

1 Kings 12-13

The Kingdom Divides

Lesson 8

With the death of Solomon, the united kingdom of Israel soon fell apart. The larger northern kingdom pulled away from Jerusalem and began to reestablish its own political and religious identity. The house of David continued to rule over Judah in the south, but the two kingdoms would begin a civil war that would last for fifty years over the right to dominate the region.

Rehoboam - King Of Israel - Chapter 12

1. When Solomon died, "*Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.*" According to 1 Kings 14:21 or 2 Chronicles 12:13 what information do we know about him?
2. Rehoboam was crowned Israel's 4th king at a ceremony in Shechem, which had become the political capital. From the following verses, what was the history of this city located in the hills of Ephraim?
 - Genesis 12:6,7
 - Joshua 24:1, 25 & 26
 - Joshua 24:32
3. Following Solomon's death and Rehoboam's coronation, Jeroboam returned from Egypt. (1 Kings 11:40) Once Israel knew he was back, what did they do? (vs. 2-4)
4. The prophet Samuel had given Israel a warning regarding this very thing in 1 Samuel 8:6-21. Summarize what the warning was and why Samuel was giving it.
5. Rehoboam said they'd have his answer in three days. Who did he consult with first and what was their advice? (vs. 6,7) Please comment.

6. Rehoboam rejected their counsel. Whose counsel did he seek next and what was it? (vs. 8-11) Please comment.

7. How does the author of Chronicles describe Rehoboam at this point of his reign? (2 Chronicles 13:7b)

8. The third day arrived and the people gathered to hear Rehoboam's decision. Whose advice did he take? (vs. 12, 13)
 - Why does it say he did this? (vs. 16)

9. What was the result of his decision? (vs. 16, 17)

The nation rebels

10. King Rehoboam first tried to deal with the rebellious tribes by sending out Adoniram, the head of forced labor. How did Israel respond to this? (vs. 18-20)

11. Continuing with his plan to show strength, what was Rehoboam's "Plan B"? (vs. 21)
 - What happened to "Plan B"? (vs. 22-24)

Jeroboam - king of Israel

Under the leadership of Kings David and Solomon, Israel was a united nation of 12 tribes. The original 12 tribes were descendants of the sons of Jacob, which included Judah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. When the tribe of Levi stepped forward on behalf of the Lord on Mt. Sinai, they were given the role as the priestly tribe. God said they would not receive a land inheritance because He would be their inheritance (Deut 18:1, Josh. 13:14). In order to maintain the number of tribes with land inheritance at 12, the tribe of Joseph was divided into the descendants of his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, replacing the tribes of Levi and Joseph.

12. According to 1 Kings 12:21, which two tribes were called "Judah" and remained with King Rehoboam?

13. The kingdom, now divided, had two kings competing for the loyalty of the people. What did King Rehoboam do to protect his kingdom? (2 Chronicles 11:5-12)

14. While Rehoboam was protecting Judah, what was Jeroboam doing to protect his hold on Israel? (vs. 25-29)

15. What did Jeroboam's actions reveal to you about his faith in God and His ability to fulfill the prophecy given in 1 Kings 11:37 & 38?

False Worship

16. *"Jeroboam thought to himself, 'The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah.' "* (vs. 26, 27) Jeroboam's solution to this problem was a counterfeit religious system. What did he use for each of the following?
 - God (vs. 28)

 - The Temple (vs. 29-31)

 - The Priests (vs. 31 & 13:33)

 - The Annual Festivals (vs. 32, 33)

17. Israel once again was being lead astray to worship at the golden calf. (Review Exodus 32 and the consequences for such activity.) When Moses found Israel involved in this false worship, he gave a challenge to the people. What was Moses' challenge and who responded? (Exodus 32:26)

18. How did they respond this second time? (2 Chronicles 11:13-15)

19. What effect did their action have on the people of Israel - and Judah?
(2 Chronicles 11:16, 17)

20. What was God's assessment of Jeroboam's alternative worship? (vs. 30 & 13:34)

The Man Of God - Chapter 13

21. God sent a prophet to Jeroboam while he was acting as his own priest, sacrificing at Bethel. What message did God send? (vs. 1-3)

22. Why do you think God sent a prophet to Jeroboam?

23. How did Jeroboam handle the news and how did the Lord get his attention? (vs. 4, 5)

24. Once God finally had his attention, what did Jeroboam do next? (vs. 6, 7)

25. What do you think Jeroboam's state of mind was?

26. The man of God refused the king's offer. Why? (vs. 8-10)

27. Having successfully completed his mission, the man of God took time to rest under an oak tree. What happened while he was there? (vs. 11-17)

28. Not to be outdone, how did the old prophet convince the man of God? (vs. 18, 19)

29. "While they were sitting at the table, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet."
What was the Lord's word? (vs. 20-22)

30. How was that fulfilled? (vs. 23-30)

31. What was the old prophet's request of his sons and why? (vs. 31, 32)

32. What effect did all this finally have on Jeroboam? (vs. 33, 34)