### 1 Kings

## Chapter 11

1King Solomon was also very fond of women, so he took several foreigners as wives, such as the daughter of PharaOh, as well as some:  
  
 • MoAbites,  
 • AmMonites,  
 • Idumeans,  
 • Sidonians, and   
 • Hittites…  
  
2...which Jehovah had forbidden the sons of IsraEl to do!  
  
For He said:  
  
 ‘You must not [marry] them and they must not come to you, because they will turn your hearts to their idols.’  
  
However, Solomon [was a slave] to love... 3So before long, he’d taken 700 [wives] as well as 300 concubines!  
  
These foreign women changed his heart; 4they quickly turned his heart to bowing before other gods, and his heart was no longer perfect towards his God Jehovah, as was the heart of his father David.  
  
5For Solomon started serving Astarte, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Melchom, the disgusting thing of the AmMonites!  
  
6So Solomon started doing evil things before Jehovah, and he no longer followed he Lord, as did his father David.  
  
7Then Solomon built high places to Camus (the idol of MoAb) and to Melchom (the idol of the sons of AmMon) on the mountain across from JeruSalem. 8And there, all his foreign wives were burning incense and sacrificing to their idols!  
  
9Of course, this made Jehovah very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned from Jehovah the God of IsraEl, who had actually appeared before him twice, 10warning him not to serve other gods and to be careful to do everything that the Lord God had told him.  
  
11So, the Lord said to Solomon:  
  
 ‘Because you’ve done these things and you haven’t followed My Commandments or the instructions that I gave to you; I will take your kingdom from your hands and rip it in two, then I’ll give it to your servant.  
  
 12‘However, I won’t do this during your lifetime [out of respect for] David your father. Rather, I’ll take it from the hands of your son. 13I won’t take your whole kingdom; I’ll leave your son as chief over part of it because of My servant David and because of JeruSalem, the city that I’ve chosen.’  
  
  
14So, Jehovah sent an enemy against Solomon under Ader (who was from the offspring of the kingdom of the Idumeans). 15David had wiped out [many of] the Edomites, and when his General JoAb went to [their land] to bury his dead, he also cut down more of their men, 16because JoAb had stayed there for the next 6 months.  
  
Yet, although JoAb had destroyed all the men there, 17Ader (who was just a small boy then) got away, along with many of his father’s servants, and they headed to Egypt... 18Then, after the men of Media attacked Pharan, the [people there] also went with him as he was on his way to the PharaOh (the king of Egypt).  
  
19Well, when Ader went to PharaOh, he was given a house, food, and some land, because he was well-liked by PharaOh. He also gave him his sister-in-law as his woman (the older sister of [Queen] ThekeMina), 20and she gave birth to GaneBath, whom ThekeMina raised in her house as one of the sons of PharaOh.  
  
21But when word reached Ader in Egypt that David had gone to sleep with his ancestors and that JoAb (the commander of his army) had been killed, Ader said to PharaOh:  
  
 ‘Please allow me to return to my country.’  
  
22And PharaOh asked him:  
  
 ‘What have I failed to give you that you now wish to return to your country?’  
  
To which Ader replied:  
  
 ‘Not a single thing! But please send me away.’  
  
  
23Meanwhile, Jehovah had also raised another enemy against [Solomon]: Rezon (son of EliAdah), who had run away from his master HadadEzer, the king of ZoBah.  
  
24He then gathered an army and became the ruler of a confederation that captured Damascus, where he settled in and started ruling as king, 25and where he (as the ruler of the land of Edom) remained an enemy to IsraEl during all the days of Solomon.  
  
  
26Then one of Solomon’s servants, JeroBoam (son of NaBat the Ephrathite from SariRa), whose mother was a widow, 27rebelled against King Solomon. This happened after King Solomon had built the Akra (high fort) and after he’d completed the outer wall around the city of his father David.  
  
28Now, JeroBoam was a mighty man, and when Solomon noticed that this young man was someone who could get things done, he put him in charge of the tributes from the house of JoSeph.  
  
29But one day, as JeroBoam was coming from JeruSalem, he met the prophet AhiJah (the Selonite), who stopped along the road to talk to him.  
  
Well at the time, AhiJah was wearing a new cape and they were alone there in the plain. 30Then AhiJah took off the cape that he was wearing and tore it into 12 pieces.  
  
31And he said to JeroBoam:  
  
 ‘Take 10 of these pieces for yourself, because this is what Jehovah the God of IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’m ripping the kingdom from the hands of Solomon and giving 10 of its [tribes] to you!  
  
 32‘However, two of the [tribes] will remain his because of My servant David and on account of JeruSalem, the city that I’ve chosen from among all the tribes of IsraEl. 33[I’m doing this] because [Solomon] has abandoned Me and is now making offerings to Astarte, the disgusting thing of the Sidonians, to Camus, the idol of MoAb, and to Melchom, the loathsome thing of the sons of AmMon!  
  
 ‘He is no longer walking in My ways or doing the right things before Me as did his father David.  
  
 34‘I’m not going to remove the kingdom from him entirely, but I’ll oppose him throughout the rest of the days of his life... It was only because of My servant David that I chose him. 35But now, I’m going to take the kingdom from the hands of his son and give 10 of the [tribes] to you!  
  
 36‘I will still give his son two [tribes], so that a descendant of My servant David will always stand before Me in JeruSalem, the city where I’ve chosen to put My Name.  
  
 37‘Now, you may take and rule over whatever your soul desires, for you’ll be the king over IsraEl!  
  
 38‘And if you’ll watch over all that I’m putting you in charge of, if you’ll walk in My ways and always do the right things before Me, and if you’ll follow My orders and Commandments (as did My servant David)... Then I will build you a house that’s as sure as the one that I built for David!  
  
 39‘I’m giving you IsraEl, and I will mistreat the offspring of David because of these things [that Solomon is doing]!  
  
 ‘However, I won’t keep on doing this throughout the ages.’  
  
40Well after that, Solomon started looking for ways to kill JeroBoam… But [JeroBoam] got up and ran away to Egypt (to SusAkim, the king of Egypt), and he stayed there until Solomon died.  
  
  
41{Look!} The rest of the words of Solomon – all the many things [that he said] and did in his wisdom – have been written about in the scrolls of the sayings of Solomon.  
  
42So, Solomon reigned over all IsraEl from JeruSalem for 40 years, 43and then he went to sleep with his ancestors and they buried him in a tomb in the city of David his father.  
  
44And thereafter, his son RehoBoam started reigning in his place.