

**Thursday, June 13**

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**1 Kings 11:1 - 12:19**

**11** **1** Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh's daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. **2** The LORD had clearly instructed the people of Israel, "You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods." Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. **3** He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the LORD. **4** In Solomon's old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the LORD his God, as his father, David, had been. **5** Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. **6** In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight; he refused to follow the LORD completely, as his father, David, had done. **7** On the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, he even built a pagan shrine for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. **8** Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for burning incense and sacrificing to their gods. **9** The LORD was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. **10** He had warned Solomon specifically about worshiping other gods, but Solomon did not listen to the LORD's command. **11** So now the LORD said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants. **12** But for the sake of your father, David, I will not do this while you are still alive. I will take the kingdom away from your son. **13** And even so, I will not take away the entire kingdom; I will let him be king of one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, my chosen city." **14** Then the LORD raised up Hadad the Edomite, a member of Edom's royal family, to be Solomon's adversary. **15** Years before, David had defeated Edom. Joab, his army commander, had stayed to bury some of the Israelite soldiers who had died in battle. While there, they killed every male in Edom. **16** Joab and the army of Israel had stayed there for six months, killing them. **17** But Hadad and a few of his father's royal officials escaped and headed for Egypt. (Hadad was just a boy at the time.) **18** They set out from Midian and went to Paran, where others joined them. Then they traveled to Egypt and went to Pharaoh, who gave them a home, food, and some land. **19** Pharaoh grew very fond of Hadad, and he gave him his wife's sister in marriage—the sister of Queen Tahpenes. **20** She bore him a son named Genubath. Tahpenes raised him in Pharaoh's palace among Pharaoh's own sons. **21** When the news

reached Hadad in Egypt that David and his commander Joab were both dead, he said to Pharaoh, "Let me return to my own country." **22** "Why?" Pharaoh asked him. "What do you lack here that makes you want to go home?" "Nothing," he replied. "But even so, please let me return home." **23** God also raised up Rezon son of Eliada as Solomon's adversary. Rezon had fled from his master, King Hadadezer of Zobah, **24** and had become the leader of a gang of rebels. After David conquered Hadadezer, Rezon and his men fled to Damascus, where he became king. **25** Rezon was Israel's bitter adversary for the rest of Solomon's reign, and he made trouble, just as Hadad did. Rezon hated Israel intensely and continued to reign in Aram. **26** Another rebel leader was Jeroboam son of Nebat, one of Solomon's own officials. He came from the town of Zeredah in Ephraim, and his mother was Zeruah, a widow. **27** This is the story behind his rebellion. Solomon was rebuilding the supporting terraces and repairing the walls of the city of his father, David. **28** Jeroboam was a very capable young man, and when Solomon saw how industrious he was, he put him in charge of the labor force from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph. **29** One day as Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah from Shiloh met him along the way. Ahijah was wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone in a field, **30** and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. **31** Then he said to Jeroboam, "Take ten of these pieces, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and I will give ten of the tribes to you! **32** But I will leave him one tribe for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. **33** For Solomon has abandoned me and worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians; Chemosh, the god of Moab; and Molech, the god of the Ammonites. He has not followed my ways and done what is pleasing in my sight. He has not obeyed my decrees and regulations as David his father did. **34** "But I will not take the entire kingdom from Solomon at this time. For the sake of my servant David, the one whom I chose and who obeyed my commands and decrees, I will keep Solomon as leader for the rest of his life. **35** But I will take the kingdom away from his son and give ten of the tribes to you. **36** His son will have one tribe so that the descendants of David my servant will continue to reign, shining like a lamp in Jerusalem, the city I have chosen to be the place for my name. **37** And I will place you on the throne of Israel, and you will rule over all that your heart desires. **38** If you listen to what I tell you and follow my ways and do whatever I consider to be right, and if you obey my decrees and commands, as my servant David did, then I will always be with you. I will establish an enduring dynasty for you as I did for David, and I will give Israel to you. **39** Because of Solomon's sin I will punish the descendants of David—though not forever." **40** Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but he fled to King Shishak of Egypt and stayed there until Solomon died. **41** The rest of the events in Solomon's reign, including all his deeds and his wisdom, are recorded in **42** Solomon ruled in

Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years.**43** When he died, he was buried in the City of David, named for his father. Then his son Rehoboam became the next king.

**12** **1** Rehoboam went to Shechem, where all Israel had gathered to make him king. **2** When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard of this, he returned from Egypt, for he had fled to Egypt to escape from King Solomon. **3** The leaders of Israel summoned him, and Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel went to speak with Rehoboam. **4** “Your father was a hard master,” they said. “Lighten the harsh labor demands and heavy taxes that your father imposed on us. Then we will be your loyal subjects.” **5** Rehoboam replied, “Give me three days to think this over. Then come back for my answer.” So the people went away. **6** Then King Rehoboam discussed the matter with the older men who had counseled his father, Solomon. “What is your advice?” he asked. “How should I answer these people?” **7** The older counselors replied, “If you are willing to be a servant to these people today and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your loyal subjects.”**8** But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men and instead asked the opinion of the young men who had grown up with him and were now his advisers. **9** “What is your advice?” he asked them. “How should I answer these people who want me to lighten the burdens imposed by my father?”**10** The young men replied, “This is what you should tell those complainers who want a lighter burden: ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist!**11** Yes, my father laid heavy burdens on you, but I’m going to make them even heavier! My father beat you with whips, but I will beat you with scorpions!’” **12** Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to hear Rehoboam’s decision, just as the king had ordered. **13** But Rehoboam spoke harshly to the people, for he rejected the advice of the older counselors **14** and followed the counsel of his younger advisers. He told the people, “My father laid heavy burdens on you, but I’m going to make them even heavier! My father beat you with whips, but I will beat you with scorpions!” **15** So the king paid no attention to the people. This turn of events was the will of the LORD, for it fulfilled the LORD’s message to Jeroboam son of Nebat through the prophet Ahijah from Shiloh. **16** When all Israel realized that the king had refused to listen to them, they responded, “Down with the dynasty of David! We have no interest in the son of Jesse. Back to your homes, O Israel! Look out for your own house, O David!” So the people of Israel returned home. **17** But Rehoboam continued to rule over the Israelites who lived in the towns of Judah. **18** King Rehoboam sent Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, to restore order, but the people of Israel stoned him to death. When this news reached King Rehoboam, he quickly jumped into his chariot and fled to Jerusalem. **19** And to this day the northern tribes of Israel have refused to be ruled by a descendant of David.

## Acts 9:1 - 25

**9** **1** Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. **2** He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.**3** As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" **5** "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! **6** Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." **7** The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! **8** Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. **9** He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink. **10** Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied. **11** The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. **12** I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."**13** "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! **14** And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." **15** But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.**16** And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."**17** So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."**18** Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. **19** Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength. Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. **20** And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!" **21** All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked. "And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?" **22** Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn't refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. **23** After a while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him. **24** They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their

plot. **25** So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall.

### **Psalm 131:1 - 3**

**131 1** LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don't concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp. **2** Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me. **3** O Israel, put your hope in the LORD — now and always.

### **Proverbs 17:4 - 5**

**17 4** Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.**5** Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished.