

## 18.07 Backsliding and Death of Solomon (1 Kings 11:1–43; 2 Chronicles 9:29–31)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [ . . . ] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *treason*: betraying a country or its ruler
- *concubine*: wife-like servant

### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 11:1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2 from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded. 11 Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. 12 Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.”

14 And the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite. He was of the royal house in Edom. 15 For when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army went up to bury the slain, he struck down every male in Edom 16 (for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom). 17 But Hadad fled to Egypt, together with certain Edomites of his father’s servants, Hadad still being a little child. 18 They set out from Midian and came to Paran and took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him an allowance of food and gave him land. 19 And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. 20 And the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh’s house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh’s house among the sons of Pharaoh. 21 But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, “Let me depart, that I may go to my own country.” 22 But Pharaoh said to him, “What have you lacked with me that you are now seeking to go to your own country?” And he said to him, “Only let me depart.”

23 God also raised up as an adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his master Hadadezer king of Zobah. 24 And he gathered men about him and became leader of a marauding band, after the

killing by David. And they went to Damascus and lived there and made him king in Damascus. 25 He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon, doing harm as Hadad did. And he loathed Israel and reigned over Syria.

26 Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king. 27 And this was the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king. Solomon built the Millo, and closed up the breach of the city of David his father. 28 The man Jeroboam was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph. 29 And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a new garment, and the two of them were alone in the open country. 30 Then Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. 31 And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes 32 (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), 33 because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and they have not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my rules, as David his father did. 34 Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes. 35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and will give it to you, ten tribes. 36 Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name. 37 And I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel. 38 And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. 39 And I will afflict the offspring of David because of this, but not forever.'" 40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

41 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? 42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. 43 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Who wrote the book of Psalms? [David.] Who wrote the book of Proverbs? [Solomon.]

Solomon had asked for wisdom, but God also gave him much wealth. For example, he had 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses. Now, God had said in His law not to get so many horses. Why? Because, as He says in another place in the Bible, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

Can you recall some battles the Israelites had in which God delivered because they trusted Him when the enemy had horses and they did not? [Help students recall the following: Crossing the Red Sea; Jericho; Joshua's long day; Jonathan and his servant; the mulberry trees battle.] So God didn't want His people to trust in things instead of trusting Him. Another reason God did not want His kings to get a lot of horses was because horses came from Egypt. Where was Egypt? [Show on a map.] What do you remember about Moses in Egypt? God used Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. God did not want His people to go back to Egypt for any reason (Deuteronomy 17:16).

### **Story:**

#### ***Egyptian wife***

Solomon not only got horses from Egypt; He got something else God said not to get—a wife, Pharaoh's daughter. Never mind that it helped to keep peace with her father to marry an Egyptian: God had said not to

marry foreign women. Why? Because they worshiped idols and would turn the hearts of their husbands away from the one true God.

Hadn't God appeared to Solomon two times? Hadn't God given Solomon more wisdom than any other person? Hadn't God given Solomon lots of money and belongings? Hadn't Solomon prayed a wonderful prayer of dedication after he built God's house? Certainly, Solomon's heart would not turn away to his wife's idols! He was smarter than that, wasn't he? Do you think Solomon stayed true to God like David, his father, all the days of his life? Or will his wife turn his heart to idols? [Pause.]

### ***Building projects***

I am going to answer these questions later, but now I want to tell you something else about Solomon. He had building projects going on everywhere—cities here and there; fixing the wall of Jerusalem; building buildings and cities for his chariots, his horses, and his horsemen. In order to pay for all this construction, Solomon made the people pay taxes. They had to pay quite a bit.

One of the laborers who worked on these projects was named Jeroboam. He seemed to stand out above the others because he was such a good worker. Solomon, seeing this, made Jeroboam the boss of all his laborers from the tribe of Joseph.

### ***Multiple wives***

Now, let's go back to our question about Solomon: Will Solomon's heart be turned against God and toward the idols of his wife? Before I answer this, I have to tell you more of the story, a part I don't like to tell, for Solomon didn't have just one wife. He had—how many do you think? The answer is seven hundred. Seven hundred wives! Many of these women were princesses, daughters of foreign kings, and most of them were idol worshipers. In addition to these seven hundred, Solomon also had three hundred servant wives (concubines)—one thousand women in all.

