

----- Rehoboam 17 years -----

3029b AM, 3739 JP, 975 BC

476. Toward the end of his life, Solomon forsook the lusts and vanities to which he was addicted in his latter years. He testified of his deep repentance in his book called The Preacher (Ecclesiastes) and made his peace with God. {#2Ch 11:17} Solomon died when he had reigned forty years. {#1Ki 11:42 2Ch 9:30} [L59]

477. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, was made king by all Israel in Shechem. By his harsh approach to his rule, he alienated the hearts of the ten tribes. (Solomon died before the Jewish New Year otherwise he would have been said to have reigned forty-one years. Rehoboam would have reigned for sixteen not seventeen years unless he was anointed king on or before that Jewish New Year.) These tribes sent to Egypt for Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, to be their king. Under his leadership they rebelled against the house of David. They killed Adoram, whom Rehoboam had sent to them, and abandoned the true worship of God. {#1Ki 12:1-33} In memory of this sad disaster, the Jews kept a solemn yearly fast on the twenty-third of the third month, called Sivan. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 4. s. 3. note (a) in Whiston's translation}

478. After this sad division of the kingdom, Rehoboam reigned over Judah and Benjamin for seventeen years, {#1Ki 14:21 2Ch 12:1,2} and Jeroboam over Israel, that is, over the other ten tribes, for twenty-two years. {#1Ki 14:20}

479. Rehoboam returned to Jerusalem and conscripted one hundred men and eighty thousand to fight against the ten tribes. Through the prophet Shemaiah, he was instructed by God to abandon this plan. {#1Ki 12:1-33} There was continual wars between the kings for the rest of their days. {#1Ki 14:30}

3030b AM, 3740 JP, 974 BC, 1 SK, 1 NK

483. SK-The priests, Levites and other Israelites who feared God, did not follow Jeroboam, but worshipped with Rehoboam in Jerusalem, which helped maintain the kingdom of Judah for three years. This was the time they walked in the ways of David and Solomon. {#2Ch 11:17}

3032d AM, 3742 JP, 972 BC, 3 SK, 3 NK

485. SK-Rehoboam was now settled in his kingdom and forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel and Judah with him. {#2Ch 12:1} The Jews of Judah, who should have stirred up their Israelite brothers to repentance, provoked

the Lord with their own sins. They behaved worse than their forefathers. They established high places, images and groves for themselves on every high hill and under every tree. [L61] They did all the wicked things the heathen did in their barbarous worship, including those nations whom God had cast out before them. {#1Ki 14:22-24} [E42]

3033c AM, 3743 JP, 971 BC, 5 SK, 5 NK

486. SK-In Rehoboam's fifth year, Shishak king of Egypt, invited perhaps by Jeroboam, (who had formerly lived with him, {See note on 3026 AM. <<475>>}) led out an army of a hundred and twenty chariots, sixty thousand horses and innumerable footmen from Egypt. The men were from the Lubims, Sukkiims and Cushites who entered the land of Judah. They had already captured all its other fortified cities when they finally came to Jerusalem. The king and his princes were brought to repentance by the preaching of Shemaiah, the prophet. The king received a gracious promise of their deliverance, but at a high cost. They were to give to the Egyptians all the treasure of the temple and of the king's house. Rehoboam replaced with brass all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. {#1Ki 14:26,27 2Ch 12:2-12}

3046 AM, 3756 JP, 958 BC, 1 SK, 18 NK

487. SK-Abijah, the son of Rehoboam, succeeded his father, who died in the beginning of the eighteenth year of Jeroboam's reign. He reigned three years. {#1Ki 15:1,2 2Ch 13:1,2} [L62]