

Jeroboam - The First King of Israel(10 Tribes)

Jeroboam became the first king of the newly formed nation of Israel which consisted of the ten tribes God had given to him. As he began his reign, he had three former kings to give him guidance and counsel. The first was an evil king who was deposed for not keeping God's commands. The second was David, a man after God's own heart who kept all his commands. The third was Solomon who embodied both the previous kings. In the beginning of his reign he followed in the steps of his father David and was greatly blessed. But at the end he rejected God's commands and became an idolater. It was for that very reason that Jeroboam had been given the opportunity to reign. Carefully consider what God had said about these three kings.

SAUL - A Bad King

When Samuel sent word to Saul wait for seven days at Gilgal(1Sam 13:6-14), when Samuel did not immediately appear, Saul offered the burnt offering in violation of the Law of Moses.

*And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. **The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.**" 1Sam. 13:13-14*

After his failure to with the Amalekites, fully keep another command, God told him the kingdom would be torn from him and given to another.

*Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, 11 "**I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.**" ... 28 So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 1Sam. 15:10-11; 24-25 28*

Saul went down in the history of God's people as an evil king.

DAVID - A Good King

When God removed Saul, He raised up David. Many years later the apostle Paul quoted God as saying He was "a man after My own heart, who will do all My will."

*And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.**' ... 36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; Acts 13:22,36*

Many years after his death, it was testified that David did what was right in God's eyes except in the matter of Uriah.

because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. 1Kings 15:5

SOLOMON - A Good King for most of his reign, but Apostasy in the End.

Solomon began well, He asked for wisdom to rule over Israel and perfectly discharged his duty to built the House of the Lord. It is the final chapter nearing the end of his life that God became angry because he allowed foreign women to turn his heart from God. He had not listened to God's specific commands. Deut 17:17; 1Kings 11:1-11 After Solomon's fell into idolatry, God began the necessary steps in Solomon's lifetime to remove Israel from the line of David.

*Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but **he did not observe what the LORD had commanded.** 1 Kings 11:9-10*

First, God revealed to Solomon exactly what he had done and what God would do to punish him.

*So the LORD said to Solomon, "**Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.** 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen. 1 Kings 11:11-13*

At this point in Solomon's reign, God raised up adversaries against him. The peace Israel had enjoyed was based on faithful service to God. Since they were no longer faithful, the curses Moses had warned against in the Law began to occur.

Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ... 15 But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Deut 28:1, 15

The problems related to the curses God had warned them would come began with God raising up three adversaries who created problems and began to destroy the peace and prosperity Solomon had built.

*Now the **Lord raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite**; he was a descendant of the king in Edom. 1 Kings 11:14*

*And **God raised up another adversary against him, Rezon the son of Eliadah**, who had fled from his lord, Hadadezer king of Zobah. 1 Kings 11:23-24*

*26 Then **Solomon's servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebat**, an Ephraimite from Zereda, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, **also rebelled against the king**. 1 Kings 11:26*

God sent Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam

Unlike Hadad and Rezon, God explained exactly how Jeroboam became an adversary. It was a direct revelation to him for the prophet Ahijah. Jeroboam is described as a mighty man who had come to Solomon's attention because he was industrious and zealous in his work. Initially Solomon had placed him into a position over authority over both tribes of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh).

*And this is what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo and repaired the damages to the City of David his father. 28 The man **Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor**; and **Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made him the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph**. 1 Kings 11:27-33*

All went well until God decided to raise up adversaries. God sent the prophet Ahijah to Jeroboam. We don't know much about Ahijah. He is mentioned here and in 1 Kings 14. He came to reveal to Jeroboam what God had planned as a result of both Solomon's and Israel's departure from Him to worship idols. Ahijah tore up a new garment and tore it into twelve pieces. He then told Jeroboam to take 10 pieces to himself and told him that these ten pieces represented ten tribes in Israel and that he would be given them. One tribe (Joseph) along with his own tribe (Judah) remained with Solomon's children because of David's faithfulness. This clearly emphasizes to Jeroboam the role their service to God played in how he had received this opportunity.

