

### Remembering Better Times

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

After Adam and Eve had been put out of the garden of Eden life was very different for them. There was a changed relationship between them and God and between them and the animals. Even the earth was different to them. Thorns and thistles had not been a problem before but would be from then on. Surely they grieved over the blessed life in the garden that they had lost.

In the **Book of Hosea** there is a similar story presented. In **chapter 2** is the account of his wife who left him and went after her lovers. When this didn't turn out the way she had hoped she came to realize her error. In **verse 7** we read, "And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now." She was forced to see what she had thrown away.

Whether it is a man and wife, or God and his people, it has, and is, happening today. A man, or woman, is tempted by someone else and breaks up their home and marriage. Later they may be sorry, but the damage is done and can not be put back together like it was. Adam and Eve could not go back into the garden of God, or have the same relationship with the Lord as they had had before their disobedience. They could remember the peaceful life in the garden, at peace with the animals, nature, and most of all, with God. But, in a moment's disobedience they threw it away.

When a person has become a child of God and walked with the Lord, the evil one will try to lure him away from God. It might be by temptation, or discouragement, but something will be placed before the child of God in an attempt to make him fall. Is Satan is successful the fallen person will feel an emptiness and loss. Look at Judas when he thought of what he had done. He wanted to undo his deed, but it was too late. The evil men he had dealt with said, "What is that to us, see thou to it." Or, in other

word, "that's your problem, we don't care."

Each person needs to consider what he, or she, does and the results of the things that action. Remember Satan will make things look good, but the end will be very different. Don't throw away your home, marriage, and walk with God for some sinful thing, or person, that tries to come into your life. Many a person remembers when they had respect, love, and a good relationship, but now have lost it all for a moment's bad decision.

King David made a decision to take another man's wife and later regretted it. For his lust two lives were lost as well as his close walk with God. Read **Psalms 51** and see that he wanted to return to the time when things were better. God allows us to repent and will forgive if we truly repent, but better to not give in to temptation at all. If you are apart from God because you have strayed from the path of righteousness, think of what you have lost, repent and come back where you belong. Remember, God loves you.

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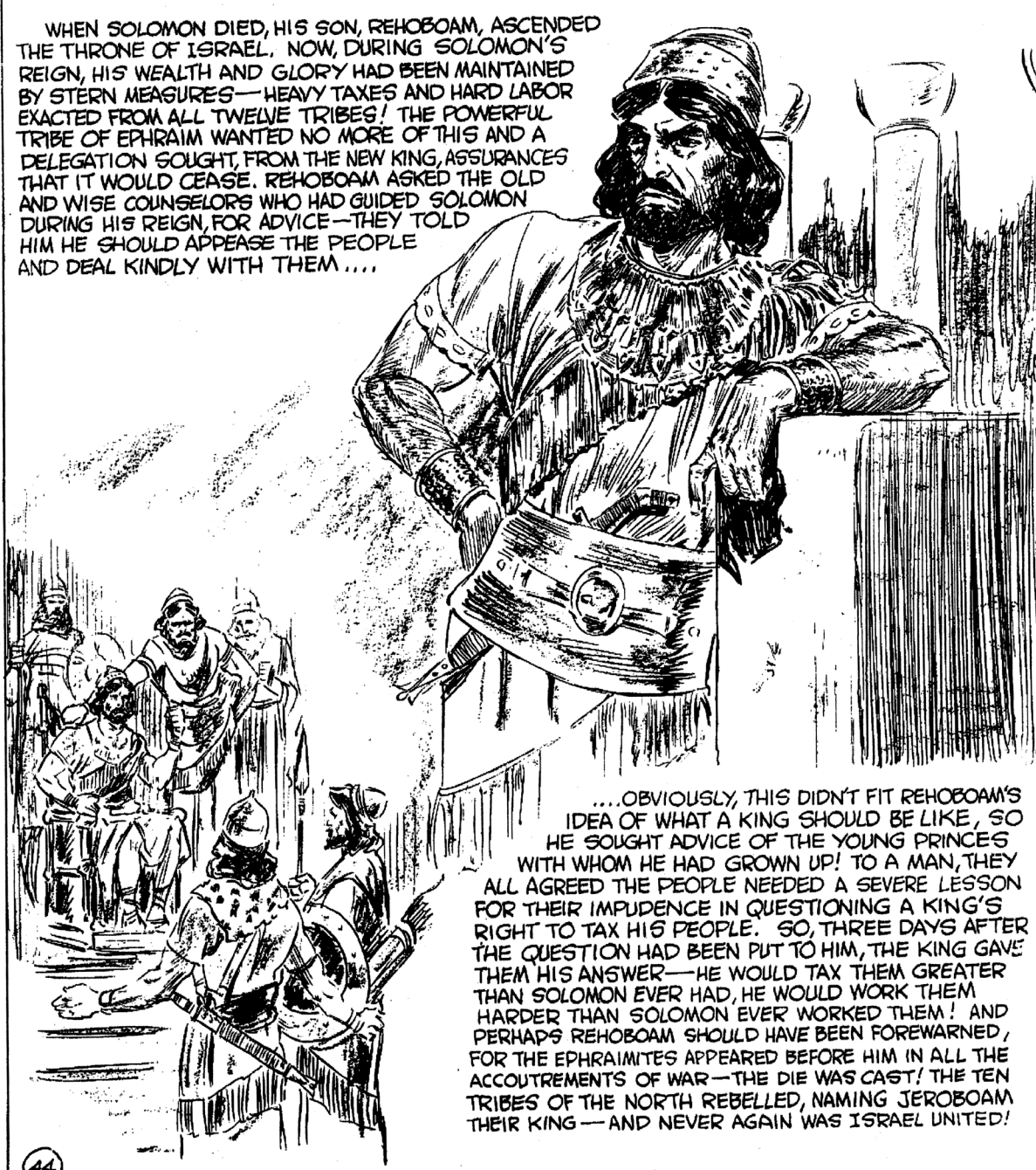
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**THE KING WHO DIVIDED THE KINGDOM!**

WHEN SOLOMON DIED, HIS SON, REHOBOAM, ASCENDED THE THRONE OF ISRAEL. NOW, DURING SOLOMON'S REIGN, HIS WEALTH AND GLORY HAD BEEN MAINTAINED BY STERN MEASURES—HEAVY TAXES AND HARD LABOR EXACTED FROM ALL TWELVE TRIBES! THE POWERFUL TRIBE OF EPHRAIM WANTED NO MORE OF THIS AND A DELEGATION SOUGHT, FROM THE NEW KING, ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD CEASE. REHOBOAM ASKED THE OLD AND WISE COUNSELORS WHO HAD GUIDED SOLOMON DURING HIS REIGN, FOR ADVICE—THEY TOLD HIM HE SHOULD APPEASE THE PEOPLE AND DEAL KINDLY WITH THEM....



...OBVIOUSLY, THIS DIDN'T FIT REHOBOAM'S IDEA OF WHAT A KING SHOULD BE LIKE, SO HE SOUGHT ADVICE OF THE YOUNG PRINCES WITH WHOM HE HAD GROWN UP! TO A MAN, THEY ALL AGREED THE PEOPLE NEEDED A SEVERE LESSON FOR THEIR IMPUDENCE IN QUESTIONING A KING'S RIGHT TO TAX HIS PEOPLE. SO, THREE DAYS AFTER THE QUESTION HAD BEEN PUT TO HIM, THE KING GAVE THEM HIS ANSWER—HE WOULD TAX THEM GREATER THAN SOLOMON EVER HAD, HE WOULD WORK THEM HARDER THAN SOLOMON EVER WORKED THEM! AND PERHAPS REHOBOAM SHOULD HAVE BEEN FOREWARNED, FOR THE EPHRAIMITES APPEARED BEFORE HIM IN ALL THE ACCOUTREMENTS OF WAR—THE DIE WAS CAST! THE TEN TRIBES OF THE NORTH REBELLED, NAMING JEROBOAM THEIR KING—AND NEVER AGAIN WAS ISRAEL UNITED!

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