

The Divided Kingdom

1 Kings 11:1-13, 31-33 and 2 Chronicles 12:14, March 8, 2015

Last week we discussed Solomon's prayer and God's response after building the temple.

This week, in our devotions and in today's reading, we see:

- God promises Jeroboam that He would rule over northern tribes.
- The kingdom becomes divided because of Solomon and eventually because of Rehoboam's ill-advised policies (disobedience).
- The kingdom is then divided to north (Israel) and south (Judah).
- 1 Kings 11:11 is a result of God's promise combined with people's choices.

The Progression to the Divided Kingdom began with Solomon:

1) His Start

And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"
2 Chronicles 1:8-10

Solomon started out well. He asked God for wisdom when he could have asked Him for anything while leading Israel.

His heart started out in tune with God. It's not just about our salvation, but God working in us and through us after our salvation!

2) His Stumble

But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

1 Kings 11:1-2

Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.

1 Kings 11:6

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Who or **what** is your master?

So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son."

1 Kings 11:9-12

Solomon had let other things and people become his master!

He had also forgotten his prayer and God's answer; both **good** and **bad**.

But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them,²⁰ then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. **2 Chronicles 7:19-20**

He forgot his prayer and God's response- A great promise and a warning.

3) His **Stay**

Instead of acknowledging and repenting of his sins, Solomon, like his father David, **continued** in them.

Solomon was given 2 warnings from David (1 Chron. 22, 1 Kings 2) and 3 warnings from the Lord (1 Kings 3, 9, and 11).

We all **will** stumble; it's not a matter of if but when. What we do next often determines if we stay!

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Don't stay! Cry out to the Lord! We must **daily** seek God. We have to, we must!

4) His **Succession**

Rehoboam 'failed to seek the Lord' 2 Chronicles 12:14.

The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation. **Numbers 14:18**

My **choice** to follow or not follow God is far more **reaching** than I can even imagine!

Through all of this, God was faithful. His overall plan was not ruined. He kept His promise.

However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen. **1 Kings 11:13**

God is always faithful. His plan will prevail. I can either be a part of it and benefit from the blessings of God or I can be a part of it and miss the blessings, often destroying my life and passing the consequences on to others.

**This morning have you stumbled? Are you staying? Have you seen God's faithfulness?
Turn fully to God.**