

**CLASS:** SS2

**SUBJECT:** CRS

**TOPIC:** THE UNWISE DECISION OF SOLOMON AND REHOBOAM

**WEEK:** 10

**TERM:** FIRST

### THE UNWISE DECISION OF SOLOMON

Due to the relative peace that reigned during the time of Solomon, he lived a luxury:

1. He engaged in so many expensive projects that require a lot of human and material resources.
2. He raised forced labour and the citizens were heavily taxed to finance this project.
3. He was loose with women, as he married seven hundred wives and had three hundred concubines and also built temples for the wives' gods.
4. He worshipped foreign gods like **Ashtoreth**, the goddess of the **Sidonians**, **Milcom** and **Molech** of the **Ammonites** and **Chemosh** of **Moab**.
5. Solomon's financial predicament drove him to give 20 Israelite cities to Hiram of Tyre (1 Kings 9:11). He either sold them outrightly or advanced them as mortgage against a cash loan and was never redeemed. Selling or mortgaging the cities was a violation of the covenant law which forbade the giving out of landed property since it belonged to God.

This act made God angry and it led to the fall of Solomon and the break of Israel as a nation into parts.

### LESSON TO LEARN

1. God would always punish anyone who disobeys him no matter his position.
2. When we are in position of leadership it is advisable to listen to the voice of those we are leading and consider their social wellbeing any time we want to impose any tax.

3. Solomon was at various times warned to desist from his wrong during and return to lord, but he refused. We should learn to obey voice of God in all our undertaking as that in may succeed and prosper.
4. Owing to his wisdom and wealth, Solomon felt and proud, this contributed to his down f

### **REHOBAM'S UNWISE DECISION**

When Solomon died, Rehoboam was made king. Jeroboam, having heard that Solomon was dead, returned from Egypt where he had gone on self-exile. Jeroboam joined the assembly of Israelites and they went to Rehoboam and made a request thus;

*“your father made our yoke heavy now, therefore light the hard services of Your father and his heavy yoked upon us and we will serve you” (1kg 12:4-5)*

Rehoboam replied them that they should back after three days. Within these days, he sought counsel from his father's advisers. They advised him that he should listen to the people request. However, he turned down this advice and took the advice of his age group, who advise him to increase the people's burden. When the assembly returned, Rehoboam spoke to them according to the advice of the Young men. When the people of Israel saw that the king did not listen to their request, they answered the king saying:

*“what portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.”*

This statement by the Israelites saw the formation of the Northern kingdom which is called Israel. Jeroboam was made the king while Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in the Southern kingdom that is called Judah.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

List the two tribes lead by Rehoboam and the ten tribe led by Jeroboam.