*Now it happened at that time, **when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way**; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. 30 Then **Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces**. 31 And he said to Jeroboam, "**Take for yourself ten pieces**, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: '**Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you** 32 (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), 1 Kings 11:29-32*

God then made it even more specific to Jeroboam. It was the sins of Solomon and their impact on Israel. Not only had Solomon refused to serve the Lord, but he had also become a great stumbling block to the people of Israel. Due to his building of idol's temple in Jerusalem (*Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians; Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites; Chemosh the abomination of Moab; and for Molech*). All Israel had followed him in these sins.

*because **they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David**. 1 Kings 11:33*

God's Promise to Jeroboam

God gave Jeroboam the same conditional command/promise he had given to Saul, David and Solomon. If Jeroboam wanted to avoid that fate of Saul and Solomon, he must choose the path of David. If we wanted to prosper and make his rule permanent, he must be faithful to God's commands. It was never Jeroboam's kingdom. He was only the steward who had been charged with protecting and leading God's people to do the truth.

So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel. 38 Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39 And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever." 1 Kings 11:37-39

God made it so clear that Jeroboam could not possibly misunderstand what He was saying. It is of the highest importance that we learn from this. Although Jesus is king in heaven, each local church must make the same decision that God gave to Jeroboam.

1. If you heed all that I command you
2. Walk in My ways
3. Do what is right in My sight
4. Keep My statutes and My commandments
5. As My servant David did

As we look at the above list, we all need to make the same application. First, God wants all to heed all He commands. He has repeated this command over and over again in the gospel. Consider a few of the man commands that were similar to those given to Jeroboam.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” Mt. 7:21-23

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” Mt. 15:8-9

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. 2John 9-11

If Jeroboam had listened and followed the course of David God had promised *“I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David.”* He had many years to consider these things before the decision had to be made.

Solomon Sought to Kill Jeroboam

There is so much we want to know and would like to discuss, but all we have been given are a few final details.

Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon. 41 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? 42 And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. 43 Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place. 1 Kings 11:40-43

Everything depends on how we interpret “therefore.” Whatever the “therefore” is referring back to will result on our final view of Solomon. There are two possibilities.

1. Solomon knew that Ahijah had gone to Jeroboam and had given him the promise that he would reign over ten tribes of Israel. He knew it was God’s will that Jeroboam be the next king over the ten tribes while his son would only have two tribes and “therefore” he sought to kill Jeroboam. If this be the case then it appears that even God’s final judgment did not lead to Solomon’s repentance. Arguments in favor of this conclusion are:

- A. God had told Solomon this is exactly what he was going to do.

Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 1 Kings 11:11-12

2. Solomon only knew that Jeroboam had become an adversary and guilty of treason. Jeroboam had overstepped his bounds since God had told him that he would not begin his reign until the death of Solomon.

However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. 35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and give it to you — ten tribes. 1 Kings 11:34-35

Yet it is difficult to give the much confidence since it was expressly stated that this was the reason why Jeroboam had become an adversary.

And this is what caused him to rebel against the king: ... Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way... 1 Kings 11:27-29

Hence he became an adversary because of what Ahijah said, yet Ahijah told him to wait until after the death of Solomon.

Clearly it is a very difficult question. The weight seems to be on the first one. It appears that Solomon knew that Jeroboam was to be the successor who would take the kingdom away from his son and because of that he sought to kill him. Yet there is just enough doubt, that it is difficult to charge Solomon with such a crime.

Ecclesiastes

The reason this has been such a contentious question centers on the book of Ecclesiastes. One of the favorite interpretations that has found some to champion is that Solomon did in fact repent and that he wrote this book after his repentance. While this could be the case, the above reasons keep us from being certain enough to state it as a fact.

Rehoboam Began to Reign

After Solomon's death, Israel gathered at Shechem. Shechem was located on the lower portion of directly opposite to Mount Ebal. No one has offered a clear reason why this was chosen. Some say it was a more convenient place for all to meet which is as good a reason as any, but doesn't have anything but human wisdom to prove it. Yet for that or another reason, all Israel came to Shechem to make Rehoboam king.

And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. 2 So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt), 3 that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, 1Kings 12:1-3

It is evident there was enough time between the death of Solomon and coronation of Rehoboam to give Israel the opportunity to call Jeroboam. It appears that Jeroboam was at least with those who were speaking of Rehoboam if not the one doing the speaking. One has to wonder how much these ten tribes know about the prophecy to Jeroboam. Remember that Solomon had made him a ruler over the house of Joseph, so he was already well known to these people and that may have been the reason he was there. Though it is hard not to conclude that since Solomon had tried to kill him and he had fled to Egypt that no one had wondered at what led to Jeroboam's rebellion.

Israel takes this opportunity to seek relief from the onerous taxes that Solomon had placed them under during his reign. They give a simple and logical request to Rehoboam.

"Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you." 5 So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed. 1 Kings 12:4-5

Rehoboam requests three days. Remember many have traveled many day to reach there and it was not an easy matter for them to remain three days. But the representative departed and went back to whatever camp they had while they waited for the answer.

Rehoboam's Decision

Rehoboam first asked the elders to give him their advice. What they said was clearly sound advice that would have resolved any conflict.

Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?" 7 And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever." 1 Kings 12:6-7

Although this was wise and sound counsel, Rehoboam rejected it. He sought instead the counsel of the young men. Their advice was arrogant, rude and selfish. Yet it evidently pleased Rehoboam to think he had this much authority.

Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us' — thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist! 11 And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'" 1 Kings 12:10-11

As an interesting inference, this is one of the few places where a clear distinction is made between the elders and the young men. It is stated that Rehoboam had grown up with these young men. Since he was 41 at this time, we get a clear idea that somewhere after the age of 40 is when the distinction between the elder and the young occur.

Jeroboam - 2

After Rehoboam's decision to follow the counsel of the young men who had grown up with him instead of the elders, Israel rejected Rehoboam as king. Their anger is directed at the house of David, since it was Rehoboam who had made this decision.

So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the Lord, that He might fulfill His word, which the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah. 1 Kings 12:15-17

We see the providence of God at work here. The way this turned out was exactly how the Lord had wanted it. If Rehoboam had been praying for wisdom and was seeking the Lord, the Lord could have found a way to overturn the foolish counsel and help him to take the right one. These are the amazing ways of our Lord that are past tracing out (Rom. 11:33-36).

Jeroboam's long relationship after Solomon appointed him to lead the house of Joseph (1 Kings 11:28), along with the near certainty they had now heard Ahijah's prophesy, led Israel to immediately make him king. God made his own desires clear that He wanted Jeroboam as king and Israel also wanted him as king. It was a decision that at that time no one seemed to have any reason to oppose. No one in the ten tribes followed the house of David except Judah.

Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only. 1 Kings 12:20

Rehoboam however was ready for action. He immediately gathered together 180,000 men who were prepared warriors. In his mind this was treason and rebellion and he was going to stop it by resorting to war.

And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. 1 Kings 12:20-22

God chose a different prophet than Ahijah and sent him to Rehoboam. He chose Shemaiah to bring these words to Rehoboam. Note that although the previous verse had said only the tribe of Judah, God now speaks of Judah and Benjamin as two separate houses. He revealed to Shemaiah that He wanted everyone to know this division between Israel and Judah was directed by Him. At this time Judah was still submissive to the commands of the Lord so peace continued and Judah went one way and Israel another.

But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying, 24 'Thus says the Lord: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.'" Therefore they obeyed the word of the Lord, and turned back, according to the word of the Lord. 1 Kings 12:22-24

Jeroboam takes Counsel and Makes a Decision

Jeroboam had been given years to consider and plan for the moment that was now before him. God had sent the prophet and been very clear. God had already revealed that this moment would come. His promise to Jeroboam was not fulfilled.

So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel.

But how things would unfold from that moment on was completely up to the freewill decisions that Jeroboam would make. God had given him the same promises he had given to Solomon.

Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, 5 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' 6 But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. 1 Kings 9:4-7

Jeroboam now sat on the throne just as Solomon had. He now had to make the same decisions that Solomon had made:

Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39 And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever.” 1 Kings 11:37-39

Hence Jeroboam had everything he needed to make the right choice. He had the example of David and Solomon. He had the promise of God and the clear commands that needed to be followed to get what God had promised. But Jeroboam stumbled over the same stumbling block that Solomon did. Instead of following God’s commands to the letter and trusting in His promises, he leaned upon his own understanding.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones. Pr 3:5-8

This passage is one of the most important in the Scriptures when we stand at the crossroads as Jeroboam did here. On the one side are the clear commands and promises of God. On the other the benefits that human wisdom can bring. Jeroboam was led astray by two critical elements. First, he was leaning on his own understanding.

And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: 27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah.” 1 Kings 12:26-28

Jeroboam’s lack of faith is evident in this reasoning. God had plainly told him that if he would put God’s needs and commands above his own, God would create an enduring house and there was nothing to fear. But he trusted in what he could see. He was “*wise in you his eyes*” and “*leaned on his own understanding*.” He was afraid that going back to Jerusalem three times each year to sacrifice and serve the Lord would give Rehoboam an opportunity to influence them. To him the outcome was obvious. They would kill him and go back to Rehoboam.

The second thing that led to his downfall was in asking others what he should do. This is never a good idea when we are wavering between doing God’s will and taking our own path, we need to consult God and not others.

Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!” 1Kings 12:27

Jeroboam fell because he leaned upon his own wisdom! He allowed himself to be fooled into believing that human wisdom was more appealing than obedience to God. In his reasoning, God could not possibly fulfill His word. What a sad and limited view of God this man had. His solution to the problem showed how little respect he had for God’s authority and will. His “better plan” founded upon his own wisdom would keep the children of Israel away from Jerusalem and the influences he believed would be exercised upon them.

Jeroboam’s Plan after Getting Counsel/Advice

To solve this difficulty he discussed it with others. It is very probable that this was the decision of all the the elders of the ten tribes. Since no one stood opposed to it in any way. First and perhaps the most egregious of his plan was to set up the “**two calves of gold**” and proclaimed, “**these are your gods O Israel.**” In doing this, he clearly broke the first two of the ten commandments.

“You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, Ex 20:2-5

These words and the calves so closely resemble what happened with Aaron that it is amazing they could have made such a choice.

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him” 2 So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This is your god(These are your god’s - ESV) , O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!” Ex 32:3-4

Once Israel allowed this great departure to occur without any words of warning or any effort to stop it, the rest of the things they did came about as a matter of course.

- A. Made “**two calves of gold**” and proclaimed, “**these are your gods O Israel.**”
1. It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem.
2. He set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.
3. This thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.
4. He made shrines on the high places
5. Made priests from every class of people, not of Levi.
5. Ordained a feast on the 15th day of the 8th month, like the feast that was in Judah
6. Offered sacrifices on the altar at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made.
7. At Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.
8. He made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel
9. On the 15th of the 8th month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart.
10. He ordained a feast for Israel, offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

This was his “*solution*” to a political expediency. He feared the people more than he feared God. Jesus had some strong words about this attitude toward His own disciples.

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Mt 10:28-29

The affects of these actions began immediately. First, with the loss of the priests and Levites who felt compelled to leave their common lands and go back to Judah.

And from all their territories the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel took their stand with him. 14 For the Levites left their common-lands and their possessions and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving as priests to the Lord. 2Chron 11:13-14

There are two possible reasons for this. First, they were loyal to God and did not wish to stay in this environment. Sadly if that was the case within three years, even Judah fell away from God. Second, they were no longer being supported by the tithes and needed to return to the faithful to maintain their lives.

Jeroboam was not concerned in the least. He just kept appointing more priests. Additional details of his wickedness were also given. Not only did he set up the calf-idols, but also sacrificed to demons.

Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made. 16 And after the Levites left, those from all the tribes of Israel, such as set their heart to seek the Lord God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the Lord God of their fathers. 2Chr. 11:15

This is one of the four times demons are mentioned in the Old Testament. They were mentioned twice in the books written by Moses and again in the Psalms. It is difficult to discern exactly what they knew about demons. Even with Paul’s additional explanations, it is still difficult for us to understand.

