

1 Kings 11

Verses 1-8

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, *for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.*” Solomon held fast to these in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. ⁴ For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father *had been.* ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. ⁶ Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father *had done.* ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. ⁸ Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, *for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.*” Solomon held fast to these in love

God had warned Israel many times not to intermarry with the Canaanites.

See Deuteronomy 7:3-4

³ Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them: you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. ⁴ For they will turn your sons away from following Me, and they will serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you.

This same principle also applied to the nations around Canaan that also worshipped various pagan gods. Solomon married many women from these countries.

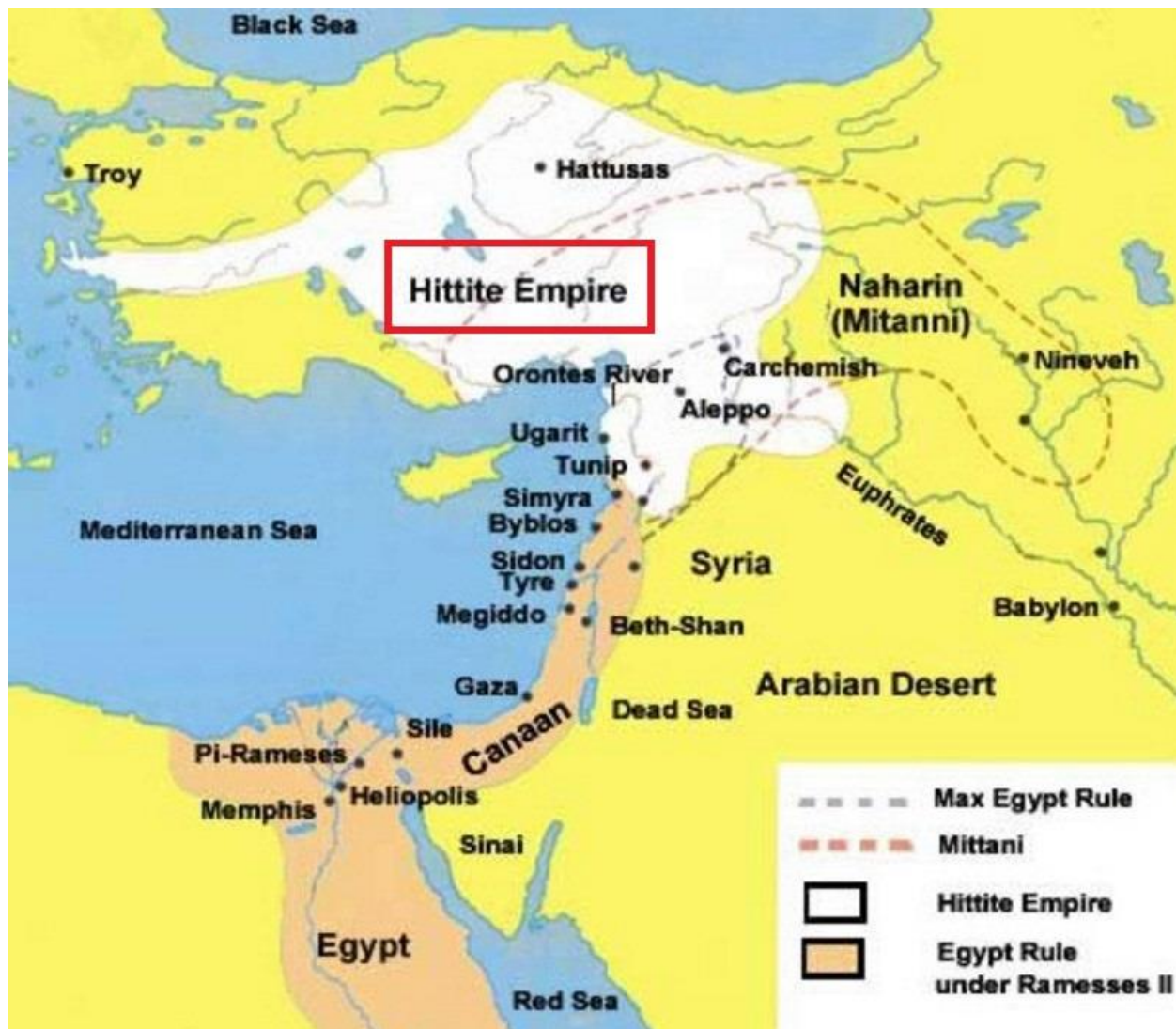
See map 1105 below.

