The Kings of Israel

Lesson #39

In our last study:

God divided the Kingdom of Israel

God divides the Kingdom of Israel In this (continued...) study: Jeroboam leads Israel into sin!

God divides the Kingdom

1 Kings 12:16 (ESV)

16 And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents.

1 Kings 12:17 (ESV)

17 But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.





After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam sparked a revolt that divided the kingdom. In the Northern Kingdom, Jeroboam set up centers of calf worship in Dan and Bethel to discourage people from travelling to Jerusalem to worship. With that as the pattern, there was never a faithful king in the Northern Kingdom, although Jehu did some good things. The Southern Kingdom had a few kings the Lord called good, a few that were a mix of good and bad, and a few bad.

DIVIDED KINGDOM



1 Kings 12:20 (ESV)

20 And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.

1 Kings 12:21 – 24 (ESV)

21 When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. 22 But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: 23 "Say 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, 24 'Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me." So they listened to the word of the LORD and went home again, according to the word of the LORD.

Jeroboam leads Israel into sin!

1 Kings 12:25 (ESV)

25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel.



1 Kings 12:26 – 27 (ESV)

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. 27 If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."

Jeroboam's sin:

He had two idols of golden calves constructed.

He appointed priests of the Isrealites who were outside of the family of the Levites.

He appointed his own feast days outside of the Law of Moses.

1 Kings 13:1 – 2 (ESV)

1 And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the word of the LORD to Bethel. Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make offerings. 2 And the man cried against the altar by the word of the LORD and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name, and he shall sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who make offerings on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.""

1 Kings 13:4 (ESV)

4 And when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Seize him." And his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself.

1 Kings 13:5 (ESV)

5 The altar also was torn down, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

1 Kings 13:6 (ESV)

6 And the king said to the man of God, "Entreat now the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." And the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him and became as it was before.

1 Kings 13:33 – 34 (ESV)

33 After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places. 34 And this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.

1 Kings 13:8 – 10 (ESV)

8 And the man of God said to the king, "If you give me half your house, I will not go in with you. And I will not eat bread or drink water in this place, 9 for so was it commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall neither eat bread nor drink water nor return by the way that you came.'" 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way that he came to Bethel.

In our next study, we will continue examining the period of the divided Kingdom!