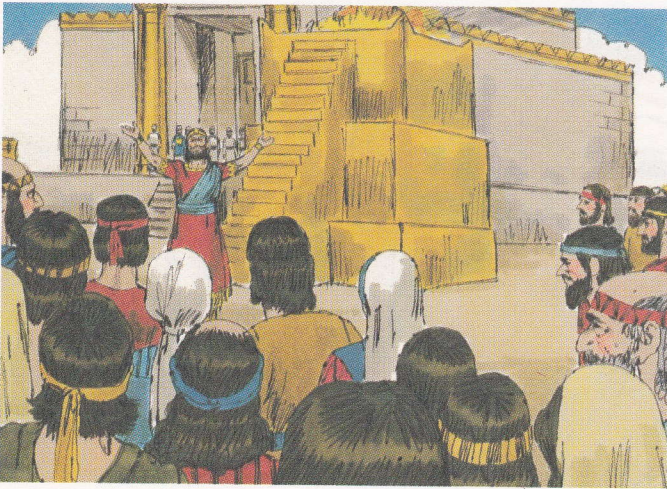
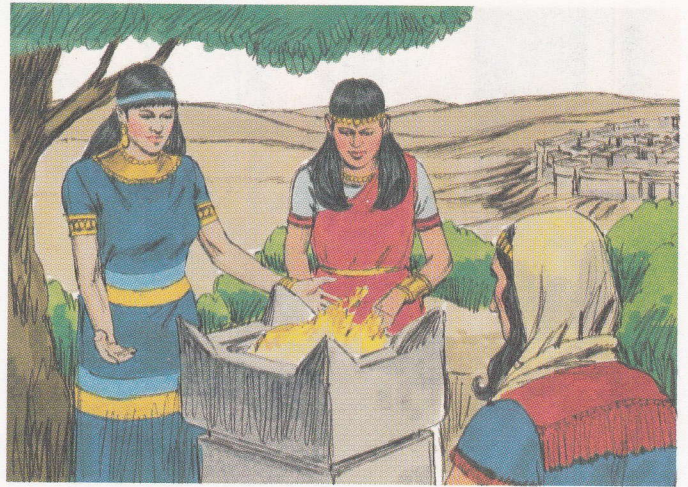


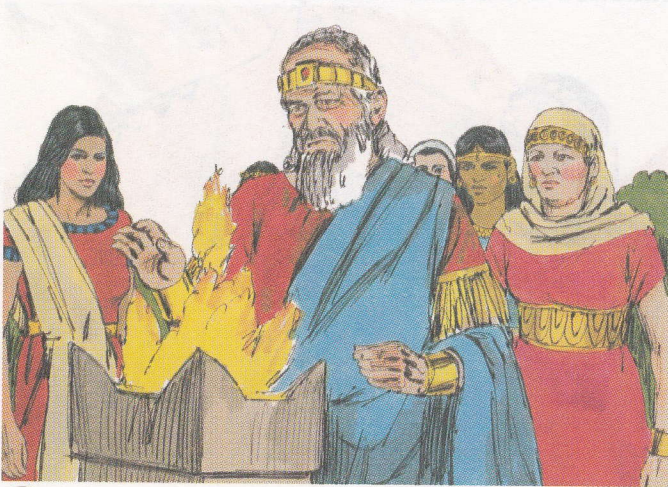
# Solomon Disobeys God



**1** God blessed King Solomon with great wealth and wisdom. But Solomon married many foreign women, even though the Lord had warned him not to.



**2** Solomon had married 700 princesses, and he had 300 concubines. He built places around Jerusalem where his wives could burn incense and make sacrifices to the gods of their own countries.



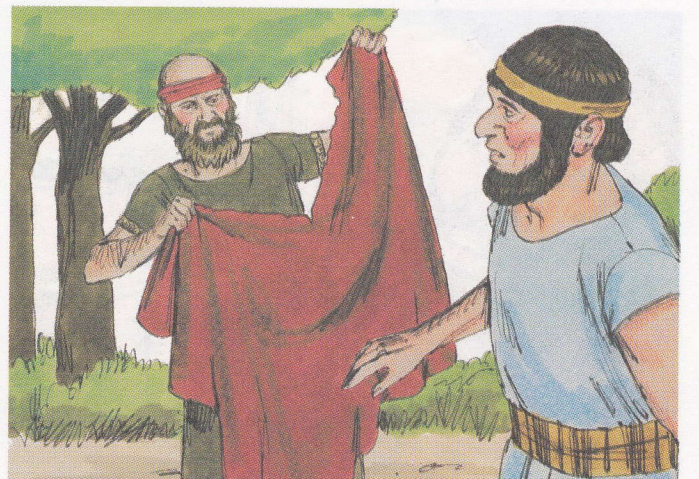
**3** By the time he was old, Solomon himself was unfaithful to the Lord. He, too, worshiped As-toreth, the goddess of Sidon, and Milcom, the god of Ammon, and others.