Would having so many wives and concubines turn Solomon's heart away from the one true God? [Pause.] Yes, they did. The Bible states, "His wives led him astray." Oh, they didn't do it at first, but "as Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been." He followed four detestable gods and even built temples to two of these idols. "So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done" (11:3–6).

### ***Deserved consequences***

How did God feel about this? The Bible states, "The Lord became angry with Solomon for not keeping his command." Also, God brought two kings, Hadad, from Edom [locate], and Rezon, the king of Syria [locate], to fight against him. God said to Solomon, "I told you I would tear the kingdom away from you, and I will. However, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. But I will tear it from your son. Even then, I will give him one tribe, but the other ten tribes will be taken away." This is an important statement. What had God said? [He would tear away ten tribes but give Solomon's son only one tribe.]

### ***Future king***

Who would be the king over those ten tribes? Well, remember Jeroboam, the boss of the workers? God sent a prophet named Ahijah to Jeroboam one day as he was leaving Jerusalem. As they walked, Ahijah took his own new coat and tore it up into twelve pieces. "Take ten pieces for yourself," Ahijah told Jeroboam. "The Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes. Because of David and the city of Jerusalem that I have chosen, I will let Solomon's son have one tribe.'<sup>1</sup> I'm doing this because they have forsaken me and worshiped these idols. Now, Jeroboam, if you walk uprightly before God, obeying my commands, I will be with you and keep your kingdom going."

That was a wonderful promise to Jeroboam. What was the promise? [That God would keep Jeroboam's kingdom going if Jeroboam obeyed God.]

We learned the word *treason* in a former lesson. When Solomon heard what Ahijah had said to Jeroboam, he considered it treason and tried to get rid of Jeroboam. Jeroboam ran away to Egypt. After a while, Solomon died. He had reigned forty years.

### ***Solemn lessons***

We can learn some lessons from Solomon's life. One lesson teaches us is to do right and not to quit doing right. Solomon started out well, worshiping the Lord, but he didn't end well. What counts is not how you start but how you finish.

Another lesson to learn from Solomon is to choose your future husband or wife carefully. Will that person try to turn your heart away from God? Think about your friends too. Don't choose to be friends with people who may try to turn your heart away from God and His ways.

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<sup>1</sup>If a student does his math, he will realize that ten tribes for Jeroboam and one tribe for Solomon's son equal only eleven tribes. As it turned out, Simeon, an insignificant and small tribe incorporated into Judah because of Jacob's curse (Genesis 49:5–7), actually made two tribes in one for Solomon's descendants.

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

God said He would keep one tribe, Judah, for David's sake—"that is, for the sake of the promise made to David" ([1 Kings 11 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\)](#) ([biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com)), which is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who came from the tribe of Judah.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: a man; a woman; a coat to tear into twelve pieces
- Snack: Egyptian Sweet Cookies. The recipe found at [Egyptian Sweet Cookies | 12 Tomatoes](#) makes 30–40 cookies, uses 2 ½ sticks of butter, and takes an hour to make but has a 4.5 rating.
- Review questions: (Game: Print and color a coat as found in "Handwork" below. A student who answers a question correctly may make one tear in the coat.)
  1. Name two of the sins that were a problem for Solomon. [Getting chariots and horses; marrying Pharaoh's daughter; having many wives; turning from God to serve false gods.]
  2. Which was the worst of the sins in question #1? [Turning from God to serve false gods.]
  3. What did God say he would do because of Solomon's turning from Him? [He would tear the kingdom away from Solomon's son, leaving him only one tribe.]
  4. One of Solomon's workers stood out above all the other laborers. What was his name? [Jeroboam.]
  5. What was the name of the prophet God sent to Jeroboam? [Ahijah.]
  6. Why did Ahijah rip his new coat into twelve pieces? [To show that Jeroboam would be king over ten of the twelve tribes.]

**Memory Verse[s]:** (KJV) A song sheet by Earl Martin for this verse may be found at [STB05SM](#) ([mysteryministries.net](http://mysteryministries.net)), #11.

