

----- Jeroboam 22 years -----

3026c AM, 3736 JP, 978 BC

475. Shishak, also called Sefonchis (according to Egyptian Chronology), began to reign in Egypt. Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, fled to him and continued with him until after Solomon died. {#1Ki 11:40 12:2}

3029b AM, 3739 JP, 975 BC

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}

480. In the beginning of his reign, Jeroboam fortified Shechem where he was chosen king by the people. This place had been destroyed by King Abimelech, two hundred and fifty-eight years earlier. {#Jud 9:45} Jeroboam lived there until he went over the Jordan and built Penuel. {#1Ki 12:25} Finally, he built Tirzah and made that city the capital of his kingdom. {#1Ki 14:17} He feared that his new subjects would revolt against him if they continued to worship at Jerusalem, so he devised a new religion. He set up two golden calves for the people to worship, the one at Bethel and the other at Dan. {#1Ki 12:25-31}

3030a AM, 3739 JP, 975 BC, 1 SK, 1 NK

481. NK-On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, (Monday, December 6th) Jeroboam held a feast of his own creation similar to the feast of tabernacles among the Jews. On an idolatrous altar which he had built at Bethel, he offered sacrifices to his calf. {#1Ki 12:32,33} [E41] At that time, God sent an unnamed prophet from Judah who foretold what judgment God, through Josiah, would execute on this altar and the priests that served it. This prophecy was confirmed by signs which appeared on the altar and on the very body of the king himself. {#1Ki 13:1-34 2Ki 23:15-20} From the beginning of this idolatrous worship and public demonstration of God's judgment in that place, we are to reckon the three hundred and ninety years of the iniquity of Israel, as spoken of by Ezekiel. {#Eze 4:5} {See note on 3416d AM. <<851>>} [L60]

482. This prophet was deceived by another prophet of Bethel, who lied about a message from God. Contrary to the express commandment of God, the former ate food at Bethel. Therefore, on his return home, he was intercepted and killed by a lion. When news of this reached the prophet who had deceived him, he fetched the body and gave it an honourable burial. He assured his sons that what had been foretold by this other prophet would undoubtedly come to pass. {#1Ki 13:1-34 2Ki 23:17,18}

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}

484. NK-Jeroboam continued in his revolt and excluded the priests, who were of the lineage of Aaron, and the Levites, from his worship. He appointed priests for the high places from among men of the common people. {#1Ki 13:33,34 2Ch 11:14,15 13:9} Hence many of the priests and Levites abandoned their possessions in those tribes and settled in Judah. They were followed there by those of every tribe who wanted to worship the true God. They came to Jerusalem to worship and sacrifice to the God of their forefathers. {#2Ch 11:13,14,16}

3050d AM, 3760 JP, 954 BC, 2 SK, 1 NK

491. NK-Nadab, in the second year of Asa, succeeded his deceased father Jeroboam to his kingdom, but reigned only two years. {#1Ki 15:25} [E43]