

# 3—A House Divided

“The Keys to the Kingdom”

Pastor Mike Cooke

Why did the Northern Tribes split away from Judah?

## 1. Southern Perspective (1 Kings 12:1-30)

- A. All 12 tribes intend to make Rehoboam their king (1)
- B. LXX does not have Jeroboam at Shechem (2)
- C. The people ask him to lighten their labor (3)
- D. Elders tell him to lead like a servant (6-7)
- E. He rejects their counsel and doubles down (8-15a)
- F. North rebels and makes Jeroboam king (16-20)
- G. The Lord tells Rehoboam not to go to war (21-24)
- H. Jeroboam sets up altars to Yahweh in Bethel and Dan (25-30)
  - 1) Bethel had root from the Patriarchs (Gen 35:7)
  - 2) Dan’s priests were descended from Moses (Judges 18:30)  
*There the Danites set up for themselves the idol, and Jonathan son of Gershom, the son of Moses, and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan until the time of the captivity of the land.*
- I. Not about foreign gods, but against Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:30)  
*And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.*

## 2. Exile Perspective (1 Kings 11:1-13)

- A. Because of Solomon’s foreign wives (1-6)
- B. Because of Solomon’s idolatry (7-13)
- C. Solomon puts him in charge of the Northern labor (26-28)
  - 1) Calls them the “Tribes of Joseph”
  - 2) Recalls Joseph’s torn robe (Gen 37:33)
  - 3) Recalls tearing of Saul’s robe (1Sam 15:27-31)

D. Ahijah prophesizes him taking 10 tribes (29-40)  
(missing from the LXX)

1) Because of Solomon's idolatry (33)

*I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molek the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in obedience to me, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my decrees and laws as David, Solomon's father, did.*

2) He charges Jeroboam to obey the law (38)

3) His dynasty will only be temporary (39)

### **3. Post-exile Priestly Perspective (1 Kings 12:31-33)**

A. Jeroboam appoints priests who are not Levites (31)

B. He celebrates the fest in the 8<sup>th</sup> month (32-33)

#### **From 2 Chronicles:**

C. Jeroboam's reform strengthens Judah (11:14-17)

1) Jeroboam rejects the Levitical priests (11:14)

2) Chronicler adds goat idols (11:15)

D. Abijah of Judah fights a war against him (13:1-20)

1) Confronts the false priesthood (9)

2) Representing the sacrifices and offerings (11)

3) The priests blow their shofars (14)

4) God smites Jeroboam (15) and he dies (20)