

LESSON 27
“The Influence of Wicked and Righteous Leaders”
1 Kings 12-14; 2 Chronicles 17; 20

OVERVIEW:

Rehoboam succeeds his father, Solomon, as king of Israel. The ten tribes rebel and split off from Judah. Jeroboam becomes king of Israel. Jehoshaphat, Jeroboam’s grandson reigns in righteousness. See D&C 45:66-75 -66 And it shall be called the ^aNew Jerusalem, a ^bland of ^cpeace, a city of ^drefuge, a place of ^esafety for the saints of the Most High God; 67 And the ^aglory of the Lord shall be there, and the ^bterror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion. 68 And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his ^aneighbor must needs flee unto ^bZion for safety. 69 And there shall be ^agathered unto it out of every ^bnation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at ^cwar one with another. 70 And it shall be said among the wicked: Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are ^aterrible; wherefore we cannot stand. 71 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with ^asongs of everlasting ^bjoy. 72 And now I say unto you, keep these things from going abroad unto the world until it is expedient in me, that ye may accomplish this work in the eyes of the people, and in the eyes of your enemies, that they may not know your works until ye have accomplished the thing which I have commanded you; 73 That when they shall know it, that they may consider these things. 74 For when the Lord shall appear he shall be ^aterrible unto them, that fear may seize upon them, and they shall stand afar off and tremble. 75 And all nations shall be afraid because of the terror of the Lord, and the power of his might. Even so. Amen.

SCRIPTURES:

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE
KINGS
COMMONLY CALLED
THE THIRD BOOK OF THE KINGS
CHAPTER 12

Rehoboam seeks to impose greater burdens upon the people—The ten tribes revolt and turn to Jeroboam—Jeroboam turns to idolatry and worships false gods.

1 AND ^aRehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. (Rehoboam goes to Shechem to be made king. Shechem was a place of great historical importance. It was important for Rehoboam to go to Shechem to be formally recognized as king because Shechem was among the most ancient of the sacred towns of northern Palestine, and thus, a chief city of the northern tribes of Israel. (see Map 9, LDS Bible) It was at Shechem that Abraham camped when he first arrived in Canaan. (Gen 12:6 -¶ And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the ^aCanaanite was then in the land.) It was at Shechem that the Israelites buried the bones of Joseph when they came out of Egypt. (Josh 24:32 -¶ And the ^abones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.) It was at Shechem that Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel to give them instructions and establish a special covenant between God and the people. (Josh 24:1, 24 - 1 AND Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. 24 And the

people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.) (See Bible Dictionary – Shechem: The most ancient of the sacred towns of Palestine, situated in a beautiful plain among the mountains of Ephraim, close to the two hills Ebal and Gerizim. It was visited by Abram on his first arrival in the promised land (Gen. 12: 6); Jacob bought land here (Gen. 33: 18; Acts 7: 16; cf. Gen. 35: 4; Gen. 37: 14). It was later included in the territory of Ephraim (Josh. 17: 7), and became a Levitical city and a city of refuge (Josh. 20: 7; Josh. 21: 21; 1 Chr. 6: 67). Here Joshua addressed the people (Josh. 24: 1), and the bones of Joseph were buried (Josh. 24: 32). Here Rehoboam came to be crowned in the hope of conciliating the northern tribes (1 Kgs. 12: 1; 2 Chr. 10: 1; see also Judg. 8: 31; Judg. 9: 6, 46; Judg. 21: 19; 1 Kgs. 12: 25; 1 Chr. 7: 28; Jer. 41: 5; Ps. 60: 6). The modern town of Nablus lies near the ancient site of Shechem.))

