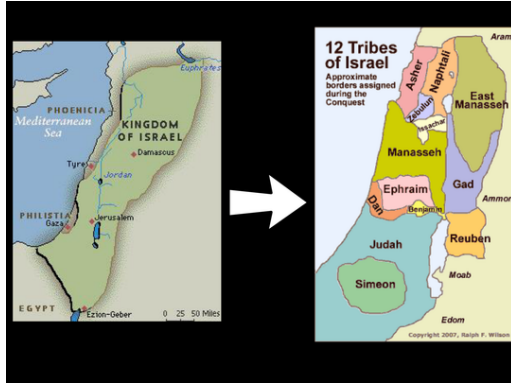


THE FRACTURED LIFE

1 Kings 12-16 | Eric Simpson | August 8, 2021



Rehoboam = one of Solomon's sons
Israel = 10 northern tribes

Jeroboam = Solomon's secretary of state
Judah = 2 southern tribes

1 Kings 12:4-5

4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you." 5 Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away.

1 Kings 12:6-7

6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked. 7 They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants."

1 Kings 12:8-11

8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. 9 He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?" 10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'-- tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. 11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"

1 Kings 12:12-14

12 Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam...13 The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, 14 he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions."

1 Kings 12:18-19

18 King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

1 Kings 12:31

Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites.

1 Kings 14:21-24

21 Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem...22 Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than their fathers had done. 23 They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. 24 There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

- Rehoboam = 18 wives, 60 concubines, 28 sons, 60 daughters

How does a "kingdom" go from united to fractured?

- Leaders exchanging revealed truth for unrighteous living
- Followers who carried the Name but lacked the substance.

Edward Gibbon in his book, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, outlines 5 factors that contributed to Rome's collapse...

1. the undermining of dignity and sanctity of the home as the basis of human society
2. the higher & higher public expenditure of free bread & entertainment for masses
3. the mad craze for pleasure and sports that grew increasingly sadistic
4. the building of great armaments when the real enemy was within—the erosion of individual responsibility
5. the decay of religion as faith faded into mere formality