

BOOK OF 1 KINGS  
THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED  
PART 1—THE PROPHECY  
1 KINGS 11:26-43

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**Introduction**

Last week we saw how the LORD was angry with Solomon. Solomon's many heathen wives had caused his heart to turn away from the LORD and he began worshiping heathen Gods. Because of this, we saw how the Lord stirred up opposition against him to discipline him for his disobedience.

In fact, we saw how the LORD stirred up some resistance outside the kingdom against Solomon— two adversaries named Hadad the Edomite (*Vs 14*) and Rezon of Damascus, Syria (*Vs 23*).

Tonight, we continue to look at the consequences of Solomon's disobedience.

**I. WE SEE THE RESISTANCE FROM WITHIN THE KINGDOM.**  
(*Vs 26-39*)

Here we see how, in addition to the outward resistance of the two adversaries, the LORD also stirred up some inward resistance within the nation!

**A. There Is Jeroboam's Rise Within The Kingdom.**  
*Verse 26* says that Jeroboam was Solomon's servant!

He is described here both as "*a mighty man of valour*" and as "*industrious*" in *Vs 28*.

I want to pause here for a minute and talk about being *industrious*!

**There is something to be said for applying yourself and being *industrious* in whatever endeavor you are doing!**

One of the things that made our nation great (along with the Lord's hand) was that he allowed us to become an *industrious* nation of people! (Remember the *Industrial Revolution*?)

Sadly today, though there are still many who are *industrious*, there are way too many **lazy good for nothings** today who just want to sit back and live off the government!

That **lazy mentality** is one of the things that is bringing our nation down! Instead society voting for people of character and righteousness, there are increasing numbers that vote for who will promise to give them the most free stuff!

*1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

The Bible shows that we are to be *industrious*! **Even Christians are to be industrious in the things of the LORD!**

**Even Solomon acknowledged this in:**

*Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.*

*Ecclesiastes 9:10 10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

**Paul wrote:**

*Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

**Look in the Bible and you'll find that God called and used industrious people who applied themselves!**

[e.g. Adam (was put in the garden of Eden "to dress it and keep it" Genesis 2:15)! Able was a keeper of sheep! Joseph was diligent in all that he did—Potiphar's house, the jailer, then as second in command of Egypt! Moses was a shepherd on the backside of a desert! David was a shepherd boy! Nehemiah was a king's cupbearer! Many others! Even Paul when he was Saul was industrious in what he was doing! Now he was doing the wrong thing, but he was good at it!]

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Solomon had seen Jeroboam's *industrious nature* in his work at helping to build Millo and helping repair the breaches of the city of David and so Solomon made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. (*Vs 28*)  
(*Ephraim and Mannasseh*)

*There Is Jeroboam's Rise Within The Kingdom.*

**B. There Is The Prophet Ahijah's Message To Jeroboam From The LORD. (*Vs 29-39*)**

Not only did Solomon take note of Jeroboam's *industriousness*, but the LORD did as well!

We see in *verse 29* that Jeroboam was met by this prophet named Ahijah the Shilonite. Ahijah took off his new outer garment. He tore it up into twelve pieces in front of Jeroboam. He gave Jeroboam ten pieces and prophesies that Jeroboam will be the ruler over the northern ten tribes of Israel.

**God was tearing apart the kingdom that Solomon ruled over** because Solomon forsook the LORD, worshiped false gods, and did not do that which was right in the eyes of the Lord.

**Sin always has consequences!** In this dramatic display we see that Solomon's sin divided and destroyed the nation of Israel from what it once was!

In *verses 34-36*, Jeroboam was even given the timetable of when this would take place...not in the days of Solomon, but in the days of Solomon's son. (Rehoboam)

Then in *verses 37-38* Jeroboam is reminded that if he will listen to the LORD, obey Him by doing right, and walk in God's ways and commandments, he would be blessed. That's pretty much the same thing the LORD had said to Solomon!

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And, by the way, we have the same promise too!

When we **LISTEN TO THE LORD, OBEY THE LORD BY DOING RIGHT, WALKING IN THE WAYS AND COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD**, things go well for us and we are blessed too!

And when we don't, the chastening of the LORD comes our way as the LORD deals with us as His children!

*Proverbs 3:11-12 11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

Now the end of the message from the LORD in *verse 39* was the assurance that the LORD would NOT afflict the seed of David for ever. (God WAS and still IS going to fulfill His covenant with David!)

Some folks think the LORD is done with Israel and that the Church has replaced Israel. But the LORD still has things to fulfill through Israel that WILL take place!

**II. WE SEE THE RESISTANCE FROM WITHIN THE KINGDOM... WE SEE SOLOMON'S RESPONSE TO THE LORD AND JEROBOAM. (*Vs 40*)**

Solomon apparently figured out which servant the LORD was speaking of in *verse 11*. I guess the wisdom the LORD gave him kicked in enough for him to figure that out, but **not** enough to realize that **HE COULD NOT THWART THE WILL OF THE LORD!**

Solomon's response was that he sought to kill Jeroboam!

**Here we see that SIN can make a FOOL even out of a wise man!**

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**Solomon was a fool if he thought he could thwart the will of God!**  
**It wasn't going to happen!**

**God's Word delivered by the Prophet was going to come to pass!**

The LORD made sure that Solomon wasn't going to kill Jeroboam!  
Jeroboam fled to Egypt for refuge until Solomon died after reigning for forty years.

**III. WE SEE THE DEATH OF SOLOMON! (Vs 41-43)**

Solomon was not quite sixty years old when he died.

**Sadly, we see no repentance or remorse from Solomon here!**

Yet, in Ecclesiastes chapter twelve we read some important insights from Solomon:

*Ecclesiastes 12:1—Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;*

*Ecclesiastes 12:13,14—Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Solomon wasted his life in his latter years. What a tragedy! May the LORD help us not to make the same mistake!

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