

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

A Kingdom Torn in Two 1 Kings 12-16



Request and Rehoboam's Response

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all the Israelites had gone there to make him king. When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt. So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labour and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."



Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away. Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked. They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favourable answer, they will always be your servants." But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.



He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?" The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'—tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"



Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days." The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, he followed the advice of the young men...



Shechem

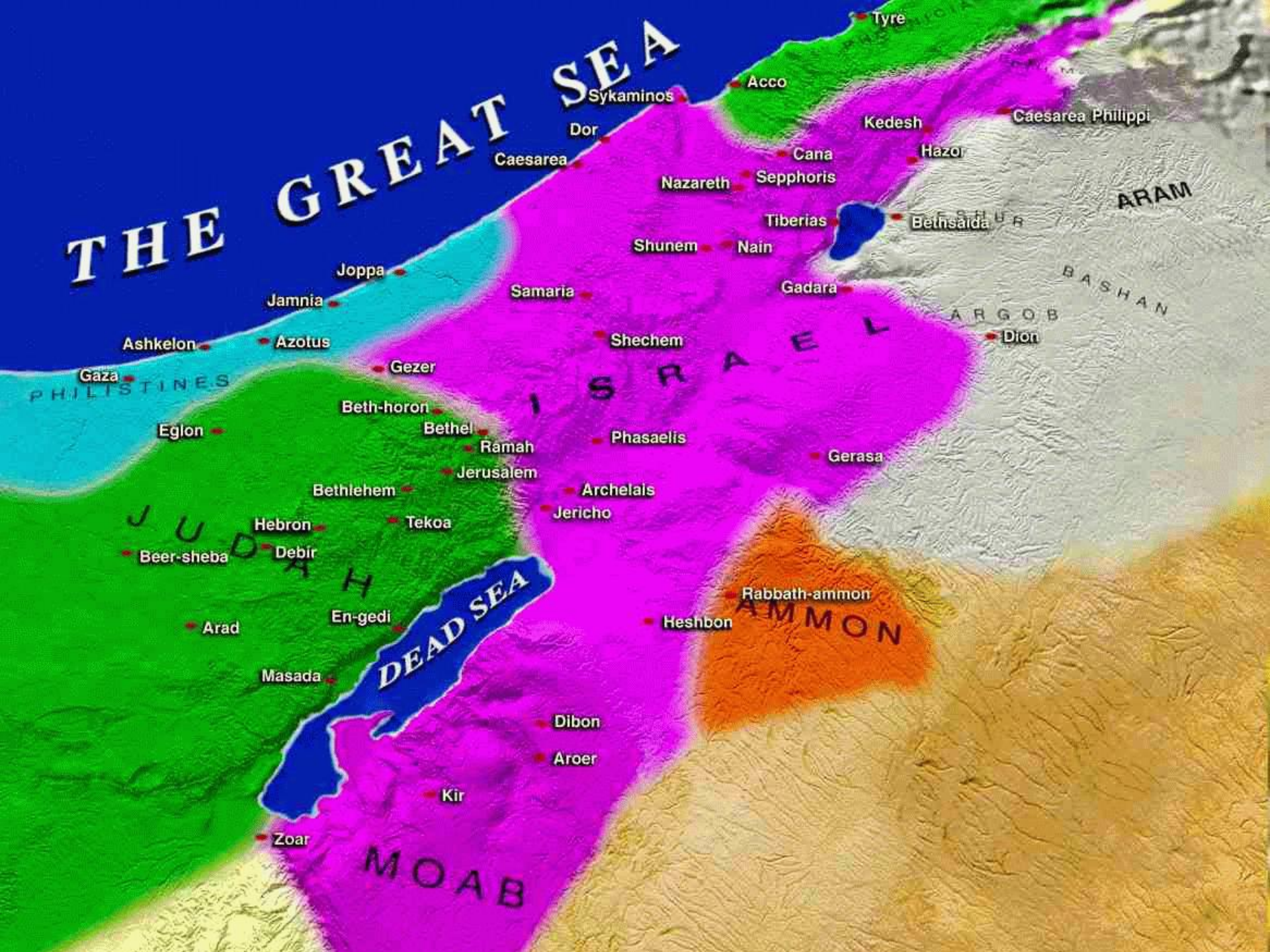
- Yahweh (LORD God) promised to give Abraham Canaan (Gen 12:6-7)
- Jacob settled there (Gen 33:18-20)
- Joseph buried there (Josh 24:32)
- Israelites commit to following the Lord (Josh 24:15-25)



Result – Kingdom Divided Northern (Israel), Southern (Judah)

Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah. (1 Ki 12:16-17)





