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²⁸Then Solomon's servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebet, an Ephraimite from Zereda, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king. ²⁹And this is what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo and repaired the damages to the City of David his father. ³⁰The man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made him the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph. ³¹Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. ³²Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. ³³And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you' (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), ³⁴because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David. ³⁵However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. ³⁶But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you—ten tribes. ³⁷And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there. ³⁸So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel. ³⁹Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. ⁴⁰And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever." ⁴¹So Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon. ⁴²Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? ⁴³And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. ⁴⁴Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

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1. Rise of Jeroboam

- a. Jeroboam was a servant of Solomon
 - a1. Very industrious man
 - a2. A mighty man of valor (a natural leader)
- b. God pronounced judgment on Sol. for idolatry
 - a1. 10 tribes would be taken from him during the reign of his son
 - a2. Sol. still did not repent after judgment was announced by God
- c. Sol. promoted Jer. to be officer over the laborers of the tribes of Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh)
 - a1. Part of building the Millo (walled fortification below Mt. Zion)
 - a2. Sol. gave Jer. a special robe to show favor
- d. The prophet Ahijah met Jer. in the field
 - a1. He took his new garment & tore it into 12 pieces (1 for each tribe)
 - a2. Jer. was to take 10 pieces (tribes) for himself while Sol. kept 1 (Benjamin had been absorbed into Judah after tribal war)
- e. God is the one who raised up Jer. (not Jer.'s might or prowess)
- f. Jer. begins to act on this revelation

2. Solomon's finale

- a. Even though Sol. had been given every advantage, he followed his lust & his pagan wives

- b. Sol. did not turn away from his sin
 - a1. His heart was not completely with God
 - a2. David never was an idolater (true to God)
- c. Sol.'s reign ends in disgrace
 - a1. Eccl. 12 Sol. regrets his end & pities himself
 - a2. Eccl. 12:1 he advises others to stay true to God, but he did not do so himself
- 3. Jeroboam given a great opportunity
 - a. Jeroboam was what Sol. did & he heard the judgment
 - a1. He became the beneficiary of Sol.'s fall
 - a2. Jer. has a fresh opportunity
 - b. Ahijah tells Jer. that if he stays true to God, his house will be long established
 - a1. Jer. has a chance to do what Sol. did not
 - a2. Both the words & acts of God were clear
 - c. When Jer. rebels, Sol. sends his army after him
 - a1. Jer. flees to Pharaoh Shishak in Egypt
 - a2. Jer. returns after Sol. dies
 - d. God had predicted that the kingdom would be divided under Sol.'s son
 - e. Jer. ends up an idol worshipper just like Sol.
 - a1. After seeing & hearing the judgment on Sol., Jer. followed the same path
 - a2. Jer. should have expected the same results as Sol. if he did the same things
 - f. The rebellious heart of man is a great mystery
 - a1. Just like Israel in the wilderness, both Sol. & Jer. experienced God's acts first hand, but still rebelled
 - a2. The power of pride defies logical explanation in the face of calamitous results
 - g. No explanation is given as to why Jer. was chosen (just like the selection of Sol.)
 - a1. Jer. could have prospered & left a godly legacy in contrast to Rehoboam
 - a2. Jer. places golden calves (ref. – Baal) in Dan & Bethel
 - a3. A golden calf idol worship brought judgment on Israel in the wilderness