

# ISRAEL'S **KINGS** TRIUMPH & TRAGEDY

Pastor Craig Smith • Jeroboam • June 27, 2021

Ice Breaker: Tell about a time big or small when you experienced a missed opportunity and describe the outcome.

**Jeroboam: the king who threw away God's gift...**

*“However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. If you do whatever I command you and walk in my ways and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you.” (1 Kings 11:37-38)*

Name at least one gift God has given you—personally, professionally, spiritually, financially or in another way. How are you using it?

- ***The fear of man plus self-sufficiency equals a spiritual downfall*** – “Jeroboam thought to himself, ‘The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to the lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to king Rehoboam.’” (1 Kings 12:26-27)

Is there a time in your life where you “thought” something in your mind that was not at all what it seemed? How did you handle it and what was the outcome?

- ***Bad company encourages bad character by offering bad advice*** – “After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. And this thing became a sin...” (1 Kings 12:28-30a)

Who are the people that you go to most often for advice and how do they affect your decisions?

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. (Prov. 13:20)*

- ***God's grace can involve confrontation for the sake of redemption*** – “By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD... ‘This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.’” (1 Kings 13:1-2a, 3b)

Tell of a time when you had to confront someone or when someone confronted you in love for the sake of turning away from a wayward behavior.

♀ ***Sometimes a hard word leads to a soft heart*** – “For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” (2 Cor. 7:9b-10)

Self reflection—Is your heart soft or hard? (Don't feel that you have to answer out loud, but do evaluate it through God's eyes.)

*Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways... (1 Kings 13:33)*

*Never take lightly the power of personal legacy...*

*The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them until the LORD removed them from His presence, as He had warned through all His servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there. (2 Kings 17:22-23)*

What will your legacy be and what do you need to start doing to ensure that it will happen?