

Judah		Israel	
Rehoboam	930—913	Jeroboam I	930—909
Abijam	913—910		
Asa	910—869	Nadab	909—908
		Baasha*	908—886
		Elah	886—885
		Zimri*	885 (7 Days)
		Omri*	885—874
Jehoshaphat	872—848	Ahab	874—853
		Ahaziah	853—852

*Indicates a change of family line/ kingdom takeover

Bold names represent righteous kings

Dates are approximate dates of reign

1 Kings 12-22
The Kingdom Divides

Overview

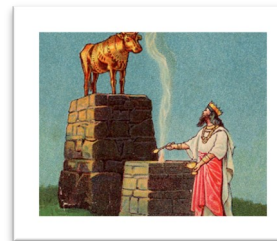
Israel had grown to a nation of power, wealth, and prominence under the kingship of Solomon. Sadly, Solomon’s poor choices of wives and idolatry would bring disaster to the kingdom. God promised the kingdom would be split, and that’s exactly what happened shortly after Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, took the throne. Rehoboam apparently lacked his father’s wisdom, and listened to the foolish counsel of peers instead of the wise advice of experienced men. The result was ten tribes of Israel rebelled and set up a man named Jeroboam as their king. This became the northern nation of Israel, leaving only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin as the nation of Judah. The rest of First and Second Kings tells the story of these two kingdoms. A prominent portion of First Kings is also given to the prophet Elijah and his works. While none of the Old Testament books of prophecy were written by Elijah, he was considered one of the most powerful and important prophets, and we see why when we read his story!

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: 1 Kings 12-14
- Tuesday: 1 Kings 15-16
- Wednesday: 1 Kings 17-18
- Thursday: 1 Kings 19-20
- Friday: 1 Kings 21-22

Questions:

1. What request did the people make of Rehoboam? _____
2. What type of idols did Jeroboam set up? In what cities did he place these idols? _____
3. What did Asa do to restore right religion in Judah? _____
4. Who’s ways were the kings of Israel said to “walk in”? _____
5. Who did Ahab marry, and what false God did they serve? _____
6. Where was the widow from who fed Elijah, and who’s son Elijah raised from the dead? _____
7. How many priests of Baal were at Mount Carmel? _____
8. Whose vineyard did Ahab covet? _____
9. Who killed Ahab? _____



“Like the Feast in Judah”

Jeroboam and Israel had a promising start. In fact, God had promised to build Jeroboam “a sure house, as I built for David” (11:37-38) if he would listen to God and walk in His ways. Instead, Jeroboam became afraid the people would desire to reunite as a nation if they continued travelling to Jerusalem for worship. And so, Jeroboam created his own religion. He borrowed from God’s ordained practice in many ways, and even set up a feast that the Bible says was “like the feast in Judah” (12:32). But being “like” God’s plan is not the same as following God’s plan. Many today make the same mistake of Jeroboam—they create and are happy with religion that is merely like Bible-based religion. Consider Jeroboam’s religion, and ask “is this is what others, or I, do with religion sometimes?”

- It was founded on self-reliance instead of trust in God (12:27)
- It was a religion of convenience (12:28-29)
- It was a religion of altered rules (12:31-32)
- It was a religion of Jeroboam’s creation, not God’s (12:32-33)

Elijah

Elijah is one of the most interesting and fascinating individuals in the Bible. Elijah is the first prophet since Samuel to be a central character in the Bible’s story. He worked some very powerful miracles—most notably his prayer for a three and a half year drought, raising a widows son from the dead, and his confrontation with the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel. Elijah is one of the only prophets who trained up a protégé (Elisha) that we read of. He had a unique personality and faced tremendous trials, some of which were so trying that he despaired of life. Perhaps most unique of all, is that instead of dying, we are told he was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind of chariots of fire. (2 Kgs. 2:11). And of course, he was present, along with Moses, on the Mount of Transfiguration. What a great, godly, and important man Elijah was!

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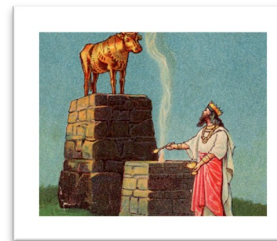
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