

## Fact Sheet for “A Tale of Four Kings” 2 Chronicles 10:1-16<sup>1</sup>

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*Read 2 Chronicles 10:1-16 before going on to the rest of these notes.*

This passage is about so much more than just one event in the history of a Jewish king. It is about God's sovereignty and man's responsibility, His faithfulness, His promises, both good and bad, His justice, and man's sin and stubbornness. It may appear as if there is one king in view (Rehoboam) but there are actually four (David, Solomon, Rehoboam, and Jeroboam). Let's take a brief look at these four kings.

### David

David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). It says in 1 Kings 15:5, “David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that God commanded him all the days of his life, except with Bathsheba.” When David first had in his mind to build a temple God promised David instead that his (*David's*) throne would be established forever (2 Samuel 7:16).

### Solomon

Solomon, David's son from Bathsheba, succeeded David as king. Then God appeared to Solomon the first of two times in his life (1 Kings 3:5). Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or victory on the battlefield. Instead he asked for wisdom. God honored his request (1 Kings 3:12), and would give him life, riches, and victory also. Then God appeared to Solomon the second time after Solomon had finished building the first Jewish temple and had prayed a prayer of consecration for it (2 Chronicles 7:12-14). Solomon prayed the words of Moses from Deuteronomy 28 and 30, and God answered Solomon from those same words. However, God immediately followed His answer to Solomon with a conditional promise of blessing for Solomon, a warning against idolatry, and a dark promise of removal from the land of Israel if the Jewish people didn't listen.

With the wisdom God gave Solomon you might expect that he would have avoided idolatry like the plague, but he didn't. Solomon multiplied wives, many of whom were idolaters, and they turned his heart away from God (1 Kings 11:1-8). Solomon chose his own path, which wasn't God's path. As a result God gave this consequence for Solomon's sin (1 Kings 11:9-13). Ten of the tribes would be torn from the hands of his son (1 Kings 11:9-13). God did not leave one tribe for Solomon's sake but for David's. (*Benjamin was a very small tribe by this time.*)

### Jeroboam

The prophet Ahijah then found Jeroboam and said that God would give him 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel to rule over because of this idolatry and because they had not walked in

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<sup>1</sup> Parallel passage – 1 Kings 12:1-19.

God's ways as David had done. Then God gave Jeroboam this promise, much like the one He gave to David in 2 Samuel 7.

**ESV 1 Kings 11:38** And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.

Wow, what a promise! Because of this prophecy Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:40). How God sovereignly worked with Rehoboam's foolishness we don't exactly know, but this interaction speaks of both. Jeroboam could have been set for life and legacy, but like Jeroboam chose his own path instead, just like Solomon. Out of fear for what Rehoboam might do Jeroboam rejected the rock solid promise of God and chose his own path, setting-up two idols (1 Kings 12:28-29). As a result Jeroboam's name would become essentially a curse word. Out of the kings that followed him in Israel one was a rebel who never solidified his rule, one ruled only one month, and the last one was taken into captivity, along with Israel, into Assyria. Every one of the other 16 kings all earned the distinction worded something like this... "He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel to sin."<sup>2</sup>

## Rehoboam

Rehoboam, knowing all of this, also still chose his own path instead of God's (2 Chronicles 12:1, 14).

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When you have a heart that is after God's own heart there will be blessing. God's response to David is only one of the many biblical illustrations of this. When you choose your own path instead (*like Solomon, Rehoboam, and Jeroboam*) there are sorry consequences. Do you really believe this? Do you really, really believe this? We don't struggle with worshipping golden calves, but there are so many other things we see in the Bible that sometimes we choose our own paths for.

Think slowly about these words of Jesus as an example. How do you measure up?

**ESV Matthew 5:3-9** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

In all the paths you walk, in how you treat people, in your attitudes... are you after God's own heart? Then ask this question. Do you really believe the message from 2 Chronicles 10:1-16?

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<sup>2</sup> Nadab (1 Ki. 15:26), Baasha (1 Ki. 15:34), Elah (1 Ki. 16:13), Zimri (1 Ki. 16:19), Omri (1 Ki. 16:25-26), Ahab (1 Ki. 16:31), Ahaziah (1 Ki. 22:52), Jehoram or Joram (2 Ki. 3:3), Jehu (2 Ki. 10:29, 31), Jehohaz (2 Ki. 13:2, 6), Jehoash (2 Ki. 13:11), Jeroboam II (2 Ki. 14:24), Zechariah (2 Ki. 15:9), Menahem (2 Ki. 15:18), Pekahiah (2 Ki. 15:24), and Pekah (2 Ki. 15:28).