

1Ki 11:11 "Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. **12** Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. **13** Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen."

God reminds Solomon why he is going to rend the kingdom from him, in his son's time, and not now, which is because of God's promise to king David, seen in **2Sa 7:15**; **12** *"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee."*

Matthew Henry states in his commentary, Solomon's wisdom waned as he turned to idolatry, just as Samson's strength waned when he departed from the Lord. With this thought we can agree if we consider two things: Solomon's wisdom and understanding had to have waned already, or he would not have turned to idolatry. The sexual perversion of Solomon was the root cause of his turning to idolatry. We know this because we are told his wives turned his heart away. Secondly, if we look at God's promise to Solomon in **1Ki 3:12** *"Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee."* This promise does not say that Solomon will be wise all his life.

14 ¶ "And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom. **15** For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom; **16** (For six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every male in Edom:) **17** That Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; Hadad being yet a little child. **18** And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land. **19** And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. **20** And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh. **21** And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country. **22** Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise."

God sets in motion the things needed to fulfill what he has told Solomon. It is ironic that God sends from Egypt, one to be an adversary to King Solomon and his sons, since dealing with the Egyptians was his first error. The harassment of Hadad began in Solomon's lifetime. Hadad did not wait until Solomon died. He started as soon as he heard that King David had died. However, we are not told what havoc Hadad wrought.

23 "And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah: **24** And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus. **25** And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad did: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria."

The next adversary was Rezon who reigns over Syria. Rezon is an enemy to Israel all the days that Solomon reigned over all Israel, just as Hadad was. We are not told what adversarial things Rezon did either.

26 ¶ "And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king. **27** And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father. **28** And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made

him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. 29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: 30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces: 31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: 32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:) 33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father. 34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes: 35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes. 36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there. 37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel. 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."

Next, God appoints a king to be over ten of the tribes of Israel, by the prophet Ahijah. God tells Jeroboam that if he hearkens to God's commandments, God will establish him king over the ten tribes of Israel with the same surety that he gave to King David.

King Solomon hears of this prophecy, because he tries to kill Jeroboam, who flees to Egypt. So again, we will see trouble against the house of King Solomon come from Egypt. Therefore, we see, two enemies come out of Egypt. One reason is that King Solomon making a league with Pharaoh of Egypt and married Pharaoh's daughter. Another was that King Solomon gathered horses and chariots out of Egypt, against the commandment of God. Another is that King Solomon caused Israel to begin trade with Egypt, which God has commanded them not to do. Another is the many wives and concubines Solomon took.

Now, if there are going to be ten tribes of Israel ruled by Jeroboam, which two tribes will be under Rehoboam? The answer is found in **1Ki 12:23; 21** "And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. 22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, 24 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD."

But isn't there a conflict in scripture because God told King Solomon that there would only be one tribe left to his son. How then did he end up with two? Let's examine what God said in **1 Ki:13** **Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.**" King David's lineage was of the tribe of Judah, but Jerusalem was in the land of the tribe of Benjamin. Since God was going to preserve the city of Jerusalem where his name was established, thus we see why Rehoboam reigned over Judah and Benjamin, and Jeroboam reigned over the ten tribes that God gave unto him, and there is no conflict in scripture.

I think it worthy to note that God sent three enemies, three satans, to harass King Solomon, which is in accordance with God's word in **2Sa 7:14; 12** "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee." God told King David that if his son failed to follow God, God would punish him by the hands of men, men being in plural form. We see that God is keeping his word.

Think about the difference between King David and King Solomon. As soon as King David was confronted with his sin, which God had already forgiven, he humbled himself before God and pray with repentance to God. God himself confronts King Solomon when he turned to idolatry, but we do not find any hint in scripture that Solomon repented or sought God for forgiveness.

Now, take these two principles and apply them to your own life as a child of God. God had given us all a conscience, which will immediately remind us when we sin against God. As with King David, our sins are already forgiven, however, we must immediately repent and pray to God for forgiveness. Sometimes, as with King David, the informant of our sin may not be our conscience, it may be a brother in Christ, who is following the scripturally prescribed way of dealing with known sin, as prescribed by God to bring one back into the church fellowship.

However, there are some who turn from God, and the church, who will not repent. We are given scriptural directions to put these out of the church fellowship. Just as with King Solomon, there may never be any sign that they have repented, but if they are a child of God, God may take their life to stop the blight of sin upon the name of the Lord.

A secondary consideration is that in both cases, King David, and King Solomon, because of their sins against God, Got sent trouble into their lives. Wherefore, if we want to live a life that is as free of tribulations as possible, we must follow the example of our Saviour and be completely obedient and sinless before God.

41 ¶ "And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? 42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. 43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam, his son reigned in his stead."

Solomon reigns forty years and dies, which is the same amount of time that his father reigned. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, is king after Solomon. Remember, God has already set in motion to remove from the reign of Rehoboam ten tribes of Israel, which are given to Jeroboam.

What lessons can we apply to our lives from this chapter? If we are a child of God, it is necessary to observe all that God has commanded us. Why? We are told in ***Re 5:9-10; 9 "And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, 10 and madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon earth.***" If we are kings and priests to God, we can apply the same principles laid down for the life of kings chosen by God, and the God appointed priests to serve according to the commandment of God, to do all things as I have commanded you for the New Testament Church.

We can also claim the promise of God the Father to King Jesus, God the Son, who served God with complete and total devotion. Because King Jesus did not fail in his obedience to God the Father, we have the sure promise that the mercy of God will not be withdrawn from us, even when we fail to follow God.

How do we know this for sure? We know that King David sinned, and God did bring judicial judgment upon him, however, even before King David owned his sin and repented, his sin was already forgiven. ***2Sa 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.***" Hath is past tense, so we know the sin was already forgiven.

There is a difference between King David and King Solomon. King David, when confronted with his sins, repented of his sins and did not continue to commit them. King Solomon turned to idolatry, and when confronted with his sins, he continued therein. When King Solomon turned from God, there was no repentance and turning back to God. We have already given in the commentary above, after verse forty, how this would apply to our lives.

Because the finished work of Jesus Christ, in the eternal remission of sins for all of God's people, every child of God, who turns from God to a life of sin, already has their sins forgiven. However, there will a consequence for those sins as we see in the life of both David and Solomon. We would hope that when we are confronted with our sins we would immediately repent and turn back to God. If we continue in sin, God will bring the consequence of our sin upon us, in time, and may prematurely take our life, to remove the blight that we are casting upon the name of the Lord. Therefore, we give praise to King Jesus for the eternal remission of sins, repentant hearts, and eternal life in Christ in the place He has gone to prepare for us. Jesus also tells us ***Mt 16:18 "And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.***" Thank you, King Jesus, for our eternal security. Hallelujah! Amen!