

## FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY!

In this series we will be looking at the subject of reconciliation from the “Apostolic/New Testament” scriptures. We at JSI hope these teachings will be a blessing to the Children of Israel and bring glory to the name of the Holy One of Israel. It is our Fathers ordained position that there is to be reconciliation between the Two Houses of Israel. We are to be one people united under the direction and Kingship of HaMoshiach. The family is split and there is unrest and agitation between the Children of Israel. This needs to be rectified and it is only through the application of our Fathers instruction and guidance that this can take place. I pray that we can pick up on some of these instructions; instructions that will give us the guidance and wisdom we need to please our heavenly Father. We [the Children of Israel] must keep in mind that HaShem is our “Master” and we are to be obedient to His instructions, instructions that we have ignored, thus causing this family breakdown. This will not be easy, and I am not sure if I can do this awesome task justice. However I pray my Father will provide His help through the Messiah and Holy Spirit as we examine the Apostolic scriptures over the coming weeks.

So let us begin this journey in the hope that we will have our hearts changed towards the other members of our family, resulting in a greater understanding of one another and a renewed respect for the present positions held by both Houses.

When we consider the many challenges and issues we face in this world, we could be forgiven to believe there is little hope. We now have so much access to every corner of the world, that we are exposed to a multitude of “experiences”. These bring a mixed range of emotions. These emotions are attached to the many pictures we have before our eyes. It would be fair to state that the majority of pictures brought before our eyes are pictures of heart break and despair.

Due to the global media and technology we can witness a child dying in the arms of a parent. We can witness the decapitation of individuals. We can witness the worst “natural” disasters. We can witness a speech delivered live by an individual anywhere in the world. We can witness the countdown to “new years” eve in capital cities throughout the world. We can witness concerts, entertainment of all kinds, sport, etc. In fact we can be witness to any event that is taking place anywhere at any time. We can communicate instantly with others throughout the globe at the click of a button. There is no privacy left, it is gone. Technology has made all this possible.

With all this technology has come an increase in various fields and the ability to share it. This technology has brought opportunities for business to increase their profits. It has enabled advancements within the various fields of the “health industry”. It has opened up the field of education. It has allowed instant worldwide communication. The list goes on. However with the many improvements come some shocking failures, failures that advancements in technology have underwritten.

One of the great challenges of our time is the challenge of family breakdown, especially in the “Western World”. Technology has played its part in this breakdown, but of course it isn’t the actual physical side of technology that has been responsible. It has been those who choose to use this technology and how it has been used that has caused the problems. Advancement in technology has changed our means of transport. My dad, who is now 98 yrs, had a horse and cart as his means of transport as a child. This meant travel was limited and small communities thrived as all business and social activities were concentrated within the immediate community. In rural communities this was even pronounced. What now takes us an hour to travel in a modern motor vehicle was a one or two day trip in a horse and cart. The change in communication has been so great it is difficult to explain. It wasn’t that long ago when letter writing was the main means of communicating with those outside of your immediate neighbourhood. These letters could take anywhere from a day or two up to months to arrive at their destination. Now you can turn on the phone or computer and have instant communication with those both near and far. This has had tremendous advantages and a degree of disruption as well. The disruptions I speak of have caused pressures on “family” structures. Parents are no longer the main voice within the family home. There has never been a time throughout history when parents have had to contend with so many voices vying for their space.

Most parents in the Western World have lost control of their home. Those that haven’t are closer than ever of this taking place. Technology has been the tool that has provided the conduit for these other voices to enter the family home. In many cases the results of these “other” voices have eroded the long held values of these families.

Even at 60 yrs of age, I have witnessed many of these changes. When I was a child people still left their houses unlocked. Cars were never locked. Hotels closed at 6-00pm. Business trading hours were limited to 5 days a week within the 9-5 time frame. Radio was the main means of entertainment with very few stations, in fact where I lived we could only pick up one station. Divorce was almost unheard of. Having a child out of wedlock was rare. Murder was far from a daily event. So called recreational drugs were no existent. Police, teachers and Clergy were all respected members of the community. Children called adults Mr or Mrs “Smith”. Most people were asleep by 10-00pm. People grew their own vegies and many had hens for eggs. Milk either came direct from the cow or was delivered by horse and cart in a glass bottle. Super markets were a rarity. I could go on and on regarding these changes, many for the better, but many disrupted the family home.

I said all that as an introduction to our topic of reconciliation. Because whenever there is disruption of a family home, there is often heart ache and trouble. This opens the door for the need for reconciliation. This doesn’t mean it always happens, in fact it doesn’t mean the parties even want such. However it does mean

there has been a breakdown, a separation and the “original” has become damaged.

