



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

Why the Kingdom Divided After Solomon

How Solomon's Unfaithfulness, Rehoboam's Pride, and Jeroboam's Fear Divided a Nation

The Short Answer

After Solomon died, the united kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom became known primarily as Israel, while the Southern Kingdom became known as Judah. But the division did not begin simply because Solomon's son Rehoboam made one terrible leadership decision. God had blessed Solomon with extraordinary wisdom, wealth, influence, and the privilege of building the temple, yet Solomon eventually turned away from wholehearted devotion to God. God announced that the kingdom would be torn from Solomon's dynasty, while preserving part of it for David's sake. After Solomon died, the northern tribes asked Rehoboam to lighten their heavy burden. He rejected wise counsel and threatened harsher treatment. The tribes rebelled and made Jeroboam king. Jeroboam then acted out of fear, establishing alternative worship centers and golden calves at Bethel and Dan. The kingdom divided through real human sins - Solomon's unfaithfulness, Rehoboam's pride, and Jeroboam's fear - while God remained sovereign and His promise to David continued.

1 Kings 3:1-15 · 1 Kings 8:22-61 · 1 Kings 9:1-9 · 1 Kings 11:1-43 · 1 Kings 12:1-33

Opening Memory Anchor

The kingdom divided because human hearts wandered - but God's promises remained.



PART ONE BEGINNER GUIDE

1. WHAT WAS ISRAEL LIKE BEFORE THE KINGDOM DIVIDED?

Before the division, Israel was one kingdom. Its first three kings were Saul, David, and Solomon. David captured Jerusalem and made it the center of the kingdom (2 Samuel 5:6-10).

God also made an extraordinary covenant promise to David: "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16). David's son Solomon inherited the throne.

At the beginning of Solomon's reign, the future appeared remarkably bright. Solomon asked God for wisdom to govern well (1 Kings 3:5-9), became famous for wisdom, ruled during prosperity, and built the temple in Jerusalem. The kingdom seemed secure. But success did not guarantee continued faithfulness.

2. DID GOD WARN SOLOMON THAT FAITHFULNESS MATTERED?

Yes. After the temple was completed, God appeared to Solomon and reminded him that the future of the kingdom was tied to covenant faithfulness (1 Kings 9:1-9). If Solomon and his descendants turned away and served other gods, judgment would follow. Even the magnificent temple would not protect an unfaithful people.

Solomon therefore did not fail because he lacked knowledge. He had wisdom, Scripture, God's blessing, and direct warning. The tragedy is that knowing truth is not the same as continuing to obey it.

Memory Anchor

Spiritual knowledge is a gift. It is not a substitute for spiritual faithfulness.

3. WHAT WENT WRONG WITH SOLOMON?

First Kings 11 describes a tragic change. Solomon loved many foreign women from nations concerning which God had warned Israel: "You shall not enter into marriage with them...for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods" (see 1 Kings 11:1-2; Deuteronomy 7:1-6). That is exactly what happened.

"As Solomon grew old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods" (1 Kings 11:4). Solomon built high places for false gods and accommodated idolatrous worship. The king who built the LORD's temple also built places where false gods were worshiped. Solomon's heart was no longer wholly devoted to the LORD.

4. WAS SOLOMON'S SIN MARRYING WOMEN FROM OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS?

No. The biblical concern was not ethnicity. It was covenant unfaithfulness and idolatry. Deuteronomy's warning identifies the danger: "They would turn your sons from following me to serve other gods" (Deuteronomy 7:4).

Ruth provides a powerful counterexample. She was a Moabite woman, yet she abandoned the gods of Moab and declared, "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16). Ruth became part of Israel and eventually part of the family line of David - and therefore the human ancestry of Jesus (Ruth 4:13-22; Matthew 1:5).

Biblical Literacy Note

Do not turn Scripture's warning against idolatry into a teaching against interracial or interethnic marriage. The text identifies the spiritual issue itself: Solomon's heart was turned away from the LORD.

