

The Story 14: "A Kingdom Torn in Two"

1Kings 12

March 15, 2026

Big Idea: Divided loyalty inevitably leads to a fractured life.

Kingdom Decline

To this point God's nation has lasted roughly 1200 years from the promise to Abraham (Genesis 15) to the divided Kingdom we will examine today (barely 120 years under the leadership of a king). This is the beginning of the end for the Nation. Eventually, Israel (Northern Kingdom) will be destroyed by Assyria in 722 BC and Judah (Southern Kingdom) will be destroyed by Babylon in 586 BC

Nation at a Breaking Point

Solomon's building projects were impressive, but they came at a cost. The temple, palaces, and national infrastructure required enormous labor and taxation. The people were tired. They were burdened. They were ready for change. When Solomon dies, his son Rehoboam takes the throne. Jeroboam, a former official under Solomon who had fled to Egypt, returns to challenge the new king. The stage is set for a national crisis.

Leadership Failure

Both kings had opportunities. Rehoboam could have listened to wise counsel and led with humility. Jeroboam could have trusted God's promise and led the people back to faithful worship. Instead, pride and fear shaped their decisions. Self-sovereignty was their motivation. The nation is dramatically different than it was under the leadership of David. A once mighty nation became fractured and weak. This is the beginning of the end.

Divided Loyalty

This story is not just about ancient politics. It is about divided loyalty. A nation cannot stand when it is divided. A heart cannot stand when it is divided. God is not looking for partial devotion. He is looking for wholehearted trust.

- *"Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand."* *Matthew 12:25*
- *"Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do."* *James 1:8*

Take-Away

Divided loyalty inevitably leads to a fractured life. The nation of Israel would never be the same. By dividing the Kingdom, Rehoboam and Jeroboam weakened it. It did not stand for long.

- ✓ **Commit yourself to something bigger than yourself.**
- ✓ **View all of life as either sacred or profane.**
- ✓ **Leverage your position to accomplish God's purposes.**
- ✓ **Use the resources available to honor God.**

Family Night – Read 1Kings 12:1-17

- **Elementary School:** Ask, "Why were the people complaining to Rehoboam? What did the elders tell him to do? What did his friends tell him to do? Who did he decide to listen to?"
- **Middle / High School:** Ask, "Why did Rehoboam refuse to listen to the elders? Why do you sometimes resist counsel from others? Why is it important to seek wise counsel? How should a leader respond to others?"

Prayer: "Father, we want to be single-minded and loyal to You. Help us stay focused on the important things. Amen"

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets on Wednesdays here at the church.

Gravity: Today in Both Services

Today's Songs

It Really is Amazing Grace.....Phil Wickham

Holy Forever.....Chris Tomlin

All My Fountains.....Passion

Clean-Up Day

Clean up outside for Easter on March 28th. Asking any men who can help to meet us here at the church at 8am.

Kenya Mission Trip 2026

Trip is June 4-14. If you are interested, please attend the meeting between the services today.

Wandering to Jerusalem

Wondering to Jerusalem is for Easter like Wondering to Bethlehem was for Christmas. The family event is this Wednesday, March 18. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Baptism

Next Baptism is March 29th. Use the Communication Card to let us know if you are interested or have questions.