*And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and burn the fat for a sweet aroma to the Lord. 7 **They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot.** This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.” Lev 17:6-7*

*They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. 17 **They sacrificed to demons, not to God,** To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. Deut 32:16-17*

*They did not destroy the peoples, Concerning whom the Lord had commanded them, 35 But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works; 36 They served their idols, Which became a snare to them. 37 **They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons,** Ps 106:34-37*

*Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that **the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.** 21 **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.** 1 Cor 10:18-22*

Jeroboam - 3 - Consequences

After Jeroboam made his decision to lean on his own understanding and not to trust in the Lord with all his heart, everything he feared would happen if he did not follow the Lord was now going to happen to him because he sinned.

God's Promises to Jeroboam:

- ◆ heed all I command & walk in My ways
- ◆ do what is right in My sight,
- ◆ keep My statutes and commandments,
- ◆ as My servant David did,
- ◆ I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David,
- ◆ and will give Israel to you.

Jeroboam said in his heart,

- ◆ the kingdom may return to the house of David
- ◆ If these people go up to offer sacrifices
- ◆ in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem
- ◆ the heart of this people will turn back to their lord,
- ◆ they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam

It is always a sad reminder whenever this happens in Scripture. When people trust in the Lord with all their heart and do exactly what God says to do, then God will fulfill His promises and whatever power is needed for it to happen will come from the omnipotent God. But if we choose to ignore God's conditions for Him to fulfill His promises, then all the power has to come from us.

Noah, Abraham, and Moses chose to trust in the Lord. Cain, Saul and now Jeroboam chose to lean on their own understanding, using their own wisdom and relying on their own power. What happened next is a lesson to us all, and we are commanded to carefully take it to heart, learn it, and be admonished.

*For whatever things were written before were **written for our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Rom 15:4*

*4 Now these things **became our examples**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.... 11 **ow all these things happened to them as examples**, and they were **written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Cor 10:4, 11*

*39 But we are **not of those who draw back to perdition**, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it **the elders obtained a good testimony**. Heb 10:39-11:2*

*But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are **able to make you wise for salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that **the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work**. 2Tim. 3:14-17*

God Gave Jeroboam the Opportunity to Repent

Since the chapter breaks were not given did not come in until many years:

A man named Stephen Langton divided the Bible into chapters in the year A.D. 1227. Langton was a professor at the University of Paris and later he became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Robert Stephanus (Stephens), a French printer, divided the verses for his Greek New Testament. It was published in 1551.

We need to take both passages together

*33 So **he(Jeroboam) made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart**. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense. 12:1 **And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense**. 1 Kings 12:33-13:1*

So at one of these feasts(possibly even the first one), on the 15th day of the 8th month, while Jeroboam was performing his self appointed duties at the altar, something startling occurred. Since this was the feast day, there were others present so this is a public event.

With the term "**behold**," we are given the idea of a sudden startling event that caught the eyes and attention of everyone. With the people all assembled and Jeroboam standing before the altar, he is suddenly interrupted.

Prior to the event, God had appeared to a young prophet and commanded him to come and warn Jeroboam and all Israel of the consequences of their actions that day.

Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'" 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the Lord has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out." 1 Kings 13:2-3

So we picture the calm and dignified proceedings created by Jeroboam's wisdom, stopped by the cries of this young prophet. Jeroboam is furious. First, because the young man had dared condemn his new religious plans and goals. Second, because he stated it would be a son from the house of David (his greatest fear) who would do this. Third, because it condemned all who had volunteered to work as priests (including himself as being wicked and deserving this fate).

Although prophesied of things that would happen 100's of years in the future, even naming the king of the house of David who would do it, it was fulfilled exactly as revealed here.

Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image. 16 As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that were there on the mountain. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar, and defiled it according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. 2 Kings 23:15-18

King Jeroboam is very angry at this outburst and intends to deal with the wrongdoer, but God had other plans. This was such a critical period in the history of the ten tribes. Subsequent history shows they never repented of this sin and it led to their destruction and being carried away by Assyria. So God chose to give two power signs

The first had already been mentioned but had not yet occurred, the second was a direct judgment on Jeroboam.

