

2 CHRONICLES CHAPTER 11

¹ And Rehoboam came to Jerusalem. And he assembled Judah and Benjamin, a hundred and eighty thousand young men fit for war, and he waged war with Israel to recover the kingdom to Rehoboam. ² Then the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, ³ "Speak to Rehoboam the *son* of Solomon, and to all Judah and Benjamin, saying, ⁴ 'Thus says the Lord: "You shall not go up, and you shall not war against your brothers: return, everyone to his house; for this thing is from Me."'" So they listened to the word of the Lord, and returned from going against Jeroboam.

⁵ And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and he built walled cities in Judea. ⁶ And he built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, ⁷ Beth Zur, Sochoh, Adullam, ⁸ Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, ⁹ Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, ¹⁰ Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, which belong to Judah and Benjamin, walled cities. ¹¹ And he fortified them with walls, and placed in them captains, and stores of provisions, oil and wine, ¹² shields and spears in every city, and he fortified them very strongly, and he had Judah and Benjamin on his side .

¹³ And the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel were gathered to him out of all the coasts. ¹⁴ For the Levites left the tents of their possession, and went to Judah to Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them so that they should not minister to the Lord. ¹⁵ And he made for himself priests of the high places, and for the idols, and for the vanities, and for the calves which Jeroboam made. ¹⁶ And he cast out from the tribes of Israel those who set their heart to seek the Lord God of Israel. And they came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice to the Lord God of their fathers. ¹⁷ And they strengthened the kingdom of Judah; and *Judah* strengthened Rehoboam the *son* of Solomon for three years, for he walked three years in the ways of David and Solomon.

¹⁸ And Rehoboam took to himself for a wife, Mahalath daughter of Jerimoth the son of David, and Abihail daughter of Eliah the son of Jesse. ¹⁹ And she bore him sons: Jeush, Shamariah, and Zaham. ²⁰ And afterwards he took to himself Maachah, granddaughter of Absalom; and she bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith. ²¹ And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom more than all his wives and all his concubines; for he had eighteen wives and sixty concubines. And he fathered twenty-eight sons, and sixty daughters. ²² And he made Abijah the son of Maachah chief, *even* a leader among his brothers, for he intended to make him king. ²³ And he was exalted beyond all his *other* sons in all the coasts of Judah and Benjamin, and in the strong cities; and he gave them provisions in great abundance; and he desired many wives.