

**BIG WORD: 1 Kings**  
Homework for Chapters 12—14  
Discussion Dates: 13 March 2013 (in house)  
and 14 March 2013 (online)

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**DAY ONE: Overview**

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 1 Kings 12—14.

If possible, read all three chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

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**DAY TWO: Jeroboam vs. Rehoboam**

In our last study, we didn't take the time to explore Solomon's adversaries in detail. We know that God promised to strip the kingdom from Solomon, but, for the sake of his father David, God would not allow it during Solomon's lifetime. The kingdom would divide during his son's reign. That son was Rehoboam. The great adversary was Jeroboam.

Let's go back and learn a bit more about Jeroboam.

READ 1 Kings 11:26—11:40.

Who was Jeroboam?

A prophet spoke to him. What was that prophet's name?

What did the prophet do and say regarding the nation's future and Jeroboam's part in it?

We discussed Solomon's response to this prophecy. His assassination attempts sent Jeroboam into hiding, as we read in 1 Kings 11:40, but not forever. After Solomon's death, his son, Rehoboam, took the throne, and Jeroboam returned from exile.

READ 1 Kings 12:1—15.

Describe, in your own words, what happened here.

The people's request show the impact Solomon's empire had on the people of Israel. If the weight truly was so oppressive, why do you think they waited until Solomon's death to ask for reprieve?

What do you think of the advice Rehoboam received?

Jeroboam had the word of the prophet on his side. This word must have been widely known, since Solomon acted against it and Jeroboam was forced into public exile. Why didn't Jeroboam simply claim the throne? Why rally the people with an ambiguous request for Rehoboam?

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### **DAY THREE: The Kingdom Divides**

READ 1 Kings 12:16—24.

Rehoboam made a big mistake. The people revolted. What reason did they give for denying him as their king?

Which tribes stayed with Rehoboam?

Which tribes separated to form a new kingdom?

Whom did they make their king?

What plan did Rehoboam have to get them back?

Here we meet another prophet. Ahijah spoke with Jeroboam in chapter 11; now Shemaiah speaks to Rehoboam. What is his message for the king of Judah?

How does Rehoboam respond?

What might his response indicate regarding his beliefs about God?

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#### **DAY FOUR: Jeroboam's Folly**

READ 1 Kings 12:25—33.

What is Jeroboam's first act as king of Israel?

What was his motivation for this?

There are many things here that should have raised red flags in the minds of Jeroboam and his advisors. In spite of their rejection of Solomon's son, the line of David, they were still God's chosen people and they should have clung to the promises and Laws that He decreed. They possessed the same history, the same teachings, the same God.

You don't need to read all of the passages listed below, but consider the significance of these things which Jeroboam built and established in the new kingdom of Israel:

- Golden calves: Exodus 32:1—8

- High places and De-centralized worship: Judges 17:6 and 21:25 (*The whole book of Judges spoke against building high places for alternative, self-led worship.*)
- Non-Levitical priesthood: Exodus 28:1—5; Numbers 3:5—10
- Empty festivals: Leviticus 23; Exodus 32

The most obvious parallel is with Exodus 32, which incorporates almost all of these elements. A critical distinction, however, is that Aaron's actions came BEFORE God provided the Law. Jeroboam's actions came AFTER the Law and nearly 500 years of historical reminders.

Why do you think the people failed to revolt? Why was there no push toward revival and God's commands?

What do you think of this statement made by their king at the "grand opening" of the high places?

*"Look, Israel, here are your gods who brought you up from the land of Egypt." 12:28b*

According to Exodus 13, even the clothing that the Israelites wore bore reminders of God and that He, in fact, was the One who delivered them from Egypt. Reminders of His role in their ransom and granted freedom surrounded them in everyday life. How could they have forgotten who He was or what He had done?

God rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt is a type, a foreshadowing, of our rescue from sin by the grace of God through Jesus Christ. We were delivered from slavery, ransomed and set free. What reminders of this can we find in our everyday lives?

READ Hosea 8:1—6.

Is it possible for us to fall into the same trap as the Israelites?

How might we prevent a blind faith built on false hopes?

### **DAY FIVE: Two Prophets Collide**

READ 1 Kings 13:1—10.

Another prophet arises. What message does he give to Jeroboam and the people of Israel?

What happened next?

From this account and interaction, what do we learn about Jeroboam's respect for God?

Does his attitude toward God change throughout this interaction? What differences, if any, do you see before and after the shriveled hand incident?

What instructions did God give to the prophet?

READ 1 Kings 13:11—32.

Here we meet yet another prophet, the fourth mentioned in as many chapters. Describe his encounter with the prophet who had just confronted King Jeroboam.

How did this prophet convince the first to go against God's instructions?

Why did it work?

What consequences resulted?

This is a very odd story. After the two prophets collide and one dies, the second ardently mourns the first then insists that, when he dies, his bones should be buried next to the first. What do you make of this? Why do you think he had such a passionate reaction to a situation that he seemingly caused?

What do we learn about God's instructions from this passage?

What do we learn about deciphering the will of God from this passage?

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### **DAY SIX: Jeroboam and Ahijah**

READ 1 Kings 13:33—34.

What caused the collapse of Jeroboam's dynasty?

READ 1 Kings 14:1—4.

When Jeroboam's son becomes sick, he knows exactly where to go for wisdom. Rather than questioning his advisors, as he did at the dawn of his kingdom in 12:28, he returned to Ahijah, the prophet who originally pronounced his appointment as king.

Why do you think Jeroboam sought this man of God now and not before?

Why did Jeroboam instruct his wife to disguise herself?

READ 1 Kings 11:37—38.

When Ahijah first met with Jeroboam, he clearly explained why God was taking the kingdom from David's line and from Solomon. He also gave him explicit instructions about what kind of kingdom he should rule. What were those instructions?

What would happen if he followed those instructions?

READ 1 Kings 14:5—18.

What declaration is made against Jeroboam and his family?

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### **DAY SEVEN: Rehoboam's Reign**

In this section of 1 Kings, chapters 12—14, we've followed Jeroboam and the kingdom of Israel almost exclusively. Only three paragraphs at the end of chapter 14 tell us about Rehoboam's seventeen year reign.

As we've discussed previously, the books of Kings detail the monarchies in both Israel and Judah. The books of Chronicles, however, only record the history of the Judean kings, the successors of David. This includes Rehoboam. There we find not three paragraphs, but three chapters devoted to his reign over Judah.

We find a nearly verbatim parallel between 2 Chronicles 10:1—11:4 and 1 Kings 12:1—24, which we covered in "Day Two" of this study. The rest of 2 Chronicles 11 and all of 2 Chronicles 12 elaborate on Rehoboam's kingdom, accomplishments and adversities.

READ 2 Chronicles 11:5—12:16.

What did Rehoboam do that was good?

What did he do that was not good?

Was he at all like David, his grandfather? How?

How was he like Solomon, his father? Explain.

Why, after so many redundant warnings from God throughout generations, do you think that the kings – both Jeroboam and Rehoboam – continued to forget their covenant with God?

We, too, receive repeated reminders of God – His expectations of us, His grace and forgiveness and so much more – and we, too, often forget. What are some things we can do to keep His Truths at the forefront of our minds?