

## **Shishak**

1 Kings 14

2 Chronicles 11:5 – 12:16

by Don Falkos

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Jeroboam's son became ill. He sent his wife to ask a prophet about the boy's fate. She returned with a message from God. "I made you king of Israel. But you have fashioned idols for yourself and have turned your back on me. I will raise up a king in Israel who will destroy your family line. Your son who is sick is the only good person in your family. He will die and he will be the only member of your family to be buried. All the others, when they die, will become carrion, eaten by wild animals. The people of Israel have followed your example, worshipping idols. They will be scattered far and wide."

Because of all the idol worship, the priests of the Lord and the Levites left the northern kingdom, Israel, and went to Jerusalem in the southern kingdom, Judah, which was ruled by Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. Those who truly wished to worship the Lord followed them to Jerusalem, where they could offer sacrifices to the God of their ancestors.

But then Rehoboam and the people of Judah abandoned the Law of the Lord and worshiped idols. Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. He ransacked the Temple and the royal palace, taking everything of value, including all the gold shields Solomon had made. Rehoboam humbled himself before the Lord, so the Lord prompted Shishak to withdraw. Later Rehoboam replaced Solomon's gold shields with shields made of bronze.

There was still some good in Judah, but there was constant war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam for as long as they lived.