

Destin Church of Christ

June 18, 2023

Chapter 14: A Kingdom Torn in Two

1 Kings 12 – 16

Introduction:

Chapter 14 of *The Story* captures the painful and heart-wrenching account of a divided nation ... God's people Israel. God desires unity and invites us to be instruments of peace and to seek harmony in our relationships.

Lesson Breakdown: Outline:

- The Split (1 Kings 12)
- Calves ... Again (1 Kings 12-14)
- An Inheritance Plundered (1 Kings 14-16)

Plot Points:

- In three generations, Israel came to see that Samuel's warnings about monarchy were true.
- Following Solomon's rule, the divided kingdoms were marked by unfaithfulness to the Lord and nationalized idolatry, with righteous kings being the exception.
- Only the Lord's continuing regard for the house of David kept his hand of judgment from falling.

As you watch the video for Session 14, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ The Lower Story is how we see the story unfold.
- ✓ The Upper Story is how God sees the story unfold.
- ✓ King Rehoboam goes with the advice of the younger men.
- ✓ When we are divided within, we will eventually crumble.
- ✓ Israel was completely distorting the Upper Story of God.
- ✓ We need to align our lives to his Upper Story plan.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

Last week ... Solomon took hundreds of foreign wives and concubines who led him away from God toward pagan worship (pgs. 191-192) [1 Kings 11:1-8].

The result was God taking part of Solomon's kingdom away from his son. (pg. 192) [1 Kings 11:11-13].

Chapter 14 begins ... Page 193 ... 1 Kings 11:26-43.

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam reigned in his place. (pg. 193) [1 Kings 11:43]

Rehoboam goes to Shechem and becomes king. Jeroboam and the people pleaded with Rehoboam to lessen their workloads imposed by his father.

(pgs. 193-194) [1 Kings 12:1-4]

Rehoboam consults with the elders, who tell him to *"be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."* (pg. 194) [1 Kings 12:6-7]

He then consults with his childhood friends who told him to increase the workloads. (pg. 194) [1 Kings 12:8-11]

1. Which advice did Rehoboam follow? (pg. 194) [1 Kings 12:13-14]

Israel stones Adoniram, who was over Solomon's laborers to death and King Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem. (pg. 195) [1 Kings 12:18]

Angered at Rehoboam's cruelty, ten tribes united to become a separate nation. As a result, the kingdom split into Israel (the northern kingdom) and Judah (the southern kingdom). Judah was made up of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

After Solomon, Israel had 19 kings, all of them ungodly. Judah had 20 kings, but unlike Israel, Judah had a mixture of good kings and evil kings. Twelve of them were bad, and only eight of them could be labeled good kings. Out of the eight good kings, only five were outstanding.

❖ Israel's Kings:

I. Jeroboam I -- Israel's first king. (pg. 195) [1 Kings 12:20]

2. Was Jeroboam related to Solomon? If so, how? (pg. 193) [1 Kings 11:26].

To prevent the Israelites from going to the Jerusalem temple to worship, Jeroboam set up golden calves in both the northern and southern regions of his kingdom, Bethel and Dan. (pg. 196) [1 Kings 12:28-29]

3. Why didn't Jeroboam want the people to go to Jerusalem? (pg. 196) [1 Kings 12:25-27]

Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. During a month of his own choosing, he offered sacrifices on the altar he had built at Bethel. (pg. 196) [1 Kings 12:31-33]

This blend of pagan worship and the worship of God caused a lot of confusion among the people.

A Judean prophet is sent to Bethel to forecast doom for Jeroboam.
(pg. 196) [1 Kings 13:1-3]

Jeroboam's hand dried up when he ordered the man to be seized, but it was later restored by the LORD. (pgs. 196-197) [1 Kings 13:4-6]

God tells the prophet not to eat on his journey, but he's tricked into eating at Bethel. He is killed by a lion. (NIB) [1 Kings 13:23-25]

Jeroboam's son Abijah became sick, so his wife goes to the house of Ahijah, the prophet, carrying gifts of bread, pastries, and honey. The LORD tells Ahijah, that the wife of Jeroboam is coming to inquire about her sick son and tells him what to say.
(pg. 197) [1 Kings 14:1-5]

The Lord reveals to the prophet Ahijah that there will be disaster on the house of Jeroboam. Dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field. The child shall die.
(pgs. 197-198) [1 Kings 14:10-12]

4. What would happen to Israel? (pg. 198) [1 Kings 14:14-16]

After 22 years as king of Israel, Jeroboam died. His son Nadab succeeded him.
(pg. 201) [1 Kings 14:20]

Though God had promised the kingdom to Jeroboam, over time, he turned from God and started a chain of evil influence.

In his failure, Jeroboam became the prototype of the disobedient kings of Israel.

II. Nadab

Nadab followed in the footsteps of his father Jeroboam, doing evil in the sight of the LORD. He only reigned for two years before he and Jeroboam's other relatives were assassinated by a man named Baasha (pg. 201) [1 Kings 15:25-32].

