

1st Kings 11-13

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1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1st King 11 (Cont)**
- Suddenly we are introduced to the “prophet” ***Ahijah***, a Levite from ***Shiloh*** who will prophesy to ***Jeroboam*** as he is on his way out of Jerusalem

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- There are different meanings for a Man of God/Prophet
 - One who came and spoke for God
 - A mediator between God and man
 - A mouthpiece for God
 - NOT a fortune teller
- Also a “Seer” – one who could see or perceive things that others could not

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- *Ahijah* cuts his new garment into 12 pieces and gives 10 to *Jeroboam* symbolizing that he will become the king of the 10 tribes leaving two tribes for Rehoboam the son of Solomon
- He instructs *Jeroboam* to obey the Laws of God if he is to have a dynasty

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- When *Jeroboam* finds out that Solomon wants to kill him he flees to Egypt out of fear of *Solomon* and because he was an *Ephraimite*
 - *Ephraim* was one of the two sons of Joseph and his Egyptian wife (Gn 41:45; 50-52)
 - He and *Manasseh*, his brother, were half Egyptian and from a priestly caste

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- *Solomon* dies (slept with his fathers) and is succeeded by his son *Rehoboam*, a descendant of *David*, whose mother's name was *Naamah* and she was from Ammon
- His actions will lead to the civil war which divides *Solomon's* empire into two nations: Israel in the North and Judah in the South*

1st King 12

- **1st King 12**

- Without an understanding of the “civil war” we cannot understand the prophets
- The city of *Jerusalem* was originally within the tribal allotment of the tribe of *Benjamin*
- *David* made Jerusalem his capital
- And thus Jerusalem will remain the capital of Judah

1st King 12 (Cont)

- The Kingdom of *Israel* (North) consists of the tribal allocation of the remaining 10 tribes
- It would appear from this reading that the author of 1st Kings was writing at a time when the North was still in rebellion against the South
- The Kingdom of *Judah* (South) was composed of *Judah* and *Benjamin* including the capital city of Jerusalem with its Temple and the *Levites* who supported the Temple

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1st Kings 12**

- *Rehoboam* (son of *Solomon*) goes to ***Shechem*** where all Israel comes to make him king
- *Jeroboam* hears that *Solomon* is dead and returns to *Shechem* and asks *Rehoboam* to reduce the yoke of heavy service on the people
- *Rehoboam* asks for three days to consider his options

Israelite Kings Date Chart

Dennis Bratcher

Good kings, in terms of religious leadership or reforms
 Good political leaders, but faulted for lack of commitment to God
 Especially bad kings, as either political or religious leaders, or both
 Kings assassinated or deposed

The United Monarchy			
Dates (BC)		Kingdom of the Israelites	
1020-1000	Saul		
1000-961	David		
961-922	Solomon		
The Divided Kingdoms			
Dates (BC)	Israel (Northern)		Judah (Southern)
			Dates (BC)
922-901	Jeroboam I		Rehoboam 922-915
			Abijah 915-913
901-900	Nadab		Asa 913-873
900-877	Baasha		
877-876	Elah		Jehoshaphat 873-849
876	Zimri	Tibni	
876-869	Omri		
869-850	Ahab		
850-849	Ahaziah		Jehoram 849-843
849-843	Joram (Jehoram)		Ahaziah 843
843-815	Jehu		Athaliah (non-Davidic Queen) 843-837
815-802	Jehoahaz		Joash 837-800
802-786	Jehoash (Joash)		Amaziah 800-783

786-746	Jeroboam II	Uzziah (Azariah)	783-742
746-745	<u>Zachariah</u>	<u>Jotham (co-regent)</u>	750-742
745	<u>Shallum</u>		
745-737	<u>Menahem</u>	<u>Jotham (king)</u>	742-735
737-736	<u>Pekahiah</u>		
736-732	<u>Pekah</u>		
732-724	<u>Hoshea</u>	<u>Ahaz</u>	735-715
721	Fall of Samaria		
		<u>Hezekiah</u>	715-687
		Manasseh	687-642
		Amon	642-640
		<u>Josiah</u>	640-609
		<u>Jehoahaz</u>	609
		<u>Jehoikim (Eliakim)</u>	609-598
		<u>Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)</u>	598-597
		<u>Zedekiah (Mattaniah)</u>	597-587
		Fall of Jerusalem	587

