

## 1 Kings 12-14:20 – A Wise and Obedient Servant-King!

**Opening Illustration:** The Emperor compared to Darth in heavier Load – y'all know I'm Star Wars fan... Manny knows what I am talking about (Great Scene at the beginning of the Return of the Jedi)

- We will see something similar **Solomon Vs. Rehoboam!**

**Main Idea:** *The Nation needs an Obedient, Wise King who comes a Servant to Lighten the Yoke of His people and leads them in to True Worship*

**Context:** Solomon has died and his son is to become King in his place... but looming is the split of that nation

### Chapter 12:1-24: A Strange Exodus

**Explanation of Verse 1-16:** So the nation of Israel is unhappy, Solomon in his later years had burdened the people with tough labor (heavy yoke) – in many ways he had become Pharaoh-like! And so he achieved great glory but at a Cost!

- **Now ironically, and we will see a deliverer again like this, Jeroboam after having fled to Egypt** to avoid a tyrannical King will come out of Egypt to deliver his people from a Heavy Yoke
- **He acts as a Moses type deliverer** asking the new Pharaoh, Solomon's Son Rehoboam to lighten the Yoke, he is starting out with so much promise

**Three days for Counsel:** Rehoboam decides to take counsel first from the **older men** who had been with his father – *Solomon is teaching his son in the Proverbs that the Kingdom is to be ruled and established and held secure through Wisdom!*

- **(V. 6) The Older men** first say if you will lighten this load **AND BE A SERVANT** to these people will be yours forever
- **However, Rehoboam ABANDONS their counsel for the younger or those who grew up with** – and they advise him, foolishly, to be more Pharaoh-like than his father... and sadly he heeds their advice!

**They are likely in their 30s or 40s**, however, so the statement young probably refers more to maturity than age – they are young in maturity

- **Illustration:** This would be like going to a teenager for relationship advice (CAL)... Donnie doesn't go to Judah for Parenting advice!
- **Rehoboam has surrounded himself with the wrong counselors** – We do this at times, seek the advice of those we know will agree with us, or don't have counselors at all!
  - o **Illustration at IDC:** Maturity not necessarily about age! (Matt Foshee)

**And the great irony, the people who had been delivered out of Egypt are now back in slavery, though they live in the promised land, they do not live in a land of freedom** – and he is a more harsh Pharaoh, for he will take the punishment farther to **SCORPIONS! (Barbed whips)**

- **This has become worse than Egypt** – and like his father he loves his glory **more than Yahweh's or the good and welfare of his people**
- **And He is basically telling them my weakest part is stronger than my dad's strongest!**

**And his foolishness will cost him the Kingdom** – He is not listening to his father's advice from Proverbs – in several places: PROVERBS 31 –Kings should speak for those who cant speak for themselves and the most vulnerable, AS he will instead make their Yoke heavier PROVERBS 13: *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*)

- ***His Pharaoh-like folly leads to harm, a path of Destruction.***

**Verse 15 say this was brought about by the Lord (Twist from Yahweh) – we see the play between Sovereignty and Responsibility**

- **Explanation:** The division is due to Solomon and Rehoboam's foolishness (responsible) but God is alone in control of events so that the prophecy of his man Ahijah will come to pass that Jeroboam will get 10 Tribes. WE SEE THIS IN THE CROSS!

**READ Verse 16 – 19 detail how Israel walks away from Judah – Israel basically says, *you want Labor? Look to your own house.***

**NOT SURE IF THIS IS A GOOD THING!** It certainly a sad thing as the Davidic line is in shambles.

- **Israel should have known that a Davidic King would be the Messiah**, so these events happen because of the disobedience and foolishness of Solomon's house
- **The foolishness continues in V. 18 as Rehoboam sends Adoram to Israel and they stone him...**
  - o The conclusion, to this day the Kingdom is split – TIME OF THE WRITING!

**READ Verse 20-24 The prophecy about Jeroboam comes to pass (RECURRING THEME), he is made King of 10 Tribes!**

- Rehoboam continues in his folly trying to reunite kingdom by might, but Judah heeds the voice of a prophet and the SPLIT IS COMPLETE!
- And so they will have to wait for another King to restore the Kingdom!

**Application – For one action have consequences (Pharaoh-like actions and folly lose the Kingdom)**

- **We see here that it is not enough to just hear wise counsel, you have to actually do it** – in giving advice, you can give great advice, but people have to actually take IT!
- In addition, **we see the need for a King who lightens the Yoke of People...**
- **And a King who teaches us by example how to walk as Servants – are we servants or pharaoh's? LIEDERBACH**

**2) Chapter 12:25-13:10: Back in the Wilderness**

**READ Verses 25 – 33: Jeroboam, however, quickly goes from being the Moses figure to being an Aaron Figure who leads people out of slavery into idolatry!** *The book of Kings is training us to be disappointed in these kings...* they start with expectancy, but they end terribly

- **And what we see, sadly, is Jeroboam will use religion to protect what he really wants – Political Power! THIS IS NOTHING NEW TO POLITICAL LEADERS (not talking about one party against another)!**
- **He fears losing power, so invents religion to protect that which he wants – He desires power more than the one who gave him power!** He is not trusting the prophet's words that he will have ten tribes and so he schemes to keep power.
- **The ultimate act of rebellion is the forming of golden calves – Jeroboam fears that if the people continue to go to Jerusalem they will return to the House of David and so he invents a religion to protect his self-interest!**
  - o **In this scene he says almost exactly what Aaron says when he built the golden calf** – and so though he led them out of slavery into Idolatry and **spiritual bondage** – *not every leader who starts as Moses ends as Moses*
  - o **And he now walks in the path of Rehoboam as a fool – and he like Rehoboam does this by seeking counsel (V. 28) – and now he leads the people into violating the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment (no other gods)**

Commentators argue whether this is 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>, I think its first because says “behold your gods,” sacrifices to them, and **later Ahijah says** caused to go after other gods – **Romans 1** – he is worshipping created things and worse, **things he created himself!** Do we do this?