**4** God was angry with Solomon. "You have not obeyed me," said the Lord. "Therefore, I am going to take the kingdom away from you and give it to someone else."



**5** Later Solomon had some repairs made on the walls of Jerusalem. As he watched the workmen, he noticed a man named Jeroboam. Solomon put Jeroboam in charge of the other workers.



**6** One day Jeroboam happened to meet a prophet named Ahijah on a country road. Ahijah stopped him, took off his robe, and tore it into twelve pieces.



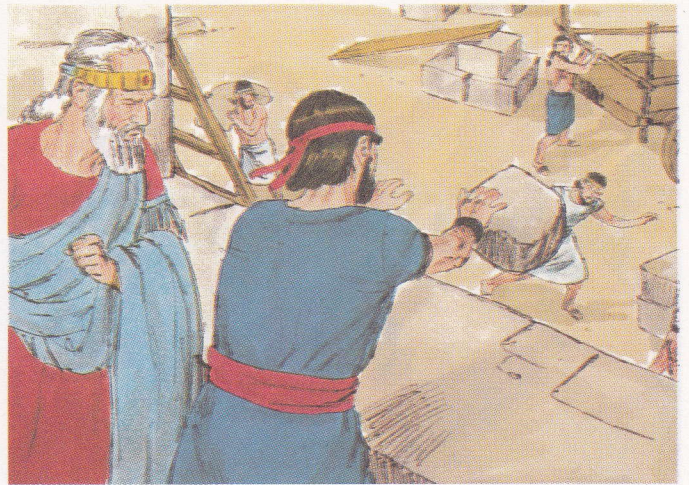
**7** "Take any ten pieces you wish," Ahijah said, "for the Lord is going to take away the kingdom from Solomon. He will give you ten of the tribes to rule over."



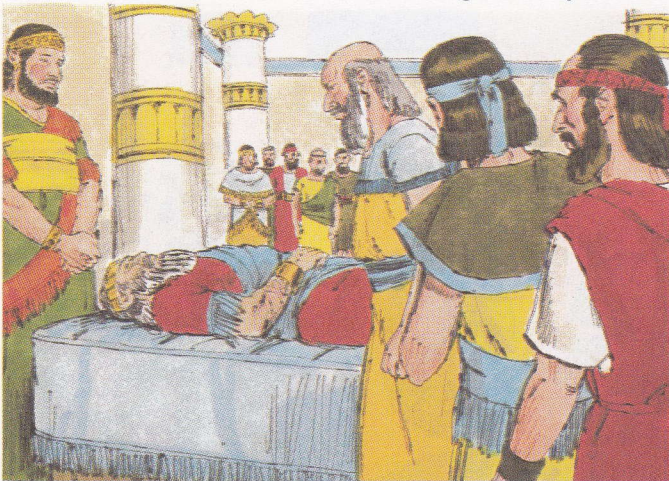
**8** "The Lord says, 'For the sake of my servant David, I will not do this during Solomon's lifetime. I will leave Solomon's son one tribe to rule, because of my promise to David, who was loyal to me.'"



**9** Ahijah continued: "The Lord says, 'I am doing this because Solomon rejected me and worshiped other gods. But if you obey me, I will be with you and make your descendants kings after you.'"



**10** Somehow Solomon found out what Ahijah had told Jeroboam, and he tried to kill Jeroboam. However, Jeroboam managed to escape and went to Egypt. He lived there until Solomon died.



**11** Solomon ruled as king of Israel in Jerusalem for forty years. When he died, he was buried in the city of David. His son Rehoboam became king after him.



**12** News of Solomon's death reached Jeroboam in Egypt. He thought he would be safe now, so he returned to the land of Israel. Thus was the stage set for God to carry out his plan.