

## Division

### 1 Kings 11-14; 1 Chronicles 10-12

#### *Period of Bible history*

Division and Fall of the Kingdoms. Following Solomon's death in about 931 BC, the northern tribes established a kingdom separate from the two southern tribes. After the separation, the Northern Kingdom was called Israel, and Southern Kingdom was called Judah. The Northern Kingdom came to an end with the assault of Assyria in 722 BC and the Southern Kingdom came to an end with the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC.

#### *Major Events*

The decline of Solomon. Chapter 11 records the decline of king Solomon into idolatry and the subsequent judgment on Israel.

The death of Solomon. At the end of chapter 11 Solomon dies and the throne of Israel passes to his son Rehoboam.

Rehoboam's folly. In 12:1-15 Rehoboam begins his reign. He ignores the advice of older men and listens to his young friends. They urge him to rule with a heavy hand.

The division of Israel. 12:16-24 records the division of the land. The northern tribes follow Jeroboam and take the name Israel. The southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin remain loyal to Rehoboam.

The idolatry of Jeroboam. The rest of chapters 12, 13, and most of 14 record the idolatry of Jeroboam. Eager to make a firm split with the religious practice of Jerusalem. Jeroboam institutes foreign religions.

#### *Important Individuals*

Solomon: Son of David, succeeded David to the throne of Israel. He ruled well most of his reign but ended in idolatry and unfaithfulness.

Rehoboam: Son of Solomon, followed him as king of Israel until the division. Ruled over Judah for seventeen years.

Old advisors: The old men of Israel. Advised Rehoboam to soften his grip on the people.

Young advisors: Young friends of Rehoboam. Advised him to be even more firm with the people. Rehoboam followed their advise: "And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." (12:11).

Jeroboam: Son of Nebat, had charge over forced labor. Opposed by Solomon then rebelled against Rehoboam to become king over the northern 10 tribes. Ruled Israel for twenty-two years.

*Outline of 1 Kings 11-14*

- I. The decline of Solomon (11)
  - A. Solomon led astray by foreign wives (11:1-8)
  - B. The rise of opposition (11:9-25)
  - C. Jeroboam prophesied to rule (11:26-40)
  - D. The death of Solomon (11:41-43)
- II. The folly of Rehoboam (12:1-15)
  - A. The people gather around the new king (12:1-5)
  - B. Rehoboam rejects the old men (12:6-8)
  - C. Rehoboam follows the young men (12:9-11)
  - D. Israel's burden is increased (12:12-15)
- III. The division of north and south (12:16-24)
  - A. Jeroboam leads the ten northern tribes in revolt (12:16-20)
  - B. Rehoboam rallies the two southern tribes (12:21-24)
    1. Benjamin and Judah massed to overthrow Jeroboam (12:21)
    2. God reveals that the division is his will and should not be opposed (12:22-24)
- IV. Jeroboam's idolatry (12:25-14:18)
  - A. Jeroboam constructed golden calves and pagan temples (12:25-33)
  - B. God sends a *man of God* against Jeroboam (13:1-34)
    1. Prophecy against Jeroboam (13:1-10)
      - a) Prophecy mentions king Josiah by name (13:2)
    2. The man of God's disobedience (13:11-32)
    3. Jeroboam refuses to repent (13:33-34)
  - C. Ahijah's prophecy against Jeroboam (14:1-18)
    1. Jeroboam's son falls ill (14:1-3)
    2. Jeroboam's wife consults the prophet Ahijah (14:4-16)
    3. The death of Jeroboam's son (14:17-18)
- V. The death of Jeroboam (14:19-20)
- VI. The reign of Rehoboam (14:21-31)
  - A. The idolatry of Judah (14:21-24)
  - B. Egypt attacks Israel and Judah (14:25-28)
  - C. The death of Rehoboam (14:29-31)