

the son of God." In this family are to be found some of the most renowned personages that ever lived. Among these are Enoch, Noah, Abraham, David and above all, the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rehoboam, the first king who reigned over the Judahites, as a distinct nationality, seems to have been the only child of Solomon, who had one thousand wives. His mother was an Ammonitess by the name of Naamah; and his maternal grandmother, three generations back, a Moabitess. Thus he was a descendant of Haran, who lived and died in idolatry, scarcely less than of Abraham. He became king at the age of forty-one, nine hundred and seventy-five years before Christ.

The extensive buildings which Solomon had erected together with his court, his servants, his horses, and his chariots, had obliged him to impose heavy taxes on his subjects, and it is possible that many were, even during his lifetime, ready for a revolt. This feeling gathered strength from the following incident. The prophet Ahijah met Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who at the time held an office under government, and taking the new garment that was on him rent it into twelve pieces, and thus addressed him: "Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, Behold I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee." But the impolitic conduct of Rehoboam was, of itself, sufficient to cause his subjects to rebel. Scarcely had he been proclaimed