NATIONS TO BE DISPLACED FROM THE PROMISED LAND



The wife or wives from the Hittites could have been living in Israel or they could have come from the Hittite nation to the north of Israel.

See map 1106



³ He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. ⁴ For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father *had been*.

Solomon was born around 970 BC and he is probably 50 to 55 years old at this time. He will die at the end of this chapter at the age of 60.

See chart 1110

1st Kings timeline

Ch.	Event	Year
	Solomon is born	990
1	Solomon becomes king	970
2	David Dies	970
6	Temple started	966
6	Temple completed ---- 7 years	959
7	Solomon starts his palace	959
8	Ark brought to the temple	958
9	Solomon finishes his palace ---- 13 years	946
9	Lord appears to Solomon for 2nd time	946
10	Queen of Sheba visits	
11	Solomon dies	930

It is sad that Solomon allowed his pagan wives to influence him concerning their gods but he had been warned. God's law is like the law of gravity. A person can never break the law of gravity he can only confirm it.

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites.

⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. ⁸ Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

1. Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians

This goddess was called Ishtar in Mesopotamia. In Syria she was the female consort of Baal and a model for the Greek Aphrodite. She was the goddess of fertility and erotic love.

2. Milcom the god of the Ammonites

This god was very similar to Molech, the fire-god to whom infant children were sacrificed. Solomon built a temple to Molech.

3. Chemosh the god of Moab

Chemosh was the twin brother of Molech (god of the Ammonites). He was a sun-god and a god of war.

The mount in front of Jerusalem that is mentioned here is the Mount of Olives. Due to the high places which Solomon built there it was called the following:

The Mount of Offense, The Mount of Corruption, The Mount of Scandal and The Mount of destruction, depending on which version you use.

See 2 Kings 23:13

¹³ And the king (Josiah) defiled the high places that were opposite Jerusalem, which were on the right of the mount of destruction which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the sons of Ammon.

The modern day Mount of Olives is a graveyard.

See Pics 1115 – 1117



1116



1117



Verses 9-13

Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, ¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord had commanded. ¹¹ So the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. ¹² Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, *but* I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³ However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, *but* I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

Because you have not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.

Solomon failed to keep a number of statues.

1. He went after other gods

See Exodus 20:4-5

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not worship them nor serve them.

David sinned in some grievous ways but he never sought after other gods.

2. He multiplied horses to himself

3. He multiplied wives to himself

4. He multiplied to himself silver and gold

See Deuteronomy 17:16-17

¹⁶ In any case, he is not to acquire many horses for himself, nor shall he make the people return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall never again return that way.’ ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, so that his heart does not turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.

¹³ However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, *but* I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

His son Rehoboam would rule Judah (one tribe)

See Map 1125



The tribe of Simeon was part of (inside of) Judah but it isn't given any recognition.

Verses 14-22

¹⁴ Then the Lord raised up an adversary to Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was of the royal line in Edom. ¹⁵ For it came about, when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, and had struck down every male in Edom ¹⁶ (for Joab and all Israel stayed there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom), ¹⁷ that Hadad fled to Egypt, he and certain Edomite's of his father's servants with him, while Hadad was a young boy.