5. WHY WAS SOLOMON'S IDOLATRY SO SERIOUS?

Solomon was Israel's king, stood in David's royal line, built the temple, and received extraordinary revelation. God had appeared to Solomon twice (1 Kings 11:9). Yet Solomon turned toward other gods.

The LORD announced that the kingdom would be torn from him (1 Kings 11:11). But the judgment would not occur during Solomon's lifetime, "for the sake of David" (1 Kings 11:12), and David's dynasty would not disappear. God would preserve part of the kingdom "for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen" (1 Kings 11:13). Judgment was coming, but God's covenant promise had not disappeared.

6. IF GOD SAID "ONE TRIBE" WOULD REMAIN, WHY DO JUDAH AND BENJAMIN LATER APPEAR TOGETHER?

First Kings 11 speaks of "one tribe" remaining with David's house, yet after the division Rehoboam rules over Judah and Benjamin is associated with the southern kingdom (1 Kings 12:21). The language should not be treated as a strict mathematical count of everyone who later belonged to Judah.

Judah became the dominant identity of the southern kingdom, while Benjamin remained closely associated with it. Later, priests, Levites, and others from throughout Israel also migrated south because they desired to worship the LORD at Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 11:13-17). "One tribe" emphasizes that God preserved a kingdom for David's house.



7. WHO WAS JEROBOAM BEFORE THE KINGDOM DIVIDED?

Jeroboam was one of Solomon's officials. First Kings describes him as capable and industrious, and Solomon placed him over a labor force connected with the house of Joseph, the major northern grouping associated especially with Ephraim and Manasseh (1 Kings 11:26-28).

The prophet Ahijah tore a new garment into twelve pieces and told Jeroboam to take ten, symbolizing that God would give him ten tribes (1 Kings 11:29-31). God also gave Jeroboam a genuine opportunity: "If you will listen to all that I command you...I will be with you and will build you a sure house" (1 Kings 11:38).

Notice the distinction: God's covenant promise concerning David pointed toward an enduring Davidic house (2 Samuel 7:12-16). The promise to Jeroboam was explicitly conditional - if Jeroboam obeyed.

8. DID SOLOMON TRY TO STOP JEROBOAM?

Yes. After Ahijah's prophecy, Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam. Jeroboam fled to Egypt and remained there until Solomon died (1 Kings 11:40). Early Solomon asked God for wisdom; later Solomon practiced idolatry and attempted to kill the man God had identified as the future ruler of the northern tribes.

Memory Anchor

A strong beginning does not guarantee a faithful ending.

9. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER SOLOMON DIED?

Solomon's son Rehoboam became king, but the transition was not peaceful. Rehoboam traveled to Shechem, where Israel gathered to make him king (1 Kings 12:1). Shechem had deep significance in Israel's history: Abraham built an altar there, Jacob lived in the area, and Joshua gathered Israel there for covenant renewal (Genesis 12:6-7; Joshua 24). It also lay in northern tribal territory associated with Ephraim.

The northern tribes had long possessed a distinct regional and tribal identity, and earlier tensions between Judah and other tribes already appeared during David's reign (2 Samuel 19:41-43; 20:1-2). Jeroboam returned from Egypt, and the people asked Rehoboam to lighten the heavy service and yoke Solomon had placed upon them (1 Kings 12:4).

10. WERE THE PEOPLE'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT SOLOMON'S BURDENS REALISTIC?

Yes. Solomon's great kingdom required enormous resources. His government used regional taxation and provision systems (1 Kings 4:7-28), and his building projects included the temple, palace, fortifications, and other major construction.

First Kings also records extensive labor systems. Solomon conscripted Israelites for labor connected with his building projects (1 Kings 5:13-18), while surviving Canaanite populations were subjected to permanent forced labor (1 Kings 9:20-22). The text distinguishes these groups, but together the passages show the enormous human and economic demands involved in maintaining Solomon's kingdom. The people's request for relief did not appear out of nowhere.

11. WHAT ADVICE DID REHOBOAM RECEIVE?

Rehoboam first consulted the older men who had served Solomon. Their advice centered on service: "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them...then they will be your servants forever" (1 Kings 12:7).

