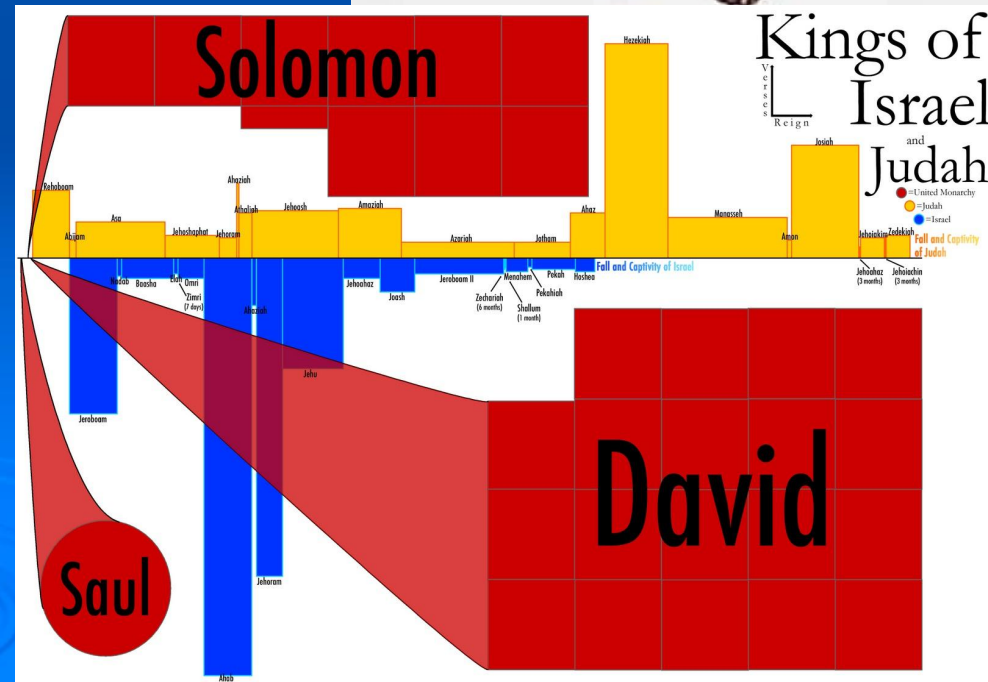


LEADERSHIP IS THE FOCUS



- Bible tends to deal with history changing events dispassionately
- 1st Kings 12 the secession of the 10 northern tribes from Israel
- Little mention of the people of the Land
- A nation's fate rests squarely on its leaders!





GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS MATTER LITTLE TO GOD

- It's the leadership, not the system, that is the issue
- Salvation is one-by-one
- Our earthly experience rests largely on national leaders
- A nation is little more than a group of individuals with a common bond and culture
- No escape from this reality



THE SPLIT OF ISRAEL WAS TRAUMATIC FOR THE PEOPLE



- The northern and southern tribes would have become depressed and fearful
- Some wanted separation, most did not
- The leadership had their own agendas of power and control
- God's providence was the supreme driving force then, and remains so now

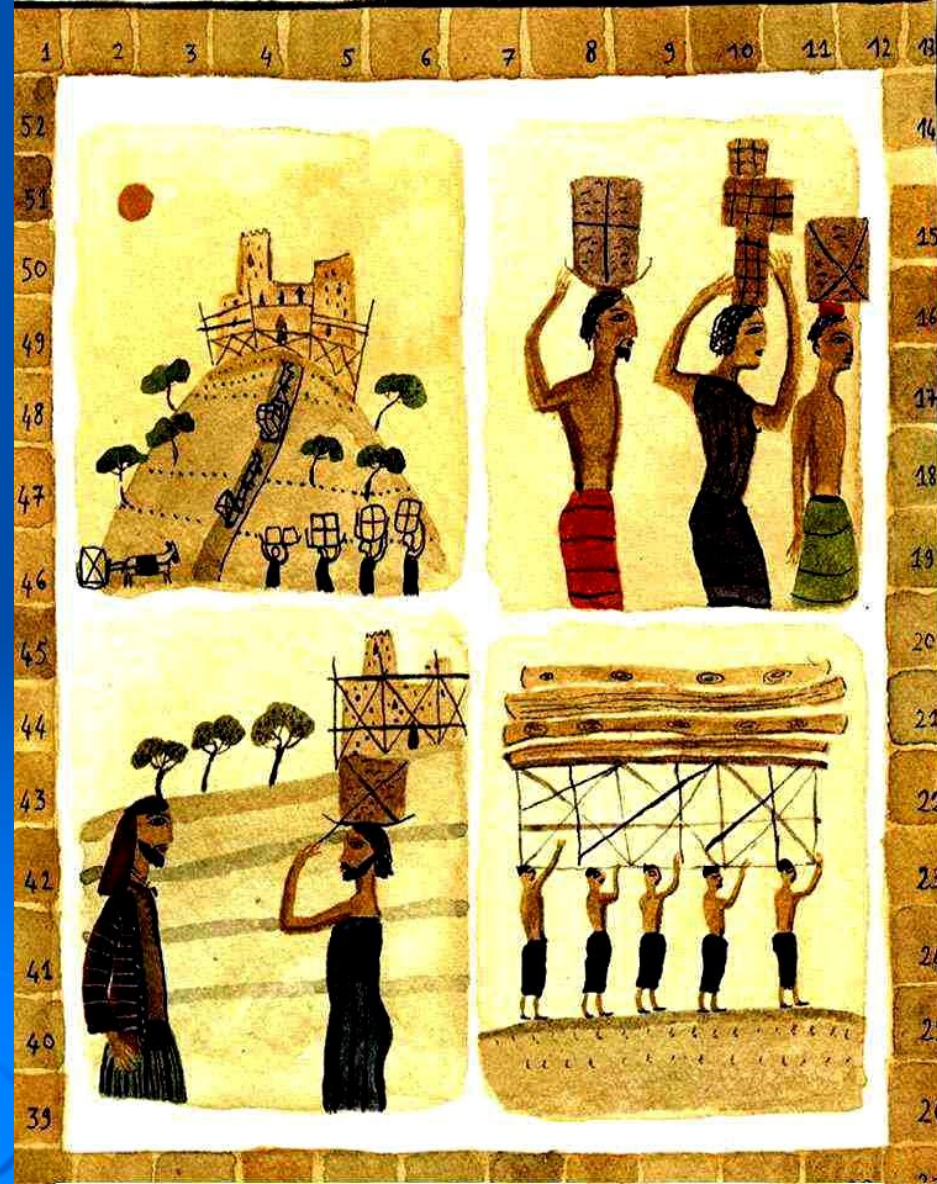
1st KINGS 12: CORONATION IN SHECHEM

- No controversy about Rehoboam becoming King
- Law required no anointing of son who succeeded father to the throne
- Tensions between North and South at a boiling point
- Going to Shechem showed great weakness



THE ISSUE OF FORCED LABOR

- *Yerov'am* and northern tribal leadership demands less taxes and less forced labor
- If *Rechov'am* gave in, he'd lose his honor
- King Shlomo never should have instituted forced labor
- Yet the north greatly benefited with wealth, peace, and security



