

## JEROBOAM AND REHOBOAM'S REIGNS

- much like what we are seeing today, the Kingdom that was so blessed and prosperous during the reigns of David and Solomon, was now ripped apart
- God had pronounced the judgment of a divided kingdom because Solomon turned away from the LORD

### (13.1-3) – WARNING FROM THE MAN OF GOD

- Jeroboam had already been warned before he ever became king about staying loyal to God
- we see that he didn't follow that counsel at all, but rather quickly led Israel into idolatry
- Josiah is mentioned by name some 300 years before he was born as the one God would use to destroy the altar

→ Fulfilled in 2 Kings 23.15-20

- God gave an immediate sign that His word against the altar would be fulfilled

### (13.4-6) – JEROBOAM'S ARM WITHERED

- the king didn't want to hear what the man of God was saying
  - Really, that is the problem with our society today – nobody wants to hear what God has to say
- Jeroboam quickly learned who was really in control
  - A lesson we need to pay close attention to as we await the election results
    - Jesus is still in control
- notice who Jeroboam turns to when he is in trouble – “Please entreat the favor of the LORD
  - Repeated all the time – people ignore God until they are in trouble
- does the man of God's response give us a clue on how we should react if we disagree with the election results?

### (13.7-10) – THE MAN OF GOD REFUSES TO GO HOME WITH THE KING

- after what had just happened, it is no wonder Jeroboam wanted the prophet to go back with him
- unlike Balaam, this man was not interested in a reward
- men of God are not for sale to the highest bidder!
  - Acts 8.20 = But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!
- God had given this unnamed prophet very specific directions

### (13.11-14) – AN OLD PROPHET IN BETHEL

- when the old prophet at Bethel hears what happened, he goes after the unnamed prophet

### (13.15-19) – THE OLD PROPHET BRINGS THE UNAMED PROPHET HOME

- this is a lesson on what complete obedience looks like

- the unnamed prophet had very specific instructions from the Lord, and even repeated them to the old prophet
- for whatever reason, this man uses the fact that he was a prophet too to deceive
- even someone who claims to be God's person, and has a vision of heavenly things
- Paul warned the Corinthians in **2 Corinthians 11.14** = And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

- lesson = walk in the truth of what God speaks to in His Word,

### **(13.20-32) – DISOBEDIENCE JUDGED**

- the old prophet now pronounces judgment on the unnamed prophet for disobeying the specific instructions given to him by the LORD
- interesting – the old prophet who used lies to deceive the unnamed prophet now speaks on behalf of the LORD
- the death of the unnamed prophet is the work of God
  - Notice the lion stood by the corpse
- when the old prophet hears about it, he goes to retrieve the body and give it a proper burial
- when he gets there, he finds that the lion had not eaten the man nor attacked the donkey

### **(13.33-34) – JEROBOAM CONTINUES IN HIS SIN**

- in spite of all that he had seen and heard; Jeroboam refused to turn from his evil ways
- like many today who know the truth and have heard the Good News, but still persist in a life of sin and rebellion
- the sin of Jeroboam would be the history of the Kingdom – not a single king who followed the LORD

### **(14.1-3) – JEROBOAM'S ON GETS SICK**

- it didn't take long for the ending words of the last chapter to start being fulfilled
- this is the second time that Jeroboam turns to God for help when he is in trouble
  - He knew there was no help in the idols he had set up
- he hopes to get some good news from the prophet who originally prophesied about him becoming king

### **(14.4-5) – GOD LETS AHIJAH KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON**

- even though his eyesight was gone, he had a ear to hear what the LORD was speaking

### **(14.6-9) – BAD NEWS**

- why do you pretend to be another person

→ You can't hide from God

- not only is Jeroboam's wife exposed, but so is the evil of Jeroboam's deeds, even though he should have known better, and had been warned where that road would lead him

### **(14.10-11) – JUDGEMENT PRONOUNCED**

- all of his descendants will be wiped out

**(14.12-18) – JEROBOAM'S SON DIES**

- as soon as Jeroboam's wife gets home, the child will die

- he is the only descendant of Jeroboam that will have a proper burial

- a king will be raised up to execute the judgment on Jeroboam's house

→ Fulfilled in the next chapter

- he also predicts the complete destruction by a nation beyond the River

→ Fulfilled in 722 BC, when Israel was captured by the Assyrians

**(14.19-20) – DEATH OF JEROBOAM**

- we have no record of the book mentioned here

**(14.21-24) – MEANWHILE, BACK IN JUDAH...**

- what began in the later years of Solomon, when his heart was turned away from the LORD by his many wives, is now being lived out in his son

- 2 thoughts here--

→ It is interesting that Rehoboam's mother is mentioned as being Ammonite. Could this be one of the women who turned Solomon's heart away from God

→ Never underestimate the power of the examples we are to those coming after us

- a rapid deterioration in the culture

- unfortunately, this would be the history of the nation, with the exception of a few good kings

**(14.25-31) – DEATH OF REHOBOAM**

- in a few short years, the peace and prosperity enjoyed during Solomon's reign was shattered when Judah was invaded by Shishak, king of Egypt

→ We have met him before – **1 Kings 11.40** = Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

- this was actually a judgment from God – **2 Chronicles 12:5-9** – Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah, who were gathered together in Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, "Thus says the LORD: 'You have forsaken Me, and therefore I also have left you in the hand of Shishak.' " So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, "The Lord is righteous." Now when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance. My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. Nevertheless they will be his servants, that they may distinguish My service from the service of the kingdoms of the nations." So, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and

the treasures of the king's house; he took everything. He also carried away the gold shields which Solomon had made.

- Lesson = when convicted of your sin, humble yourself before the LORD