Rehoboam rejected that counsel and followed younger advisers who urged him to demonstrate strength through harsher treatment. "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke" (1 Kings 12:14). Instead of hearing the people's burden, Rehoboam intensified it. Instead of serving, he threatened.

12. IS THE LESSON SIMPLY "LISTEN TO OLDER PEOPLE"?

No. The older advisers happened to give wise counsel and the younger advisers gave destructive counsel, but Scripture does not establish a universal rule that older advice is always right. The central contrast is between servant leadership and prideful power. Rehoboam believed leadership had to be demonstrated through domination.

Memory Anchor

Authority is strongest when it serves rather than needing to prove its strength.

13. WHY DID THE KINGDOM BREAK APART SO QUICKLY?

Several factors formed the setting: real economic and labor burdens, northern regional identity, older tribal tensions, and Rehoboam's confirmation at historically significant Shechem. These factors help explain why his answer became politically explosive.

Historians may emphasize economic pressures, tribal rivalries, administrative burdens, or regional interests. Those factors illuminate the setting. But Kings gives the deepest theological explanation: Solomon turned from the LORD, God announced judgment, and Rehoboam then acted foolishly. Historical background helps explain how the crisis unfolded; Scripture explains what the crisis ultimately meant.



14. WHAT HAPPENED WHEN REHOBAM REFUSED TO LISTEN?

The northern tribes rejected Rehobam's rule: "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse" (1 Kings 12:16). When Rehobam sent Adoram, who was over forced labor, the people stoned him to death. Rehobam fled to Jerusalem, and the northern tribes made Jeroboam king (1 Kings 12:18, 20).

The united monarchy was over: Israel became the Northern Kingdom; Judah became the Southern Kingdom.

Series Connection

Study #216 explains WHY the kingdom divided. 3Nails Study #215 - Northern Kingdom and Judah Compared follows WHAT HAPPENED to the two kingdoms afterward.

15. DID REHOBAM CAUSE THE KINGDOM TO DIVIDE?

Yes - but not by himself. Solomon had violated God's covenant. God had announced that the kingdom would be torn apart. Ahijah had already told Jeroboam he would receive ten tribes. Then Rehobam made his disastrous decision.

First Kings 12:15 explicitly says the turn of events fulfilled God's earlier word. Scripture presents multiple layers: Solomon sinned. God announced judgment. Rehobam chose prideful counsel. The northern tribes rebelled. Jeroboam became king. God's announced word was fulfilled. Human responsibility and divine sovereignty appear together.

16. DID REHOBAM TRY TO REUNITE THE KINGDOM BY FORCE?

Yes. Rehobam gathered 180,000 warriors from Judah and Benjamin to fight against Israel (1 Kings 12:21). But God sent a message through Shemaiah: "You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel...for this thing is from me" (1 Kings 12:24). The people listened and returned home. Civil war was avoided, and the divided kingdom remained.

17. WHAT DID JEROBOAM DO AFTER HE BECAME KING?

Jeroboam had received a kingdom and a promise from God, but once he possessed the kingdom, fear took over. He reasoned, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David" (1 Kings 12:26), because the temple was still in Jerusalem.

Jeroboam feared that worship there would restore loyalty to Rehobam. He made two golden calves, placed them at Bethel and Dan, established alternative worship sites, appointed priests outside the established Levitical priesthood, and created a festival of his own choosing (1 Kings 12:28-33). Jeroboam had been given a kingdom by God, then disobeyed God because he was afraid of losing it.

18. WHY WERE JEROBOAM'S GOLDEN CALVES SUCH A SERIOUS TURN?

Jeroboam attempted to solve a political problem by corrupting worship. Instead of trusting the God who had given him the kingdom, he tried to secure it through religious compromise.

His decision became one of the defining sins of the Northern Kingdom. Again and again, Kings evaluates later northern rulers by saying they followed "the way of Jeroboam" and participated in the sin by which he "made Israel to sin" (see 1 Kings 15:34; 16:19, 26; 22:52). One ruler's fear became generations of normalized rebellion.

Memory Anchor

Fear can tempt people to protect by compromise what only God can truly secure.

