

Name: _____

Date: _____

REHOBAM AND JEROBOAM: LEADING THE NATIONS INTO SIN

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1–2)

Objectives

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Knowledge of God’s Will | Rehoboam’s foolish actions divided the kingdom. Both Jeroboam and Rehoboam failed to follow God’s laws and led the Israelites into sin. |
| Knowledge of God | God is a jealous God. He wants us to follow Him wholeheartedly. |
| Good Works | Prepare our hearts to seek the Lord by trusting Him, leaning on His understanding, and acknowledging Him. Learn to make wise decisions in accordance with God’s principles. |

A. Jeroboam and Rehoboam’s Rise to Power

1. *Jeroboam*: The Bible’s introduction of Jeroboam is positive (1 Kgs 11:28), but when Ahijah revealed God’s plan to divide the kingdom, Jeroboam rebelled against Solomon (v. 26).
2. *Rehoboam*: He foolishly disregarded wise counsel and followed what was good for himself, not the people. As a result, Rehoboam’s decision divided the kingdom of Israel.

B. Jeroboam Leads Israel into Idolatry

1. *Jeroboam builds two golden idols*: His desire to strengthen his political power led Israel into sin.
2. *Jeroboam changes God’s holy days*: By instituting an alternate feast at a time he “devised in his own heart” (1 Kgs 12:33), it is clear that he was not acting in accordance with God’s will.
3. *Jeroboam appoints priests*: God specifically commanded that only Levites could become priests.

The Result of Jeroboam’s Sins (1 Kgs 14:7–16)

The Bible teaches us that adding or taking away from God’s words is a very serious sin. Jeroboam was punished severely for changing God’s commands and leading the kingdom astray.

C. Rehoboam’s Rule over Judah

The beginning of Rehoboam’s reign was blessed by God due to the Levites that had been driven from Jeroboam’s kingdom. But he followed in his father’s footsteps and sinned by taking numerous wives for himself, and he forsook God’s law at the peak of the kingdom’s prosperity.

The Sins of the Southern Kingdom (2 Chr 12:1; 1 Kgs 14:22–24)

God had repeatedly warned the Israelites against following the pagan practices of the Gentile nations, but the Israelites did exactly that and followed their evil practices.

The Result of Judah’s Sins (2 Chr 12:5–12; 1 Kgs 14:25–26)

Although their humility averted a worse disaster, God still allowed the glory of the nation, Solomon’s temple, to be completely ransacked by the Egyptians a mere five years after Solomon’s death.

Life Application

1. *Prepare Our Hearts to Seek the Lord*: Seeking the Lord requires a conscious and conscientious effort in focusing our minds and hearts upon Him.
2. *Making Wise Decisions*: Making wise decisions is never easy. Rehoboam and Jeroboam teach us that it is often difficult for us to see the right path to take, especially when our faith is low. But the Lord has given us wise counsel in the form of our spiritual friends, God’s word, and the Holy Spirit.

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Lesson 12 Homework Assignment

Rehoboam and Jeroboam: Leading the Nations into Sin

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

Memory Verse (Colossians 3:1–2):

1. What does it mean to set our minds on things above?
2. “And he did _____, because he did not _____ his _____ to _____ the _____.” (2 Chronicles 12:14)
3. “_____ in the LORD with all your _____, and _____ not on your own _____; in all your ways _____ Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5–6)
4. What three major sins did Jeroboam commit?
5. How did Rehoboam sin against the Lord? What was the result?
6. Name at least two important principles that we need to follow to make wise choices.
7. Based on the survey you did during class, in which area do you need to improve upon the most? Why do you think you struggle with this aspect of seeking God?