Literally thousands of years ago this damage happened to the House or Family of Israel. There was a “family” dispute regarding a power struggle and a split occurred that has yet to be healed. This historical event is recorded in the following:

*11 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, <sup>2</sup> from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.” Solomon held fast to these in love. <sup>3</sup> He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. <sup>4</sup> For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. <sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup> Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. <sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. <sup>8</sup> Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.*

*<sup>9</sup> Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, <sup>10</sup> and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded. <sup>11</sup> So the LORD said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. <sup>12</sup> Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. <sup>13</sup> However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”*

*<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD raised up an adversary to Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was of the royal line in Edom. <sup>15</sup> For it came about, when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, and had struck down every male in Edom <sup>16</sup> (for Joab and all Israel stayed there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom), <sup>17</sup> that Hadad fled to Egypt, he and certain Edomites of his father’s servants with him, while Hadad was a young boy. <sup>18</sup> They*

arose from Midian and came to Paran; and they took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him food and gave him land. <sup>19</sup> Now Hadad found great favor before Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. <sup>20</sup> The sister of Tahpenes bore his son Genubath, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house; and Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of Pharaoh. <sup>21</sup> 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, "Send me away, that I may go to my own country." <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh said to him, "But what have you lacked with me, that behold, you are seeking to go to your own country?" And he answered, "Nothing; nevertheless you must surely let me go."

<sup>23</sup> God also raised up another adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah. <sup>24</sup> He gathered men to himself and became leader of a marauding band, after David slew them of Zobah; and they went to Damascus and stayed there, and reigned in Damascus. <sup>25</sup> So he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, along with the evil that Hadad did; and he abhorred Israel and reigned over Aram.

<sup>26</sup> Then Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king. <sup>27</sup> Now this was the reason why he rebelled against the king: Solomon built the Millo, and closed up the breach of the city of his father David. <sup>28</sup> Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph. <sup>29</sup> It came about at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had clothed himself with a new cloak; and both of them were alone in the field. <sup>30</sup> Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him and tore it into twelve pieces. <sup>31</sup> He said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes <sup>32</sup> (but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel), <sup>33</sup> because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and observing My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David did. <sup>34</sup> 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 My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments and My

statutes; <sup>35</sup> but I will take the kingdom from his son's hand and give it to you, even ten tribes. <sup>36</sup> But to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name. <sup>37</sup> I will take you, and you shall reign over whatever you desire, and you shall be king over Israel. <sup>38</sup> Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. <sup>39</sup> Thus I will afflict the descendants of David for this, but not always.” <sup>40</sup> Solomon sought therefore to put Jeroboam to death; but Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt to Shishak king of Egypt, and he was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

<sup>41</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

<sup>42</sup> Thus the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. <sup>43</sup> And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

12 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. <sup>2</sup> Now when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it, he was living in Egypt (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon). <sup>3</sup> Then they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, <sup>4</sup> “Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.” <sup>5</sup> Then he said to them, “Depart for three days, then return to me.” So the people departed.

<sup>6</sup> King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, “How do you counsel me to answer this people?” <sup>7</sup> Then they spoke to him, saying, “If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them and grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.” <sup>8</sup> But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him. <sup>9</sup> So he said to them, “What counsel do you give that we may answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?’” <sup>10</sup> The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!’ But you shall speak to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father's loins! <sup>11</sup> Whereas my father loaded

*you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”*

*<sup>12</sup> Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, “Return to me on the third day.”*

*<sup>13</sup> The king answered the people harshly, for he forsook the advice of the elders which they had given him, <sup>14</sup> and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” <sup>15</sup> So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn of events from the LORD, that He might establish His word, which the LORD spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.*

*<sup>16</sup> When all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying,*

*“What portion do we have in David?  
We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse;  
To your tents, O Israel!  
Now look after your own house, David!”*

*So Israel departed to their tents. <sup>17</sup> But as for the sons of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. <sup>18</sup> Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam made haste to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.*

*<sup>20</sup> It came about when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, that they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. None but the tribe of Judah followed the house of David.*

*<sup>21</sup> Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. <sup>22</sup> But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, <sup>23</sup> “Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin and to the rest of the people, saying, <sup>24</sup> ‘Thus says the LORD, “You must not go up and fight against your relatives the sons of Israel; return every man to his house, for this thing has come from Me.”’” So they listened to the word of the LORD, and returned and went their way according to the word of the LORD.*

*25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and lived there. And he went out from there and built Peniel. 26 Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. 27 If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." 28 So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." 29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 31 And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi. 32 Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 Then he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense. 1Kings 11:1-12:33 [NASB]*

When one reads the above we not only witness the family split, but we also witness the reason behind the split. The reason is of course the disobedience of all parties to adhere to the instructions and guidance of our heavenly Father. In other words we strayed from the "values" and teachings of our Father, and listened to other voices. Listening to these other voices has caused untold damage to the "family home", damage that has yet to be repaired, because we continue to listen to other voices instead of the voice of our heavenly father.

Fortunately nothing takes our father by surprise and He always has the answers to our family problems and challenges. He obviously is displeased with our past and present behaviour, but He continues to call us back with the voice of love. This voice of love is weaved and scattered all throughout the Apostolic scriptures and it is this "voice of love" that we hope to learn and be encouraged from.

Our family is damaged and needs the voice of love to wash over us in order to heal and cleanse us. We hope to bring this voice to you over the coming weeks, so until next week we remember.

Truly there is no God like our God, the God of Israel and no nation like the Nation whom He elected.

Blessings to all citizens of biblical Israel,

Rabbi [Prof] Philip Hammond. PhD.