

# Bible Stories for Adults

## The Divided Kingdom

1 Kings 11 - 13

### Opening

Gathering: How do our actions influence the faith of others?

Today's Focus: Solomon's unfaithfulness as the leader of God's people led to the division of Israel and the falling away of many.

Key Verses: *If you do whatever I command you and walk in My ways and do what is right in My eyes by keeping My statutes and commands, I will be with you.* 1 Kings 11:38

*Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your strength and with all of your mind, and, Love your neighbor as yourself.* Luke 10:27

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Last Week - Solomon's Reign (*1 Kings 1-10*)

How did God bless Solomon's reign?

1 Kings 3:12-14 = Gave him wisdom, fame, wealth, peace & long life

Did Solomon attempt to obey God as David had?

1 Kings 3:3-4 = Walked in David's statutes, offered many sacrifices

What was Solomon able to do that David longed to do but couldn't?

1 Kings 5:2-5 = Build a temple to God

Solomon's Tax Burden (*1 Kings 4*)

What things did Solomon import besides construction materials?

1 Kings 10:22 = Gold, silver, ivory, apes, baboons

1 Kings 10:28-29 = Horses & chariots from Egypt

How many chariots and horses did Solomon get from Egypt?

1 Kings 10:26 = 1400 chariots, 12K horses

Besides the trade deficit, what was wrong with this Egyptian horse trading?

Deuteronomy 17:16 = God forbade the king to stockpile horses or get them from Egypt

What provisions did Solomon's government require on a daily basis?

1 Kings 4:22-23 = 560 bushels flour & meal, 30 cattle, 100 sheep & goats, others

How were these extensive provisions supplied?

1 Kings 4:27-28 = Each district was taxed (1 month per year), also supplied horse feed

Solomon's Labor Burden (*1 Kings 9:20-23*)

Where did Solomon get the laborers he needed for his building projects?

1 Kings 9:20-21 = Turned all non-Jews into slaves

How many laborers did Solomon enlist?

1 Kings 5:13-16 = 30K woodcutters, 70K carriers, 80K stonecutters, 3300 foremen

Where did Solomon get the foremen and his soldiers?

1 Kings 9:22-23 = Drafted Israelites (forced labor)

Although they were drafted, why was it important that they were not called slaves?

Leviticus 25:42 = Forbidden to make an Israelite a slave

# Bible Stories for Adults

## The Divided Kingdom

Page 2

### Solomon's Downfall (*1 Kings 11:1-8*)

What command had God given Israel that Solomon completely ignored?

1 Kings 11:1-2 = Don't intermarry because they will lead you astray

Was God's command not to intermarry new to Solomon? = Broke rules on horses, wives, silver, gold

Deuteronomy 17:17 = God had told Moses that king shouldn't take many foreign wives

Did Solomon take many foreign wives, or did he just fall in love with many foreign women?

1 Kings 11:3 = 700 foreign wives, 300 concubines

How was Solomon led astray by his wives as God had said would happen?

1 Kings 11:4-8 = He built high places for his wives' gods & followed Ashtoreth & Molech

### God's Judgment on Solomon (*1 Kings 11:9-26*)

How did God decide to punish Solomon for this evil?

1 Kings 11:9-11 = He'd tear away Israel & give it to a subordinate

Did God revoke His promise to David of a descendant on the throne forever?

1 Kings 11:12-13 = No, He would leave one tribe for David's sake

While God protected Solomon's reign, did He also keep things peaceful?

1 Kings 11:14, 23, 26 (14-27) = God raised adversaries against Solomon

Adversaries included Hada in Edom (south), Rezon in Aram (north), Jeroboam (within)

### God Chooses Jeroboam (*1 Kings 11:28-31*)

Who was Jeroboam? = Jeroboam was from Ephraim

1 Kings 11:28 = A worker who Solomon promoted to head labor force of Ephraim & Manasseh

Did Jeroboam rebel against Solomon on his own?

1 Kings 11:29-31 = No, God chose him and sent Ahijah to call him

### God Decides to Split Israel (*1 Kings 11:32-40*)

What reason did Ahijah give that God was taking these tribes from Solomon's family?

1 Kings 11:33 = They have forsaken God, worshipped idols, not walked in God's ways

Why didn't God keep all of Israel together and give it all to Jeroboam?

1 Kings 11:32 = For the sake of David's faithfulness

Would Jeroboam take these tribes from Solomon right away?

1 Kings 11:34-36 = No, Solomon would keep all tribes. God would take from his son

What promise did God make to Jeroboam?

1 Kings 11:37-38 = Build dynasty like David's if he stays faithful

What happened to Jeroboam after Solomon found out what had happened?

1 Kings 11:40 = He ran away to Shishak in Egypt until Solomon died

### King Rehoboam (*1 Kings 12:1-4*)

Did Israel immediately accept Solomon's son Rehoboam as the next king?

1 Kings 12:1-12 = Yes, they went to Shechem to make him king

Who did Israel choose as spokesman and what request did they make?

1 Kings 12:2-4 = Jeroboam. Lighten the tax & labor loads.

# Bible Stories for Adults

## The Divided Kingdom

Page 3

### Rehoboam's Advisors (1 Kings 12:5-15)

What advice did Rehoboam receive from the royal elders?

1 Kings 12:5-7 = Say yes and win their loyalty

What advice did Rehoboam receive from his friends?

1 Kings 12:8-11 = Stand up and show your strength by being tougher

Which advice did Rehoboam follow? = Scorpions - whips with lots of sharp iron points

1 Kings 12:12-14 = That of his young inexperienced friends

Why had Rehoboam taken this approach?

1 Kings 12:15 = It was part of God's plan to take 10 tribes

### The Split (1 Kings 12:16-24)

How did the Israelites react to Rehoboam's response? = Same response as Sheba (2 Samuel 20:1)

1 Kings 12:16 (16-17) = They revolted and rejected Rehoboam as king

How strong was this rejection? = Rehoboam had to escape

1 Kings 12:18 (18-19) = Adoniram was killed when Rehoboam sent him out

What did the northern tribes of Israel do for a leader?

1 Kings 12:20 = They made Jeroboam their king

Did Rehoboam accept the results of this rebellion?

1 Kings 12:21 = He immediately gathered an army to take back Israel

How was this battle between Judah and Israel stopped?

1 Kings 12:22-24 = God sent prophet Shemaiah to say He did this

### Capitals of Israel (1 Kings 12:25)

Where did Jeroboam select for the capital of Israel?

1 Kings 12:25 = Shechem (Later moved to Tirzah – 1 Kings 14:17)

Where was Israel's capital for most of the nation's existence?

1 Kings 16:23-24 = Samaria (Bought & built by Omri), 7 miles NW of Shechem

What eventually happened to the nation of Israel and why?

2 Kings 17:6-8 = People exiled to Assyria (253 years later), Worshipped other gods

What happened to the land of Israel, Samaria?

2 Kings 17:24-25, 28-29, 41 = Settled by other peoples who worshipped their own gods

Did the people of Judah accept the people of Samaria as brothers?

John 4:9 = *Jews do not associate with Samaritans*

### Temples in Israel (1 Kings 12:26-30)

Where had God selected to put His name?

1 Kings 14:21 (11:36) = Jerusalem

What problem did Jeroboam have with the city where the Lord had chosen to put His Name?

1 Kings 12:26-27 = It was in Judah, People could return to Rehoboam if they went to Jerusalem

How did Jeroboam handle this problem? = Dan & Bethel are at north & south ends of Israel

1 Kings 12:28-30 = Made idols and set worship centers in Dan & Bethel

# Bible Stories for Adults

## The Divided Kingdom

Page 4

### Jeroboam's Religion (1 Kings 12:31-33)

Was Jeroboam intentionally creating his own religion? = Sacrificed as if he was a priest

1 Kings 12:31-33 = Yes. Built shrines, made up festivals & sacrifices

How carefully did he select priests for his new religion?

1 Kings 13:33 = Anyone who wanted to be priest was accepted

How were Jeroboam's actions accepted by the faithful people in Israel?

2 Chronicles 11:5, 13-17 = Levites & devout people left Israel & strengthened Judah

Did later kings of Israel return to God?

2 Kings 17:21-23 = All followed Jeroboam's sins, God punished with exile

### God Warns Jeroboam (1 Kings 13)

How did God make it clear to Jeroboam that what he was doing was very wrong?

1 Kings 13:1-6 (1-32) = Sent prophet from Judah; Signs of broken altar & shriveled hand

Did this cause Jeroboam to change his evil ways?

1 Kings 13:33-34 = No; His continuance led to the destruction of his dynasty

### Rehoboam's Faithfulness (2 Chronicles 12)

How faithful did Rehoboam remain?

2 Chronicles 12:1 = He abandoned God as soon as he was secure as king

How did God respond to Rehoboam's rejection?

2 Chronicles 12:2-5 = He sent Shishak to conquer Rehoboam & Judah

What was Rehoboam's reaction to his punishment?

2 Chronicles 12:6 = Humbled himself & accepted God's justice

How was this reaction taken by God?

2 Chronicles 12:7-8 = Decided not to destroy them, but make them subject to Shishak

What did Shishak do when he attacked Jerusalem?

2 Chronicles 12:9 = Just took the treasures of the temple & the palace

How might Shishak have known about these treasures?

1 Kings 11:40 = Jeroboam stayed with Shishak while Solomon lived

Did Rehoboam feel safe during the rest of his reign?

2 Chronicles 12:10-11 = No. Had guards with shields escort him around

Was Rehoboam threatened by anyone other than Egypt?

1 Kings 14:30 = *Continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam*

### Closing Prayer

### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Have I found it easier to be faithful in plenty or in want?  
(1 Kings 11:1-13; Matthew 6:19-24; 19:16-26; Romans 5:3-5; James 2:1-7)
2. How are we to deal with the great wealth God has given?  
(1 Kings 10:14-29; Genesis 12:2-3; Proverbs 3:9-10; Luke 12:13-21, 32-34, 48b; 19:12-27)
3. To whom do I look for advice?  
(1 Kings 12:1-15; 2 Samuel 16:23; Psalm 1:1-3; 73:24; Proverbs 12:15; 19:20)
4. When has God entrusted me with a responsibility that I squandered?  
(1 Kings 11:37-38; 12:25-33; 14:7-9; Matthew 25; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
5. When have I recognized a warning sent by God?  
(2 Chronicles 12:1-8; Jeremiah 11:7-8; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15)