

3/13/11

1Kings 12-13

The Kingdom has been taken away from Solomon by the hand of God, due to his unfaithfulness to Yahweh.

1. His wives turned his heart to their false gods and he built high places for them and worshipped them.
2. God raised up three enemies against Solomon till his death to confirm his apostasy.

Now the kingdom will be clearly divided in the reign of his son Rehoboam.

1. Israel will comprise of ten tribes, the northern kingdom, never having one good king, all bad.
* Going into captivity by Assyria in 722 B.C
2. Judah will comprise of two tribes, the southern kingdom, having some good kings and some bad.
* They will go into captivity to Babylon in 606, 596, 586 B.C.

12:1-33 The foolishness of Rehoboam at his ascension.

* 2Chron. 10:1-11:4

12:1-5 The people ask Rehoboam for relief from taxes.

- 1) Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel to make him king. vs. 1

a) Shechem was 40 north of Jerusalem, between Mount Garizim and Mount Ebal.

b) Between the boundary of Manasseh and Ephraim.

- 2) The news reached Rehoboam the son of Nebat, while he was still in Egypt, he was sent for by the northern kingdom and was present at the meeting with Rehoboam. vs. 2-3
- 3) The people asked a tax break and they would serve him as king. vs. 4
- 5) The king told them to return in three days for his answer. vs. 5

12:6-11 The seeking of council by Rehoboam for the relief of taxes.

- 1) Rehoboam consulted the elders who served under his father Solomon for advice. vs. 6
- 2) They advised him that if he would be a servant to the people and serve them, and answer them, and give them relief, they would serve him forever. vs. 7
- 3) Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders and consulted the young men he had grown up with him, who served him what he should do. vs. 8-9
- 4) Their advice was to treat them like slaves and oppressed them more so. vs. 10-11

- a) Their words were insulting, “Thus you shall say to them: ‘My little finger shall be thicker than my father’s waist!’” vs. 10
- b) Their words were antagonistic, “And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!”” vs. 11
 - * Indicating a whip with heavy iron points, like the Roman cat of nine tails.

12:12-15 The answer of Reoboam announced to the people.

- 1) The people returned to hear the decision of Reoboam. vs. 12
- 2) The king answered the people roughly, repeating the words of his young advisors. vs. 13-14
- 3) The king did not listen to the people, in fulfillment of the prophecy spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. vs. 15
 - a) This does not mean that God forced Reoboam to do the evil, but only knew of the evil he would decide on.
 - b) Otherwise God could not be just in judging Reoboam, at the same time

fulfilling the prophecy by Ahijah regarding Shiloh. 1Kings 11:29

12:16-20 The kingdom is divided under Reoboam.

- 1) The words of the people in their response was the official division of the nation. vs. 16
 - a) Similar to the time of David. 2Sam. 20:1
 - b) The once divided kingdom under Saul and David, was again divided.
- 2) Rehoboam reigned over Judah and Benjamin, the southern kingdom. vs. 17
- 3) Rehoboam attempted to continue and collect taxes of the northern kingdom. vs. 18
 - a) He sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but Israel stoned him to death vs. 18a-d
 - * Called Adoniram and Hadoram. 1Kings 4:6, 2Chron. 10:18
 - b) Reoboam took off like the coward he was and fled on his chariot to Jerusalem. vs. 18e
- 4) Israel was in full rebellion against the house of David. vs. 19
- 5) The northern kingdom hearing of Jeroboam’s return from Egypt was sought out and make king. vs. 20

* Only Judah and Benjamin followed the house of David.

12:21-24 The call to war by Reoboam against Israel is stopped by God.

- 1) Reoboam got back to Jerusalem made plans to retaliate by gathering 180,000 warriors of Judah and Benjamin to restore the kingdom to himself. vs. 21
- 2) The prophet Shemaiah received a word from the LORD, to tell Reoboam not to go up to battle against Israel, for this was from Him and they obeyed. vs. 22-24

12:25-33 The idolatrous corruption of Israel by Jeroboam.

