

## **Lesson 11: 1 Kings 13:1- 16:28      Antagonism Between Judah and Israel**

In our last lesson Solomon's son Rehoboam was crowned king of all Israel. Hearing this, Jeroboam returned from his exile in Egypt and challenged the taxation and difficult labor policies of King Solomon's reign. Standing with representatives of all the tribes of Israel the group stated their grievances to the new king, demanding relief. At one point, Adoram, who was in charge of the forced labor was stoned to death. Jeroboam led the tribes of Israel away. Judah and Israel and Judah became divided kingdoms. The LORD sent a message to Rehoboam through a holy man, that Judah should not retaliate against Israel. Jeroboam feared that the Israelites would return to alliances with Judah if they were to travel to Jerusalem for worship of the LORD in the Temple. To remedy this Jeroboam made two places of worship in Israel, one in Bethel and one in Dan. Golden calves were placed there and Jeroboam created a new pilgrimage feast day for the northern tribes of Israel.

### **1. Read 1 Kings 13:1-10.**

- a. **There is a prophet in these verses. To whom does the holy man address the LORD's message in 13:2?**
- b. **What was *Jeroboam's* response to the LORD's message?**
- c. **What *signs* did the LORD give to Jeroboam that this prophecy was the word of the LORD? (There are 3)**
- d. **What guidance did the LORD give to this unnamed man of GOD to ensure his safety on his way home?**

### **2. Read 1 Kings 13:11-25 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with the group.**

- a. **Jeroboam had offered "refreshment" to the prophet from Judah in earlier verses. Who is offering to break bread with the LORD's prophet in these verses?**
- b. **Why does the LORD's prophet *accept* the offer of bread and water in these verses? (See 13:18)**
- c. **Why is the LORD angry?**
- d. **What is the punishment here for *not* following the Word of the LORD?**
- e. **What signs are given *the old prophet from Bethel* that the LORD was in charge here? (13:21-25)**

### **3. Read 1 Kings 13:26-32.**

- a. **What has the old prophet of Bethel learned from the events in this chapter?**
- b. **Have these events strengthened the old prophet's faith in the *Word of God*?**

### **4. Read 1 Kings 14:1-20 and footnotes.**

- a. **How did Jeroboam respond to his son's sickness?**

- b. What reasons were given by the prophet Ahijah for the LORD's judgment *against* Jeroboam? (See 14:9,16)
  - c. What did the prophet, Ahijah, say about Jeroboam's son? (14:12-13, 17-18).
5. Read 1 Kings 14:21–41 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.
  - a. What do we know about king *Rehoboam* from these verses?
  - b. What are the sins of Judah mentioned in these verses?
  - c. How does the LORD use Shishak, king of Egypt, to punish Judah? (See 1 Kings 11:40 for more information on King Shishak.)
6. Read 1 Kings 15:1-8 and footnotes.
  - a. Who is king of Israel in these verses?
  - b. Who is king of Judah in these verses?
  - c. What do we know about the king of Judah?
  - d. How is the relationship between Judah and Israel described here?
7. Read 1 Kings 15:9-24 and footnotes.
  - a. Was Asa a good king or a bad king?
  - b. How long did Asa reign?
  - c. What actions of Asa reveal his true character and loyalty?
8. Read 1 Kings 15:25-34.
  - a. Who is Nadab? Is he good or evil?
  - b. Who is Baasha? Is he good or evil?
9. Read 1 Kings 16:1-28 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.
  - a. Je'hu is another prophet. What message does the LORD give him? (16:1-4)
  - b. When Asa is still king of Judah, E'lah becomes king of Israel. How long did he reign and how did he die? (16:8-10)
  - c. Zimri was king of Israel for how long? How did he die? (1 King 16: 11-20)
  - d. How were the acts of Zimri a part of the LORD's plan? (1 Kings 16:11-14)
10. Read 1 Kings 16:21-28 and footnotes.

For a short time, there were two kings over Israel, Tibni and Omri.

  - a. What happened to Tibni?
  - b. Was Omri a good king?
  - c. What does the text tell us about *Samaria* in these verses? (1 Kings 16:24)