

calvary  
chapel  
portsmouth



# 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings

*Simply teaching the Word simply*

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings

- **King Solomon**                      40 Years                      1-11
  - Accession
  - Building of the Temple
  - Height of Israel's glory
  - Disobedience & Decline
- **Divided Kingdom**                      80 Years                      12-22
  - Accession of Rehoboam
  - Jeroboam's Revolt
  - History of the kings of Israel (**Primary focus**)
  - History of the kings of Judah

# 1 Kings 11 - Review

- *“But king Solomon loved many strange women...”* v1
- Solomon had 700 wives + 300 concubines
- *“And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD”* v6
- As a result the LORD declared He will ‘rend’ the kingdom from Solomon
- Just Judah will be left for David’s posterity
  - And Benjamin

# The History of Israel & Judah

Saul 1 Samuel

David 2 Samuel / 1 Chronicles

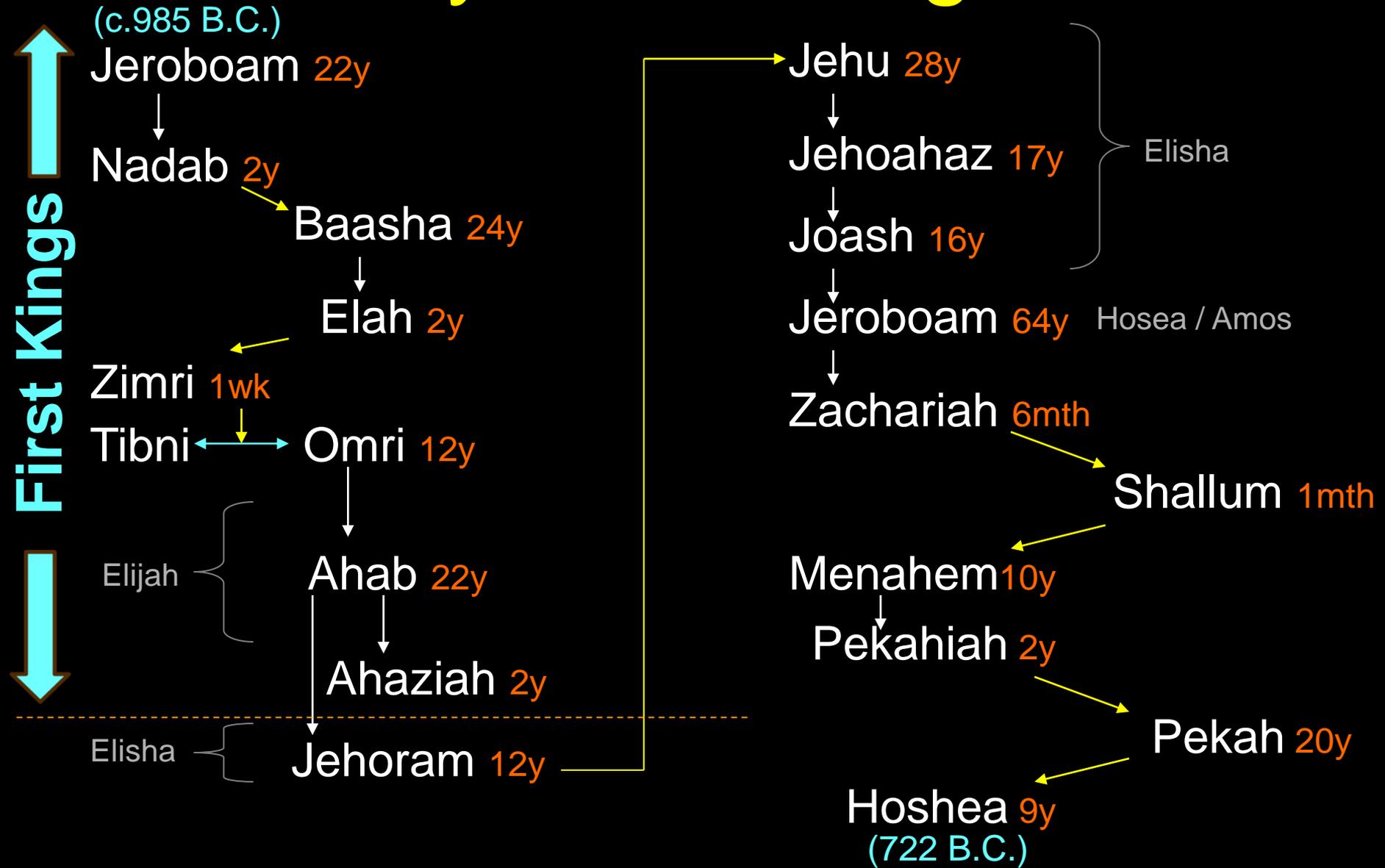
Solomon 1 Kings / 2 Chronicles

Rehoboam  
(Judah)