- 1) Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, as his capital and then built Penuel. vs. 25
 - a) Shechem is between Mt. Ebel and Gerizim where law was plastered and herald blessing and cursings. Josh. 24:1, 32
 - * The capital changed to Tirzah, then Samaria. 1Kings 14:17, 16:24
 - b) Penuel is on the other side of the Jordan on the banks of the fords of the Jabbok, about 5 miles east of the place where it flows into the Jordan.

2) Jeroboam then establish counter worship centers for the northern kingdom, for his political advantage. vs. 26-30

- a) He feared in his heart that the people would repatriate with Reoboam when they went to Jerusalem 3 times a year for the feasts and kill him. vs. 26-27
 - b) He asked advice and then made two calves of gold, telling the people it was too far to go up to Jerusalem, declaring to them the gold calves were who brought them up from the land of Egypt. vs. 28
 - * Aaron had made a calf, but this is the pagan worship of the land, related to Baal. Ex. 32:4
 - c) He set up one in Bethel, 12 miles north of Jerusalem and the other he put in Dan in the north, the headwaters of the Jordan. vs. 29
 - d) This became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. vs. 30
- 3) Jeroboam proliferated the land with his apostate religion. vs. 31-33
- a) He made shrines on the high places, priests from every class of people, not of the sons of Levi. vs. 31
 - * All the priest and Levites returned the Reoboam, the house of David. 2Chron. 11:12-17

- b) He ordained a counter feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, November, like the feast of Tabernacles, in October, in Judah. vs. 32a-c
- c) He offered sacrifices on the altar. vs. 32d
- d) He sacrificed at Bethel to the calves or bulls, he had made and installed the priests of the high places which he had made. vs. 32e-g
- f) He made offerings on the altar he had made at Bethel on the 15th of November that he invented in his own heart, along with a feast for Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense. vs. 33

13:1-34 The judgment of God over the apostate worship of Jeroboam.

13:1-10 The prophet of God sent to proclaim judgment to Jeroboam.

13:1-3 *The initial encounter.*

- 1) The time is the counter feast, as Jeroboam is about to burn incense. vs. 1
 - a) The identifies as a man of God from Judah, but not named. vs. 1a
 - 1)) The phrase is used for a person who know and lives for God.

- 2)) The phrase is also used synonymous with a prophet, as with this man. vs. 18, 23
- 3)) Judah was the tribe of David, one of the two tribes of the southern kingdom. 1Sam. 17:12
- 4) The northern kingdom was filled with false prophet, so he send one from the south.
- b) The mission of the man of God was to go to Bethel by the word of the LORD. vs. 1a
 - 1)) Bethel “Beyth-El”, means house of God, about 12 miles north of Jerusalem, in Benjamite territory.
 - 2)) Bethel was the ancient seat of worship in Ephraim on the border of Benjamin, identified with Luz.
 - 3)) Abraham built an alter to God there and God appeared to Jacob when he fled from his brother Esau. Gen. 12:8, 31:13, 35:6
- 2) The prophecy condemned the apostate religion and abominable alter of idolatrous worship. vs. 2
 - a) The authority was from God in heaven, “Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD.” vs. 2a

* The prophet Amos later also spoke against the alters and prophets of Bethel. Amos 3, 4, 5, 7

- b) He prophesied about a future king of Judah who would desecrate the alter with the remains of the pagan priests, Josiah by name. vs. 2b-k
 - 1)) The prophecy was fulfilled in the reform of Josiah. 2Kings 23:15-16
 - 2)) 320 years before he was born, like Cyrus, 150 years before his birth.
- 3) The prophecy was accompanied with a miraculous sign. vs. 3
 - a) The alter would split and the ashes would pour out.
 - b) He would see it with his own eyes, as he did when Ahijah tore the new garment and gave him ten pieces, symbolic of the ten tribes, but now for judgment.

13:4-10 *The initial response of Jeroboam, the King.*

- 1) Jeroboam was met with a power encounter, ought to exercise his authority and arrest the prophet but God withered his arm that he had stretched out. vs. 4
 - * Much like Elijah and the prophet of Baal.

