaves so that they may learn *the difference between My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.*"

**8** Nevertheless, they will become his slaves so they may learn to differentiate between what it means to serve me and to serve the kingdoms of these nations."

**8** Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.

- A fitting punishment reminded the Jews of their heritage in relation to Egypt

— This was the first major encounter since God rescued the Israelites from Egyptian slavery during the Exodus, hundreds of years earlier

— A taste of being enslaved again to a people from whom God had given liberation was bitter

— God's message was clear: if the Jews would forsake the true worship of God, they would also lose His protective hand of blessing

**9** So Shishak king of Egypt went up against Jerusalem, and he took the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's palace. He took everything; he even took the gold shields which Solomon had made.

**9** So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's palace. He took everything; he even took the golden shields which Solomon had made.

**9** So King Shishak of Egypt invaded Jerusalem and looted the treasure stores in the LORD's Temple and in the royal palace. He took everything, including the golden shields that Solomon had made.

**9** So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

- Shishak's invasion diminished much of the glory of the temple and of Yahweh

— This resulted in Rehoboam and the leaders humbling themselves before the Lord, and God spared Jerusalem from destruction (Cf. v6)

- Rehoboam bought Shishak off by giving him many of the treasures of the temple and of the palace in return for Shishak not destroying the temple completely. These included the 500 gold shields made by Solomon.

- Did Shishak also take the Ark of the Covenant? See [Ark of the Covenant: A Relic with a Future?](#).

10 Then King Rehoboam made shields of bronze in their place and committed them to the care of the commanders of the guards who guarded the entrance of the king's house.

10 Then King Rehoboam made shields of bronze in their place and committed them to the care of the commanders of the guard who guarded the door of the king's house.

10 After this, King Rehoboam made shields out of bronze to take their place, committing them to the care and custody of the commanders of those who guarded the entrance to the royal palace.

10 Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.

- Before Shishak withdrew from Jerusalem, he plundered the temple and the royal palace of all their gold. The gold supply was so diminished that Rehoboam had to replace the golden ornamental shields (Cf. 9:15-16) with bronze.

11 As often as the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards came and carried them and *then* brought them back into the guards' room.

11 As often as the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards came and carried them and *then* brought them back into the guards' room.

11 As often as the king entered the LORD's Temple, the guards came and transported the shields to the Temple and then brought them back to the guard's quarters.

11 And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber.

- To protect the new shields from theft, guards carried them from the guardroom to the temple and back, whenever Rehoboam went to the temple

12 And when he humbled himself, the anger of the LORD turned away from him, so as not to destroy *him* completely; and conditions were also good in Judah.

12 And when he humbled himself, the anger of the LORD turned away from him, so as not to destroy *him* completely; and also conditions were good in Judah.

12 After he had humbled himself, the LORD stopped being angry with him, and did not destroy Rehoboam completely. Furthermore, conditions became good in Judah.

12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well.

### **The Death of Rehoboam (Cf. 1 Kings 14:29-31)**

**13** So King Rehoboam became powerful in Jerusalem and reigned *there*. For Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. And his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess.

**13** So King Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. Now Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. And his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess.

**13** King Rehoboam consolidated his reign in Jerusalem. Rehoboam was 41 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that that LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel in which to establish his name. Rehoboam's mother was Naamah from Ammon.

**13** So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess.

[1 Kings 14:21]

14 But he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

14 He did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

14 He practiced evil by not setting his heart to seek the LORD.

14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

**15** Now the acts of Rehoboam, from the first to the last, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, according to genealogical enrollment? **And *there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.***

**15** Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, according to genealogical enrollment? And *there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.*

**15** Now Rehoboam's accomplishments, from first to last, are written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, enrolled by genealogy, are they not?

**15** Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

- "...And *there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually*"- the continual warfare mentioned here is mentioned briefly again (1 Kings 15:6), but is not explained

- In view of Rehoboam's initial plan to regain Israel by force (1 Kings 12:21; which he abandoned after the Prophet Shemaiah reported God's prohibition of civil war, 2 Chr 11:1-4), these constant wars probably involved border disputes in the territory of Benjamin.
  - It appears that Rehoboam was more successful in these border disputes since he won both the hearts and the land of the Benjamites. The exact border probably changed many times in these early years of the divided monarchy.
  - The 15 cities Rehoboam fortified were located in Judah and Benjamin, south and west of Jerusalem. Probably after Shishak's invasion they were strengthened to defend Judah against future attacks from Egypt and Philistia.
- [1 Kings 14:30]

16 And Rehoboam lay down with his fathers and was buried in the city of David; and his son **Abijah** became king in his place.

16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David; and his son Abijah became king in his place.

16 Later, Rehoboam died, as had his ancestors, and his son Abijah became king to replace him.

16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.

- "...Abijah" - he is called a great sinner (1 Kings 15:3); aka "Abijam" (1 Kings 14:31)

— But consistent with the pattern, the chronicler highlights the little good he did to indicate he was still in line with God's covenant promise to David (Cf. 2 Chr 11:20,22)