

The Book of First KINGS

Chapters 12 & 13

“A Kingdom Divided!”

Chapter 12 - “DIVISION!”

(v1-15) King Rehoboam follows foolish counsel.

> How to be a wise leader:

> *First - Learn the heart of Jesus!* (Matthew 11:28-30)

- Lesson #1- Always COME TO JESUS!

- Lesson #2- Always LEARN FROM JESUS!

- Lesson #3- Always IMITATE HIS CHARACTER!

> *Second – Follow the life of Jesus!* (Matthew 20:25-28)

- Lesson #1- Be HUMBLE!

- Lesson #2- Be a SERVANT!

- Lesson #3 - Give your LIFE a ransom for many!

> New Testament elders:

- QUALIFIED LEADERSHIP – 1 Timothy 2:1-7.

- INSPIRED LEADERSHIP – 1 Peter 5:1-9.

(v16-24) DIVISION: Israel (10 tribes to the north - King Jeroboam)

Judah (2 tribes to the south, Judah/Benjamin - King Rehoboam)

(v25-33) King Jeroboam leads Israel into idolatry.

Chapter 13 - “DISOBEDIENCE!”

(v1-10) King Jeroboam - His DISOBEDIENCE & DISCIPLINE. (N.T. - 1 Cor 11:27-32-

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.)

(v11-32) Judgment of the disobedient “*Man of God*” - Watch out for the FALSE PROPHET, THE FLESH AND THE LION (the devil)!

(v33-34) King Jeroboam chooses the “EVIL WAY.” (2 Chronicles 11:13-17- *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. Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made. And after the Levites left, those from all the tribes of Israel, such as set their heart to seek the LORD God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers.*)

> How Does a Leader Develop Inspiration:

- 1) Maintain a vibrant and fresh devotional life, because God is the source of all life (Jn. 15:5; Phil. 14:13)
 - 2) Be a realist. Gather all the facts. Do not fear the truth. Inspiration is not built on fantasy.
 - 3) Be an optimist. Believe that all things do work for good (Ro. 8:28). Obstacles become opportunities. Stumbling blocks become steppingstones.
 - 4) Be a man of faith. Attempt big things for God, and expect big things from God.
 - 5) Avoid negative people, and surround yourself with positive people.
 - 6) Cultivate a happy home life. The hot embers for our lives come from heaven and the home.
 - 7) Keep a healthy and refreshed body. Body chemistry and inspiration are related.
 - 8) Keep on your successes, not on your failures. Consider failures simply as gaining experience for future success. You cannot win if you do not try, and if you try, you will sometimes fail.
 - 9) Read inspirational literature.
 - 10) Think positively of others. Look for the good in people. They are made in the image of God!
- (Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry- by John MacArthur, Jr., this section written by Alex Montoya)