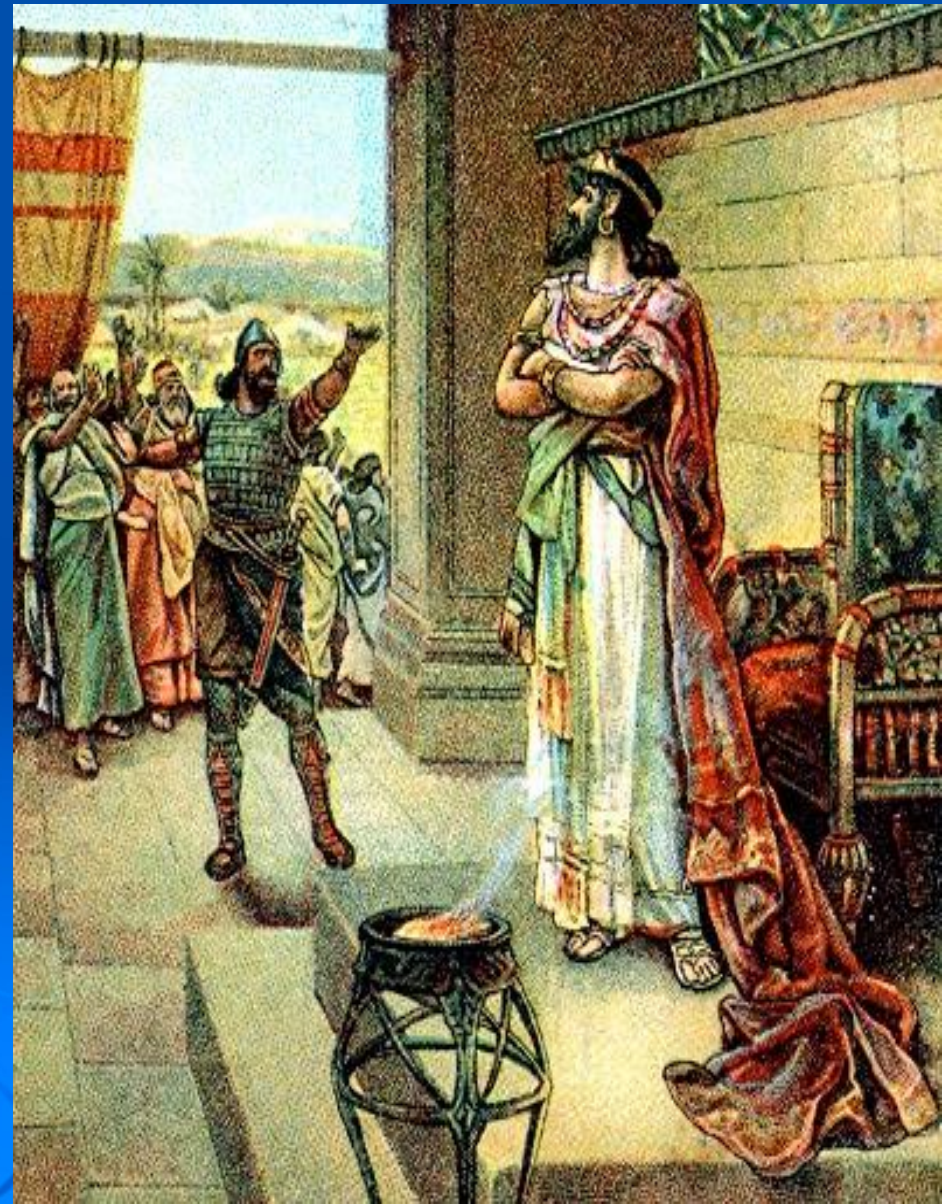
REHOBOAM'S YOUTHFUL FOLLY



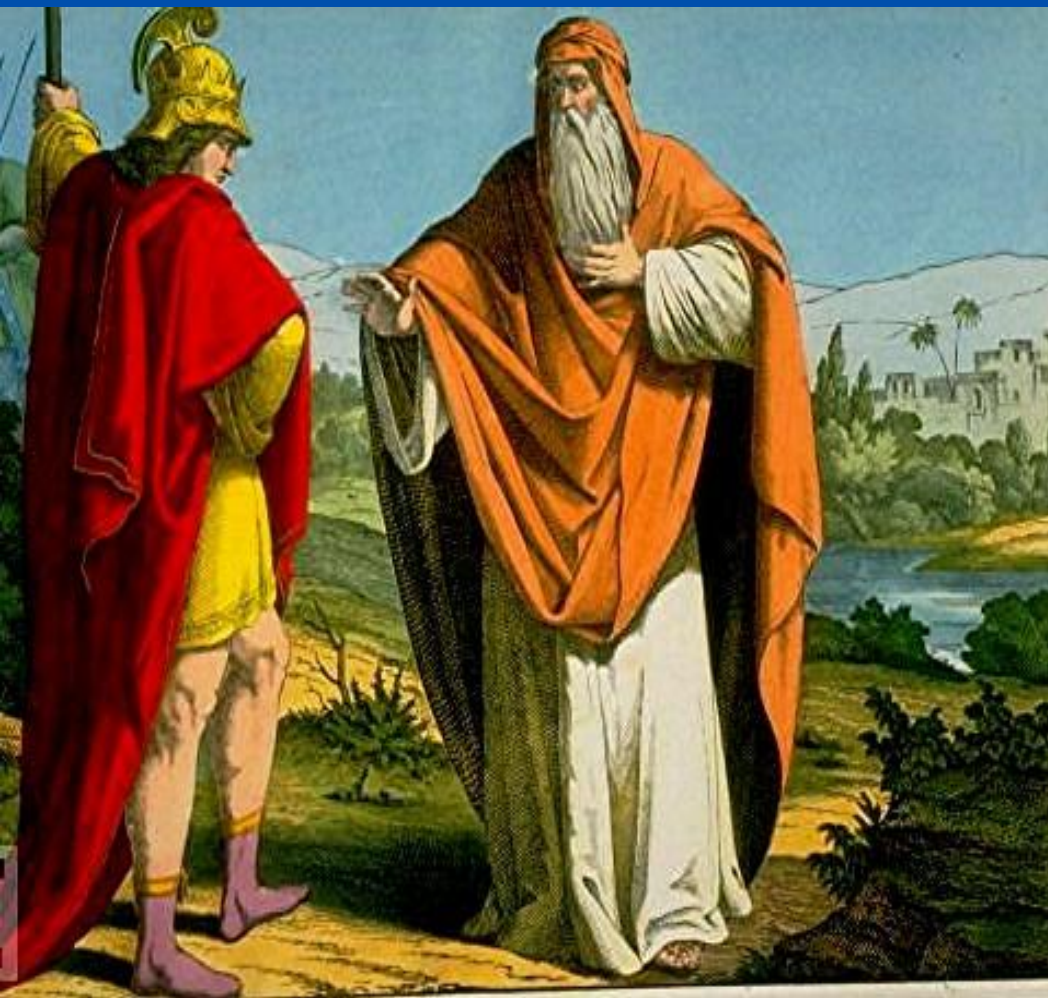
- Rechov'am seeks advice from his father's councilors and rejects it
- Next he seeks advice from his youthful friends
- They council a harsh reply to Jeroboam
- On the 3rd day Rehoboam gave Jeroboam his answer
- This was all God's providential planning

“We have no share in David!”

- Same words as said by Sheba in 2Sam. 20:1
- It's about 920 B.C. and Rehoboam has just lost his kingdom
- The term “Israel” here is referring to the northern 10 tribes
- **Adoram** was sent to try and undo the damage, but was killed for his efforts
- Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem



REHOBOAM WARNED NOT TO ATTACK THE NORTHERN KINGDOM



- Assembles an army of 180,000 warriors of Judah and Benjamin
- **Shemaiah** (hear and obey God) tells Rehoboam not to attack because this split is God's doing!
- Rehoboam obeys
- Up to now he did NOT know that God was behind this

