

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
THE MAN OF GOD WITH A MESSAGE FROM GOD
1 KINGS 12:19-24

Introduction

So we've seen that **Solomon has died** and **his son, Rehoboam, reigned in his stead upon the throne of all Israel. But not for long!**

Rehoboam's dad, Solomon, was **the wisest man who ever lived**, yet, also became **one of the biggest fools**. When we look in the book of Proverbs, we can see his wisdom. If we look in the book of Ecclesiastes, we see **both his wisdom and his foolishness at times**.

Sad to say, but **Solomon's foolishness affected his son more than his wisdom did**. Did you know that our foolishness affects our kids and grandkids too? Why is that? It has to do with the fallen nature that each of us are born with! **Both our children and our grandchildren pick up on our ways so it behooves us to watch our walk and watch our talk!**

The Old Testament books of the Chronicles and Kings cover the same events only with one big difference. **Kings looks at the events mostly from man's point of view and Chronicles looks at the events mostly from God's point of view**.

For this reason, **the sins of David and Solomon are not focused upon in Chronicles because God forgave and blotted out their sin!**

The book of Kings, however, tells the story as it is. **The kingdom split as a consequence of Solomon's sin of turning from the LORD to idolatry!** We saw last time that this split came by the Word of the LORD just as it was prophesied by a man of God—it came during the reign of his son, Rheoboam!

We saw how it transpired when Rehoboam tightened his grip on Israel when the people had asked him to loosen it a bit from what his father had done.

However, Rehoboam **rejected the counsel of the old men for the counsel of his peers—the wise guys**. He clamped down even tighter than his dad did! Consequently, the people of the Northern ten tribes rebelled, and the kingdom was split!

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But, Rehoboam was not very bright in that he didn't realize the kingdom was split until his tax collector was promptly executed by those who broke off from him—Basically, all the tribes other than Judah and Benjamin!

Unfortunately, Rehoboam committed an error that could not be repaired!

We will see that what unfolds next here is the beginning of tragedy upon tragedy for Israel. Their long downhill path to ruin, defeat, and destruction is recorded in Scripture for us!

These beginning steps to ruin should be like flashing red lights to us on what NOT to do and what NOT to believe. That is why they are recorded here.

The Bible is written with God's purposes for us, even in these historical books of the Old Testament!

1. One Of God's Purposes Is To Warn Us With The Example Of Others!

1 Corinthians 10:11-12—Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

2. Another One Of God's Purposes Is To Give Us Hope!

Romans 15:4—For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

In the New Testament we also find God's purposes for what is written there:

God's Purpose Is To Point Men To Jesus As The Christ, The Son Of God, The Saviour Of The World, So That We Can Have Eternal Life Through Him!

John 20:31—But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

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1 John 5:13—These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

For these reasons, we should read and study the Word of God so that we can be what God wants us to be, do what God wants us to do, and avoid the things that are detrimental to our lives and lives of those we love!

Tonight, as the story further unfolds in this chapter, we will see that as the Kingdom splits, Jeroboam becomes king of the northern 10 tribes of Israel.

I. WE SEE THE CORONATION OF JEROBOAM! (12:19-20)
Rehoboam was rejected by the northern tribes while Jeroboam was accepted and exalted as their king.

Only the tribe of Judah (along with the tribe of Benjamin) remained loyal to King Rehoboam. Rehoboam was of the tribe of Judah.

We see the roots of Jeroboam's reign **are founded in rebellion by the ten tribes and the fruit of his reign will be the fruit of rebellion too** as we will see later in this chapter.

The Laws of Sowing and Reaping are in play here. What Solomon sowed, he reaped in his son! **What Israel sows here, they will reap!**

We might protest that the laws of sowing and reaping should not apply here since this rending of the kingdom was of the LORD. However, we need to understand that though God's will is accomplished in our lives through our attitudes or actions (whether good or bad), God still holds us responsible for our attitudes and our actions in all things!

(e.g. Later in Israel's history in Daniel 1:1 we see Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians being used by God to take the LORD's people in to captivity just as the prophet Jeremiah had prophesied would happen. Nevertheless, God held Nebuchadnezzar and his people responsible for how they treated His people!)

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II. WE SEE THE CONGREGATION OF WARRIORS! (12:21)
The kingdom slipped through the fingers of Rehoboam. He desperately tried to regain power and control by mustering an army of 180,000 men.

He had it all planned out. Notice the next word... "but."

III. WE SEE THE COMMAND OF THE LORD! (12:22-24b)
Rehoboam had not considered where God fit into his plans! We don't see him going to consult a man of God as to what he should do like his grandfather David was known to do.

We see him determining his own response to the rebellion of the ten tribes!

But the LORD has a way of intervening when we least expect it. The Word of God was the message and a fellow by the name of Shemaiah was the messenger!

Shemaiah was a prophet of God! A great compliment is given to him. He is called *"the man of God."*

God is still looking for men today who will be *"men of God"*! Men of God who are committed to the Word of God and its authority! That is still the great need of our day today.

Shemaiah was a prophet, but listen, you don't have to be a preacher to be a *man or woman of God—It is a matter of listening to His voice and obeying His Word!*

Notice the message of Shemaiah was the message of the LORD!:

A. It Was A Message Of Restraint.
The LORD commanded them NOT to go up and fight their brethren, but to return to their houses!

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B. It Was A Message Of Recognition.

God wanted them to realize the breakup was from Him.
The Lord said, "*This thing is from me!*"

As we said, the breakup was part of God's judgment upon the both the house of Solomon and the nation of Israel for their turning from the LORD to idolatry!

God sent this trial upon the house of Israel! No doubt, this was difficult for them to accept because they were God's chosen people!

Listen, sometimes the Lord may allow intense trials into our lives—that can also be difficult for us to accept! (*e.g. Job*)

Sometimes it is to correct us...sometimes it is to strengthen us... sometimes it is to develop us...but always it is for the LORD's purposes in our lives too—i.e. for our good and for His glory!

There is a legend concerning an old violin maker who was much envied by his fellow artisans because of the superior quality of the instruments he produced. Finally, he revealed the secret of his success. While the others went into protected valleys to cut wood to make their violins, the master climbed the rugged cliffs of a nearby mountain in order to secure trees which had become severely twisted and gnarled by the storms. From these weather-beaten trees, he fabricated his violins, famous for their tone and beauty. The mountain storms caused these trees to strengthen and toughen their fibers. The dense grain of the wood produced deep, colorful tones when the instrument was played.

So too, the Lord allows difficulties into our lives that we may be drawn closer to Him and bring forth the music of His love and grace in our lives. Trials are sent so we will trust the Lord even though we can't trace Him.

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The message that Shemiah delivered from the LORD took courage to deliver because it was an unpopular message being delivered to an angry king and people.

The same thing holds true for us too. It takes courage to deliver what "*Thus saith the LORD!*" But it still needs to be done!

IV. WE SEE THEIR REACTION TO THE WORD OF THE LORD!
(Vs. 24c)

They hearkened to the Word of the LORD, even though they may not have liked what they heard and may not have wanted to hear it!

It is so important for us that we hearken unto what the LORD says! That's important when things are going well or even when they are not going so well!

When things seem to be coming apart at the seams we need to flee to the LORD and get our counsel from Him!

When we are tempted to take matters into our own hands and get what we want or to do things according to our own will and our own timetable, we need to pause and hear from God and trust and obey Him!