¹⁸ They arose from Midian and came to Paran; and they took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him food and gave him land. ¹⁹ Now Hadad found great favor before Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. ²⁰ The sister of Tahpenes bore his son Genubath, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house; and Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of Pharaoh. ²¹ But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Send me away, that I may go to my own country." ²² Then Pharaoh said to him, "But what have you lacked with me, that behold, you are seeking to go to your own country?" And he answered, "Nothing; nevertheless you must surely let me go."

When David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, and had struck down every male in Edom ¹⁶ (for Joab and all Israel stayed there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom),

The only battle we know about between David and Moab is in 2 Samuel 8.

See verses 2 &3

² And He defeated Moab, and measured them with the line, making them lie down on the ground; and he measured two lines to put to death, and a full line to keep alive. And the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute.

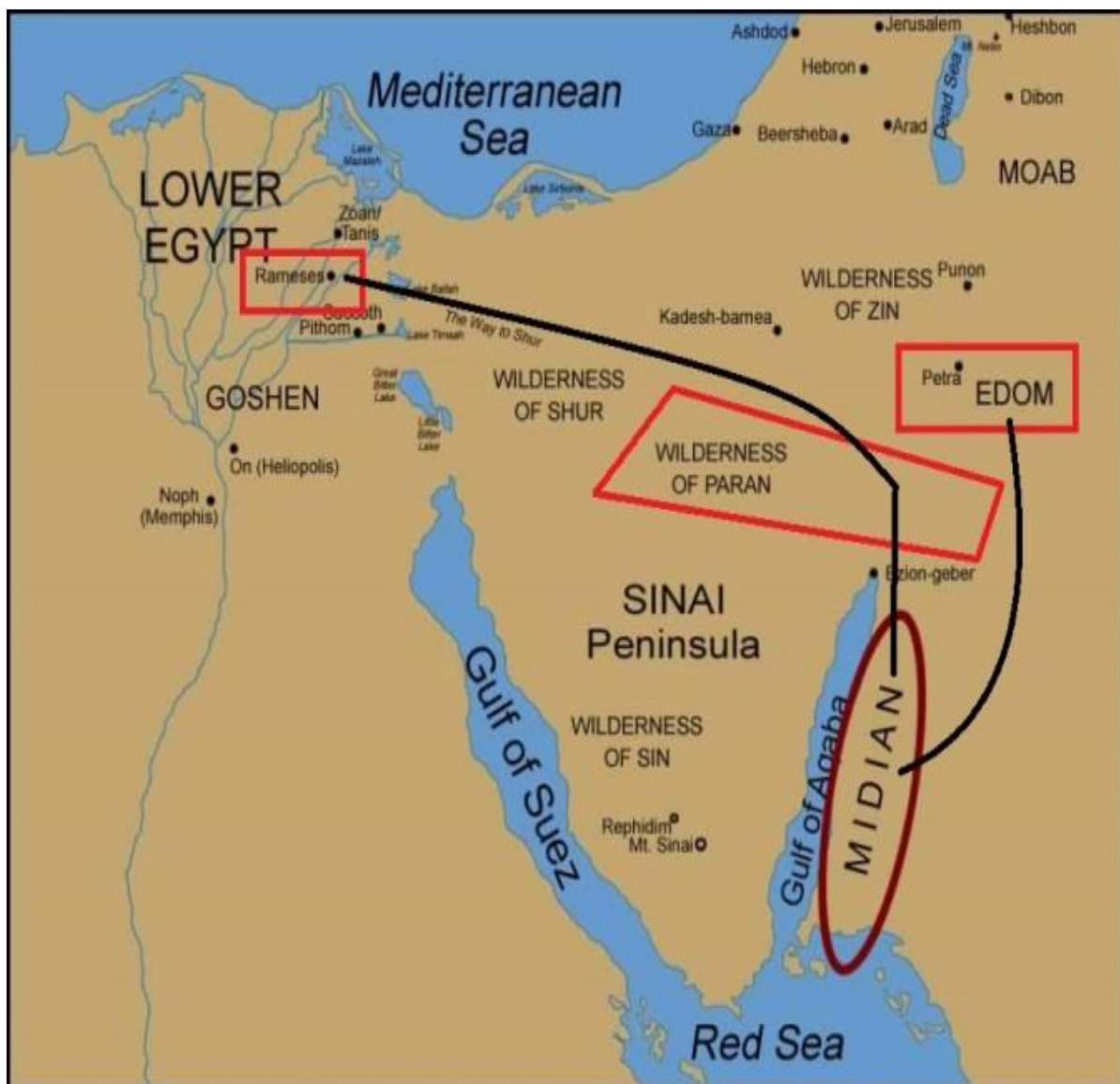
In this battle David killed 2/3 of the Moabites. Perhaps there was another battle after this one when the rest of the men of Edom were killed. Sometimes countries decide to quit paying tribute hoping they will the next battle, but in this case they lost to David once again and the rest of the Edomite men were killed in battle.

17 that Hadad fled to Egypt, he and certain Edomite's of his father's servants with him, while Hadad was a young boy.

While Joab was busy giving a burial to the fallen some Edomite's took the opportunity to carry Hadad into Egypt. We don't know how many got away.

18 They arose from Midian and came to Paran; and they took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him food and gave him land.

See Map 1130



¹⁹ Now Hadad found great favor before Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. ²⁰ The sister of Tahpenes bore his son Genubath, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house; and Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of Pharaoh.

This was not the Pharaoh that gave his daughter to Solomon. He had been succeeded by another king and the new king gave his wife's sister to Hadad and they had a son named Genubath.

But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Send me away, that I may go to my own country"

We don't know for sure how much time had passed in these 9 verses but Hadad was a young boy when he left and now he is the father of a young child. However, it is unlikely that it had been more than 10 to 15 years because the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time in 946 BC and Solomon will die in 930 BC.

See chart 1135

Ch.	Event	Kings	Year
	Solomon is born		990
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In verse 14 it said, **“Then the Lord raised up an adversary to Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was of the royal line in Edom”**. Then in verses 15 thru 22 we learned some facts about his background but the story ends without any telling us how he opposed Solomon. Was there a battle?

Verses 23-25

²³ God also raised up *another* adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah. ²⁴ He gathered men to himself and became leader of a marauding band, after David slew them of *Zobah*; and they went to Damascus and stayed there, and reigned in Damascus. ²⁵ So he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, along with the evil that Hadad *did*; and he abhorred Israel and reigned over Aram.

God also raised up *another* adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada who had fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah

God raising them up means he would aid them in their efforts against Solomon.

We have some background information on Hadadezer who was the lord of Rezon.