2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard *of it*, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt(,;)) (Jeroboam, who had been hiding in Egypt, was called for. Who was Jeroboam? He was a mighty man of valor who served Solomon. He was a tax collector for the house of Joseph. (1 Kings 11:28 -28 And the man Jeroboam *was* a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.) Why did he flee to Egypt? A prophet named Ahijah prophesied that Jeroboam would become the king of the ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:30-39 -30 And ^aAhijah caught the new garment that *was* on him, and rent it *in* twelve pieces: 31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ^aten tribes to thee: 32 (But he shall have ^aone tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:) 33 Because that they have ^aforsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and ^bMilcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do *that which is* right in mine eyes, and to *keep* my statutes and my judgments, ^cas *did* David his father. 34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, 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 will give it unto thee, *even* ten tribes. 36 And unto his son will I give ^aone ^btribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have ^cchosen me to put my name there. 37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul ^adesireth, and shalt be king over Israel. 38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt ^awalk in my ways, and do *that is* right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant ^bdid; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure ^chouse, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee. 39 ^aAnd I will for this afflict the seed of ^bDavid, but not for ever.) Solomon, hearing this, sought to kill Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:40 - Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto ^aShishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.))

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our ^ayoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5 And he said unto them, Depart yet *for* three days, then come again to me. And the people departed. (Israel and Jeroboam go to Rehoboam to find out if he would further tax the people like Solomon. They counsel Rehoboam to remove the taxes and they will pledge their loyalty to him.)

6 ¶ And king Rehoboam consulted with the ^aold men (or elders), that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a ^aservant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

(Rehoboam counsels with the old men that counseled Solomon who suggest that he serve the people.)

8 But he forsook the counsel of the ^aold men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young

men that were grown up with him, *and* which stood before him:

9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little *finger* shall be thicker than my father's loins.

11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy ^ayoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with ^bscorpions. (Heb stinging whips) (He refuses the counsel of the old men and goes to his friends that he grew up with for counsel. They counsel to make the burdens even heavier. He gives in to his peers.)

12 ¶ So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the ^aold men's (or elders') counsel that they gave him;

14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father *also* chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the ^acause (Heb turn of affairs) was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by ^bAhijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat. (He speaks harshly to the leaders telling them that the burdens will be even heavier. This, however, was in accordance with the Lord's will to divide Israel. Will the twelve tribes ever be reunited again? The tribes will be divided until Christ's millennial kingdom, when they will be one again. (Ezek 37:22 - And I will make them ^aone ^bnation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and ^cone king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more ^dtwo nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:))

16 ¶ So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither *have we* inheritance in the son of Jesse (⋮); to your tents, O Israel (⋮); now see to thine own house, David. So Israel ^adeparted unto their tents.

17 But *as for* the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of ^aJudah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18 Then king Rehoboam sent ^aAdoram, who *was* over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

19 So ^aIsrael ^brebelled against the house of David unto this day.

20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that ^afollowed the house of David, but the tribe of ^bJudah only. (Septuagint: Judah and Benjamin) (Israel departs and only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin are left to follow Rehoboam and the house of David. Which tribe rules Israel today? Ephraim. Look at verse 17 – “But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.” This passage helps to explain why such men as Lehi and Nephi, who were descendants of Manasseh and the family of Ishmael, who were descendants of Ephraim, were living in the land of Jerusalem several generations after Rehoboam. (Erastus Snow, in *Journal of Discourses*, 23:18) 42 Chronicles 15:9 - And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the ^astrangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God *was* with him. 1 Nephi 5:14 - And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the ^aplates of brass a ^bgenealogy of his ^cfathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of ^dJoseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of ^eJacob, who was ^fsold into Egypt, and who was ^gpreserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father, Jacob, and all his household from perishing with famine. Alma 10:3 - And Aminadi was a descendant of Nephi, who was the son of Lehi, who came out of the land of Jerusalem, who was a descendant of ^aManasseh, who was the son of ^bJoseph who was ^csold into Egypt by the hands of his brethren. 2 Chronicles 11:13-17 also shows that the Levites that were expelled by Jeroboam came to Jerusalem and were the priests

for Rehoboam. 13 ¶ And the priests and the Levites that *were* in all Israel ^aresorted to him out of all their ^bcoasts. 14 For the Levites left their ^asuburbs and their ^bpossession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had ^ccast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD: 15 And he ordained him ^apriests for the high places, and for the ^bdevils, and for the calves which he had made. 16 And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers. 17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon. (Which tribe leads Israel today? Ephraim.)

21 ¶ And when ^aRehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and four(-)score thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

22 But the word of God came unto ^aShemaiah the man of God, saying,

23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,

24 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your ^abrethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD. (Rehoboam tries to get his army to go after Israel to reclaim the kingdom. But the prophet, Shemaiah, says it is of the Lord that the kingdom be divided and not to go to war. They obey and return to their homes.)

