

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 11:14-28

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1 Kings 11:14-28

Verses 14-18

¹⁴ Then the Lord raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom. ¹⁵ Earlier when David was fighting with Edom, Joab the commander of the army, who had gone up to bury the dead, had struck down all the men in Edom. ¹⁶ Joab and all the Israelites stayed there for six months, until they had destroyed all the men in Edom. ¹⁷ But Hadad, still only a boy, fled to Egypt with some Edomite officials who had served his father. ¹⁸ They set out from Midian and went to Paran. Then taking people from Paran with them, they went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave Hadad a house and land and provided him with food.

- When David was securing the land (see 2 Samuel 8:13-14,) he had attacked Edom. Joab, the commander of Israel's army killed all the men of Edom except a young boy from the royal family of Edom named Hadad.
- With some Edomite officials, Hadad escaped to Egypt. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, received the boy and treated him as the heir to Edom's throne.

Verses 19-20

¹⁹ Pharaoh was so pleased with Hadad that he gave him a sister of his own wife, Queen Tahpenes, in marriage. ²⁰ The sister of Tahpenes bore him a son named Genubath, whom Tahpenes brought up in the royal palace. There Genubath lived with Pharaoh's own children.

- Hadad grew up and was married to a sister of the Queen of Egypt. A son was born to Hadad. Hadad's son was raised in Pharaoh's household.

Verses 21-22

²¹ While he was in Egypt, Hadad heard that David rested with his ancestors and that Joab the commander of the army was also dead. Then Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me go, that I may return to my own country."

²² ***“What have you lacked here that you want to go back to your own country?” Pharaoh asked.***

“Nothing,” Hadad replied, “but do let me go!”

- When Hadad learned that both David and Joab were dead, he asked permission from Pharaoh to return to Edom to reclaim his throne.

Verses 23-25

²³ ***And God raised up against Solomon another adversary, Rezon son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah. ²⁴ When David destroyed Zobah’s army, Rezon gathered a band of men around him and became their leader; they went to Damascus, where they settled and took control. ²⁵ Rezon was Israel’s adversary as long as Solomon lived, adding to the trouble caused by Hadad. So Rezon ruled in Aram and was hostile toward Israel.***

- See 2 Samuel 8:3.
- During the reign of David, David attacked and defeated Hadadezer the king of Zobah. One of the men who served Hadadezer escaped and fled to Damascus with a band of men. Rezon attacked Israel during the reign of Solomon.

Verses 26-28

²⁶ ***Also, Jeroboam son of Nebat rebelled against the king. He was one of Solomon’s officials, an Ephraimite from Zeredah, and his mother was a widow named Zeruah. ²⁷ Here is the account of how he rebelled against the king: Solomon had built the terraces and had filled in the gap in the wall of the city of David his father. ²⁸ Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the tribes of Joseph.***

- Jeroboam, one of Solomon’s officials also rebelled against the king. Jeroboam was in charge of the building of the terraces and rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. He was put in charge of the labor forces that did these projects. He saw how the people forced to work on these projects resented Solomon, and he encouraged their discontent with the king.

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