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2CHRONICLES 10: 1 Rehoboam went to Shechem; for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

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The people apply to Rehoboam to ease them of their burdens, 2Chr 10:1-4. Rejecting the advice of the aged counsellors, and following that of the young men, he gives them an ungracious answer, 2Chr 10:5-14. The people are discouraged, and ten tribes revolt, 2Chr 10:15-17. They stone Hadoram, who went to collect the tribute; and Rehoboam but barely escapes, 2Chr 10:18, 2Chr 10:19.

Verse 1

Rehoboam went to Shechem - This chapter is almost word for word the same as 1 Kings 12:1-19, to the notes on which the reader is referred.

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2CHRONICLES 10: 2 When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it, (for he was in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of king Solomon), Jeroboam returned out of Egypt.

2CHRONICLES 10: 3 They sent and called him; and Jeroboam and all Israel came, and they spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

2CHRONICLES 10: 4 "Your father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make you the grievous service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, lighter, and we will serve you."

2CHRONICLES 10: 5 He said to them, "Come again to me after three days."

The people departed.

2CHRONICLES 10: 6 King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, "What counsel do you give me to return answer to this people?"

2CHRONICLES 10: 7 They spoke to him, saying, "If you are kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

2CHRONICLES 10: 8 But he abandoned the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

2CHRONICLES 10: 9 He said to them, "What counsel do you give, that we may return answer to this people, who have spoken to me, saying, 'Make the yoke that your father put on us lighter?'"

2CHRONICLES 10: 10 The young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall tell the people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but make it lighter on us;' thus you shall say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.

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Verse 10

My little finger shall be thicker - "My weakness shall be stronger than the might of my father." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 10: 11 Now whereas my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”

2CHRONICLES 10: 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king asked, saying, “Come to me again the third day.”

2CHRONICLES 10: 13 The king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam abandoned the counsel of the old men,

2CHRONICLES 10: 14 and spoke to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”

2CHRONICLES 10: 15 So the king didn’t listen to the people; for it was brought about of God, that the LORD might establish his word, which he spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

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Verse 15

For the cause was of God - "For there was an occasion Divinely given." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 10: 16 When all Israel saw that the king didn’t listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, “What portion have we in David? Neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse! Every man to your tents, Israel! Now see to your own house, David.” So all Israel departed to their tents.

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Verse 16

To your tents, O Israel - "To your cities, O Israel." - Targum.

Now, David, see to thine own house - "Now, David, rule over the men of thy own house." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 10: 17 But as for the children of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

2CHRONICLES 10: 18 Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was over the men subject to forced labour; and the children of Israel stoned him to death with stones. King Rehoboam made speed to get himself up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

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Verse 18

Stoned him - When he endeavored to collect the tribute which Solomon had imposed on them. - Jarchi.

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2CHRONICLES 10: 19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David to this day.

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Verse 19

Israel rebelled - A few soft words, and the removal of a part of the oppressive taxes, (for they said, Ease thou Somewhat the grievous servitude), would have secured this people to the state, and prevented the shedding of a sea of human blood, which was the consequence of the separation of this kingdom. Rehoboam was a fool; and through his folly he lost his kingdom. He is not the only example on record: the Stuarts lost the realm of England much in the same way; and, by a different mode of treatment, the House of Brunswick continues to fill the British throne. May the thread of its fortune, woven by the hand of God, never be undone! and may the current of its power glide on to the latest posterity!

Talia secla, suis dixerunt, currite, fuis

Concordes stabili fatorum numine Parcae.

Virg. Ecl. iv., ver. 46. "God's firm decree, by which this web was spun,

Shall ever bless the clue, and bid it smoothly run."

Labitur, et labetur in omne volubilis Aevum.

Horat. Epist., l. i., c. 2, v. 43. "Still glides the river, and shall ever glide."

Amen! Amen!