



Solomon's Legacy: God's Purpose in each Generation (1 Kings 11:14-42)

Notes: Week Ten

1 Kings 11:14-42 (HCSB)

Solomon's Enemies

¹⁴ So the LORD raised up Hadad the Edomite as an enemy against Solomon. He was of the royal family in Edom. ¹⁵ Earlier, when David was in Edom, Joab, the commander of the army, had gone to bury the dead and had struck down every male in Edom. ¹⁶ For Joab and all Israel had remained there six months, until he had killed every male in Edom. ¹⁷ Hadad fled to Egypt, along with some Edomites from his father's servants. At the time Hadad was a small boy. ¹⁸ Hadad and his men set out from Midian and went to Paran. They took men with them from Paran and went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave Hadad a house, ordered that he be given food, and gave him land. ¹⁹ Pharaoh liked Hadad so much that he gave him a wife, the sister of his own wife, Queen Tahpenes. ²⁰ Tahpenes' sister gave birth to Hadad's son Genubath. Tahpenes herself weaned him in Pharaoh's palace, and Genubath lived there along with Pharaoh's sons.

²¹ When Hadad heard in Egypt that David rested with his fathers and that Joab, the commander of the army, was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me leave, so I can go to my own country."

²² But Pharaoh asked him, "What do you lack here with me for you to want to go back to your own country?"

"Nothing," he replied, "but please let me leave."

²³ God raised up Rezon son of Eliada as an enemy against Solomon. Rezon had fled from his master Hadadezer king of Zobah ²⁴ and gathered men to himself. He became captain of a raiding party when David killed the Zobaites. He^[a] went to Damascus, lived there, and became king in Damascus. ²⁵ Rezon was Israel's enemy throughout Solomon's reign, adding to the trouble Hadad had caused. He ruled over Aram,^[b] but he loathed Israel.

²⁶ Now Solomon's servant, Jeroboam son of Nebat, was an Ephraimite from Zeredah. His widowed mother's name was Zeruah. Jeroboam rebelled against Solomon, ²⁷ and this is the reason he rebelled against the king: Solomon had built the supporting terraces and repaired the opening in the wall of the city of his father David. ²⁸ Now the man Jeroboam was capable, and Solomon noticed the young man because he was getting things done. So he appointed him over the entire labor force of the house of Joseph.

²⁹ During that time, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met Jeroboam on the road as Jeroboam came out of Jerusalem. Now Ahijah had wrapped himself with a new cloak, and the two of them were alone in the open field. ³⁰ Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he had on, tore it into 12 pieces, ³¹ and said to Jeroboam, "Take 10 pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I am about to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand. I will give you 10 tribes, ³² but one tribe will remain his because of my servant David and because of Jerusalem, the city I chose out of all the tribes of Israel. ³³ For they have abandoned Me; they have bowed the knee to Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh, the god of Moab, and to Milcom, the god of the Ammonites. They have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and to carry out My statutes and My judgments as his father David did.

³⁴ ““However, I will not take the whole kingdom from his hand but will let him be ruler all the days of his life because of My servant David, whom I chose and who kept My commands and My statutes. ³⁵ I will take 10 tribes of the kingdom from his son’s hand and give them to you. ³⁶ I will give one tribe to his son, so that My servant David will always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city I chose for Myself to put My name there. ³⁷ I will appoint you, and you will reign as king over all you want, and you will be king over Israel.

³⁸ ““After that, if you obey all I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight in order to keep My statutes and My commands as My servant David did, I will be with you. I will build you a lasting dynasty just as I built for David, and I will give you Israel. ³⁹ I will humble David’s descendants, because of their unfaithfulness, but not forever.””[c]

⁴⁰ Therefore, Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but he fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, where he remained until Solomon’s death.

Solomon’s Death

⁴¹ The rest of the events of Solomon’s reign, along with all his accomplishments and his wisdom, are written in the Book of Solomon’s Events. ⁴² The length of Solomon’s reign in Jerusalem over all Israel totaled 40 years.