19. WHAT IS THE BIG IDEA OF THE DIVISION?

The kingdom did not divide because of one bad meeting. Solomon allowed his heart to turn toward other gods. Rehobam allowed pride to shape his leadership. Jeroboam allowed fear to reshape worship. Different sins, different men, different circumstances - but beneath them was the same fundamental problem: human hearts refusing to trust and obey God.

And yet God remained sovereign. He judged Solomon's unfaithfulness, preserved the house of David, gave Jeroboam a genuine opportunity to obey, prevented immediate civil war, and continued moving His covenant purposes forward. The kingdom divided. God's redemptive plan did not.

PART ONE SUMMARY

Israel reached extraordinary heights under Solomon, but Solomon's heart turned away from God. God announced that the kingdom would be torn apart after his death. When the people later asked Rehobam to lighten their burdens, he rejected servant-minded counsel and answered with threats. The northern tribes rebelled, and Jeroboam became their king. Then Jeroboam's fear led him to corrupt Israel's worship. Three destructive heart patterns shaped the story: Solomon - unfaithfulness; Rehobam - pride; Jeroboam - fear. Even extraordinary wisdom, political power, and religious privilege cannot substitute for a heart that remains faithful to God.



PART TWO

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

INTERMEDIATE

20. IF GOD SAID THE KINGDOM WOULD DIVIDE, WERE REHOBOAM AND JEROBOAM REALLY RESPONSIBLE?

Yes. Scripture presents both God's sovereignty and genuine human responsibility. God announced the division before Rehoboam made his decision (1 Kings 11:29-39). Then Rehoboam rejected wise counsel and chose a harsh response (1 Kings 12:8-14). First Kings 12:15 connects the event with God fulfilling His earlier word.

But Scripture never treats Rehoboam as a puppet. His pride mattered. His decision mattered. Jeroboam likewise received the northern kingdom according to God's announced purpose, but God commanded him to obey (1 Kings 11:37-38). Jeroboam later chose idolatrous compromise because of his own fear. God's sovereignty did not make human choices meaningless; human choices did not overthrow God's sovereignty.

Reader Safeguard

It is not necessary to solve every philosophical question about divine sovereignty and human choice to understand this story. Scripture makes two things clear: God remained sovereign, and the people involved remained responsible.

21. DID GOD CAUSE SOLOMON TO SIN SO THAT THE KINGDOM WOULD DIVIDE?

Scripture does not say that. God commanded faithfulness; Solomon disobeyed. God confronted Solomon because "his heart had turned away from the LORD" (1 Kings 11:9). The division was announced as judgment upon Solomon's covenant unfaithfulness.

God's sovereignty over the judgment should not be confused with God morally approving or causing Solomon's idolatry. James expresses the broader principle that God does not tempt anyone with evil (James 1:13). Solomon's sin belonged to Solomon. God remained sovereign over its consequences.

22. WHY DID GOD LEAVE PART OF THE KINGDOM WITH DAVID'S FAMILY?

Because God had made a covenant promise to David. God told David that his house, kingdom, and throne would have an enduring future (2 Samuel 7:12-16). Solomon's sin brought genuine judgment, but Solomon's failure did not make God unfaithful.

This explains the contrast between David's dynasty and Jeroboam's opportunity. The Davidic covenant carried forward God's promise concerning David's enduring house. Jeroboam, by contrast, was promised a "sure house" if he obeyed (1 Kings 11:38). David's covenant line continued despite individual failures because God was preserving His larger covenant purpose - a distinction that becomes increasingly important as the story moves toward the promised Son of David.

23. DID SOLOMON REPENT BEFORE HE DIED?

The Bible does not explicitly say. Ecclesiastes has traditionally been associated with Solomon, and its conclusion calls people to "Fear God and keep his commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Some readers therefore believe Ecclesiastes may reflect Solomon returning to God late in life.

That is possible, but 1 Kings never explicitly records Solomon repenting of the idolatry described in chapter 11. Christians may hope Solomon repented; they should not claim Scripture tells them that he did.

Biblical Literacy Note

A possible conclusion should not be presented as an explicit biblical fact.