- 2) Jeroboam then saw the alter split, marking the certainty of his judgment. vs. 5
- 3) Jeroboam did not repent, but simply asked to be healed by God and in mercy was healed. vs. 6
 - 1)) Signs and wonders do not make people believers.
 - 2)) People for the most part, simply excepted and their life is never altered.
- 4) The king attempted to bribe the prophet, offering hospitality and reward vs. 7
- 5) The prophet resisted and rejected the king to enticement to disobey God. vs. 8-10
 - a) He would have no part with this evil man for half of his wealth. vs. 8a-c
 - * Balaam said the same to Balak's messengers, but he went. Num. 22:18
 - b) He would not eat in such an apostate place. vs. 8d
 - c) He would not disobey God. vs. 9
 - d) The prophet departed from the alter at Bethel. vs. 10

13:11-19 The prophet of God disobeys God.

- 1) The word about the prophet from Judah reached another prophet. vs. 11-12
- 2) The old prophet went to find the prophet from Judah. vs. 13-17

- a) He rode off to seek the man of God from Judah and found him under an oak. vs. 13-14b
- b) He asked if he was the man of God who came from Judah, and he said yes. vs. 14c-f
- 3) He then invited the man of God to eat and the prophet denied him, giving him the same reason he gave the Jeroboam. vs. 15-17
- 4) The prophet from Judah, lowered his guard and allowed himself to be deceived by the old prophet. vs. 18-19
 - a) He said he was a prophet, as he and did not ask to verify. vs. 18a-b
 - b) He said an angel had given him the message, but it contradicted God's word to him. vs. 18c-f
 - * "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." And repeats it in verse nine. Gal. 1:8-9
- 5) The commentary in parenthesis tells us the old prophet was lying to him. vs. 18g
 - a) He was a false prophet.
 - b) Chronicles says, "And from all their territories the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel took their stand with him. For the Levites left their common-lands and their possessions

and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving as priests to the LORD." 2Chron. 11:13-14

- 6) The prophet from Judah believed the old prophet and went with him. vs. 19
 - a) Trusting your own judgment instead of the word of God will always cause you to sin and get in trouble.
 - b) Disobedience to the word of God, will always lead to deception.

13:20-32 The prophet of God is kill under the judgment of God.

13:20-22 *The lying prophet proclaims judgment against the prophet from Judah.*

- 1) The location was at the home of the false prophet, while eating. vs. 20
- 2) The declaration of judgment was for his disobedience to God. vs. 21-22

13:23-30 *The execution of the judgment on the prophet from Judah.*

- 1) The false prophet prepared the departure of the prophet from Judah. vs. 23
- 2) The death of the prophet from Judah came by a lion. vs. 24
 - a) Lions and bears were prevalent. 1Sam. 17:34 , 2Kings 17:25

- b) God made it very clear the attack by the lion was not because it was hungry, but the fulfillment of the prophecy.
- 3) The news of the death of the prophet can be by some men passing by. vs. 25
- 4) The lying prophet identified the dead prophet to be from Judah and confirmed the prophetic judgment. vs. 26
 - a) Yet, he was the one responsible for his deception and death.
 - b) Though nothing is stated, he will be judged by God also.
- 5) The lying prophet went to recover the body of the prophet from Judah, lamented for him and buried him. vs. 27-30

13:31-34 *The verification of the prophecy of the prophet from Judah.*

- 1) The lying prophet requested his sons to bury him with the prophet from Judah. vs. 31
- 2) The lying prophet confirmed to his sons of the future prophecy. vs. 32
 - a) The prophecy was fulfilled exactly in the reform of Josiah, he desecrated the altar with the bones of priest who burned incense in the high places. 2Kings 23:15-16

- b) God called him out by name, 320 years before he was born, like Cyrus, 173 years before his birth.
- 3) The idolatrous king did not repent, despite the miracles or the prophetic judgment. vs. 33
 - a) His evil increase the apostate religion. vs. 33a
 - b) His evil corrupted the priesthood. vs. 33b-e
 - * “Have you not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests, like the peoples of other lands, so that whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may be a priest of things that are not gods?” 2Chron 13:9
- 4) The judgment would fall on his entire house. vs. 34
 - a) He knew the right worship of God.
 - b) He chose to practice the wrong worship against God.
 - c) He would be destroyed by God. 1Kings. 14:10-14
 - d) God struck him and he died in the battle against Abijah, after 22 years of evil. 2Chron. 13:20