(c.985 B.C.)  
1 & 2 Kings  
2 Chronicles

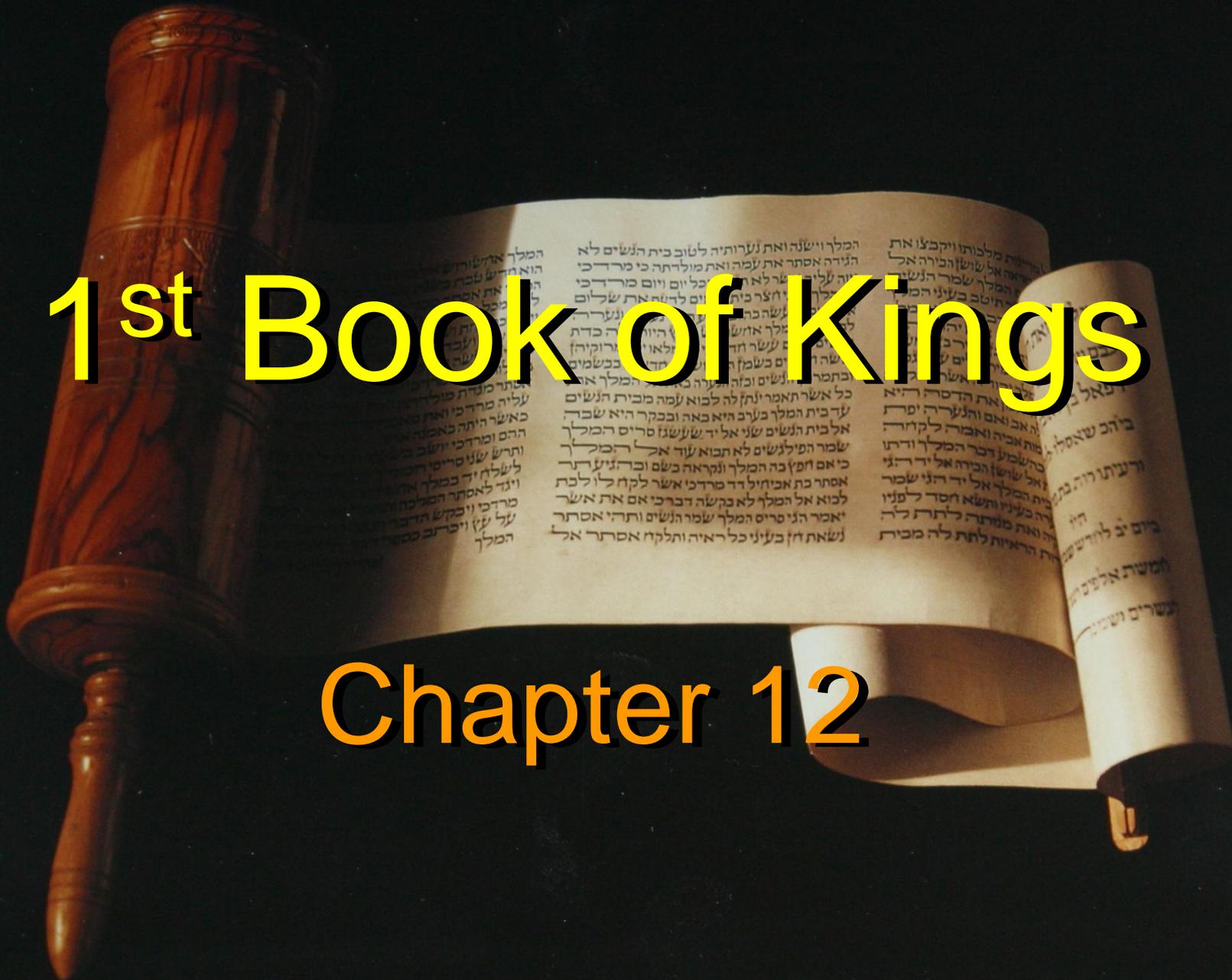
Jeroboam  
(Israel)

