

Hadad

1 Kings 11:14-22

11:14 And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, **Hadad** the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom. **11:15** For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom; **11:16** (For six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every male in Edom:) **11:17** That **Hadad** fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; **Hadad** being yet a little child. **11:18** And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land. **11:19** And **Hadad** found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. **11:20** And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh. **11:21** And when **Hadad** heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country. **11:22** Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.

1 Kings 11:23-25

11:23 And God stirred him up another adversary, **Rezon** the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah: **11:24** And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus. **11:25** And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that **Hadad** did: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

Who was Hadad?

Edom had been a powerful nation, but during the reign of King David in Israel, many male descendants of Esau were killed (11:15-16). A number of Edomite princesses became part of Solomon's harem (11:1-2). Prince Hadad may have been the only male member of the royal Edomite line to escape execution.

Hadad was taken to Egypt as a young child (11:18) and prospered greatly (11:19-22). Then when he came of age, Pharaoh gave the sister of the Egyptian queen to him as his wife. Hadad's son was even treated like a son of Pharaoh (11:20). Thus the Edomite could have remained in Egypt, except for one thing. The Lord had raised him up (11:14) to oppose Solomon who had become an idolater (11:1-8). So Hadad returned to Edom (11:22) and began to cause trouble for David's son (11:25).

The most amazing thing about Hadad is how God protected and used him even though he was an enemy of Israel.

negatives

The main negative point in chapter 11 is the sinfulness of Solomon, rather than the evil actions of Hadad who apparently was the first one to directly oppose the sinful king. Solomon's polygamy led to idolatry (11:1-10) and the breaking up of the nation (11:11-13).

God's main instrument of judgement was not Hadad, an Edomite, but Jeroboam, an Israelite who was led by God himself to rebel against Solomon and became the king of the ten northern tribes. (See 11: 26-40.)

That said, Hadad was not insignificant. He and Rezon, another Gentile adversary (11:23-25), helped prepare the way for the breakup of the Davidic kingdom.

Judgment came in steps. First, God raised up Hadad (11:14-22). Then came Rezon (11:24-25). Next, Jeroboam was called to be the main opponent (11:26-40). (*Notice that he too was protected in Egypt.*) Finally, Solomon died (11:43) and the kingdom was divided between Jeroboam and Rehoboam. (The details about this are in chapter 12.)

Mark the points below as correct (C), incorrect (X), or partly correct (▲).

A	() Hadad was an enemy of Israel.
A-1	() He was a descendant of Esau (11:14).
A-2	() He was afraid of David and Joab (11:21).
A-3	() It was natural for him to hate Israel (11:15-16).
A-4	() He was totally controlled by Pharaoh (11:18-22).
A-5	() He probably was not afraid of Solomon (11:21-22).
A-6	() He may have had relatives in Solomon's harem (11:1-2).
A-7	() He was probably as anti-Jewish as Rezon (11:14-17, 25).
B	() Hadad was a bad person.
B-1	() He probably worshipped idols (11:1-2).
B-2	() According to 11:25, he killed 200,000 Israelites.
B-3	() His wife sounds a lot like Jezebel (11:19-20).
B-4	() He probably did not believe in the God of Israel.
B-5	() He was unwilling to leave the luxury of Egypt (11:22).
B-6	() He may have been worse than is directly stated (11:25).

positives

Almost everything reported about Hadad in 11:14-22 is positive, and for some reason, the details about the evil that he did are left unstated. All that we have along this line are a few words in 11:25. On the other hand, there are nine verses (11:14-22) about Hadad's life before he returned to Edom and before he began to actively oppose the king of Israel. The main point in all this seems to be that the Lord raised him up (11:14). This included protecting him from Joab and providing for his every need (11:15-22).

The brief report of the evil that Hadad did sounds almost like an afterthought (11:25). Undoubtedly, he was a bad person in various ways, but the emphasis in the chapter, aside from the condemnation of Solomon, is upon what the Lord did. God worked behind the scenes to raise up and protect Hadad, Rezon, and Jeroboam. It is reminiscent of the Book of Esther in which God is never mentioned directly but is at work everywhere. Similarly, the Lord is only mentioned once in 1 Kgs. 11:14-22.

Mark the points below as correct (C), incorrect (X), or partly correct (▲).

C	() The report about Hadad is mostly positive.
C-1	() He sounds like an innocent victim (11:14-17).
C-2	() The evil that he did is hardly mentioned (11:25).
C-3	() Like Joseph, he prospered in Egypt (Gen. 41:41).
C-4	() He forsook Egypt like Moses (11:21-22, Heb. 11:24-27).
C-5	() Hadad's family life sounds better than Solomon's (11:19-20).
C-6	() Solomon repented because of Hadad and Rezon (11:3-13, 25).
C-7	() Little bad is written about Hadad because he was God's instrument.
D	() The report about Hadad is also about God.
D-1	() The Lord raised up Hadad (11:14).
D-2	() Hadad opposed Solomon. God hates sin.
D-3	() Hadad moved around a lot. God is everywhere.
D-4	() Hadad's life was spared (11:15). God is sovereign.
D-5	() It was years before Hadad returned. God is patient.
D-6	() Hadad did what God wanted him to do (11:25, Pro. 21:1).

conclusions

worksheet answers

Several lines on the negative worksheet are clearly incorrect. First, Pharaoh did not totally control Hadad (A-4). Actually, God seemed to be leading both of them. Second, there is no record of how many Israelites Hadad may have killed (B-2). Third, Hadad's Egyptian wife does not sound much like evil Jezebel (B-3). Fourth, Hadad was willing to leave the luxury of Egypt behind (B-5), somewhat like Moses had been willing to do earlier (D-4). Finally, all of these points indicate that the Edomite leader was not a particularly wicked person (B), though he probably was worse than is indicated by what is directly stated (B-6).

On the positive worksheet, there is only one obviously incorrect line. Solomon did not repent and put away his foreign wives and turn from idols (C-6). In this regard, apparently the harassment by Hadad and Rezon had little effect. In fact, Solomon probably began to marry various idolatrous women at about the same time that Hadad returned from Egypt. From early on in Solomon's reign (11:21-22), Hadad and Rezon caused trouble (11:25), but the king of Israel did not change his ways.

So what?

Why was Hadad protected by the Lord as an infant (11:16-18)—much like Joash (2 Kgs. 21:2-3) and Jesus (Mat. 2:13-18)—and favored as an adult (11:19-20) much like Joseph (Gen. 41:45)? That is not what we would expect in the life of an enemy of Israel? And why are we told so much about his personal life? The simple answer is that God had a plan for Hadad and wanted us to know about it. A better answer may be that God wanted us to see that Hadad was blessed *instead* of Solomon, from whom God had departed (11:9-13). It was not that Hadad was good, rather the main point in chapter 11 is how bad Solomon was.

God is angry when those who know him turn from him, and that is what Solomon did. God had appeared to him in a special way twice (11:9). Yet, the king's heart was turned to idols by his foreign wives. This shows that relationships are dangerous as well as important. Therefore God warns us against going along with the sins of others (2 Pet. 3:17). The loss of ten tribes was the greatest manifestation of God's anger toward Solomon, but Hadad's life shows us that Solomon's loss was personal as well.

applications

Apply the points which you believe are most important or seem most needful.
