

The Great Story

Week 14 – The Two Kingdoms (1 Kings 11-14)

Bible Study

I. Introduction

- a. King Solomon, despite being blessed by God with wisdom, built alters to foreign gods and began worshipping them. The Lord told him that He would rip the Kingdom away from his son
- b. The reason God did not rip the kingdom away from Solomon is because of His promise to David. (2 Samuel 7:12-17)
- c. God would allow the house of David a small remnant to continue on

II. The Adversaries of Solomon

- a. Because of Solomon's disobedience, God raised up men to trouble him throughout the rest of his reign.
- b. Hadad the Edomite was one – 1 Kings 11:14
 - i. Hadad escaped as a child to Egypt when David's army killed every Edomite male.
 - ii. Hadad lived in the house of Pharaoh, and married the sister of Pharaoh's wife
 - iii. Hadad came back to Israel when he heard that David and Joab were dead
- c. Rezon the son of Eliadah
 - i. Rezon led a band of raiders
 - ii. Later he went to Damascus and set up a kingdom in Syria that troubled Israel.

III. Israel is given to Jeroboam

- a. 1 Kings 11:29-39
- b. God chose Jeroboam to be the king of Israel
- c. God told him that if he honored the commandments of the Lord that He would establish Jeroboam's house just as he had done for David
- d. Jeroboam was to receive 10 of the tribes
 - i. These tribes were: Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Ephraim, Manasseh
- e. The tribe of Judah was retained for David
- f. Benjamin had land in both Israel and Judah
- g. The Levites were scattered throughout both kingdoms.

- h. Solomon heard of the prophecy Ahijah and sought to kill Jeroboam.
 - i. Jeroboam fled to Egypt until Solomon died.

IV. Prophecy fulfilled by Rehoboam

- a. Solomon died and his son, Rehoboam was made king
- b. When Jeroboam heard of Solomon's death, he along with the rest of the assembly of Israel, traveled to Shechem to meet Rehoboam
 - i. Jeroboam was acting as the representative for the northern 10 tribes
- c. 1 Kings 12:4-11
- d. Rehoboam ignored the advice of the elders and instead listened to his contemporaries who had only known court life under Solomon
 - i. The elders wanted what was best for the nation of Israel
 - ii. The young men wanted what was best for them
- e. Rehoboam promised to increase the workload above and beyond what Solomon required.
- f. The 10 tribes said, "What share have we in David?"
 - i. They broke away from Judah
- g. Rehoboam assembled Judah and Benjamin (180,000 men) to go attack Israel, but the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah.
 - i. 1 Kings 12:24 - Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.' " So they listened to the word of the LORD and went home again, according to the word of the LORD.

V. The sins of Jeroboam

- a. Jeroboam was told that if he would do what was right in the sight of the Lord that his kingdom would prosper, but he did not trust God.
- b. Jeroboam was afraid that the people would turn back toward the house of David if they were allowed to go to the Temple to worship.
- c. He constructed to Golden Calves saying, "Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt" – 1 Kings 12:28
 - i. This violated the first and second Commandments
 - ii. The people of Israel were indebted to God because He had brought them out of the land of Egypt. God continually affirms this in the Old Testament.
 - iii. Aaron built a Golden Calf for the people to worship
 - 1. The calf was melted down and the people were made to drink it
 - 2. The Levites went through the camp and slaughtered their friends and family to show they were loyal to God alone.
- d. 1 Kings 13:1-5

- i. Josiah would reign about 300 years later

VI. The Son of Jeroboam and the line cut off

- a. Abijah, the son of Jeroboam became sick. Jeroboam sent his wife to Ahijah the Prophet to see if his son would live.
- b. Even though Jeroboam's wife was disguised and Ahijah was blind, the Lord told the prophet that the woman was coming and what he should say
- c. 1 Kings 14:6-16
 - i. The Lord passed judgment on Jeroboam and Israel because they had turned away from Him
 - ii. He took away the Kingdom from Jeroboam and told the woman that her son would die as soon as she returned home
 - iii. The destruction of the Northern Kingdom was prophesied. This was fulfilled by Assyria in 1 Kings 17:22-23, "The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them,²³ until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day."

VII. Lessons learned from the Story

- a. Sometimes, God suffers men that are more evil than the ones He is punishing to fulfill His will.
- b. Following and Honoring the Commands of the Lord is rewarded, disobedience is punished (if not immediately, then eventually)
- c. When times are at their darkest, people turn back to God and seek His council.

VIII. Sources

- a. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Edited by MacArthur, John, Jr. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997.