

A Kingdom Torn in Two

1Kings 11:9-11; 13 ESV *After Saul was David, and after David was Solomon - then the kingdom of Israel split – the northern kingdom which consisted of ten tribes, was called Israel. Its capitol was Samaria and its largest tribe was Ephraim, which is why the prophets sometimes refer to the northern kingdom as Ephraim. The southern kingdom called Judah, consisted of two tribes – Judah and Benjamin, but Judah was much bigger and at the end of judges Benjamin was almost completely wiped out – God often refers to them as one instead of two because of this. Jerusalem was the capitol of the southern kingdom.

- I. The man chosen to tear the kingdom in two.
 - a. Jereboam – he was from Ephraim, his mom was a widow, and he was promoted by Solomon to management because of his strong work ethic.
 - b. God also chose him to be the king over Israel, just like He chose David. 1Kings 11:29-32; 37-40 ESV “And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a new garment, and the two of them were alone in the open country. ³⁰ Then Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. ³¹ And he said to Jeroboam, ‘Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes ³² (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel)... And I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel. ³⁸ And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. ³⁹ And I will afflict the offspring of David because of this, but not forever.’” ⁴⁰ Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.
 - i. Wouldn't God blessing his house like David's make David's less? With God there is no fixed pie. He doesn't have to take away from you to bless me – He is generous beyond anything we can imagine. Jereboam has earned nothing, nor is he in a kingly line. God raises him out of obscurity and makes incredible promises to him.
 - ii. Romans 8:32 ESV “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” The God who owes us nothing, wants to give us everything, but only on His terms, and those terms are His grace poured out in Christ.

- c. Solomon, favored son of David, whom God had appeared to twice – doesn't repent, like David did when he had sinned, but chases down Jereboam to kill him just like Saul did to David. *Renounce jealousy and envy of others!
- II. The event that tore the kingdom in two.
 - a. Rehoboam, Solomon's heir, counsels with the elders when the people ask for relief. Their counsel – 1Kings 12:7 ESV "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." Then he asks his peers for their counsel – 1Kings 12:10-11 ESV "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,' thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. ¹¹ And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'" *He follows their advice so he will appear to be strong but it leads to the kingdom splitting.
 - b. Jesus has won my heart. Mark 10:45 ESV "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *I will gladly serve Him forever – He didn't come to increase our burden, but to remove it and replace it with an easy yoke and a light burden. If you knew Him rightly, you would gladly serve Him – His kingdom isn't weak because of His humility but it became strong.
- III. The fear that destroyed Jereboam's family.
 - a. 1Kings 12:25-29 ESV "Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. ²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, 'Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. ²⁷ If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.'" ²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." ²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan." His idolatry is based on fear – his insecurity causes him to try to protect something he didn't earn. He chooses to listen to fear instead of asking God.
 - b. Later he's given a chance to repent. The unnamed prophet that warns him and then prays for his healing. Jereboam's response to this mercy – 1Kings 13:33-34 ESV "After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places. ³⁴ And

this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.” *Just as God appeared twice to Solomon, He appears twice through prophets to Jeroboam. *How many times has God spoken to you?

- c. Romans 2:4-5 ESV “...do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.”

- i. Ahijah is given a message for Jeroboam: 1Kings 14:7-11 ESV “Go, tell Jeroboam, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: “Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over my people Israel ⁸and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, and yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes, ⁹but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back, ¹⁰therefore behold, I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam and will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone. ¹¹Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat, for the LORD has spoken it.”’

- ii. “Pastor Tom, that’s the God of the Old Testament. Jesus isn’t like that.” Jesus actually spoke often of a worse judgment than anything that could happen to you in this life. He spoke of hell more than heaven, not to scare us, but to protect us from going there. Romans 11:22 NASB “See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off.” Behold, keep before your eyes, don’t make God into your own image!

IV. Confronting fear now.

- a. The couple from ALCS – “We need to corporately stand against fear.”

- b. Things we need to know about fear:

- i. It has voice but it isn’t God’s voice. 2Timothy 1:7 ESV “...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” *We are called to self-control and carefulness, but fear often masquerades as “wisdom.” It’s voice, when obeyed, produces more fear, not less.

- ii. It can be generational. The fear Jereboam let in passed to the 17 kings that followed and led to the destruction of all Israel. Be the David that kills Goliath for those coming after you.
- iii. It tries to manage results instead of trusting God by obeying Him. "If I do this then bad things might happen." *Jereboam took over. *Asa, Rehoboams grandson, took over. 2Chronicles 16:9 ESV "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless^[a] toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars." *We must come to the point of saying: "If I perish, I perish, but I'm going to obey God."

c. To live free from fear we need to receive God's love.

- i. 1John 4:18a ESV "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." Romans 5:5 ESV "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." The prayer of Jesus – John 17:26 ESV I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." *This is a big prayer – Father, let me have Your love for Jesus.
- ii. The text I got this week for the words to this chorus: "I want to love you, the way that You love me; to love you with that kind of love. So pour out upon me, a river of longing, that fountain that flows from Your heart."

V. Standing against fear.

- a. The couple who I met with this week. How do we take a corporate stand against fear? Tragedy doesn't bring revival but our response can lay the groundwork for revival.
 - i. We have chosen to unite instead of divide.
 - ii. Now we must choose to stand against fear and become fearless instead of fearful.
- b. First, we stand against fear personally:
 - i. I stand against the spirit of fear, in Jesus Name.
 - ii. Fear will not lead me, nor will I listen to its taunts, in Jesus Name.
 - iii. I am a child of God and no longer a slave to fear. I am loved and favored in Christ. I am not my own protector but trust God.
 - iv. I will follow Jesus and do what He says regardless of what fear says it might cost me.
 - v. If I perish, I perish, but I will always trust the God of resurrection.
- c. Now we stand together:
 - i. We rebuke the spirit of fear over City Church and ALCS, in Jesus Name.

- ii. We command you fear to let go of every parent and every child that attends City Church and ALCS, in Jesus Name.
- iii. We ask You, Father, to raise up a wall of protection around this church and this school in Jesus Name.
- iv. Then we ask, Father, that you would raise up an army within these walls of fearless sons and daughters who will carry Your goodness and Your glory everywhere they go, in Jesus Name.