So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. 5 The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord. 1 Kings 13:4-5

There was no way for Jeroboam to ignore this second sign. Although he might have argued away the broken altar and immediately fixed it, his hand and arm (could not draw it back) were withered and the muscles no longer working. This was a serious sign that would have been with Jeroboam the rest of his life. This too was witnessed by all who had come to celebrate this feast.

This second sign got Jeroboam's "short term" attention.

Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before. 1 Kings 13:6-7

He pleaded with the prophet to heal his hand. Although God restored his hand, Jeroboam did not get the true message of both the signs. God is very clear that Jeroboam did not repent. His worldly sorrow over the loss of his hand did not lead him to true repentance even when God in mercy restored it to him.

After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. 34 And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth. 1 Kings 13:33-34

This is a classic example of the meaning behind the words that Abraham spoke to the rich man.

Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" Lk. 16:29-31

So many of God's people witnessed amazing signs and wonders. Israel left Egypt after witnessing the ten plagues and the opening of the Red Sea. They witnessed all the signs on Mt Sinai then became idolaters.

The Fate of the Young Prophet (it DOES matter what you believe even if sincere)!

The young prophet easily resisted the temptation Jeroboam's offer created. Because God had clearly told this young man what He expected him to do.

Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you

a reward." 8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. 9 For so **it was commanded me by the word of the Lord**, saying, "You shall **not eat bread, nor drink water**, nor return by the same way you came." 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. 1 Kings 13:7-10

It is evident that Jeroboam wanted to give this young prophet a reward for healing his hand, but God didn't want the focus of this event to be lessened by Jeroboam thinking he had somehow done something good in any of this. He wanted this prophet to do the duty he had come to do and leave with no other memories except those God had wanted Jeroboam to reflect upon.

All went well until the old prophet in Samaria entered the scene. Here is another classic example that everyone in the NT needs to be admonished by, learn and take to heart.

The young prophet had been given direct information from "**the word of the Lord.**" The things that occurred when this young man took the word of another over the word of the Lord continues to be important even to this day.

*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even **if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.** 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, **if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.** Gal 1:6-9*

*He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And **in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**' 8 For **laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men** — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. ... 13 **making the word of God of no effect through your tradition** which you have handed down. And many such things you do." Mark 7:6-10, 13*

This was exactly the choice confronting the young prophet. What happened to him is important to all of us today. First, it is revealed that an old prophet still resided in Bethel. Whether he was a true prophet, a false prophet, or even lying about being a prophet is not revealed.

*Now **an old prophet dwelt in Bethel**, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king. 13:14*

The old prophet finds the young prophet, invites him home to eat with him.

*Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am." 15 Then he said to him, "**Come home with me and eat bread.**" 13:14-15*

The young prophet again quotes God's word and even states that the authority of this command was "**by the word of the Lord**"

*16 And he said, "**I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place.** 17 For **I have been told by the word of the Lord, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'**" 13:16-17*

The young man has a clear command given to him by the word of the Lord. He knew that what he had been given in this command was divine inspiration and God's word, directly from His mouth.

The prophet seeks to enhance the temptation with a lie. His will of having the young man return home with him was greater than any care or concern for the life and soul of this young man. So even though he knew it was a lie, he used it to entice this man away from the command and draw him away to the will of this old prophet. This lie (like the one given to Eve) was far more powerful than any other enticement would have been.

*He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and **an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord**, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.) 19 So **he went back with him**, and ate bread in his house, and drank water. 13:18-19*

What happened next was a powerful warning, both to the lying prophet and to the young prophet. Why God chose to use the mouth of this wicked deceiver is perhaps the most difficult event in the entire account. The lying prophet is not punished, but the young prophet is given death for rebelling against the word of the Lord.

*Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that **the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back**; 21 and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the Lord: '**Because you have disobeyed the word of the Lord, and have not kept the commandment which the Lord your God commanded you**, 22 but you came back, ate bread, and*

*drank water in the place of which the Lord said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," **your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.**"* 13:20-22

The problem created by the old prophet was not really the issue. God did not take that into account in any way. The real problem was the young man had disobeyed. The real problem was that the young man did not keep the command the Lord your God had commanded! Nothing anyone else could say removed the duty this man had to keep what God had specifically commanded him.