- Proverbs 3:5, 6—Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

### **Handwork:**

- Print one copies of the long coat found at the end of this lesson. Students may color their coats. If the teachers desires, the students may rip the coat into the twelve pieces, ripping of the arms (2 pieces) and ripping down the middle (2 pieces) and ripping on the dotted lines. First fold the rip line.

**treason**

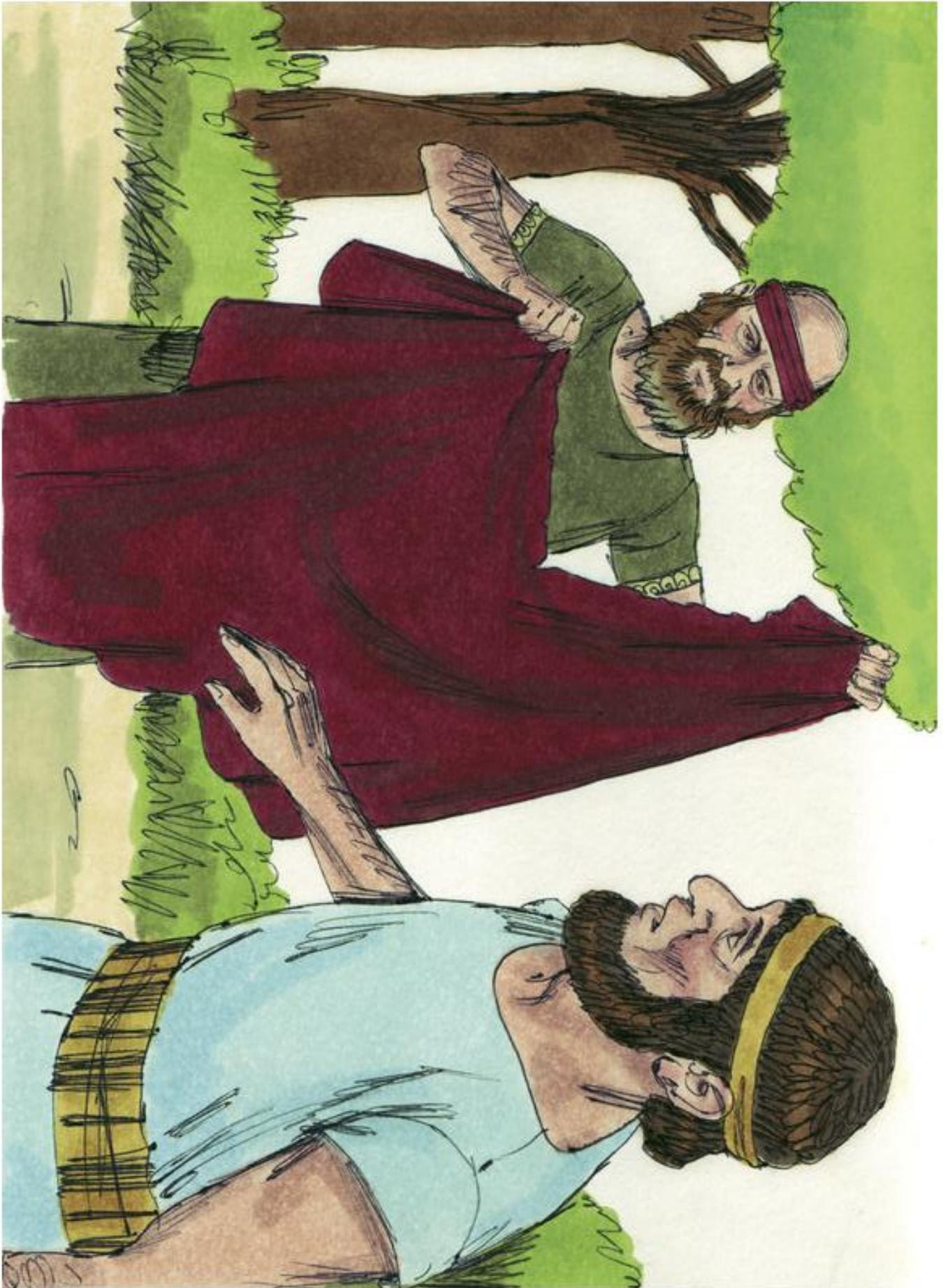
**concubine**



First Book of Kings Chapter 1-1. (Bible Illustrations by Sweet Media).jpg (832x602) (wikimedia.org)