24. WAS REHOBOAM JUST A TERRIBLE KING?

His story is more complicated than one disastrous decision. Chronicles adds information about Rehoboam, focusing particularly on Judah, the temple, the priesthood, and the spiritual condition of the Davidic kingdom.

Second Chronicles 11 records that priests, Levites, and others who desired to seek the LORD came to Judah and strengthened Rehoboam's kingdom (2 Chronicles 11:13-17). But after his position became strong, Rehoboam abandoned the law of the LORD (2 Chronicles 12:1). Egypt invaded Judah; when confronted by Shemaiah, Rehoboam and Judah's leaders humbled themselves, and God reduced the severity of the judgment (2 Chronicles 12:5-8).

Kings and Chronicles sometimes emphasize different aspects of the same period. Kings follows both Israel and Judah and repeatedly evaluates kings by covenant faithfulness; Chronicles concentrates heavily on Judah, David's dynasty, the temple, priesthood, and worship. Reading them together provides a fuller picture.

25. WHY DID JEROBOAM FAIL AFTER GOD GAVE HIM SUCH A STRONG PROMISE?

Because receiving a promise is not the same as trusting the One who made it. God had promised Jeroboam an enduring house if he walked faithfully (1 Kings 11:38). Yet Jeroboam became afraid that obedience would cost him his kingdom.

So he attempted to protect through manipulation what God had offered to establish through obedience. The tragedy is striking: The man who received a kingdom from God became afraid that obeying God would make him lose it.



26. WHAT DOES THE DIVISION TEACH ABOUT LEADERSHIP?

Rehoboam and Jeroboam failed differently. Rehoboam feared appearing weak, so he became harsh. Jeroboam feared losing control, so he compromised worship. Both attempted to preserve authority through human power rather than faithful service and trust.

Jesus later described leadership very differently. Gentile rulers “lord it over” others, but “It shall not be so among you” (Mark 10:42-43). Jesus identified greatness with serving and described His own mission: “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Pastoral Safeguard

Biblical respect for authority should never be used to excuse abusive, coercive, manipulative, or authoritarian leadership. Scripture holds leaders accountable for how they exercise power. Jesus is the clearest model: true authority and servant leadership belong together.

27. WAS THE DIVISION ONLY POLITICAL?

No. It had political consequences and involved economic burdens, labor demands, regional identity, tribal loyalties, royal succession, and competing centers of power. Those factors matter historically.

But Kings is theological history. Its deepest concern is not merely, “Why did a nation break apart?” It is, “What happens when God’s people and their leaders turn from covenant faithfulness?” The political fracture reveals a deeper spiritual fracture.

28. WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE DIVIDED KINGDOM TO CONTINUE?

Scripture does not give one exhaustive explanation for every purpose God had in allowing the division to continue for centuries. But several things become clear. The divided kingdom exposed the spiritual condition of Israel and Judah. God sent prophets to both, demonstrated patience, called people to repentance, judged persistent rebellion, preserved a remnant, and through Judah preserved the Davidic line.

The division became part of the larger biblical story leading toward exile, restoration, and ultimately Christ. God did not need Israel’s failure in order to accomplish His purposes, but Israel’s failure could not prevent Him from accomplishing them.

29. HOW DOES THE DIVISION POINT TO JESUS?

The divided kingdom exposes the limitations of even Israel’s greatest human kings. Solomon had extraordinary wisdom, yet wisdom could not keep his heart faithful. Rehoboam inherited David’s dynasty, yet ancestry could not make him wise. Jeroboam received a kingdom from God, yet opportunity could not make him trust God.

Israel needed more than a wiser, stronger, kinder, or more politically skilled king. Israel needed a perfectly faithful King. Isaiah promised a ruler whose government and peace would have no end on David’s throne (Isaiah 9:6-7). Jeremiah promised a righteous Branch from David who would reign wisely and execute justice (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

The New Testament introduces “Jesus Christ, the son of David” (Matthew 1:1). Gabriel told Mary that God would give Jesus “the throne of his father David” and that “of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:32-33). Solomon’s kingdom fractured. Jesus’ kingdom will not. Human kings failed. The promised King did not.

