

Bible Story 20: THE KINGDOM DIVIDED INTO JUDAH AND ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 11:43; 12:1-17,19-20

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:4

BIBLE STORY:

King Solomon was harsh to the Israelite people and made them work very, very hard. Also he insisted that they pay high taxes, which was a lot of money.

When his son Rehoboam became the new king, the people asked him to be kinder and give less work. King Rehoboam asked for advice. The young advisors told the king to be harder, but the elders told him to be kinder. King Rehoboam took his young friends' advice to be even harder on the people than his father was to them. When the people heard this, they were unhappy. With harder work and even higher taxes, what were they going to do?

At this time, the Israelites were united into one kingdom. All worked together, helping one another. Because the new king Rehoboam was going to be harder, the people disagreed and were very angry. So they rebelled and divided their kingdom into two parts: **Judah** and **Israel**.

1. **Judah** was the smaller kingdom in the south. Rehoboam continued being their king. Their capital was in Jerusalem. They worshiped God in the Temple in Jerusalem.
2. **Israel** was the larger kingdom that was in the north. Jeroboam was their new king. Their capital was in Samaria. King Jeroboam built two golden calves for the people to worship. One was in Bethel and another one was in Dan. This was against God's commandments. They were to only worship God.

Because the kingdom separated, they had many problems among themselves between the two kingdoms, and with their enemies in other lands around them.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. How did Solomon treat the people when he was king?
2. Is it right to be harsh to other people? How should we treat one another? Why?
3. Were the people happy about their treatment? What did the people ask the new king, Rehoboam, to do?
4. Rehoboam asked for advice. What did the elders advise Rehoboam to do? What did Rehoboam's young friends advise him to do?
5. Who are some people who can give you good advice? Are there some people who will advise you to do something wrong? Who? How can you tell when you are getting good or bad advice?
6. Which advice did Rehoboam take? Do you think he made a good decision? Why?
7. Do you think that Rehoboam listened to what the people wanted and needed, or do you think he did what was best for just himself? Why?
8. Why should you listen to someone who disagrees with you?
9. How did the people of Israel react to Rehoboam's decision? What happened?
10. Is it alright to disagree with someone? If someone disagrees with you, how should you react? How can you avoid fighting? Are there times that you should ever fight?
11. If you have offended someone by the manner in which you disagreed, what should you do?