



Lesson 109

The Kingdom Divided

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Kings 11:26-12:24 • Setting: circa 930 B.C. • Main Characters: God, Rehoboam, and Jeroboam the son of Nebat. • Plot: As a punishment against Solomon's idolatry the kingdom is divided during Rehoboam's reign. • Key word(s): "this thing is from _____" (12:24) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax: <i>1 Kings 12:21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.</i> |
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Jeroboam's Future

1. (11:26-28) Jeroboam was an industrious young man who was given a position of leadership by Solomon. He oversaw the conscripted _____ of the tribes of Joseph during one of Solomon's many building campaigns.
2. (11:27-31) One day, the prophet _____ met Jeroboam alone in a field.
 - (a) The prophet took his own new cloak and tore it into 12 pieces and gave 10 to Jeroboam and said, "Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give _____ tribes to thee."
 - (b) (11:32) ...Which of course left two pieces remaining. Though referred to as one tribe, _____ was a separate tribe from Judah but was confederate to Judah. All of the kings of Judah were from the tribe of Judah.
3. (11:33-39) This rending of the kingdom was God's way of punishing Solomon and all Israel for their _____. Jeroboam was promised that if he walked in the ways of the LORD, his kingdom would also be blessed.
4. (11:40) News of the prophecy reached Solomon, and he sought to kill Jeroboam. Jeroboam fled to Egypt and found refuge in the house of _____.

Rehoboam's Folly

5. (12:1-4) After Solomon's death, Jeroboam returned to Israel and made a request to Rehoboam, the new king of Israel, "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will _____ thee."
6. (12:5-11) Rehoboam asked for three days to consult with his advisors.

- (a) The old and wise recommended a show of compassion and leniency while the young and foolish recommended a show of force and _____.
- (b) (12:12-15) At the appointed time, Jeroboam and the leaders of Israel returned to hear Rehoboam's answer. Tragically, Rehoboam heeded the foolish advice of his friends. Jeroboam left Shechem that day and took ten tribes with him.
7. (12:18) To add more folly to his foolishness, Rehoboam dispatched his _____ not long afterward. Adoram was immediately stoned, and an angry citizenry caused Rehoboam to flee for his very life back to the safety of Jerusalem.
8. (12:21-24) Upon returning to Jerusalem, Rehoboam mustered an army to invade the rebellious northern tribes, but the LORD sent _____ the prophet to warn them against such an action saying that "this thing is from me." The people hearkened to the voice of the man of God.

Application

9. Rehoboam's folly is magnified by his privilege. Much of the book of _____ was written for his sake, and yet he forsook wise counsel and followed the path of foolishness.

*Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war:
And in multitude of counsellors there is _____.*

10. Solomon's reign was mixture of types and prophetic fulfillments. While he pictured the permanence, peace, and prosperity of the reign of the Messiah, he also showed that all human governments tend towards _____. This was the warning given to Israel long before Solomon's reign. Only under King Jesus will we experience a perfect human government.

1 Samuel 8:18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): me • 1. labor • 2. Ahijah; a) ten; b) Benjamin • 3. idolatry • 4. Shishak • 5. serve • 6. a) severity • 7. tax collector • 8. Shemaiah • 9. Proverbs • Prov. 24:6 safety • 10. tyranny

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.