25 ¶ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. (Jeroboam builds Shechem as the capital in Ephraim.)

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people ^ago up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, *even* unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and ^amade two ^bcalves *of* gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy ^cgods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

29 And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in ^aDan.

30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went *to worship* before the one, *even* unto Dan.

31 And he made an ^ahouse of high places, and made ^bpriests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the ^afeast that *is* in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the ^bpriests of the high places which he had made.

33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, *even* in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense. (Jeroboam fears that the people will go to Jerusalem to worship and will follow Rehoboam, so he sets up two places of worship in the north and in the south. He sets up false priests and to worship idols. "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." This was almost verbatim quotation of the people's proclamation at the golden calf incident during the Exodus (Ex 32:4 And he received *them* at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a ^amolten calf: and they said, ^bThese *be* thy ^cgods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.). Bethel (South) and Dan (North) were the two places set up to worship idols. Bethel was the place where God appeared to Jacob (Genesis 28:11-19 -11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he ^adreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the ^bangels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the ^aLORD stood

^babove it, and said, I *am* the ^cLORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the ^dland whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the ^anorth, and to the south: and in thee and in thy ^bseed shall all the ^cfamilies of the earth be ^dblessed. 15 And, behold, ^aI *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will ^bbring thee again into this ^cland; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of. 16 ¶ And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! this *is* none other but the house of God, and this *is* the gate of ^aheaven. 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a ^apillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place ^aBeth-el: but the name of that city *was called* ^bLuz at the first.; 35:1,7,9-15 -1 AND God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Beth-el, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou ^afleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. 7 And he built there an altar, and called the place El-beth-el: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother. 9 ¶ And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padan-aram, and blessed him. 10 And God said unto him, Thy name *is* Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but ^aIsrael shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel. 11 And God said unto him, I *am* ^aGod Almighty: be ^bfruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of ^cnations shall be of thee, and ^dkings shall come out of thy loins; 12 And the ^aland which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land. 13 And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him. 14 And Jacob set up a ^apillar in the place where he talked with him, *even* a pillar of stone: and he poured a ^bdrink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon. 15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Beth-el.) and where Samuel held solemn assemblies (1 Samuel 7:16 - And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.).)

CHAPTER 13

Jeroboam is smitten and then healed by a prophet from Judah—The prophet delivers his message, is led astray by a prophet from Beth-el, and is slain by a lion for his disobedience—Jeroboam continues false worship in Israel.

1 AND, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.
 2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the ^ahigh places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be ^bburnt upon thee.
 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This *is* the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be ^arent, (or torn down) and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out.
 4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-el, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.
 5 The altar also was rent, 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. (A prophet rebukes the altar set up by Jeroboam. Why does he speak to the altar and not to Jeroboam? Jeroboam was insignificant to the Lord, but the altar was the problem. He prophecies. The altar is broken in two. Jeroboam is smitten by the Lord and his hand is crippled. The man of God's prophesy was fulfilled in 2 Kings 23:15-18 - 15 ¶ Moreover the altar that *was* at Beth-el, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who ^amade Israel to sin, had made, both that ^baltar and the high place he ^cbrake down, and burned the high place, and stamped *it* small to powder, and burned the grove. 16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that *were* there

in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned *them* upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. 17 Then he said, What title *is* that that I see? And the men of the city told him, *It is the* ^asepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Beth-el. 18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.)

6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as *it was* before. (Jeroboam asks the prophet to pray for his hand, and it is restored.)

7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

9 For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Beth-el. (Jeroboam tries to get the prophet to come with him, but he says he had been commanded not to eat or drink in that place. He departs. Why would he not eat there? His eating with the king would show the people that he agreed with the king or was friendly with him which was contrary to the message he had given.)

11 ¶ Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.

13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,

14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, *Art* thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, *I am*.

15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.

16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:

17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

18 He said unto him, *I am* a prophet also (, even) as thou (,) ~~art~~; and an ^aangel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and ^bdrink water (, that I may prove him;). ~~But~~ (And) he lied (not) unto him.