Footnotes:

- a. [1 Kings 11:24](#) LXX; Hb reads *They*
- b. [1 Kings 11:25](#) Some Hb mss, LXX, Syr read *Edom*
- c. [1 Kings 11:39](#) LXX omits *and I will give . . . but not forever*

Holman Christian Standard Bible - *Study Bible*¹

1 Kings 11:14-42

[11:14-40](#) God began to weaken Solomon so that his empire and most of his kingdom would be lost at his death. This was accomplished both by providential intervention in normal trends and, in the case of Jeroboam, by direct prophetic intervention ([vv. 29-33](#)).

[11:14-17](#) Though God tolerated many character flaws, including excessive violence, in his chosen servants of Israel, this tolerance did not prevent their evil acts from yielding evil fruit. For instance, the resentment in Edom against Joab and David for their brutality ([2Sam 8:13-14](#)) helped to weaken Solomon years later. All Israel refers only to the group under discussion—the soldiers involved in the campaign against Edom.

[11:18-22](#) God used Pharaoh's opportunism to weaken Solomon. Pharaoh exploited both Hadad and Jeroboam to undermine Solomon. The presence of foreign threats such as these could explain why Solomon willingly compromised his faith in order to appease his wives. He hoped better relations with his Egyptian wife might prompt Egypt to enact a more favorable foreign policy toward Israel. Even while Solomon lived, control over Edom was weak enough to permit Hadad to return home. An insecure Edom threatened the caravan routes from Elath ([9:26](#)) northward.

[11:23-25](#) Rezon, in moving from an outlaw warrior to a legitimate king, paralleled the career of King David. With Rezon's rule, Damascus became Israel's main enemy in Aram. Again, this situation developed while Solomon ruled.

[11:26](#) Jeroboam is introduced as a rebel in an introductory summary of his career under Solomon.

[11:29-32](#) God intervened in governmental affairs through the prophecy of Ahijah. The fact that 10 tribes and one tribe does not account for all 12 tribes of Israel should not be taken as problematic. Levi may or may not be counted in such groupings, or Ahijah may have meant that one tribe would remain in addition to Judah (see note at [12:20](#)).

[11:33-34](#) God rejected Solomon because he encouraged false worship ([vv. 5-8](#)). He would be judged, but out of loyalty to David God would not completely reject Solomon's dynasty.

[11:37-39](#) The only major idea of the Davidic covenant that was neither offered nor implied to Jeroboam was the relationship defined by the words, "I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to Me" ([2Sam 7:14](#)).

[11:40](#) Solomon's attempt to kill Jeroboam reduced him to the same tyranny as Saul when Saul tried to kill David. By sheltering Jeroboam, Shishak king of Egypt again meddled in Solomon's affairs. The corrosion in Solomon's rule was clear.

1. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "1 Kings 11".

[11:41-43](#) The Book of...Events was probably the official, factual record of the king. This succession statement, like all future succession statements, ignored the traditional leaders of the tribes. This formal close to Solomon's rule was the writer's signal that he was finished with Solomon's era. Now the story moves to Solomon's successor.

The Apologetics Study Bible²

1 Kings 11:14-42

[11:20](#) "Tahpenes herself": it was not the sister of Tahpenes who weaned her son, but Tahpenes, the queen, who did so; a signal honor for Hadad.

[11:25](#) "Aram" is modern Syria.

[11:28](#) The porters provided the basic labor of carrying materials to the craftsmen. In this case, the primary job was to fill the breach, so the responsibility assigned to Jeroboam was significant.

[11:30](#) The Hebrew word used here for "cloak," *salmah*, was a pun on Solomon's name (Hb *shelomoh*), having almost exactly the same consonants. The cloak was symbolic of the entire nation about to be divided, and the pun emphasized the irony: it was Solomon who was about to be divided.

[11:34](#) The title of "ruler" referred to a leader of a single tribe, and so was a demotion from king.

NLT Life Application Study Bible³

1 Kings 11:14-42

[11:14-22](#) Edom was the kingdom southeast of the Dead Sea. David had added this nation to his empire ([2 Samuel 8:13, 14](#)). It was of strategic importance because it controlled the route to the Red Sea. Edom's revolt was disturbing the peace of Solomon's kingdom.

[11:29-39](#) The prophet Ahijah predicted the division of the kingdom of Israel. After Solomon's death, 10 of Israel's 12 tribes would follow Jeroboam. The other two tribes, Judah and the area of Benjamin around Jerusalem, would remain loyal to David. Judah, the largest tribe, and Benjamin, the smallest, were often mentioned as one tribe because they shared the same border. Both Jeroboam and Ahijah were from Ephraim, the most prominent of the 10 rebel tribes. (For more on the divided kingdom, see the note on [12:20](#).)

[11:41](#) Nothing is known of *The Book of the Acts of Solomon*. See also the note on [14:19](#).

2. Kirk E. Lowery, "Notes on 1 Kings," in *The Apologetics Study Bible: Understanding Why You Believe*, ed. Ted Cabal, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 519-520.

3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 532-533.

Life Essentials Study Bible⁴

A Principle to Live By 1 Kings #15: Jealousy's Terrible Toll

from 1 Kings 11:26-40

We should never underestimate the insidious power of jealousy.

Just as Saul tried to kill David when he discovered that God had anointed David to replace him, so Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam when he discovered that he was to receive 10 tribes. Think for a moment about the arrogance that fed these feelings of jealousy. Rather than humbling themselves before God in true brokenness and repentance, both Saul and Solomon tried to kill their God-appointed successors. In reality, they were blatantly raising their swords against the Lord Himself. As always, jealousy unchecked had taken its terrible toll.

After exhorting all believers to “walk worthy,” Paul stated a foundational truth. We are to make sure our walk with God is characterized by “all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love” ([Eph 4:2](#)). We are to follow the example of Jesus Christ ([Php 2:5-8](#)). Neither Saul nor Solomon practiced this quality. Rather, they were obsessed with pride, hatred, and jealousy, which led to their demise.

Reflection and Response

*What causes jealousy within among Christians today,
and how can we avoid allowing this powerful emotion to take control of our lives?*

4. Gene Getz, *Life Essentials Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2011), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 447-448.

A Principle to Live By 1 Kings #16: Aged Wisdom

from 1 Kings 11:41—12:14

**When seeking advice, we should value the accumulated wisdom
of those who are older than we are.**

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam ascended the throne. Knowing that the prophet Ahijah had prophesied that 10 tribes would come under Jeroboam's jurisdiction, the leaders of Israel convinced Jeroboam to join them in confronting Rehoboam regarding Solomon's tax burden. They assured the new king that if he lightened this burden they would serve him faithfully ([12:4](#)).

Rehoboam agreed to consult with the elders in Israel, who urged him to become a servant leader ([12:7](#)). Unfortunately, Rehoboam rejected their advice and turned to younger men who affirmed his personal agenda—to be dictatorial and greedy for power.

From a human point of view, this was a tragic mistake. Ten tribes rebelled and even killed Rehoboam's labor secretary when he tried to enforce the king's edicts ([12:18](#)). Without equivocation, they installed Jeroboam as king ([12:20](#)) and Ahijah's prophecy came true ([11:35-36](#)). From that point forward the kingdom was divided between Israel's 10 tribes in the north and Judah with Benjamin in the south.

The lesson is clear: Though growing older is no guarantee that wisdom will follow, generally it's true, especially among men and women who are committed to living in harmony with God's will. This is why Peter wrote,

In the same way, you younger men, be subject to the elders. And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. ([1Pt 5:5](#); see also [1Tm 5:1-2a](#).)

Throughout Scripture, younger people are encouraged to respect their elders—to listen and learn from their years of experience. Sadly, Rehoboam failed to apply this principle in his life, and it cost him dearly.

Reflection and Response

*Why is it often difficult for the younger generation
to listen to and learn from those who are older?*