God clearly dealt with the sins of this older prophet, but the true focus of the event is on the young prophet. This story would travel, and it too became a part of the powerful event that God had given to Jeroboam and Israel. The nature of his death confirmed more fully than the other signs that what he had said was true.

*When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And **his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.** 25 And there, **men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.*** 13:24-25

The old prophet shows no remorse for his part in the fate of the young man.

*Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is **the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the Lord. Therefore the Lord has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke to him.**"* 13:26-27

Yet he saw clearly that because of all the things that had happened everything the prophet had said was true.

For the saying which he cried out by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass." 13:32

Yet when Jeroboam heard of this event, he too remained stubborn and rebellious.

***After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.** 34 And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.* 13:33-34

Jeroboam 4

God had done all He could to help Jeroboam. He had made precious and exceeding great promises to him (1 Kings 11:37-39). He had sent the young prophet to warn him, giving him many signs. The death of that prophet had been enough for the wicked older false prophet to know his words would truly come to pass, but none of this changed the mind of the headstrong Jeroboam. He continues to do it.

For the saying which he cried out by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass." 33 After this event Jeroboam did not return from his evil way, but again he made priests of the high places from among all the people; any who would, he ordained, to be priests of the high places. 34 And this event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot it out and destroy it from off the face of the earth. 1Kings 13:33-34

This illustrates again, one of the amazing truth seen over and over again in the history of God's people. It started with Cain and has continued unbroken by all who follow his path. Instead of using God's worship as the means to actually worship and please God, they use it for their own ends.

- 1 For some, as Cain did, it appears to be the pride of life, leading them to create something even better than what God asked for.

Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. Jude 9

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. Heb 11:4

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 1 John 3:11-12

- 2 For others, it becomes a means fulfilling their own desires using those who think they are serving God for their own means.

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. 2 Peter 2:1-3

- 3 There are also those who seek to worship God, but want a less stringent service than the one God has actually asked for.

For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables. 2Tim 4:3-4

- 4 Others want a more stringent service than God has asked for (Pharisees)

He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." Mk 7:6-8

God has done all he can through grace and mercy. The only thing left is vengeance and wrath. Jeroboam has done a terrible thing to destroy God's desire to save man. No one before Jeroboam had done the evil and the wickedness that Jeroboam had done.

but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back — 1Kings 14:9-10

Final Prophecy against Jeroboam (1Kings 14)

God's providence begins to work. He has looked into the future and seen the misery and destruction that will result because of Jeroboam's actions. In all Jeroboam's house, there was only one who was righteous and God determined to use him in two ways. The first way was to reveal to Jeroboam the terrible disaster that is about to come on his entire house.

The second way was to remove his one good son so he did not have to see or experience the terrible things that would come on his father and family.

Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. 13 And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam. 1 Kings 14:12-13

This is something God does during times of great wrath. He will remove those who are righteous before the terrible calamities come upon the wicked. God spoke of this in the times of Isaiah and also to King Josiah, and even to wicked Ahab.

The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil. 2 He shall enter into peace; They shall rest in their beds, Each one walking in his uprightness. Isa 57:1-2

because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the Lord. 20 Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.'"" So they brought back word to the king. 2 Kings 22:19-20

And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord: 21 'Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. 22 I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.' ... 25 But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. 26 And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. 27 So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning. 28 And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 "See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house.'" 1 Kings 21:20-22 25-29

With the term "at that time" it is clear that not long after Jeroboam made his final decision to remain in sin and refused to repent, his son became ill. Instead of all his priests and teachers, he sends for a true prophet. There are a few possibilities about why he wanted her to disguise herself. First, he did not want his own people to know he sought true information not from his own prophets and priests, but among a true prophet. Second, he thought he could deceive Ahijah. Neither of these really seems to answer the question.

At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. 2 And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people. 1 Kings 14:1-2

Her disguise is wasted on Ahijah, because even though he is blind, God has already revealed the entire plan to him.

And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age. 5 Now the Lord had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman." 1 Kings 14:4-5

Hence just as she is entering the door, only her footsteps being heard, Ahijah revealed that he already knew who she was. If there was any ability to still create faith, this event could have done so. For now only does the prophet know who she was, but also the reason she had come and the terrible answer he had been commanded by God to give her happened as soon as she arrived home.

