

Questions / Answers

1. Who was king after Solomon?
Rehoboam.
2. What did the people ask Rehoboam to do?
Reduce the taxes they had to pay.
3. What answer did Rehoboam give the people?
He made them pay more taxes.
4. What happened when Rehoboam said they must pay more taxes?
10 tribes rebelled and made Jeroboam their king.
5. How was God's promise to David fulfilled that one of his sons would always be king?
Solomon's son, Rehoboam, ruled over 2 tribes.
6. What was Jeroboam's kingdom called? What was the capital city?
The Kingdom of Israel. The capital city was Samaria.
7. What was Rehoboam's kingdom called? What was his capital city?
The Kingdom of Judah. The capital city was Jerusalem.
8. Why did Jeroboam make two golden calves as idols?
He did not want them to go to Jerusalem to worship in case they stayed in Judah with Rehoboam.
9. Which Kingdom had all wicked kings? Which Kingdom had some good and some bad kings?
Israel had all wicked kings. Judah had some good and some bad.
10. Who did God send to tell the people to turn back to Him?
God sent prophets.

Memory verses

1 Kings 12:14 Jeremiah 25:4 Proverbs 13:20

Discussion

What influences for good and evil do we learn about in this lesson?
How can we be an influence for good? How can we make sure we are not influenced in the wrong way by other people?

Writing

Read 1 Kings 11:28—36. Describe how the prophet Ahijah showed Jeroboam that he would be king.

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 25 The Kingdom is divided



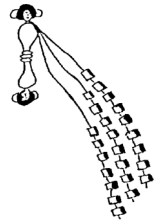
READING 1 Kings 12: 1—30

LESSON

Solomon built many great buildings during his reign. He had many people working for him. The people of Israel had to pay a lot of money in taxes to Solomon. When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. All the people came to Shechem and anointed Rehoboam as their King. The people asked Rehoboam to reduce the large amount of tax which Solomon had made them pay. The large tax was making life hard for them.

The wise men, who had helped Solomon reign, advised Rehoboam to reduce the tax. If he was kind to the people, they would be grateful and serve him well. Rehoboam did not want to reduce the tax. He wanted to have lots of money like Solomon his father. Rehoboam asked the young men to advise him. They told him to ask the people to pay even more tax. Rehoboam decided to listen to the young men.

Rehoboam told the people, "I am stronger than Solomon, my father. My little finger is stronger than my father's waist. I will make you pay more tax than you paid to my father. My father punished you with whips, but I will punish you with scourges."



The people were very angry when Rehoboam told them that he would make them pay more tax. Ten of the twelve tribes rebelled against Rehoboam. They made a man called Jeroboam their King. These ten tribes lived in the north of the land. They were called the Kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam made Samaria his capital city. He ruled over ten of the tribes of Israel.

Rehoboam was left with just two tribes to rule over. Judah and Benjamin were the two tribes in the south of the land. These two tribes stayed with Rehoboam. They were called the Kingdom of Judah. Rehoboam's capital city was Jerusalem. God had promised David that one of his descendants would always rule over His people. God kept this promise by giving 2 tribes to Rehoboam, the grandson of David.

JUDAH

King Rehoboam

Two tribes

Capital - Jerusalem

Kings - descendants of David

Worship - God at Temple

Good and bad kings

From this time the kingdom remained divided. The kingdoms of Judah and Israel remained separate. God kept his promise to David through the smaller kingdom of Judah. David was from the tribe of Judah. All the kings of Judah were descended from David.

The kings of Judah reigned from the capital city that David had chosen - Jerusalem. The people of Judah worshipped God at the temple built by Solomon. Some of the kings of Judah were good; they taught the people to worship God. Some of the kings turned away from God. But one of David's descendants always reigned over Judah, as God had promised. Jesus will reign on David's throne for ever when he comes back to the earth.

ISRAEL

King Jeroboam

Ten tribes

Capital - Samaria

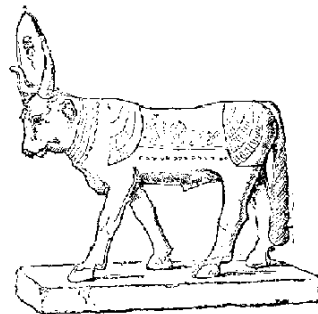
Kings - many different kings

Worship - gold calves + idols

All wicked kings

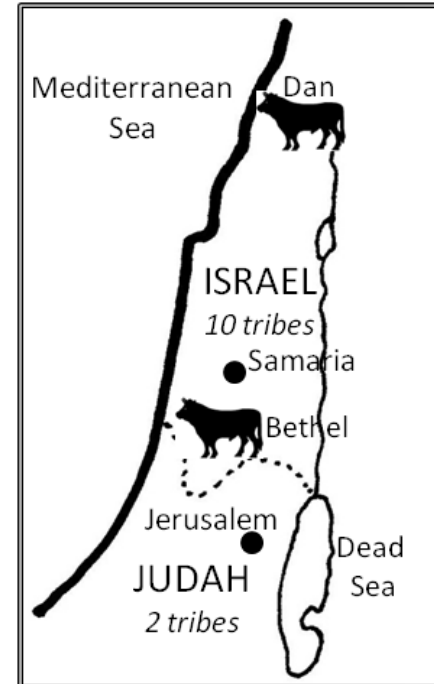
Solomon had built a beautiful temple for God in Jerusalem. All the people travelled to Jerusalem three times every year to worship God. Jeroboam did not want his people to travel to Jerusalem. He was worried that they might decide to stay in Judah and serve Rehoboam. Jeroboam wanted the 10 tribes to stay in the north.

Jeroboam made two calves of gold. He told the people that they must worship these idols. He put one calf idol in Bethel in the south of the land and one calf idol in Dan in the north. Jeroboam told his people that it was too far for them to travel to Jerusalem to worship. They must worship the golden calves instead. Jeroboam told his people that the golden calves were their gods. He made the people worship his calf idols.



The few people in the north who wanted to worship God moved to live in the kingdom of Judah. They went to Jerusalem to worship God at the temple. Nearly all the people who lived in Israel worshipped idols.

All the kings of Israel were wicked. The people in the kingdom of Israel turned away from God. The kings of Israel were not descended from David. There were many different kings. Many were like Jeroboam, who made Israel sin. Later Samaria was made the capital city of Israel.



The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah remained separate. The two kingdoms existed for several hundred years. They were often enemies and fought one another. The Kingdom of Judah had some good kings and some bad kings. When there was a good king, he taught the people God's laws, and the people worshipped God at the temple in Jerusalem. But the bad kings led the people to worship idols. All the kings of Israel were wicked. They turned the people of Israel away from God to worship idols.

When God brought the Israelites into the promised land, He made a covenant with them. The people promised to love God and obey His commands. God promised to bless His

people and give them peace in the land, if they obeyed Him. But God said that if the people disobeyed Him and worshipped idols, then He would bring other nations to fight against them and take them captive.

The people of Israel and Judah kept turning away from God and worshipping idols. God sent prophets to speak to the people. A prophet was someone who brought a message from God. Sometimes he had a message for the king. Sometimes he spoke to the people. God sent many prophets to the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The prophets told the people that they should turn back to God. The prophets warned that if the people continued to disobey God and worship idols, then they would be turned out of their land. Enemies would bring armies against them. They would be taken away as captives to other lands.