

Conclusion:

1. The nation was permanently divided.
2. Israel (10 tribes) would be dispersed among the nations.
3. Judah (2 tribes) would be taken to Babylon and then return to the land.

This lesson available for printing at: <http://goo.gl/rlpzUY>

Bible Personality Series -

Rehoboam and Jeroboam

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Introduction:

1. The Kingdom of Israel grew to its largest land mass under King David. He was succeeded by his son Solomon, the second son of Bathsheba.
2. He followed David to the throne about BC 965 and reigned about 40 years. **1 Kings 11:42.**
3. Solomon was followed on the throne by his son Rehoboam.
4. The son's kingdom was divided and Jeroboam reigned over the rest of the nation.
5. Rehoboam and Jeroboam were not related.

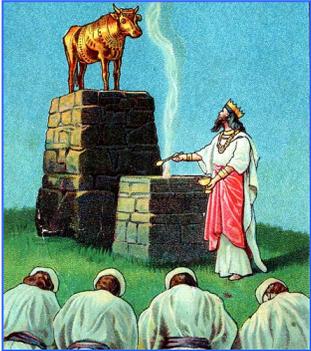
I. Rehoboam

- A) His name meant *enlarger of the people*, but his life did not work out that way.
- B) He was the son of the Ammonite Princess Naamah. **1 Kings 14:21.** He was born about 972 B.C.
- C) A short Biblical fiction book about Naamah is *The Desert Princess* by Jill Eileen Smith (Amazon).
- D) Rehoboam was crowned king in Shechem. Note that Jeroboam returned from Egypt for the coronation. **2 Chronicles 10:1-2.** The second half of our lesson is about Jeroboam.
- E) The people immediately ask for relief from the heavy taxes imposed by King Solomon. **2 Chronicles 10:3-5.** Jeroboam appears to have been spokesman for those asking for reduced taxes. King Rehoboam said that he would respond in three days.
- F) Rehoboam used the time to consult with advisors.
 1. Those who had advised Solomon said to listen to the people and come to terms with them. **2 Chronicles 10:6-7.**

2. Instead he followed the advice of his young friends who advised him to make the tax burden even greater. **2 Chron. 10: 8-11.**
- G) The people's spokesman at the promised meeting with Israel was Jeroboam. **2 Chron. 10:12-14.**
- H) This fit into God's plan. **2 Chron. 10:15.**
- I) The people revolted, breaking away from Rehoboam's rule. He continued to reign over the tribe of Judah. **2 Chron. 10:16-17.**
- J) Rehoboam sent a representative to talk to the revolted and they killed him. **2 Chron. 10:18.**
- K) He wanted to go to war with the break-away nation, but God sent his prophet to say *no*. **2 Chron. 11:1-4.**
- L) Rehoboam strengthened his military posture in Judah and Benjamin by building strong defenses. **2 Chron. 11:5-12.**
- M) The priests and Levites from Israel migrated to Judah. **2 Chron. 11:13-14, 17.**
- N) The worship of God was allowed, but contaminated with paganism including homosexuality. **1 Kings 14:22-24.**
- O) Judah was invaded by King Shishak of Egypt who brought a vast army. Rehoboam had to give the Temple treasures to the Egyptian in order to survive. **2 Chron. 12** This event is documented by findings in Egypt: <http://goo.gl/dj8TGX>
- P) Rehoboam did not marry to the same excess as his father Solomon. **2 Chron. 11:21.**

II. Jeroboam I

- A) His name means *the people multiplied*. This name is closer to fitting the man.
- B) His father was Nebat, an Ephraimite and his mother was Zeruah, a widow. He was raised without a father. **1 Kings 11:26.**

- C) Solomon saw that he had exceptional leadership ability and put Jeroboam in charge of the labor gangs from the tribe of Ephraim (Joseph). **1 Kings 11:26-40.**
1. He was a valiant warrior.
 2. A prophet of God foretold that he would reign over the 10 tribes because of the nation's idolatry.
 3. Solomon wanted to put him to death.
 4. He fled to Egypt for safety.
 5. When Solomon died, he returned to his native land and was spokesman for those who wanted the taxes lowered.
- D) Jeroboam was made king of the 10 tribes of Israel and tried to blot out the worship of God to keep his people from making their pilgrimages to Jerusalem. **1 Kings 12:26-33.** He even set up his own priesthood.
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- E) The Lord sent a prophet to warn Jeroboam against this strategy. **1 Kings 13:1-10**
- F) When Jeroboam's son became sick he asked his wife to disguise herself and go to the old prophet Ahijah who had originally told Jeroboam that he would rule Israel. **1 Kings 14.**
1. She was to bring a gift as though she were a very poor person. **Vs. 3.**
 2. This plan bombed. Ahijah knew who she was.
 3. The prophet told her the child would die.
 4. He delivered the bad news of taking the kingdom away from Jeroboam and the eventual deportation of the nation.
 5. The child died as she entered the house upon returning home. The timing was precise.