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- The people agreed to this delay because they knew their history
 - 12 sons of *Jacob* (Israel) from **two wives** and two maids
 - The first three sons lose their “blessing” (Gn 49:1-27)
 - *Ruben was unstable and adulterous*
 - *Simeon and Levi destroyed the town of Shechem*

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- Therefore, *Judah*, the 4th son, was given the “blessing to the first born” from his father Isaac
- Joseph, the 11th son, marries an Egyptian who was the daughter of an Egyptian priest
- They have two sons: Manasseh (first born) and Ephraim (second born)

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- After moving to Egypt, the elderly *Jacob* switches his hands and gives the “blessing of the first born” to *Ephraim* (Gn 48:8-20)
- This combined with his blessing to Judah, causes the major problem for Israel
 - *Rehoboam* is a descendent of *David* and the rightful heir of the promise that the scepter shall not pass from the line of Judah
 - *Jeroboam* has no right to the promise to *David*, but he is a descendent of *Ephraim*
 - He was also promised by the prophet *Ahijah* to inherit a double portion of the land!*

1st Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- During his three days of consideration *Rehoboam* seeks advice from his father's elderly counselors and his younger colleagues
- Unfortunately, he accepts the advice of his buddies to increase the tasks on the 10 tribes of Israel with devastating consequences leading to the civil war
- **1st Kings 12:16** is important for the rest of Biblical history as well as the story of the people of Israel

1st King 12 (Cont)

- Upon hearing the decision of *Rehoboam*, all of Israel rejects him and return to their tents
- *Rehoboam* sends *Adoram* the taskmaster over the forced labor to deal with the people of Israel and they stone him to death
- *Rehoboam* has to flee to Jerusalem to save his life and begins planning an assault on the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- The people of Israel then select *Jeroboam* as king of Israel

1st King 12 (Cont)

- *Shemaiah*, “a man of God” (prophet) tells the people of *Judah* (South) that God has caused this division in punishment for *Solomon’s* actions and tells them that they are not to go north and fight Israel
- The people of *Judah* obey the prophet and return to their homes!

1st King 12 (Cont)

- Remember, *Jeroboam* was promised success by the prophet *Ahijah* **if he obeys the Law (remains a monotheist)** but instead he quickly became a pagan
- He rebuilds ***Shechem*** (which had been destroyed by Abimelech in 1100 BC during the time of the Judges), and made it the capital of *Ephraim* (Israel)
- The he addresses the problem of his people complying with the *Torah* by going to the temple in *Jerusalem* 3 times a year in accordance with **Ex 23**

1st King 12 (Cont)

- He creates an alternate religion by bringing back the Egyptian god *Apis* (the golden calf), and housing them in two temples (one in **Dan** and the other in **Bethel**)
 - *This episode should also remind us of the Golden Calf incident in **Ex 32***

1st King 12 (Cont)

- *Jeroboam's* alternate religion is a mirror image of the religion of the Jews in the south as it had:
 - Temples where animal sacrifices could be offered
 - Three annual Feasts
 - A priesthood (but from all the people, not just the Levis)

1st King 13-15

- **1st Kings 13**

- Another very important episode in the story of the prophets is about “a man of God” (prophet) from *Judah* (South) who was sent to Israel (North) to prophesy against ***Jeroboam*** at *Bethel*
- In his prophesy he speaks of a future King of Judah named *Josiah* who will destroy these pagan temples (2nd Kings 23:15-20)
- Again the issue is monotheism vs polytheism
- This is a very relevant issue today!

1st King 13-15 (Cont)

- “Eating and drinking” means to be in communion with someone
- This curse means that he will die in the wilderness and not be buried in a grave
- The moral of this episode is that “the man of God” failed to obey God, listened to a “false prophet”, and paid the consequence
- *Moses* in **Du 18:15-22** establishes the conditions to differentiate between a true prophet of God and a false prophet*