

## LESSON 5: *A Kingdom Divided: Jeroboam I.*

(Read: **1 Kings** 12:25-33; 13:1-34; 14:1-19).

**Key Passage:** “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough” (**1 Kgs** 12:28)

### I) **The Beginning of Jeroboam’s Reign (1 Kgs 12:25-33).**

A) Jeroboam’s story begins with promise and ends in tragedy, both for Israel and Jeroboam.

1) Jeroboam is first described as (**1 Kgs** 11:28).

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2) Jeroboam’s reign was foretold by (**1 Kgs** 11:29-37).

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3) What conditions were given to Jeroboam for a successful reign? (**1 Kgs** 11:38)

Listen \_\_\_\_\_

Walk \_\_\_\_\_

Do what is right \_\_\_\_\_

Observe/ keep \_\_\_\_\_

B) Applying Jeroboam’s conditions to ourselves for success.

1) Concerning the wisdom of God: “\_\_\_\_\_ is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting daily beside my doors.” (**Pro** 8:34).

2) “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. No good thing does He withhold from those who \_\_\_\_\_.” (**Psa** 84:11).

3) “Be \_\_\_\_\_ to obey all these words that I command you, that it may \_\_\_\_\_ with you and and with your children after you forever, when you do what is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the LORD your God.” (**Deu** 12:28).

4) “Give me \_\_\_\_\_, that I may keep your law and observe it with \_\_\_\_\_” (**Psa** 119:34).

II) Jeroboam & Israel's Downfall (**1 Kgs** 12:26-32).

A) Jeroboam squandered a golden opportunity to lead the majority of God's people in righteousness. He first mistake was acting out of panic suspicion instead of soberly seeking the counsel of God. Instead, he sought human counsel (12:28) and in a hurried attempt to cement the grip of his rule, he compromised his spiritual beliefs.

- 1) Compromising our faith for personal pursuits or desires begins the domino effect of toppling down our most sacred values—which serves as pillars of our character, family, community and nation.
- 2) In an instant, Israel went from being a God-based nation, protected and guided by the power, knowledge and wisdom of almighty God, to a human-based nation, poised to be guided by the flaws and weakness of ungodly and unprincipled men.

B) The Aftermath of Jeroboam's Folly (**1 Kgs** 12:28-33).

- 1) It is disappointing that Jeroboam would follow the example of King Solomon, in whom God stripped the Kingdom from because of his idolatry (**1 Kgs** 11:29-33).
- 2) People often look to their leaders to set an example for the rest of their nation, their words often shape the attitudes of everyone else. What did king Jeroboam say to his people about going to Jerusalem? (12:28).

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- 3) Because of his poor decisions, Jeroboam not only compromised his own faith, but the faith of his entire nation (12:28-30).
  - a. What lie did king Jeroboam seduce his people to believe in? (12:28; **Ex** 32:1-5).

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- 4) Where did king Jeroboam set up the golden calves? (12:29; compare **Lev** 26:1).

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- 5) These locations were important to Jeroboam's plans because Dan (to the north) kept the people far away from Judah, while Bethel was located to the south, just before one enters the territory of Judah.

- a. What else was so special about the location at Bethel? (see **Gen** 28:10-19).

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6) What did the Psalmist say about idols and those who worship them? (**Ps** 135:15-18).

- a. They are made of \_\_\_\_\_
- b. They have mouths \_\_\_\_\_
- c. They have eyes \_\_\_\_\_
- d. They have ears \_\_\_\_\_
- e. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ in their mouths.
- f. Those who make them and trust in them \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) What did king Jeroboam do on the high places? (12:31, consider **Lev** 26:27-33).

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8) Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah (12:32; **Num** 29:12-13). No doubt, this was done to rival their southern neighbors. What was the source of Jeroboam's religious practices? (12:33).

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9) Long ago, what did Moses tell God's people they were *not* allowed to do? (**Deu** 12:8)

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10) Give some reasons why you think it so important for spiritual leaders on all levels to embrace this? (Consider also, John 6:38).

### III) Jeroboam Judged

#### A) Destruction of Jeroboam's Religion Foretold (1 Kgs 13:1-7).

1) Who came from Judah to confront king Jeroboam? (13:1).

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2) Consider the timing of his arrival. Was this an appropriate time to confront such a leader? Why so?

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a) What should happen to leaders who continue to sin? (1 Tim 5:20).

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b) What's better than concealed or hidden love? (Pro 27:5).

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c) If we have the truth (2 Tim 4:1),

1. What must we do? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When should we do it? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How should we do it? \_\_\_\_\_

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3) Although the judgment was against Jeroboam's religious institutions as a whole, why does the man of God cry out against the altar (13:2-3) and not Jeroboam directly? (Consider the role that an altar played in an ancient religious system).

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4) How did Jeroboam respond to this? (13:4a) What happened to Jeroboam as a result of his response to the man of God's message? (13:4b).

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5) When Jeroboam experienced the displeasure of God and could not move his arm, why do you think he didn't he request help from his gods to restore his harm? (13:6).

B) The Fall of Jeroboam's Dynasty Foretold (1 Kgs 14:1-19).

1) What happened to Jeroboam's son? (14:1).

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2) Interestingly again, Jeroboam seeks the help of God over his own gods. In spite of the events of ch. 13, Jeroboam still thinks he can control his world, using religion to his own advantage. He apparently believes that he can fool the old prophet Ahijah into giving him a positive message about his son (14:2-4). But like Jeroboam, we must understand that God, not the king, will determine the course of events.

a) God wasn't fooled by Jeroboam's deception, he prepared Ahijah for the queen's arrival (14:5). Once the queen arrived, what kind of news did the prophet Ahijah say he had for her? (14:6). \_\_\_\_\_

3) How was David different from Jeroboam? (14:7-8).

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4) What had Jeroboam done? (14:9).

a) Evil \_\_\_\_\_

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b) Made for himself \_\_\_\_\_

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c) Provoked \_\_\_\_\_

d) Cast the Lord \_\_\_\_\_

5) What kind of God was Jeroboam dealing with? (**Exo** 20:5).

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6) How did **Exodus** 20:5 play a role in Jeroboam's judgment? (14:10-14, 17).

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7) How much of an impact would Jeroboam's actions have on the future of the nation of Israel? (14:15-16).

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**IV) The Rise and Fall of the Man of God (1 Kgs 13:7-32)**

A) Jeroboam's invitation to the man of God (13:8) to dine and receive a reward was not to do him honor or show his gratitude for the restoration of his hand, but more than likely an attempt to buy the man of God's loyalty—perhaps hoping for the curse on the altar to be reversed. What was the man of God's response? What does this say about his character in the midst of such temptations?

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1) Who else displayed a similar courage at first? (**Num** 22:1-18). What his response?

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2) Why do you think the Lord forbade him to tarry in Bethel?

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3) What important lessons can we learn from the conclusion of the man of God's story in **1 Kings** 13:11-34?