

## I Kings Lesson 12

I Kings Chapter 12

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

*Website: [www.KjvBibleStudies.net](http://www.KjvBibleStudies.net)*

*E-mail: [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)*

Memory verses for this week: *Pro 18:8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

**Introduction:** In last week's lesson on the last half of chapter 11, we found the Lord stirring up various enemies against Solomon due to the sin in his life. God placed judgment on Solomon for his false idol worship (plus the other sins), and gave ten tribes of Israel over to the throne of Jeroboam. He kept the one tribe for Solomon's descendants for David's sake. After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam reigned in his stead.

Up until this time Israel had remained one nation, although there had been jealousy and strife on several occasions. Now, they would remain divided for over many years to come. The kingdom was divided in 931 B.C. and the 10 northern tribes were carried away into captivity 209 years later in 722 B.C. The kingdom of Judah remained in the land until they were conquered by Babylon in 605 B.C. Their captivity was completed with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 B.C.

They remained in captivity for 70 years, before a remnant returned and rebuilt the Temple and the city walls. All of this happened for one reason and it is one word - SIN. David's lack of separation and polygamy, then Solomon's pride in his lavish building programs, is many foreign wives and the worship of pagan gods. The kings that followed them were mainly worse. There was nothing left but the judgment of God.

### I. Foolish Rehoboam Encourages Revolt

*1Ki 12:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.*

*1Ki 12:2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)*

*1Ki 12:3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,*

After Solomon's death, Rehoboam attempts to become King of all the tribes of Israel. Rehoboam is the only known son of Solomon which seems strange in view of Solomon's many wives. Shechem was not an ideal place to meet, since it was in the tribe of Ephraim. Yet, outwardly, it seemed that all Israel was ready to

crown him king. Jeroboam, who had fled from the presence of King Solomon down into Egypt, hears of his plans, and returns. We know earlier he had fled to Egypt for his life. Verse 3 says he was sent for by the dissidents and he comes back as the spokesman for those who did not want Rehoboam to reign over them.

*1Ki 12:4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.*

*1Ki 12:5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.*

*1Ki 12:6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?*

*1Ki 12:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.*

Many of the people wanted relief from the heavy yoke of Solomon. Most likely this was because of heavy taxes and political repression. No doubt they had been pressed hard by Solomon as he made high taxes and made them work to build all of the buildings accomplished in his kingdom. Rehoboam asks for time and consults with the elders of the people. This showed wisdom by this young ruler. These older men had ruled with Solomon and they advised reform. They tell him to speak good words to the people and they would be his servants. But Rehoboam had his own plan.

*1Ki 12:8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:*

*1Ki 12:9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?*

*1Ki 12:10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.*

*1Ki 12:11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.*

Rehoboam now seeks the counsel of the young men and forsook the counsel of the old men. He regards the advice of young men, who had grown up with him. While there are some young men that are firm in the word of God, many times they wrest with the truths of the bible. Having input from both sides may be good, but in the end we need to seek the old paths that are proven and the ones in which God will bless.

Many today forsake good counsel to their ruin. The counsel of unspiritual men

always brings disaster. Today the world has little concern for "Thus saith the Lord." Many forsake the tried and proven King James Version for the newest thing that has come out in new Bibles. When they forsake the instruction of the Bible and seek after men of psychology, sex therapists, and family counselors, most of the time they get instruction that is different from the Bible.

When they forsake the counsel of the pastor and get their information from TV or radio preachers, it is a pattern for failure. When they forsake the counsel of the pastor, and their parents and grandparents, and then get their advice from another teen or a radical adviser, don't be surprised that the end result is not what they want. If people forsake the truth for rock music, immoral movies, alcohol and drugs, you can be sure that your sin will find you out. If we forsake a sound church and join in a compromising church that fails to teach the whole counsel of God, we reap what we sow, and it is not good.

*1Ki 12:12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.*

*1Ki 12:13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;*

*1Ki 12:14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.*

*1Ki 12:15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.*

So there comes a confrontation with Jeroboam and Rehoboam on the third day. In verse 13, we see Rehoboam's roughness as he forsook the old men's counsel and threatened the people with a heavier yoke. He says that he would chastise them with scorpions which were whips with pieces of sharp metal in them, in order to cut. In all this God was fulfilling His Word.

## **II. Ten Tribes Rebel Against Rehoboam**

*1Ki 12:16 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.*

*1Ki 12:17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.*

*1Ki 12:18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.*

The people were greatly divided by Rehoboam's harshness. Israel makes an agreement to separate. They say they have no portion with the inheritance of the son of Jesse and show their rejection and depart from Rehoboam. Only Judah remained loyal to Rehoboam. When Rehoboam sent forth Adoram, the tribute collector, the people rose up and killed him. This reveals that a lot of the problem

was over taxes and repression. The power to tax and collect tribute becomes a disaster when it is overdone. This should be a warning to our government today. When all you have is dictates and no representation and you keep raising taxes, you are asking for a rebellion. America is ripe for this today. In verse 18, we find Rehoboam flees to Jerusalem.

*1Ki 12:19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.*

*1Ki 12:20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.*

*1Ki 12:21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.*

*1Ki 12:22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,*

*1Ki 12:23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,*

*1Ki 12:24 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.*

Israel began a long standing rebellion to the house of David. While Jeroboam made king over Israel in the northern section, Rehoboam had just the tribe of Judah. He gather a large army of men of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and fully intended to go down and take back the other tribes from Jeroboam. But this civil war was averted by God.

God sends the man of God, Shemaiah, and tells them that this division was of the Lord, and they were NOT to go up and fight. While Rehoboam had gathered an army to crush the rebellion, he was rebelling against God's word. We studied about this in last week's lesson.

*Ki 11:29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:*

*1Ki 11:30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:*

*1Ki 11:31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:*

*1Ki 11:32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)*

*1Ki 11:33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.*

God intervenes by sending a prophet who was a true man of God. And for this one time, Rehoboam obeyed God. We'd best not fight against God or we will lose every time.

In the New Testament, when the leaders wanted to stop the gospel from being spread, a wise leader named Gamaliel spoke up against the council.

*Act 5:34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;*

*Act 5:35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.*

*Act 5:36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought.*

*Act 5:37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.*

*Act 5:38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:*

***Act 5:39*** *But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.*

*Act 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

### **III. The Wicked Plans of Jeroboam**

*1Ki 12:25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.*

Jeroboam begins to build cities. Shechem was made the capital of Israel. Later on, Tirzah and then Samaria would succeed Shechem as capital. It was here that Jacob pitched his tent and bought a parcel of ground when he returned from exile in Padanaram.

*Genesis 33:18-19 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.*

Shechem is where the bones of Joseph were buried.

*Joshua 24:32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought*

*of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.*

It is believed that Shechem and Sychar are the same place. Sychar is where Jacob's well was located and where Jesus won the woman at the well to the truth. Jeroboam also builds Penuel, but does not return to Jacob's God. This is where Jacob had his great experience of wrestling, and where he learned a lesson. Genesis 32:24-32

Later a town was built there and Gideon won a great victory there.

*Judges 8:17 And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.*

*1Ki 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:*

*1Ki 12:27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.*

*1Ki 12:28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

*1Ki 12:29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.*

Jeroboam thinks things out and decides that if the people were to return to worship in Jerusalem, they might not return and serve him. So he builds a false religion for these northern 10 tribes. He fears God ordained worship as the people might be drawn back to one nation serving the Lord. So Jeroboam built golden calves, one in Bethel and one in Dan.

This calf worship was imported from Egypt. While Moses was on the mount receiving the law, the people made a golden calf.

*Exodus 32:4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

While in exile in Egypt he must have been introduced to this form of idolatry. Jeroboam excused this sin by seeming to make it convenient not to have to go up to Jerusalem. They accepted it, because man is always seeking a religion of convenience. Isn't that exactly the same today.

Few people ask about whether we preach or teach the truth, but rather what kind of entertainment is provided for them or their children. We need to worry more about whether God is honored and glorified rather than whether we feel good about ourselves.

Jeroboam's real reason was to protect his power, for he was afraid that the people would rebel against him once they returned to Jerusalem to worship.

*1Ki 12:30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.*

*1Ki 12:31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.*

*1Ki 12:32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.*

So rather than seek God's way, Jeroboam encourages the people towards idolatry. He disregards the true priests (sons of Levi) it says in verse 31 and make his own priests from the lowest of the people. This is typical in our day when men and women are made pastors and spiritual leaders, who are unqualified to be there. Jeroboam goes so far as to change the date of the feast of Tabernacles. Many today do not care what God has commanded, they just do things their own way.

*Lev 23:23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*Lev 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.*

*1Ki 12:33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.*

Jeroboam also offers upon a false altar there in Bethel. He desecrated the true worship of God.

*Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Much of the worship in churches today, such as praise worship, rock music, and entertainment all are false and misleading.

*Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

There is plenty of will worship.

*Colossians 2:23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.*

Twenty kings ruled over the 10 tribes and they were all much like Jeroboam, none which pleased the Lord. Of the kings that ruled over Judah, there were a number of God fearing men. (Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah.)

\* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Dec. 2013.

*KJV Bible Studies are prepared and distributed free of charge. The lessons may not be sold without consent. If you have questions or wish to discuss the lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at the email below.*

*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

*Website:* [www.KjvBibleStudies.net](http://www.KjvBibleStudies.net)

*E-mail:* [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)

**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**