III. Baasha

Baasha took the throne by force and reigned for 24 years. (pg. 200) [1 Kings 15:28]

The prophet Jehu came to him and prophesied his downfall because Baasha had assassinated Jeroboam's family. Jehu prophesied that anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the city, the dogs will eat; and anyone belonging to him who dies in the field, the birds of the sky will eat. (pg. 200) [1 Kings 16:1-7]

5. What can be said of Baasha's twenty-four-year reign as king of Israel? (pg. 200) [1 Kings 15:34]

IV. Elah

Elah, Baasha's son, only reigned for two years. His captain of chariots, Zimri, assassinated him and took the throne. (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:8-14]

V. Zimri

Zimri destroyed all of Elah and Baasha's household to get the throne. But his reign was short-lived. (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:10-20]

6. How long did Zimri reign as king of Israel? (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:15]
7. How did Zimri die? (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:18]

VI. a - Tibni

Instead of Omri, some of the people made a man named Tibni, the son of Ginath, king. Their armies went to battle, Omri prevailed, and Tibni died in battle. Omri reigned and was able to unite the people. (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:21-22]

VI. b - Omri

Omri wasn't much better than Zimri in morality.

Omri built the city of Samaria. (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:24]

8. How did Omri do in his twelve-year reign as king over Israel? (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:25-26]

Omri died and was buried in Samaria. His son Ahab reigned in his place. (pg. 201) [1 Kings 16:28]

VII. Ahab

Ahab was known for his marriage to an idolatrous and cruel woman.

9. Who did Ahab marry? (pgs. 201-202) [1 Kings 16:31]

During Ahab's 22-year reign over Israel, Jezebel championed the worship of Baal. Ahab erected an altar for Baal at the house of Baal and made the Asherah. (pgs. 201-202) [1 Kings 16:32-33a]

He did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. (pgs. 201-202) [1 Kings 16:33b]

We don't read of Ahab's death until 1 Kings 22:40.

After the destruction of Jericho, Joshua pronounced an oath: "*Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates.*" (pg. 93) [Joshua 6:26].

During Ahab's rule, Hiel the Bethelite, sought to restore Jericho to its original condition. Hiel's firstborn (Abiram) and youngest son (Segub) died when their father began to rebuild Jericho. (pg. 202) [1 Kings 16:34]

Because of all this mess, God sent the prophet Elijah to King Ahab to warn about a coming drought which would last for three years.

❖ Judah's Kings:

Judah was so corrupt, the sins the people committed were more than all that their fathers had done. (pg. 198-199) [1 Kings 14:22-24]

I. Rehoboam

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, initially followed God, but the weakness of his father brought him down, too. (NIB) [2 Chronicles 11:17, 23]

While Rehoboam reigned, he led the people to worship other gods. It wasn't until Shishak, the king of Egypt, invaded the nation that Rehoboam realized the error of his ways and humbled himself before God.

In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak, king of Egypt, attacked Jerusalem and carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made. (pgs. 198-199) [1 Kings 14:25-28] [2 Chronicles 12:2-12]

Rehoboam substituted shields of bronze for the treasures that were taken from the temple. (pg. 199) [1 Kings 14:27] [2 Chronicles 12:10]

Rehoboam and Jeroboam were at war all their days. (pg. 199) [1 Kings 14:30]

After reigning seventeen years, Rehoboam died, and his son Abijah reigned in his place. (pg. 198-199) [1 Kings 14:21, 31] [2 Chronicles 12:13, 16]

II. Abijam/Abijah

Abijam (also called Abijah), Rehoboam's son, reigned for three years and walked in all the sins of his father. (pg. 199) [1 Kings 15:2-3]

10. How many wives did Abijah have? (NIB) [2 Chronicles 13:21]

Abijam died and was buried in the City of David (Jerusalem). His son Asa reigned in his place. (pg. 199) [1 Kings 15:8] [2 Chronicles 14:1]

III. Asa

Asa reigned forty-one years and did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD. (pgs. 199-200) [1 Kings 15:10-11] [2 Chronicles 14:2; 16:13]

He removed the idols in the land and spurred reformation. (pg. 200) [1 Kings 15:12-13] [2 Chronicles 14:3-4]

He fortified the cities of Judah and defeated the Ethiopians by trusting in God. (pg. NIB) [2 Chronicles 14:9-12]

There was war between Asa and Baasha, king of Israel, all their days. (pg. 200) [1 Kings 15:16]

In his later years, he made a wrong move in allying himself with the king of Syria. (pg. 200) [1 Kings 15:17-22] [2 Chronicles 16:2-3, 7]

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, he acquired a disease in his feet. Instead of seeking the LORD's help, he sought the help of doctors. (pg. 200) [1 Kings 15:23] [2 Chronicles 16:12]

Asa died and was buried in his own tomb in the City of David. (pg. 200) [1 Kings 15:24] [2 Chronicles 16:13-14]

Next week, we'll look at the story of God's messengers and how the Lord used these prophets to speak powerfully into the lives of the people of Israel. Take time before next Sunday to read chapter 15 of *The Story*.

1 Kings 17 – 19; 2 Kings 2; 4; 6; Hosea 4 – 5; 8 – 9; 14; Amos 1; 3 – 5; 9