THE GREAT SEA

PHILISTINES

Ashkelon

Azotus

Joppa

Jamnia

Caesarea

Dor

Sykaminos

Acco

Kedesh

Caesarea Philippi

Hazor

Cana

Sepphoris

Nazareth

Bethsaida

Tiberias

Shunem

Nain

Gadara

Samaria

Shechem

ARGOB

Dion

Phasaelis

Gerasa

Beth-horon

Bethel

Ramah

Jerusalem

Archelais

Jericho

Bethlehem

Tekoa

Hebron

Debir

Beer-sheba

Rabbath-ammon

Heshbon

En-gedi

Arad

Masada

Zoar

Kir

Dibon

Aroer

MOAB

ARAM

BASHAN

AMMON

JUDAH

ISRAEL

Jeroboam's Worry

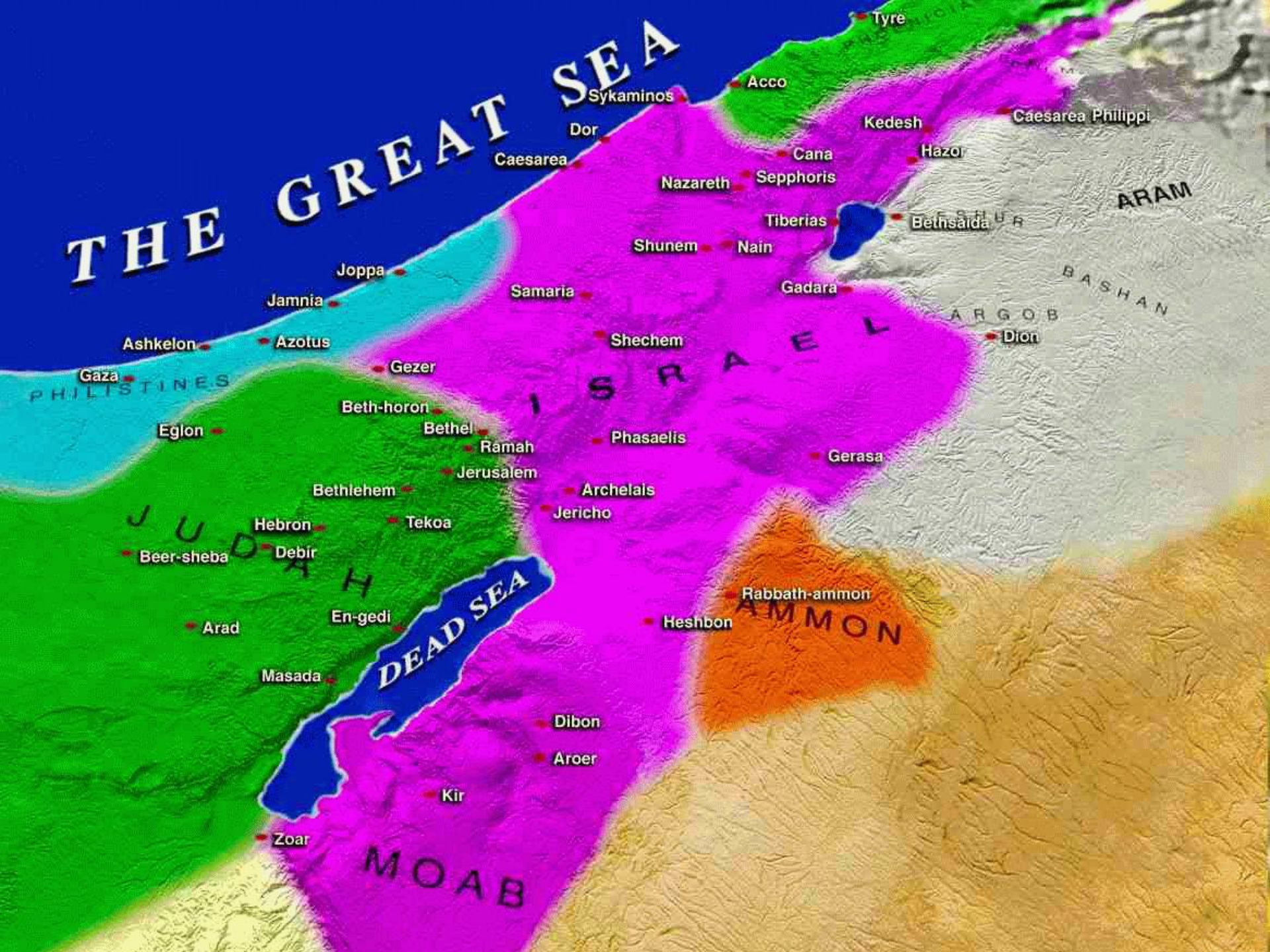
And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: "If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah." (1 Ki 12:26,27 NKJV)



Jeroboam's Solution

- Makes two calves of gold
 - Sets one up in Bethel, one in Dan
- Made shrines on the high places
- Made priests of all classes of people
- Came up with his own feast day
- Offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense





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Bethsaida

Shunem

Nain

Samaria

Gadara

BASHAN

ARGOB

Shechem

Dion

Phasaelis

Gerasa

Beth-horon

Bethel

Ramah

Jerusalem

Archelais

Jericho

Bethlehem

Tekoa

Hebron

Debir

Beer-sheba

Arad

En-gedi

Masada

Rabbath-ammon

Heshbon

AMMON

Dibon

Aroer

Kir

Zoar

MOAB

DEAD SEA

JUDAH

ISRAEL

God Reveals Himself

- Solomon – twice (1 Ki 5, 1 Ki 9)
- Rehoboam - Shemaiah the man of God stops plans for civil war (1 Ki 12:21-24)
- Jeroboam – Ahijah tells him God will give him 10 tribes (1 Ki 11:29-32)
 - Man of God cries out against the altar and heals his hand (1 Ki 13:1-6)
- Jeroboam's wife – sees through her disguise (1 Ki 14:10-16)



Root Cause Analysis – not Following God

- Solomon turns his back on the LORD
- caters to the so-called gods of his wives
- did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done (1 Ki 11:4-6, 9-10)

- Jeroboam turns his back on God
- “...you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart...”
- did more evil than all who were before him (1 Ki 14:7-9)



Secret to Success

- a heart fully devoted to the Lord
- servant's attitude



Our High Priest

- heir of all things, God made the universe through Him
- radiance of God's glory, exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word
- at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven

- not like the earthly priests
- serves in the true tabernacle set up by the Lord

- the way, the truth, the life
- the real thing!



Most Important Commandment

“The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ Mark 12: 29-30 (ESV)

God comes first
Everything else comes second



Stand Firm, Stand United

“Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.”
Luke 11: 17 (NIV)

second commandment?

Love each other, be a community
Support, strengthen, encourage



Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.



Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. (NKJV)



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