# The History of the Kings of Israel



# 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings

## Chapter 12



*I And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.*

**1 Kings 12:1**

- Shechem: 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Genesis 33:18
- The home of the Hivites, in Caanan
- Hamor was the leader in Gen 33/34
- His son (after whom the city was named) takes and rapes Dinah (Jacob's daughter)
- Simeon & Levi exact their revenge

### Scale of Miles



Perennial Rivers Seasonal Rivers & Streams

unable to secure its inheritance, migrated north and captured Laish, renaming it Dan.

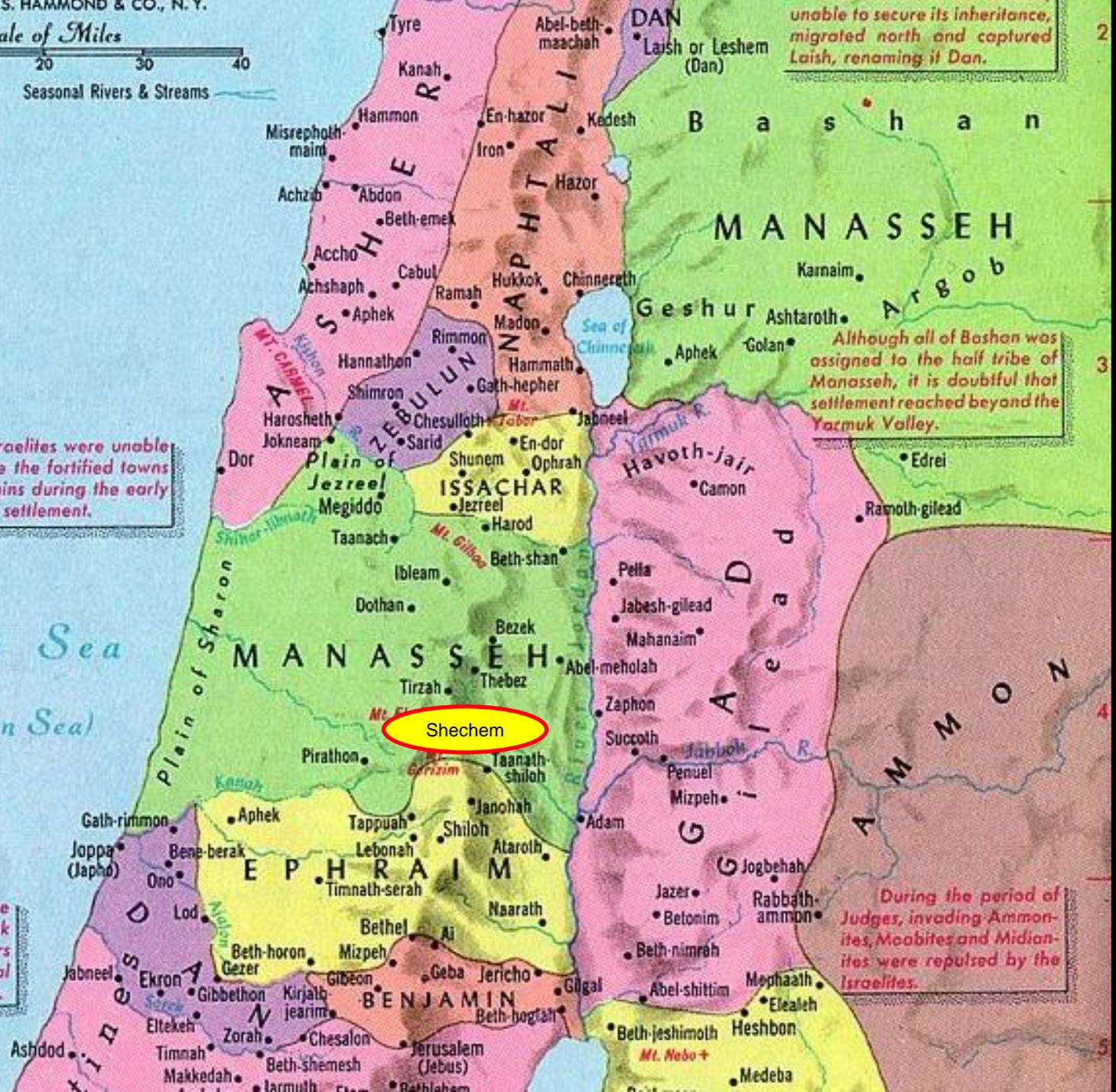
The Israelites were unable to capture the fortified towns of the plains during the early period of settlement.

Although all of Bashan was assigned to the half tribe of Manasseh, it is doubtful that settlement reached beyond the Yarmuk Valley.

The Israelites were under constant attack from Philistine invaders who occupied the coastal area at about this time.

During the period of Judges, invading Ammonites, Moabites and Midianites were repulsed by the Israelites.

The Great Sea  
(Mediterranean Sea)



Shechem

# Blessings

Mt Gerizim (Fruitful)

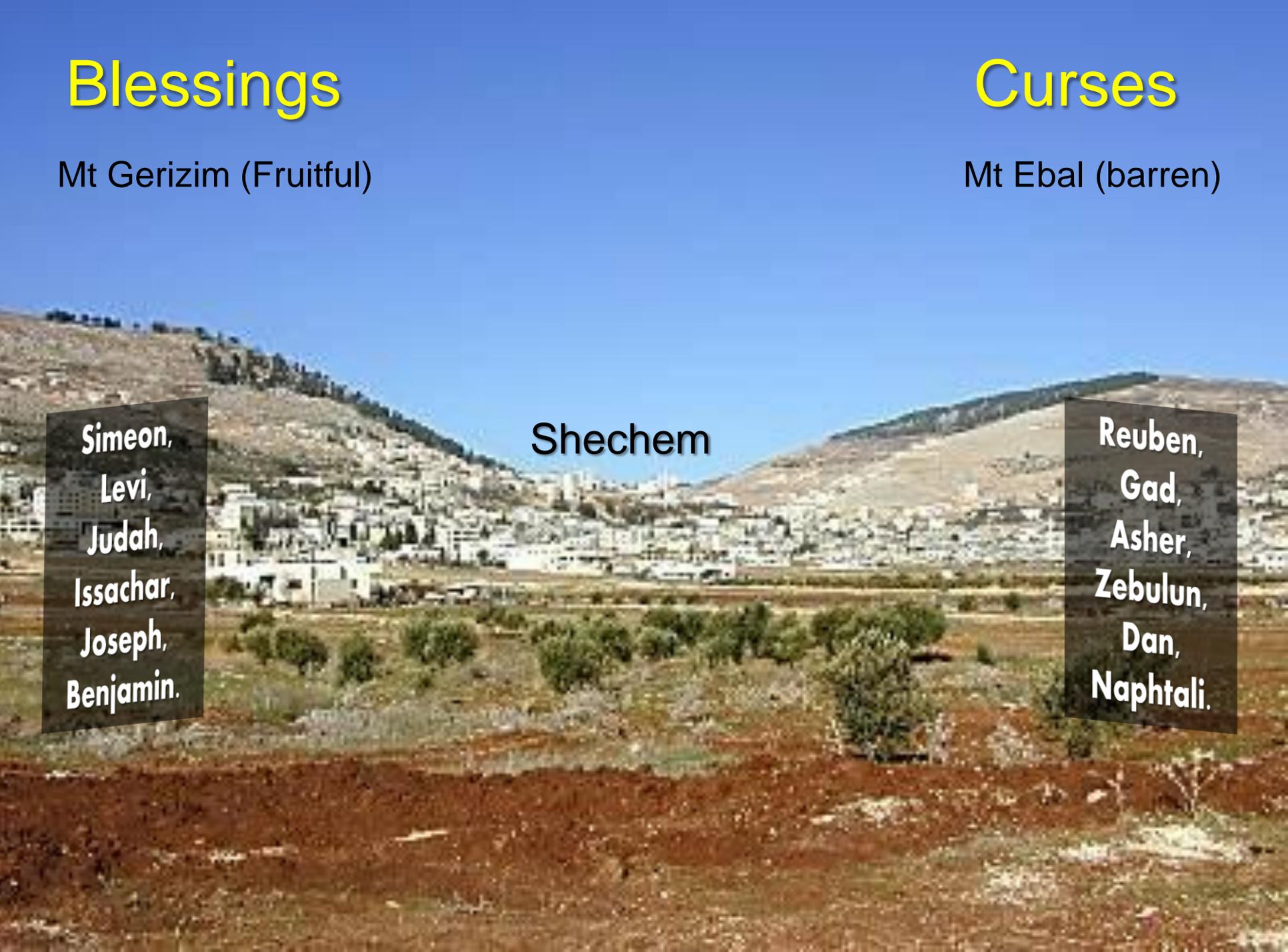
# Curses

Mt Ebal (barren)

Shechem

Simeon,  
Levi,  
Judah,  
Issachar,  
Joseph,  
Benjamin.

Reuben,  
Gad,  
Asher,  
Zebulun,  
Dan,  
Naphtali.



# The Agreement at Shechem

- Requirements and expectations had been set. **Deut Ch 5-26**
- Both 'parties' knew their obligations
  - Israel had avouched to walk in His ways and keep His statutes
  - God avouched to provide, protect and lift up the Nation
- The contract has been signed **Deut Ch27**
- Penalties for breach of contract **Deut Ch28**
- Shechem is the place of ratification

*<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)*

*<sup>3</sup> That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,*

**1 Kings 12:2-3**

*4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.*

**1 Kings 12:4**

- Solomon had introduced heavy taxes, seemingly not for the Temple project, but to fund his lavish lifestyle
- Rehoboam now given this opportunity to retain the people's loyalty

*5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.*

*6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?*

**1 Kings 12:5-6**

# Wisdom in Counsel?

- Solomon had said:
  - *“Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established”*  
Prov 15:22
  - *“For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety”.*  
Prov 24:6
  - *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety”.*  
Prov 11:14

# Wisdom in Counsel?

- But not all counsel is good counsel!
- Compare Hushai & Ahithophel **2 Sam 17:7**
- David stated:
  - *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly”* **Psalm 1:1**
  - *“The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought”* **Psalm 33:10**

7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

**IO** And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

**II** And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

**1 Kings 12:10-11**

**12** So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

**13** And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

**14** And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

**1 Kings 12:12-14**

**15** Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

**16** So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

**1 Kings 12:15-16**

*17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.*

*18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.*

*19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.*

**1 Kings 12:17-19**



# 10 Lost Tribes Myth

- The godly 'up north' travel to Rehoboam in the south – 2 Chron 11
- The idol worshipers in the south go up to Jeroboam in the north.
- All 12 tribes are evident in post-exile records
  - Ezra, Nehemiah, et al
- New Testament confirmations
  - Anna (Asher), Paul (Acts 26:7),
  - James writes to the 12 tribes, Rev 7,12,21

<sup>20</sup> And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

1 Kings 12:20

# Jeroboam's Folly

- God grants Jeroboam sovereignty over 10 tribes
- Fearful that the people would return to Rehoboam, Jeroboam sets up centres of worship in Dan and Bethel
  - These become centres of idolatry
- He appoints the 'lowest of the people' as priests
- God sends a prophet to warn Jeroboam

**21** And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

**22** But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

**23** Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,

*24 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.*

*25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.*

**1 Kings 12:24-25**

*26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:*

*27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.*

**1 Kings 12:26-27**

**14** Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

**15** Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

**16** And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

*17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.*

**Exodus 23:17**

- 3 main Feast Periods:
- Unleavened Bread
  - Passover starting 14 Nisan (Abib)
- Feast of Harvest
  - Pentecost (50 days after Passover)
- The Ingathering
  - Succoth (Trumpets, Atonement & Tabernacles)

*28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

*29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.*

*30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.*

**1 Kings 12:28-30**

- Remind you of Exodus 32?

<sup>31</sup> And he made an house of **high places**, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

<sup>32</sup> And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

1 Kings 12:31-32

- Why even bother doing this?
- Religion – man’s ‘need’ to get close to God

*33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.*

**1 Kings 12:33**

- This is just going through the motions!
- An outward show lacking internal change

# Jeroboam's Failure

- Jeroboam was chosen from obscurity to be the king of a nation, but God's decree!
- Simple obedience would have insured a life of blessing, but he let the fear of man rule his heart.

<sup>25</sup> *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe*

**Proverbs 29:25**

# Jeroboam's Failure

- 4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.
- 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Luke 12:4-5



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