

# SECOND CHRONICLES

## Chapter 10

### *The Revolt Against Rehoboam*

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. 2 And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. 3 And they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and said to Rehoboam, 4 “Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.” 5 He said to them, “Come to me again in three days.” So the people went away. 6 Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” 7 And they said to him, “If you will be good to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.” 8 But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him. 9 And he said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?’” 10 And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to the people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us’; thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. 11 And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’” 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.” 13 And the king answered them harshly; and forsaking the counsel of the old men, 14 King Rehoboam spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” 15 So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by God that the LORD might fulfill his word, which he spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. 16 And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Each of you to your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So all Israel went to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. 18 Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and the people of Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam quickly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

**10:1–36:23** The material covering the divided monarchy in Chronicles is considerably shorter than that in Kings: 27 chapters compared to 36 (1Ki 12–2Ki 25). Moreover, about half of this material is unique to Chronicles and shows no dependence on Kings. The most obvious reason for this is that the Chronicler has written a history of the Davidic dynasty in Judah; the history of the northern kingdom is passed over in silence except where it impinges on that of Judah. At least two considerations prompt this treatment of the divided kingdom: 1. The Chronicler is concerned to trace God’s faithfulness to his promise to give David an unbroken line of descent on the throne of Israel. 2. At the time of the Chronicler the restored community was confined to the returnees of the kingdom of Judah, who were actually the remnant of all Israel. (CSB)

**Chs 10–12** The Chronicler has minimal interest in the events of the Northern Kingdom and omits information focused on Jeroboam I of Israel (1Ki 12:25–14:20). The issue of fault in the rebellion is taken up more fully by the Chronicler in the unique material of 2Ch 13. The remaining chapters of 2Ch describe the kings of Judah, the Davidic successors of Solomon. Rulers of the Northern Kingdom receive mention only when relations with the schismatic tribes affect the kings in Jerusalem. (TLSB)

**10:1** *Rehoboam*. Reigned 930–913 B.C. (CSB)

*all Israel*. Worship in the temple by a united nation came to an end after Solomon's death. (TLSB)

**10:2** *Jeroboam*. His second mention in Chronicles (see 9:29). The Chronicler assumes the reader's familiarity with 1Ki 11:26–40. (CSB)

**10:4** *yoke*. The 10 northern tribes (Israel) objected particularly to Solomon's conscription of forced labor. See notes, 1Ki 5:13, 15; 11:26. Luth: "There is nothing they forget more rapidly than kindnesses. Solomon reigned wisely, in peace and with great wealth; but as soon as Solomon had died, they immediately began to complain about 'the yoke of Solomon' (2 Chron. 10:4), and there was no remembrance of his deeds of kindness. Regardless of what the state of the world has been, it has always seemed intolerable to the world.... When the Gospel began, everyone ran to it eagerly; but once the Gospel has prevailed, we are bored and forget the great blessings.... Therefore if anyone wants to serve the world with wisdom, justice, or any other good things, let him expect nothing from it except the worst. Thus David and Solomon, the best of kings, loved good men and hated evil men. But the people did not acknowledge their love and forgot all their kindnesses and good deeds" (AE 15:144–45). (TLSB)

**10:6** *King Rehoboam*. Though possibly not yet anointed king for all Israel, he would be the leader of his tribe, Judah, by default. (TLSB)

**10:15** *Ahijah*. The Chronicler assumes the reader's familiarity with 1Ki 11:29–33. (CSB)

**10:16** Foreshadows the battle of ch 13. Contrast with 2Sm 20:1; 1Ch 12:19. (TLSB)