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2CHRONICLES 12: 1 When the kingdom of Rehoboam was established, and he was strong, he abandoned the LORD's law, and all Israel with him.

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Rehoboam and his subjects, forsaking the Lord, are delivered into the hands of Shishak, king of Egypt, 2Chr 12:1-4. Shemaiah the prophet remonstrates with them, and they humble themselves, and Jerusalem is not destroyed; but Shishak takes away all the treasures, and the golden shields, instead of which Rehoboam makes shields of brass, 2Chr 12:5-12. He reigns badly seventeen years, dies, and is succeeded by his son Abijah, 2Chr 12:13-16.

Verse 1

He forsook the law of the Lord - This was after the three years mentioned 2Chr 11:17.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 2 In the fifth year of king Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had trespassed against the LORD,

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Verse 2

Shishak king of Egypt - Concerning this man, and the motive which led him to attack the Jews, see the note on 1Kgs 14:31.

Transgressed against the Lord - "Against the Word of the Lord." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 3 with twelve hundred chariots, and sixty thousand horsemen. The people were without number who came with him out of Egypt: the Lubim, the Sukkiim, and the Ethiopians.

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Verse 3

The Lubims - Supposed to be a people of Libya, adjoining to Egypt; sometimes called Phut in Scripture, as the people are called Lehabim and Ludim.

The Sukkiims - The Troglodytes, a people of Egypt on the coast of the Red Sea. They were called Troglodytes, Τρωγλοδυται, οἱ τὰς τρωγλας οἰκουντες, "because they dwelt in caves." - Hesych. This agrees with what Pliny says of them, Troglodytae specus excavant, haec illis domus; "The Troglodytes dig themselves caves; and these serve them for houses." This is not very different from the import of the original name סֻכְיִים Sukkiyim, from סָכַח sachah, to cover or overspread; (hence סֻכָּ such, a tabernacle); the people who were covered (emphatically) under the earth. The Septuagint translate by the word Τρωγλοδυται, Troglodytes.

The Ethiopians - כּוּשִׁים Cushim. Various people were called by this name, particularly a people bordering on the northern coast of the Red Sea; but these are supposed to have come from a country of that name on the south of Egypt.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 4 He took the fortified cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.

2CHRONICLES 12: 5 Now Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, who were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, 'You have forsaken me, therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.'"

2CHRONICLES 12: 6 Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, "The LORD is righteous."

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Verse 6

Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves - This is not mentioned in the parallel place, 1Kgs 14:25-29 : this was the sole reason why Jerusalem was not at this time totally destroyed, and the house of David entirely cut off; for they were totally incapable of defending themselves against this innumerable host.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 7 When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the LORD's word came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves. I will not destroy them; but I will grant them some deliverance, and my wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

2CHRONICLES 12: 8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants, that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries."

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Verse 8

They shall be his servants - They shall be preserved, and serve their enemies, that they may see the difference between the service of God and that of man. While they were pious, they found the service of the Lord to be perfect freedom; when they forsook the Lord, they found the fruit to be perfect bondage. A sinful life is both expensive and painful.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the LORD's house, and the treasures of the king's house. He took it all away. He also took away the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

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Verse 9

Took away the treasures - Such a booty as never had before, nor has since, come into the hand of man.

The shields of gold - These shields were the mark of the king's body-guard: it was in imitation of this Eastern magnificence that Alexander constituted his Argyraspides, adorned with the spoils taken from Darius. See Quintus Curtius, lib. viii., c. 5, et alibi.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 10 King Rehoboam made in their place shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house.

2CHRONICLES 12: 11 It was so, that as often as the king entered into the LORD's house, the guard came and bore them, and brought them back into the guard room.

2CHRONICLES 12: 12 When he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, so as not to destroy him altogether: and moreover in Judah there were good things found.

2CHRONICLES 12: 13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there: and his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess.

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Verse 13

Was one and forty years old - Houbigant thinks he was but sixteen years old when he began to reign; and brings many and forcible arguments to prove that the number forty-one must be a mistake. That he was young when he came to the throne, is evident from his consulting the young men that were brought up with him, 2Chr 10:8, 2Chr 10:10. They were young men then; and if he was brought up with them, he must have been young then also. Besides, Abijah, in his speech to Jeroboam, 2Chr 13:7, says that at the time Rehoboam came to the throne he was tender-hearted, and therefore could not withstand the children of Belial raised up against him by Jeroboam: but surely at that time no man could be reputed young and tender-hearted - quite devoid of experience, who was above forty years of age. Besides, if this reading were allowed, it would prove that he was born before his father Solomon began to reign, for Solomon reigned only forty years, and Rehoboam immediately succeeded him.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 14 He did that which was evil, because he didn't set his heart to seek the LORD.

2CHRONICLES 12: 15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, aren't they written in the histories of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, after the way of genealogies? There were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

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Verse 15

Concerning genealogies - "In the book of the genealogy of the family of David." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 12: 16 Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his place.

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Verse 16

Abijah his son - Concerning the many varieties in this king's name, see the note on 1Kgs 14:31.