Memory Anchor

Solomon’s kingdom could be divided. Christ’s kingdom cannot be destroyed.

30. WHAT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED MOST FROM THIS STORY?

The fracture visible in 1 Kings 12 had roots in 1 Kings 11. Solomon’s heart had already wandered. The lesson is not that one mistake automatically destroys everything. It is that persistent compromise matters. Pride matters. Fear matters. Worship matters. Leadership matters. Faithfulness matters.

But the story also gives hope. God’s plan did not depend upon flawless human kings. Solomon failed. Rehoboam failed. Jeroboam failed. God remained faithful. The kingdom divided. The promise continued.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

1. GUARD THE HEART, NOT JUST OUTWARD APPEARANCES.

Solomon built the temple while his own heart eventually wandered. Visible spiritual accomplishments cannot replace personal faithfulness.

2. DO NOT ASSUME KNOWLEDGE GUARANTEES OBEDIENCE.

Solomon possessed extraordinary wisdom. Knowing what is right and faithfully doing what is right are different things.

3. LISTEN BEFORE USING AUTHORITY.

Rehoboam responded to burdened people with threats. Good leadership takes concerns seriously rather than treating every request as a challenge to authority.

4. DO NOT CONFUSE HARSHNESS WITH STRENGTH.

Rehoboam thought stronger threats would establish his authority. They helped fracture his kingdom.

5. WATCH WHAT FEAR MAKES SEEM NECESSARY.

Jeroboam convinced himself that disobedience was necessary to preserve his kingdom. Fear often makes compromise appear reasonable.

6. DO NOT TRY TO PROTECT GOD'S GIFTS THROUGH DISOBEDIENCE.

God gave Jeroboam the kingdom. Jeroboam then violated God's commands trying to keep it.

7. TAKE SMALL COMPROMISES SERIOUSLY.

Jeroboam's worship system became a pattern followed for generations. Personal compromise can become cultural inheritance.

8. USE AUTHORITY TO SERVE.

Jesus provides the opposite model from Rehoboam's domineering leadership. Biblical authority seeks the good of those entrusted to it.

9. TRUST GOD'S FAITHFULNESS MORE THAN HUMAN PERFORMANCE.

The kings failed repeatedly. God's covenant purposes continued.

10. KEEP JESUS AT THE CENTER.

The divided kingdom demonstrates why God's people needed more than another flawed human ruler. They needed the faithful Son of David.

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Why is it misleading to say Rehoboam alone caused the kingdom to divide?
2. What makes Solomon's spiritual decline especially sobering?
3. Why is it important to distinguish Solomon's idolatry from the ethnicity of his wives?
4. How did the economic and labor demands of Solomon's kingdom contribute to the crisis Rehoboam inherited?
5. What does Shechem's location and history add to understanding the northern tribes' response?
6. What is the difference between the older advisers' servant-minded counsel and Rehoboam's view of strength?
7. Why would it be a mistake to turn this story into a universal rule about always following older people's advice?
8. What fear drove Jeroboam to create alternative worship centers?
9. How did Jeroboam's compromise affect generations after him?
10. How does Scripture hold God's sovereignty and human responsibility together in this story?
11. What is the difference between God's covenant promise to David and His conditional promise to Jeroboam?
12. Why should Christians avoid claiming certainty that Solomon repented before his death?
13. What additional perspective does Chronicles provide on Rehoboam?
14. How does Jesus challenge Rehoboam's and Jeroboam's approaches to leadership?
15. How did God's promise to David continue even though Solomon's kingdom fractured?
16. Which warning from Solomon, Rehoboam, or Jeroboam seems most important to remember?