19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. (Another prophet hears of the first prophet. He asks him to come home and eat and drink with him, but he refuses. He tells the prophet he had a vision that he was to come home. He goes. This was a test of the prophet. "When the prophet from Judah at first refused to enjoy the hospitality of the old prophet from Bethel because God had forbidden it, the latter tested the resolve of the former by telling him that an angel had approved the invitation to dine together. The prophet of Judah acquiesced and then received the prophecy of his own death from the lips of his host. Joseph Smith makes it clear that the old prophet was himself righteous and acting as God's instrument to test the prophet from Judah. (JST 1 Kings 13:18) Some help is available in the Inspired Revision of verse 18, which indicates that the old prophet said, "Bring him back... that I may prove him; and he lied not unto him." Ultimately the Judahite prophet was responsible for his own demise because of his disobedience.)

20 ¶ And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:

21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast ^adisobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,

22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which *the LORD* did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

(The prophet tells the man of God he has gone against Jehovah and will die.)

23 ¶ And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, *to wit*, for the prophet whom he had brought back.

24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.

25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard *thereof*, he said, It *is* the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD(;)—therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him (me).

27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled *him*.

28 And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.

29 And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

30 And he laid his carcase in his own ^agrave; and they mourned over him, *saying*, Alas, my brother!

31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God *is* buried; lay my bones beside his bones:

32 For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Beth-el, and against all the houses of the high places which *are* in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass. (The man of God departs, is attacked by a lion and dies. The prophet retrieves the man of God's body and buries it.)

33 ¶ After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became *one* of the priests of the high places.

34 And this thing became ^asin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut *it* off, and to destroy *it* from off the face of the earth. (Jeroboam does not repent.)

CHAPTER 14

Ahijah foretells the ruin of Jeroboam's house, the death of his child, and the scattering of Israel because of their idolatry—Jeroboam dies and Nadab reigns—Judah, under Rehoboam, turns to wickedness—Shishak of Egypt takes treasures from temple—Rehoboam dies and Abijah reigns.

1 AT that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. (Abijah, Jeroboam's son is sick.)

2 And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there *is* ^aAhijah the prophet, which told me that *I should be* king over this people.

3 And take with thee ten loaves, and ^acracknels, (or cakes) and a cruse of honey, and go to him: he shall tell thee what shall become of the child.

4 And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age. (Jeroboam sends his wife in disguise to Ahijah the prophet to ask what shall become of the child.)

5 ¶ And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her

son; for he *is* sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself *to be* another woman.

6 And it was *so*, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself *to be* another? for I *am* sent to thee *with* heavy tidings.

7 Go, tell ^aJeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

8 And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee (,): ~~and yet thou hast~~ (because he kept) not (my commandments. But thou hast not) been as my servant ^aDavid, ~~who kept my commandments, and who~~ (when he) followed me with all his heart, ~~(only)~~ to do ~~that only which was~~ right in mine eyes;

9 But hast done ^aevil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

10 Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of ^aJeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, *and* him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will ^btake (Heb burn, consume, destroy) away the remnant of the house of ^cJeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

11 Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

12 Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: *and* when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die.

13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found *some* good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

14 Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now.

15 For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up ^aIsrael out of this ^bgood land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond ^cthe river (ie the Euphrates), because they have made their ^dgroves, (Heb *asherim*; ie idolatrous, wooden poles, pillars, or trees) ^eprovoking the LORD to anger.

16 And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of ^aJeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin. (Ahijah, who is blind, recognizes Jeroboam's wife. He prophecies the death of the child and that Israel shall be destroyed because of their wickedness.)

17 ¶ And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: *and* when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;

18 And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

19 And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they *are* written in the ^abook of the ^bchronicles (It is significant that the kings of Israel and Judah kept official records; these records are no longer extant; they were used as source books by the author(s) of our books of Kings; they are not our books of Chronicles.) of the kings of Israel.

20 And the days which Jeroboam reigned *were* two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead. (The child dies and is buried.)

21 ¶ And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam *was* forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name *was* Naamah an Ammonitess.

22 And Judah did ^aevil in the sight of the LORD, and they ^bprovoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

23 For they also built them ^ahigh places, and ^bimages, and groves, on every high hill, and under every

green tree.