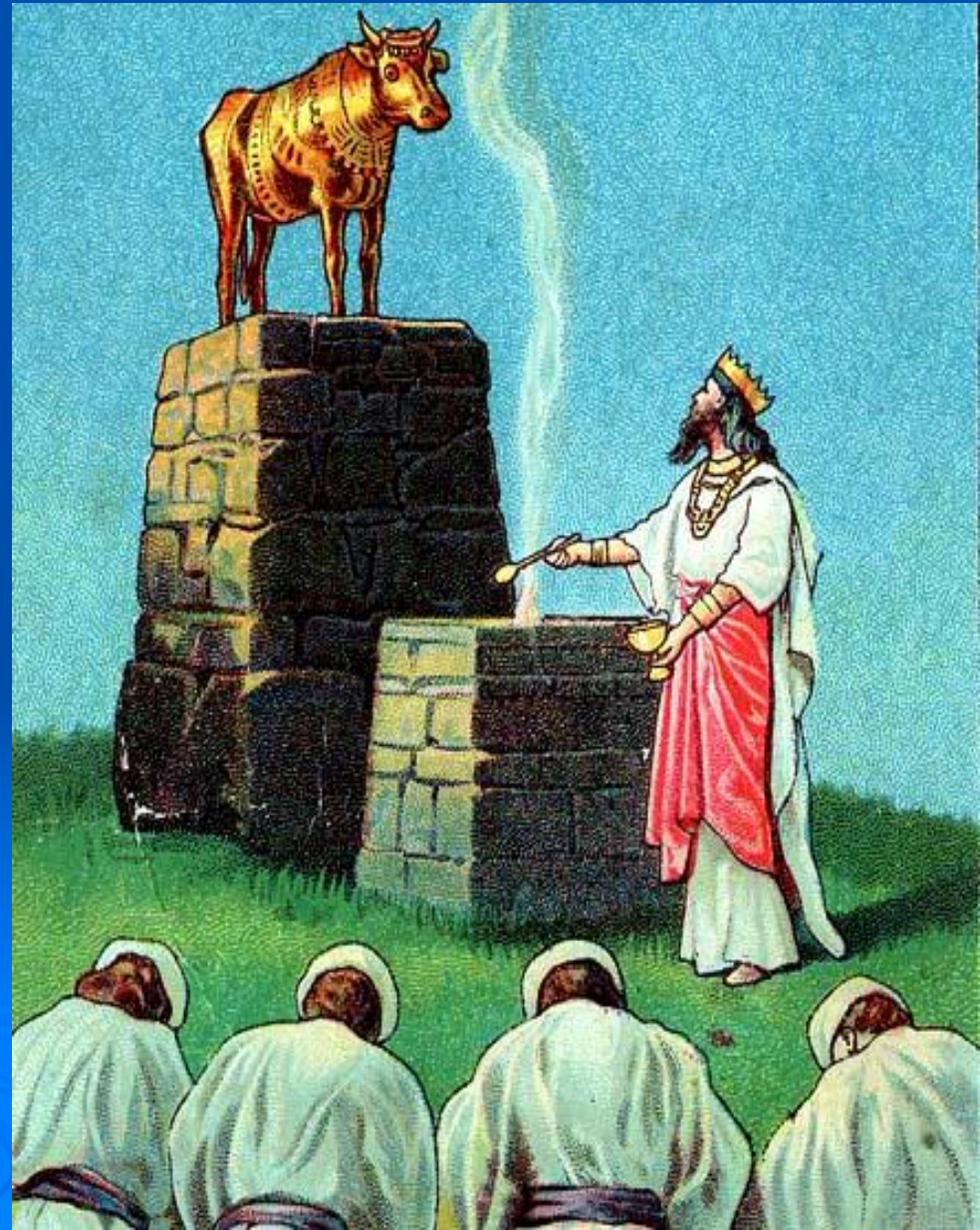
JEROBOAM PREPARES FOR WAR



- Builds up fortresses at Shechem and Penuel
- Jeroboam at first was probably a God-fearing man
- Rehoboam also thought there would be war
- 2Chron.11:4 – 10
- Northern tribal people still journeyed to Jerusalem to the Temple

“Here are your gods, O Israel!”

- Jeroboam’s solution was to create a new religious system
- Had 2 Golden Calves made and set one in Dan and the other in Beit-El for the convenience of the people
- He gave these gods credit for the Exodus from Egypt!
- His goal was to separate he and his people from their faith roots
- Created a new holiday on the 15th day of the 8th month



EARLY CHURCH BISHOPS FELL FOLLOWED JEROBOAM'S PATTERN



- Gentile Bishops sought to take control from the Jewish leadership
- Separation in all things was the solution
- Biblical Feasts and appointed times abolished and replaced with manmade observations
- Biblical symbols disposed of and new ones invented
- Matt. 5:17 - 19