And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news. 1 Kings 14:6-7

Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. 1 Kings 14:12

But Ahijah also sent her back with the terrible vengeance God intended to take on Jeroboam and his offspring because of the evil they had done. First God reminds Jeroboam of the promises He had made to him and how Jeroboam had responded to them.

Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel, 8 and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and

gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes; 9 but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back — 1 Kings 14:7-10

Then God described the terrible vengeance that would soon begin.

therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone. 11 The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the Lord has spoken!" 1Kings 14:10-12

The Sins of Jeroboam

The phrase used above is found twenty-five times in the books of the Kings. It refers to the things listed above. The nation of Israel (the ten tribes) and all the kings they followed never recovered themselves from the sins of Jeroboam. The full damage done by the sins of Jeroboam are listed when God gave up Israel (the 10 tribes to Assyria): After God revealed the terrible things that would happen to Jeroboam and his house, He also foretold the end of the ten tribes he had taken from David's house and given to Jeroboam. They too would be punished severely for going along with Jeroboam.

For the Lord will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the Lord to anger. 16 And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin." 1Kings 14:15-16

When the day finally came to fulfill these events, God again explained that it was all due to Jeroboam and Israel's refusal to repent of the sin he had created for them and they had embraced.

And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight. 21 For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord, and made them commit a great sin. 22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, 23 until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day. 2 Kings 17:20-23

The End of Jeroboam's House

For all the fears, cares and concerns that he had proclaimed had motivated him to do these terrible things, he only reigned 22 years and then left the earth forever.

*Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 20 The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. So he rested with his fathers. Then **Nadab his son reigned in his place.** 1 Kings 14:19-20*

Only two years after his death, all that Ahijah had revealed came to pass and Jeroboam's posterity was removed forever from the earth.

*Now **Nadab the son of Jeroboam** became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he **reigned over Israel two years.** 26 **And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.** 1Kings 15:25-26*

*Then Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And **Baasha killed him at Gibbethon**, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. 28 Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. 29 **And it was so, when he became king, that he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite,** 30 because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he had sinned and by which he had made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he had provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger. 1Kings 15:27-30*

*therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone. 11 The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the Lord has spoken!" 12 Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. 13 And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for **he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.** 1Kings 14:10-13*

The Divided Kingdom

The Kings of Israel(10 Tribes)

All Evil – Walking in the ways of Jeroboam

1. Jeroboam Made golden calves; etc
2. Nadab Assassinated by Baasha
3. Baasha Destroyed house of Jeroboam
4. Elah Assassinated by Zimri
5. Zimri Destroyed the house of Baasha
6. Omri Made Samaria capital
7. Ahab Married Jezebel
Elijah begins work.
8. Ahaziah
9. Jehoram Slain by Jehu
Elisha begins work
10. Jehu Killed the house of Ahab
11. Jehoahaz
12. Jehoash
13. Jeroboam **Amos & Hosea begin work**
14. Zechariah
15. Shallum
16. Menahem
17. Pekahiah
18. Pekah
19. Hoshea

Israel taken into Assyrian Captivity-722 BC

The Kings of Judah

6 good kings

13 evil kings.

1. Rehoboam(evil) Split the Kingdom
2. Abijam(evil)
3. Asa(good)
4. Jehoshaphat(good)
5. Jehoram(one of the worst)
6. Ahaziah(evil)
Queen Athaliah
7. Joash(good)(evil)
8. Amaziah(good)(evil)
9. Uzziah(good) **Isaiah begins**
10. Jotham(good) **Micah begins**
11. Ahaz(one of the worst)
12. Hezekiah(one of the best)
13. Manasseh(the worst)
14. Amon(evil)
15. Josiah(the best) **Jeremiah begins**
16. Jehoahaz(evil)
17. Jehoiakim(evil) **Daniel begins**
Nebuchadnezzar takes some captive.
18. Jehoiachin(evil) **Ezekiel begins**
19. Zedekiah(evil)
**Destruction of Jerusalem - 70 year
Babylonian captivity.**