REVIEW AND RETENTION

1. Who were the three kings of Israel's united monarchy? Saul, David, and Solomon.
2. What did Solomon ask God to give him? Wisdom to govern God's people.
3. What major building did Solomon construct in Jerusalem? The temple.
4. What was Solomon's central spiritual failure? His heart turned toward other gods.
5. Was Solomon's sin marrying someone of another ethnicity? No. The issue was covenant unfaithfulness and idolatry.
6. Which woman provides a clear biblical example of a foreigner who faithfully worshiped the LORD and entered Israel? Ruth.
7. What judgment did God announce against Solomon? The kingdom would be torn from his dynasty.
8. Why did God preserve part of the kingdom for David's house? Because of His covenant commitment to David and His larger redemptive purpose.
9. Why does Benjamin appear with Judah after the division? Benjamin remained associated with the southern kingdom, and "Judah" became its dominant kingdom identity.
10. Which prophet told Jeroboam he would receive ten tribes? Ahijah.
11. What symbolic action did Ahijah perform? He tore a garment into twelve pieces and told Jeroboam to take ten.
12. Was God's promise of an enduring house to Jeroboam unconditional? No. It was explicitly tied to Jeroboam's obedience.
13. What did the people ask Rehoboam to do? Lighten the heavy burden Solomon had placed upon them.
14. What did the older advisers tell Rehoboam? Serve the people and answer them kindly.
15. What counsel did Rehoboam follow? The harsh counsel of the younger men.
16. What happened after Rehoboam threatened heavier burdens? The northern tribes rejected his rule.
17. What two kingdoms resulted? Israel in the north and Judah in the south.
18. Who became king of the Northern Kingdom? Jeroboam.
19. Who remained king of Judah? Rehoboam.
20. Where did Jeroboam establish major alternative worship centers? Bethel and Dan.
21. Why did Jeroboam create them? He feared worship in Jerusalem would restore the people's loyalty to Rehoboam.
22. How did later northern kings often repeat Jeroboam's failure? They continued in "the sins of Jeroboam."
23. What three heart problems are especially visible in the story? Solomon's unfaithfulness, Rehoboam's pride, and Jeroboam's fear.
24. Does Scripture present God's sovereignty as eliminating human responsibility? No.
25. Does Scripture explicitly tell readers that Solomon repented before his death? No.
26. What promise continued despite the kingdom's division? God's covenant promise concerning David's house and kingdom.
27. Who ultimately fulfills the hope of the everlasting Davidic King? Jesus Christ.