24 And there were also ^asodomites (Heb male prostitutes; devotees of idolatrous paganistic fertility worship.) in the land: *and* they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. (Rehoboam reigns in wickedness in Judah.)

25 ¶ And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, *that* ^aShishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem:

26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed *them* unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house.

28 And it was *so*, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber. (The king of Egypt came to Jerusalem and took the treasures of the temple. Last week what did you learn about the temple? It was covered in gold. Everywhere in the temple was overlaid with gold. Why steal the gold? When Israel fled Egypt, they took with them as much gold and silver as they could carry. Maybe the king of Egypt was just taking back what he thought was his. A fragment of Shishak's inscription has been found at Megiddo, and a representation of his victory over Rehoboam is found at the Temple of Karnak in Egypt. Although the Bible mentions only Judah, evidence indicates that Shishak invaded the Northern Kingdom as well. He inscribed the names of many northern cities on his victory relief at Karnak.)

29 ¶ Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

30 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all *their* days.

31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name *was* Naamah an Ammonitess. And ^aAbijam his son reigned in his stead. (Israel and Judah war constantly. The difference between the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. Israel (Northern) had mostly wicked leaders. Judah (Southern) had righteous leaders after wicked ones. The Northern Kingdom was defeated and taken away 123 years before Judah was taken captive. There was not a single king in Israel that was righteous after Solomon. In Judah, there were at least five righteous kings. (Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah) Also, idolatry never took root in Judah for three reasons: the good influence of the Temple of Jerusalem, the idolatrous kings of Judah were always followed by kings who worshipped the true God, the kings that were idolatrous did not reign very long.)

THE SECOND BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES CHAPTER 17

Jehoshaphat reigns well and prospers in Judah—Priests travel and teach out of book of the law of the Lord.

1 AND Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

3 And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;

4 But sought to the *LORD* God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.

5 Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and

groves out of Judah. (Jehoshaphat is king of Judah. He reigns in righteousness. He destroys the idols and places of false worship. Jehosophat means Jehovah is Judge. High places and groves became places of entertainment. Theatrics, entertainment, and religious excitement replaced true religion and its edifying spiritual gifts. Our homes can become the “temple” model of the Lord’s house. Entertainment brought in by various means may challenge us today as it did in the past. On the other hand, our homes may be the model to prepare us daily to live with Him, in His house, and in His city.)

7 ¶ Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, *even* to Ben-hail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

8 And with them *he sent* Levites, *even* Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.

9 And they taught in Judah, and *had* the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and ^ataught the people. (He sends Levites to teach the people the correct doctrines and teachings. President Ezra Taft Benson taught: “Often we spend great effort in trying to increase the activity levels in our stakes. We work diligently to raise the percentages of those attending sacrament meetings. We labor to get a higher percentage of our young men on missions. We strive to improve the numbers of those marrying in the temple. All of these are commendable efforts and important to the growth of the kingdom. But when individual members and families immerse themselves in the scriptures regularly and consistently, these other areas of activity will automatically come. Testimonies will increase. Commitment will be strengthened. Families will be fortified. Personal revelation will flow.” (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p. 44))

10 ¶ And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that *were* round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

11 Also *some* of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.

12 ¶ And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah ^acastles, (ie fortifications) and cities of store.

13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, *were* in Jerusalem.

14 And these *are* the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand.

15 And next to him *was* Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand.

16 And next him *was* Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour.

17 And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand.

18 And next him *was* Jehozabad, and with him ~~an~~ hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war.

19 These waited on the king, beside *those* whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah. (The kingdom of Judah is strengthened.)

CHAPTER 20

Ammonites and others come against Judah—Jehoshaphat and all the people fast and pray—Jahaziel prophesies deliverance of Judah—Their attackers war among and destroy themselves.

1 IT came to pass after this also, *that* the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them *other* beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. (Ammonites come against Judah to

battle.)

2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they ~~be~~ (are) in Hazazon-tamar, which is (was called) En-gedi.

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a ^afast throughout all Judah.

4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask *help* of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 ¶ And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, ~~art not~~ thou God (who are) in heaven(;)? and rulest ~~not thou~~ over all the kingdoms of the heathen(;)? and in ~~thine~~ (thy) hand ~~is there not~~ (thou hast) power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee(;)?

7 ~~Art not~~ Thou our God, ~~who~~ didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the ^aseed of Abraham thy friend for ever(.)?

8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

9 If, *when* evil cometh upon us, *as* the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name *is* in this house,) and cry unto thee in our ^aaffliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

10 And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

11 Behold, ~~I say, how~~ they reward us (not), ~~to~~ (but have) come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither ^aknow we what to do: but our eyes *are* upon thee.

13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

(Jehoshaphat has the people fast and pray for deliverance.)

14 ¶ Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the ^abattle *is* not yours, but God's.

16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the ^acliff (Heb ascent) of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the ^bbrook, (or wadi) ^cbefore (or east of) the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 Ye shall not ~~need~~ (go) to fight in this battle (day);^z set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the ^asalvation (or deliverance) of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem(;)^z fear not, nor be dismayed; to (-)morrow go out against them(;)^z for the LORD *will be* with you.

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high. (A man prophecies that Judah will be delivered by the Lord. They not only have faith that they would be delivered, but they then performed the necessary work to help it happen. They go out to fight against Ammonites and Moabites.)

20 ¶ And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; ^aBelieve in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; ^bbelieve his prophets, so shall ye ^cprosper.

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his

mercy *endureth* for ever. (The phrase “beauty of holiness” really should be translated holy array which refers to the full Temple dress of the priests and Levites. This appears to be a parade thanking God for already delivering them from their enemies.)

22 ¶ And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they ^awere smitten. (or smote one another)

23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy *them*: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy ^aanother.

24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they *were* dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much. (The enemy fights among themselves and kill themselves. The people take the spoil of the enemy. Some Bible scholars believe that a tribe of Edomites lay in ambush against Moab and the Ammonites and attacked the army, which caused them to attack each other. The Edomites were probably considered allies at first, until the attack. The suspicion then among the tribes caused them to kill each other.)

26 ¶ And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of ^aBerachah, (ie Blessing) unto this day.

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of *those* countries, when they had heard that the LORD (had) fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about. (They go back to Jerusalem and worship in the temple. The name of the place was Berachah, which today is called Bereikut which is between Bethlehem and Hebron.)

31 ¶ And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: *he was* thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

32 And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD.

33 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of ^aJehu the son of Hanani, who *is* mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel. (Jehoshaphat reigns in peace.)

35 ¶ And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:

36 And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Ezion-geber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish. (Jehoshaphat joins with a wicked leader.)

Additional Reading:

This chapter is from last week's lesson:

1 Kings 11: 26 ¶ And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name *was* Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up *his* hand against the king.

27 And this *was* the cause that he lifted up *his* hand against the king: Solomon built ^aMillo, *and* repaired the breaches of the city of David his father.

28 And the man Jeroboam *was* a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet ^aAhijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two *were* alone in the field:

30 And ^aAhijah caught the new garment that *was* on him, and rent it *in* twelve pieces:

31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ^aten tribes to thee:

32 (But he shall have ^aone (Septuagint: two tribes) tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

33 Because that they have ^aforsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and ^bMilcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do *that which is* right in mine eyes, and to *keep* my statutes(,) and my judgments, (and his heart is become as David his father; and he repenteth not) ^cas *did* David his father(, that I may forgive him).

34 Howbeit(,) I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand(,); but I will make him prince all the days of his life(,) for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes (in that day.):

35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, ~~even~~ ten tribes.

36 And unto his son will I give ^aone (Septuagint: two tribes) ^btribe. That David my servant may have a light always(s) before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have ^cchosen me to put my name there.

37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul ^adesireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt ^awalk in my ways, and do ~~that is~~ right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant ^bdid (in the day that I blessed him); ~~that~~ I will be with thee, and build thee a sure ^chouse; as I built for David, and ~~will~~ give Israel unto thee.

39 (And for the transgression of David, and also for the people, I have rent the kingdom,) ^aAnd (for this) I will for this afflict the seed of ^bDavid, but not for ever.

40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto ^aShishak' king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

2 Kings 17:20-23: 20 And the LORD ^arejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. 21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. 22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; 23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the ^aprophets. So was ^bIsrael ^ccarried away out of their own ^dland to Assyria unto this day.

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