

1 KINGS WEEK FIVE – “A Family and a Nation Divided”

October 7, 2021

Questions for 1 Kings 12-14

This week we start a new section in 1 Kings. Chapters 12 – 16 continues the history of Judah and Israel from the division of the united kingdom after Solomon’s death through the reigns of Omri and Ahab. Chapter 12 focuses on the political division of the kingdom and the apostasy of Jeroboam I, the new king of the northern kingdom.

1. Who was Rehoboam and how does his parentage present a problem for Israel’s united kingdom?
2. Why did Rehoboam travel to Shechem? What did he seek to accomplish and what went wrong?
3. Who was Jeroboam and what was his response to Rehoboam’s address to the northern tribes?
4. What happened to the covenant between David and the northern tribes (2 Sam 5:3)?
5. Why did the southern tribes accept Rehoboam’s kingship?
6. Who was Adoram and why do you suppose “all of Israel” stoned him to death?
7. It seems clear what the political division between the north and south was, but how did this affect the religious life of those living in both kingdoms?
8. What was the northern kingdom’s answer to temple worship since Jerusalem was in the southern kingdom? How was this problematic?
9. Who were the prophets that were introduced in chapter 13? What was their message to Jeroboam and the northern kingdom?
10. According to chapter 13, what were the characteristics of a good prophet and what were the characteristics of a bad prophet?
11. What was Jeroboam’s response to the prophets he encountered? How did this contribute to the downfall of his dynasty?

12. What was Rehoboam's biggest challenges in the southern kingdom of Judah? Who seems to be most at fault for Judah's problems?

13. Fun fact time! In 14:26 – 28, The Egyptian Pharaoh Shishake's invasion of Jerusalem in the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign is documented on the wall of the temple of Amon at Karnak in Egypt.

14. Rehoboam's mother is named for a third time in just a few chapters. Why does the author seem to be fixated on her?

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM –

