

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED
PART 2—THE FULFILLMENT
1 KINGS 12:1-19

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Introduction

We've seen how the LORD was angry with Solomon for turning away from Him!

We've seen how the LORD stirred up some resistance outside the kingdom against Solomon—two adversaries named Hadad the Edomite (*11:14*) and Rezon of Damascus, Syria (*11:23*).

We saw last time how the LORD stirred up some...

RESISTANCE FROM WITHIN THE KINGDOM.

There Was Jeroboam's Rise Within The Kingdom.

There Was The Prophet Ahijah's Message To Jeroboam From The LORD.

God was tearing apart the kingdom of Israel because of Solomon's sin! Sin always has consequences!

WE SAW SOLOMON'S RESPONSE TO THE LORD AND JEROBOAM.

He wanted to kill Jeroboam and thwart the will of God!
Jeroboam fled to Egypt until Solomon died!

WE SAW THE DEATH OF SOLOMON!

Sadly, we saw no repentance or remorse from Solomon here!

Upon the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam begins to reign, bringing us to chapter twelve where we see **the fulfillment of the LORD's prophecy** regarding Solomon's servant, Jeroboam and Solomon's seed, Rehoboam.

I. WE SEE THE CORONATION OF REHOBOAM! (12:1)

Rehoboam is the only son of Solomon mentioned in the Bible.

He traveled to Shechem in Ephraim, to be crowned. Coronations were normally done in Jerusalem. This was possibly done to promote goodwill among the disgruntled tribes. Shechem was also the ancient location for making covenants.

II. WE SEE THE CALL TO JEROBOAM! (12:2-3)

Jeroboam is summoned from Egypt. It looks like he was the appointed spokesman for Israel.

III. WE SEE THE CONDITIONS FOR SERVICE! (12:4-5)

Jeroboam got honest with the king.

He said, "*Thy father made our yoke grievous...*", which means it was "*severe or cruel.*" His yoke was also called "*heavy*" which means "*severe, difficult.*"

Rehoboam at this point had an opportunity to keep the kingdom intact and appease these angry people. Their conditions for service were for Rehoboam to lighten their yoke, their taxes and burdens.

Rehoboam asked for three days to consider the matter. At this point his pride is on trial and is being tested. The people are requesting a change in government and taxation.

IV. WE SEE THE COUNSEL THAT REHOBOAM SOUGHT! (12:6-11)

First let me say that **seeking counsel in order to make a decision is a good thing to do.** There is **USUALLY** safety and security in doing so!

Proverbs 11:14—Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Second, it is wise to seek counsel from wise people, not "wise guys."
Proverbs 12:15—The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Counsel helps to tie up loose ends, unconsidered problems, or questions and clarifies plans.

Proverbs 15:22—Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

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These principles apply for the right kind of counsel. There is such a thing as foolish counsel.

1 Corinthians 3:19—For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

Romans 1:22—Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

There is such a thing as ungodly, wicked counsel too.

Psalms 1:1—Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Be careful where you get your counsel and advice.

Rehoboam approached the old men first for advice. **They told him to be a servant and serve the people. He should speak tenderly with them and lighten their load as they requested.**

However, Rehoboam forsook this advice. He did not take good counsel well. He did not want to hear it...at all.

Let me ask, is someone trying to give you wise advice and you are rejecting or forsaking it? You had better watch out!

Rehoboam then consulted the gang he hung with, his buddies or peers, I mockingly call them, the “*wise guys!*”

Their advice to him was totally different. **They told him to be more oppressive than his dad!**

That was what Rehoboam really wanted to do. **Their confirmation gave him courage to do what he selfishly wanted to do!**

That’s the reason why we need to be careful about the people we run around with and the advice we listen to!

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The counsel of the gang had a sting in it.... “*My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.*”

That meant that his rule would be more oppressive and powerful.

The whips referred to here were single, leather straps. The term “*scorpion*” referred to a whip with many strands of leather with metal knobs, and barbs imbedded into the leather.

These words were hateful and proud. The Bible warns us of this kind of behavior.

Proverbs 15:1—A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 16:18—Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Rehoboam's greed led to destruction and ruin on his part and on the part of the kingdom! All because he wanted more than his father!

V. WE SEE KING REHOBOAM DELIVER HIS RESPONSE ! (12:12-15)

Rehoboam's decision was deliberate. He did as God predicted for the “*cause was from the Lord.*” (Vs 15) The Sovereign God knew what he would do, but the choice was Rehoboam's. God's Word is sure!

Luke 21:33—Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

VI. WE SEE THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED! (12:16-19)

The phrase, “*to your tents*” means “*go home.*”

Rehoboam didn't get the message! He did not comprehend what had happened.

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He sent out his tax collector and the tax collector was stoned and killed!

With that, Rehoboam finally figured it out and back to Jerusalem he fled!

The kingdom was at that point officially divided! It was already divided but Rehoboam was a little slow in figuring that out!

His being slow cost Adoram his life!

So we see at this point the ten tribes in the north were now under the leadership of Jeroboam, just as the Word of the LORD by the prophet Ahijah had said!

This division could have been avoided if Solomon had not turned from the LORD!

This division could have been avoided if Rehoboam had heeded the good counsel of the wise men rather than the idiocy of the wise guys!