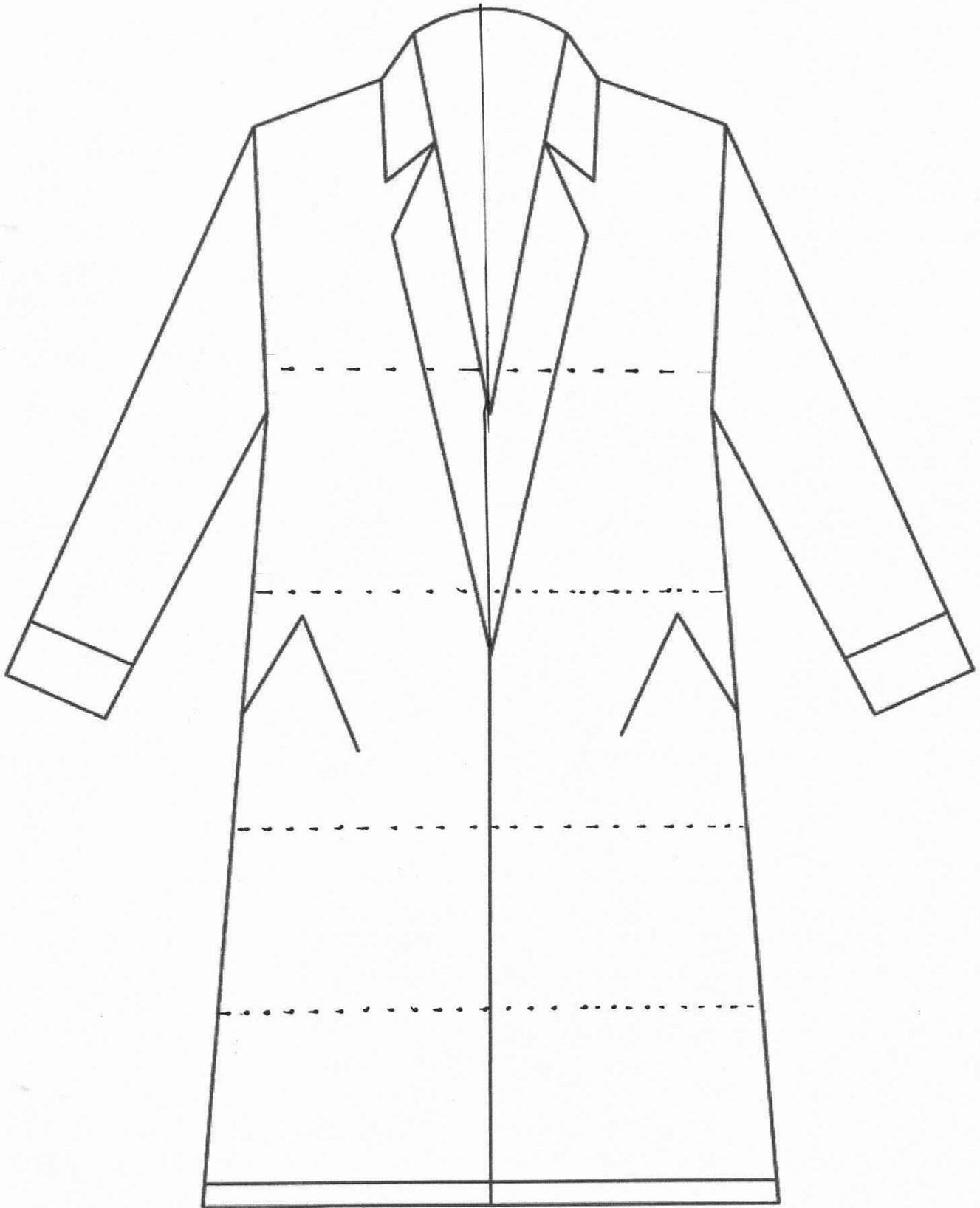






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God said Jeroboam would rule over ten tribes of Israel.