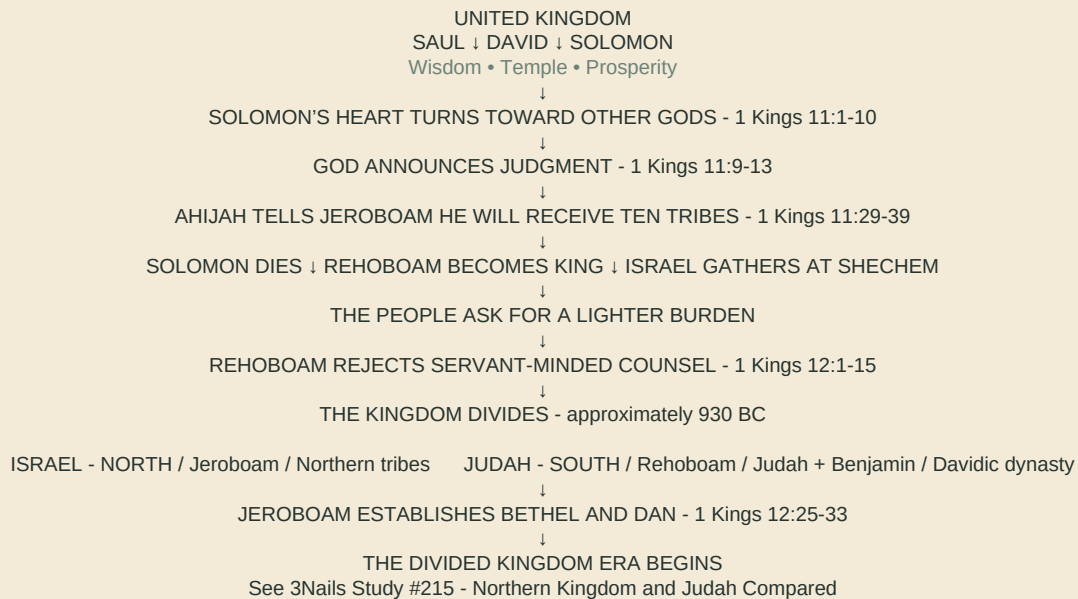


Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

FINAL MEMORY ANCHORS

- The kingdom divided because human hearts wandered - but God's promises remained.
- Spiritual knowledge is a gift. It is not a substitute for spiritual faithfulness.
- The issue in Solomon's marriages was idolatry, not ethnicity.
- A strong beginning does not guarantee a faithful ending.
- Authority is strongest when it serves rather than needing to prove its strength.
- Fear can tempt people to protect by compromise what only God can truly secure.
- Human responsibility and divine sovereignty appear together.
- God's promise to David endured despite the monarchy's failures.
- Jeroboam's opportunity was real, but his promised dynasty was conditioned upon obedience.
- Solomon's kingdom could be divided. Christ's kingdom cannot be destroyed.
- The kingdom divided. The promise continued.

FROM ONE KINGDOM TO TWO





Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING PATH

Deuteronomy 7:1-6 - Israel warned against relationships that lead toward idolatry
2 Samuel 7:8-16 - God's covenant promise to David
2 Samuel 19:41-43; 20:1-2 - Earlier tribal tensions involving Judah and Israel
1 Kings 3:5-15 - Solomon asks for wisdom
1 Kings 8:22-61 - Solomon's temple prayer and call to wholehearted devotion
1 Kings 9:1-9 - God warns Solomon about covenant unfaithfulness
1 Kings 9:15-23 - Solomon's building projects and labor systems
1 Kings 11:1-13 - Solomon's heart turns toward other gods
1 Kings 11:26-40 - Ahijah's prophecy and God's conditional promise to Jeroboam
1 Kings 12:1-15 - Rehoboam rejects wise counsel
1 Kings 12:16-24 - The kingdom divides and God prevents civil war
1 Kings 12:25-33 - Jeroboam establishes alternative worship
2 Chronicles 10 - Parallel account of the kingdom's division
2 Chronicles 11:13-17 - Priests, Levites, and faithful Israelites come to Judah
2 Chronicles 12:1-12 - Rehoboam abandons God's law and later humbles himself
Ruth 1:16-17; 4:13-22 - Ruth follows Israel's God and enters David's family line
Isaiah 9:6-7 - Promise of the everlasting Davidic ruler
Jeremiah 23:5-6 - Promise of the righteous Branch from David
Mark 10:42-45 - Jesus teaches servant leadership
Matthew 1:1-6 - Jesus identified with David's royal line
Luke 1:30-33 - Jesus receives David's throne and an everlasting kingdom

FINAL SUMMARY

Israel's division did not begin with one foolish decision by Rehoboam. Its roots reached back into Solomon's reign. Solomon received extraordinary wisdom, built the temple, and ruled during remarkable prosperity - but his heart turned toward other gods. God announced judgment while preserving His covenant promise to David.

After Solomon died, the northern tribes asked Rehoboam for relief from real burdens created by the kingdom's labor, taxation, and building demands. Rehoboam could have served. Instead, he threatened. The northern tribes rejected his rule, and the kingdom divided.

Then Jeroboam faced his own test. God had given him a kingdom and promised to establish his house if he obeyed. But Jeroboam became afraid. Rather than trust God, he altered Israel's worship to protect his political position. His compromise became a pattern that influenced generations of northern kings.

Solomon - his heart wandered. Rehoboam - his pride rejected wise counsel. Jeroboam - his fear corrupted worship.

Yet human failure never placed God's redemptive plan in danger. God preserved David's house, continued sending prophets, continued calling His people back, and continued preserving the promise of a coming King.

The divided kingdom demonstrates the limitations of human leadership. Wisdom was not enough. Power was not enough. Religious privilege was not enough. Political strategy was not enough. God's people needed the perfectly faithful King.

Generations later, the New Testament introduces "Jesus Christ, the son of David" (Matthew 1:1). Gabriel announced that God would give Him David's throne and that "of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:33).

Solomon's kingdom fractured. Jesus' kingdom will not. Human kings failed. The true King came. The kingdom divided. God's promise continued.

Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus.