

## **6 – THE KINGDOM DIVIDES** **(1 KINGS 12:1-14:31; 2 CHRONICLES 10:1-12:16)**

### I. The Division of the Kingdom (1 Kings 12:1-24; 2 Chronicles 10:1-19)

#### A. Rehoboam's Difficulty (1 Kings 12:1-15; 2 Chronicles 10:1-15)

- When Rehoboam was made king in Shechem, Jeroboam and Israel came to speak with him.
- They pointed out how Solomon had placed a heavy burden upon them as they served him.
- Rehoboam told them he needed three days to consider their words.
- Solomon's elders encouraged the king to be a servant to the people and they will serve him.
- Rehoboam rejected their advice and accepted the advice of his friends who grew up with him.
- They advised Rehoboam to increase their burden more than one from Solomon.
- When Jeroboam and the leaders returned, Rehoboam spoke harshly to them.
- The king did not listen to the people, which was in accordance with the prophecy.
- All of this was to bring about the fulfillment of Ahijah's prophecy to Jeroboam.

#### B. The Northern Tribes Rebel (1 Kings 12:16-20; 2 Chronicles 10:16-18)

- The Northern Tribes restated the old accusation that they did not have a share in David.
- They rebelled against Rehoboam and stoned an emissary from the king.
- The king fled to Jerusalem and the Northern Tribes made Jeroboam their king.

#### C. Rehoboam's Response (1 Kings 12:21-24; 2 Chronicles 11:1-4)

- When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he gathered the men of Judah and Benjamin.
- With 180,000 men, he sought to restore the kingdom to himself.
- The Lord sent a prophet to tell Rehoboam not to attack Israel, because it was his will.

### II. Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25-14:20)

#### A. Jeroboam's Golden Calves (12:25-33)

- Jeroboam told himself that kingdom may return to the house of David.

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- If the people went to sacrifice to the Lord in Jerusalem, they will return to the Lord.
- Jeroboam made two golden calves and told the people it was too much to visit Jerusalem.
- He told the people that they were the gods which brought them out of Egypt.
- He put one golden calf in Bethel and put the other in Dan.
- This became a sin for the northern tribes as people went to worship the idols.
- Jeroboam made shrines on every high place as well as priests who were not Levites.
- Jeroboam instituted feasts that paralleled the feasts in Jerusalem.

### B. The Prophecy Against Jeroboam (13:1-34)

- The Lord sent a man of God came from Judah to Jeroboam in Bethel.
- He prophesied against the altar in Bethel about a child who will be called Josiah.
- He would sacrifice the priests and high places and burn men's bones on this altar.
- He said that the altar would split apart as sign that these things will take place.
- When Jeroboam heard the prophet's words, he stretched out his hand and called for his arrest.
- When he stretched out his hand, it withered and he could not draw it back to him.
- The altar then split apart and the ashes poured out according the words of the prophet.
- Jeroboam asked the prophet to pray for him and he interceded for the king's hand.
- Jeroboam asked the prophet to stay with him, but the prophet stated had been forbidden.
- An old prophet of the Lord who lived in Bethel tricked the prophet into staying with him.
- While they were sitting at the table, the old prophet prophesied against the prophet from Judah.
- Because he did not return to Judah in obedience, he would die and not be buried with his father.
- When the prophet departed, he was attacked by a lion and killed on the road.
- The old prophet found his body and had him buried in Bethel.
- He also stated that he wanted his bones buried with this prophet.
- The writer records that Jeroboam did not turn from his evil, but continue with the idolatry.

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## C. The Death of Jeroboam (14:1-20)

- Jeroboam's son Ahijah became sick and the king sent his wife to the prophet Ahijah.
- The Lord forewarned Ahijah that the wife was coming in disguise and told him what to say.
- Ahijah confronted her and told her to tell Jeroboam the word of the Lord.
- The Lord stated that he had made Jeroboam king, but he went and worshipped other gods.
- The Lord stated that he will bring disaster on Jeroboam's house and every male will be killed.
- The moment the wife returns, the child will die.
- The Lord will raise up a king who will kill the house of Jeroboam.
- The Lord will also give up Israel and uproot her because of Jeroboam's sin.
- When the wife returned to the city, the child died as the Lord had stated.
- Jeroboam reigned 22 years as king and his son Nadab assumed his throne.

## III. Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21-14:31; 2 Chronicles 11:5-12:16)

### A. Rehoboam's Reign (1 Kings 14:21-24; 2 Chronicles 11:5-17)

- Rehoboam was 41 years old and reigned 17 years in Jerusalem.
- Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord as they built high places and pillars.
- Judah also practiced the sins of the nations that Lord had casted out before them.
- Rehoboam fortified cities throughout Judah with troops and storehouses.
- The Levites in Israel took their stand with the Lord and came to Judah.
- The people who feared the Lord came to Judah as well and strengthened Rehoboam.

### B. Rehoboam's Family (2 Chronicles 11:18-23)

- Rehoboam had 18 wives and 60 concubines with 28 sons and 60 daughters.
- He appointed his son Abijah as chief in order to make him his successor as king.

### C. The Attack on Jerusalem (1 Kings 14:25-28; 2 Chronicles 12:1-12)

- Shishak, king of Egypt, attacked Jerusalem and took away its treasures.

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- Because the golden shields were taken, Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them.
- Rehoboam humbled himself before the Lord and the Lord's wrath was turned away from him.

### D. Rehoboam's Death (1 Kings 14:29-31; 2 Chronicles 12:13-16)

- The writer and chronicler list where the reign of Rehoboam is recorded.
- There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam during the reigns.
- Rehoboam died and was buried with his fathers in Jerusalem.
- Rehoboam's son Ahijah or Ahijam became king as his successor.