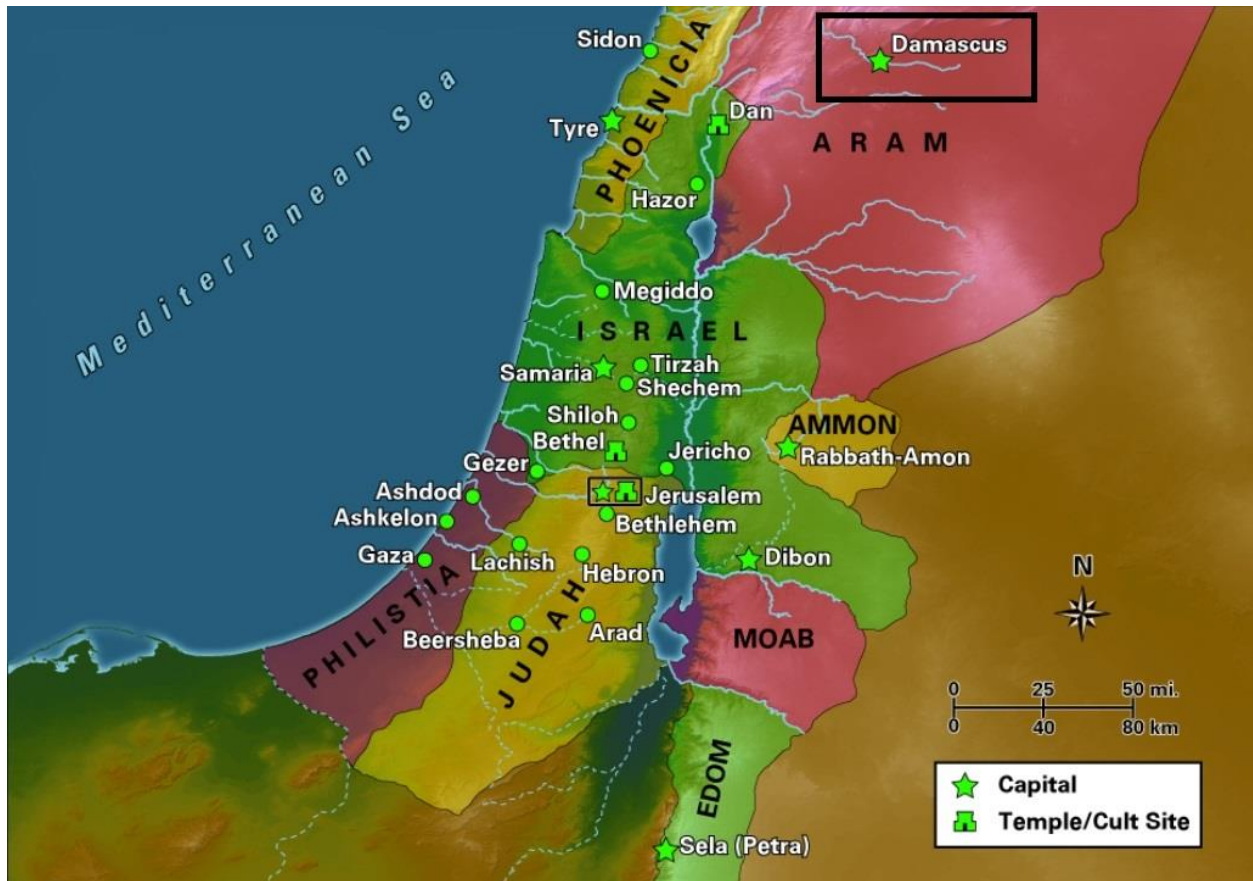
See 2 Sam 8:3 – 6

³ Then David defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the *Euphrates River*. ⁴ And David captured from him 1,700 horsemen and twenty thousand foot soldiers; and David hamstrung *almost* all the chariot horses, but left *enough* of them *for* a hundred chariots. ⁵ When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand men among the Arameans. ⁶ Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.

²⁴ He gathered men to himself and became leader of a marauding band, after David slew them of *Zobah*; and they went to Damascus and stayed there, and reigned in Damascus.

David had defeated the Arameans and took control of the western part of Syria but in time Rezon was able to gather a band of men that reigned in Damascus.

See Map 1140



²⁵ So he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, along with the evil that Hadad *did*; and he abhorred Israel and reigned over Aram.

God had risen up these adversaries because Solomon had “turned away from the Lord”, but here it says Rezon was an adversary all the days of Solomon. One must assume from this that he became a greater threat to Solomon later in Solomon’s reign when he had lost his way.

These two adversaries of Solomon were from foreign countries rather than from inside his own family as was the case with David.

In general the reign of Solomon was characterized by peace and prosperity but as we can see here things were beginning to fall apart because Solomon lost his way in the later years of his life.

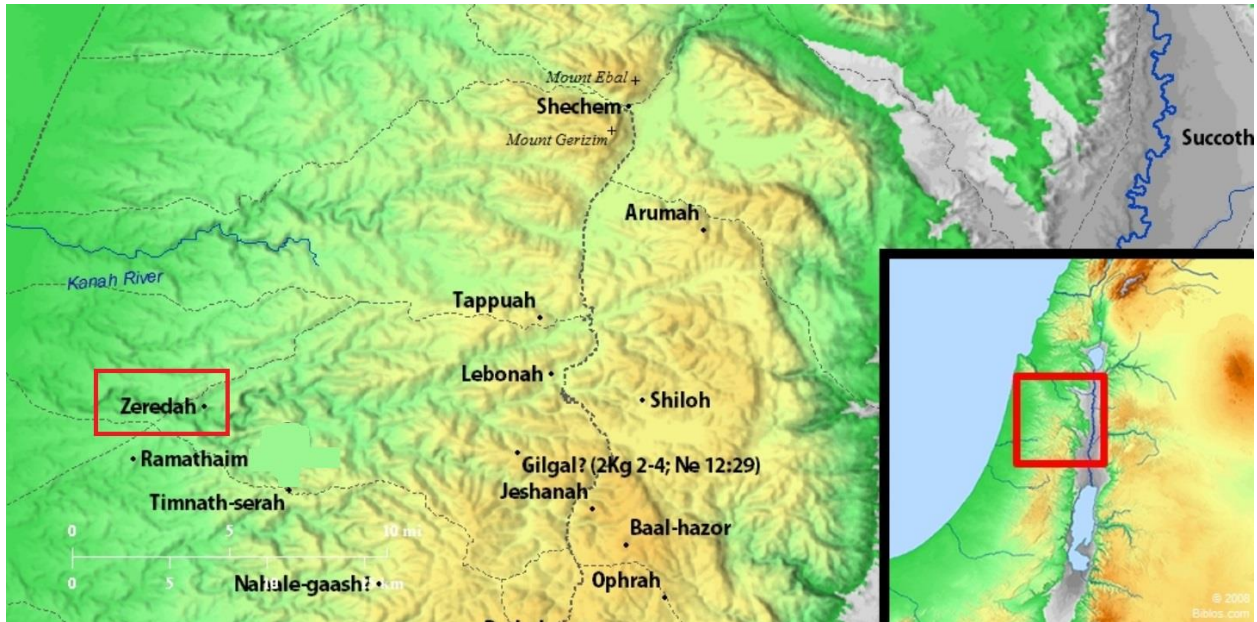
He had been given great wisdom but any gift can be taken away if one does not stay loyal to the one true God.

Verses 26-40

Then Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king.²⁷ Now this was the reason why he rebelled against the king: Solomon built the Millo, *and* closed up the breach of the city of his father David.²⁸ Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.²⁹ It came about at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had clothed himself with a new cloak; and both of them were alone in the field.³⁰ Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him and tore it into twelve pieces.³¹ 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 give you ten tribes'³² (but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel),³³ because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and *observing* My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David *did*.³⁴ Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments and My statutes;³⁵ but I will take the kingdom from his son's hand and give it to you, *even* ten tribes.³⁶ But to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name.³⁷ I will take you, and you shall reign over whatever you desire, and you shall be king over Israel.³⁸ Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.³⁹ Thus I will afflict the descendants of David for this, but not always.'"⁴⁰ Solomon sought therefore to put Jeroboam to death; but Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt to Shishak king of Egypt, and he was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Then Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king.

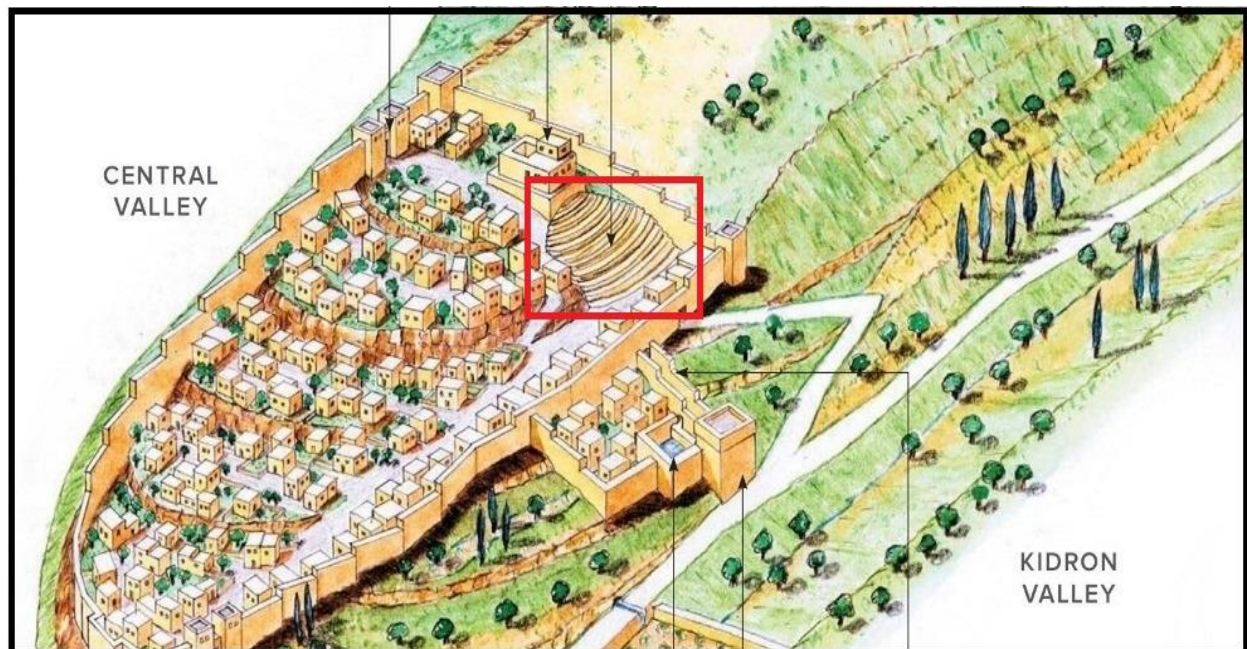
See maps 1145



²⁷ Now this was the reason why he rebelled against the king: Solomon built the Millo, *and* closed up the breach of the city of his father David.

The Millo was built by Solomon and repaired by Hezekiah but no explanation of what the Millo was has been passed down thru time. Some think the Millo is the Stepped Stone Structure uncovered by Kathleen Kenyon.

See pic 1150 The Millo



Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.

Ephraim was second only to Judah in power and Jeroboam stood out among those in his tribe. He was the kind of guy that a king wanted to manage the slaves.

³⁰ Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him and tore it into twelve pieces. ³¹ 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 give you ten tribes

This prophesy that Israel would be divided would take place very soon.

³⁶ But to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name.

The 10 Northern tribes would follow Jeroboam and Judah would follow Rehoboam.

³⁸ Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.

Jeroboam was given a great opportunity here but unfortunately he did not follow God.

⁴⁰ Solomon sought therefore to put Jeroboam to death; but Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt to Shishak king of Egypt, and he was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

As far as we know, this meeting between Ahijah and Jeroboam was a party of two so how did this news reach the king's ear? It seems likely that Jeroboam told some close to him about this event and it got reported to the king. Someone is always looking to help the sitting king hoping to be rewarded in some way.

Shishak is the first Pharaoh to be mentioned by name in the Bible.

Verses 41-43

Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? ⁴² Thus 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 his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

Unfortunately this text has never been found.

⁴³ And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

It is sad that someone as talented and wise as Solomon failed to obey God the most important command. His construction of pagan shrines and high places for his foreign wives had the effect of demoting The Lord God to a position that was equal to the pagan gods of other countries. Everyone sins but putting other gods on the same level as the one and only true God was Solomon's downfall.