- Luther basically says every sin is essentially a violation of the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment, we sin because we place something before God – and we can do this all kinds of ways (**FUNCTIONAL SAVIORS – ROCKY**)
- **We either make a Created Thing our God** – Money, Status, Fame, Success, etc **or in essence we put ourselves in the place of God and try master God by becoming our own authority** (inventing a religion that pleases us)
  - o WE become so deceived that we will even use God for what we want (an idol), **using God for our own satisfaction**

**Illustration:** Can be things like a good looking family – ***Keller speaks of a mom walking away because she was so wrapped up in the success of her child***

- **What are the things in your life that you are using God to get to?**
- How will we know if we are in the faith, well we repent when we recognize these things, **we turn from our calves!**

***And now he leads people into false worship*** – he desires the Kingdom over faithfulness to the one who made him King – **and worse even over the faithfulness of those he leads**

- They need a better King! One who leads into true worship

**See how vast his self-made religion is as he leads them away from Yahweh (QUICKLY):**

- Builds high places
- Idols
- Appoints priests who are not Levites (**Jaws Music**)
- Appoints a feast to mimic the Feast of Booths (tabernacles) ***devised from his own heart*** (that’s an indictment)
- Offers sacrifices to the calves – even acting as a priest
  - o ***His rejection of the Torah is complete as he rejects true worship of Yahweh as instructed by Moses and attempts to lead the people through idolatry!***

**(READ) Explanation of 13:1-10: A “man of God” comes and speaks against the sins of Jeroboam – another Moses who ironically in Deut. 33 was also called a man of God!**

- **This prophet comes to condemn the false worship and to let Jeroboam know that a Son of David will come to restore true worship and tear down the high places**
  - o **He names him by name, Josiah, 300 years before that a wise Warrior King will come – *one who will discover the Torah and lead people back to it!***
  - o **He is Jeroboam’s Nathan** calling toward covenant faithfulness (GREAT NAME FOR A SON!)

**A couple of things happen to guarantee that the Josiah prophecy will come to pass:** 1) Like Moses destroying the Aaron’s calf, this prophet destroys the Altar 2) And like Moses performs a sign by restoring Jeroboam’s withered hand (**THIS WAS TO BE A SIGN ALSO: That if you will turn, your withered Kingdom could be restored**)

- **And we see here the prophets taking center stage in the book** – and the author makes clear over and over that the Word of the Lord will come to pass... and so it is with us!
- **Sadly, Jeroboam uses God for what he wants again in a restored hand** (says “*your*” God) but he does not turn, and ***instead resorts to bribery*** of the man of God!

**Illustration:** We do this right? **When we get in trouble try to bribe God!** If you just get me out of this speeding ticket... **Are your prayers most sincere and desperate** when you want something from God or don't want to lose something? **We want our withered hands restored so we can turn back to our idols!**

**The prophet does not fall for the bribe because he has been commanded not to eat in Bethel** – and he lives out Jesus' future teaching, it would not be worth gaining the World and losing Soul!

- **There is grace here, God does not destroy Jeroboam immediately**, he is patient waiting for repentance, but we know that the guilty will not go unpunished forever...

**Application:**

- How are we using God for what we want? What are our idols? Jeroboam wanted power... and he saw God as a threat to that power! How do we do this?
  - o Again the way to know you are in the faith, is when you recognize these things, YOU TURN!

**See what should have been recognized here is that a DISOBEDIENT King can pray and be healed**, but a healed King who sets his restored hand back to idolatry is a dog returning to vomit! (GOT THIS QUOTE)

- **Can you say Christian that Jesus is enough** and is more precious than anything he can give you? Nice family, good job, great mate...

**3) Chapter 13:11-34: The Decline of Two Nations – TELL THE STORY QUICKLY**

**Strange Scene – a prophet from Bethel hears of the pronouncement by the man of God** and he like Jeroboam likely is trying to bribe him by inviting him home.

- **Here we see the decline of both nations, as the prophets are symbolic of where they are from:** Israel has a lying prophet, and Judah a disobedient and deceived prophet – *That he is from Judah is mentioned often*

So although the man of God is not supposed to eat in Bethel, he is deceived, the **Bethel prophet lies to him and says an Angel of the Lord spoke to him**, and even though the man of God has had direct communication with God he is deceived!

- *So we see that Israel has become unfaithful, and Judah has the words it needs to hear, but now Judah follows Israel and compromises, and so both are doomed, and they will only overcome doom and separation in death – Judah will be buried in an alien land and Israel will be saved as far as it is joined to Judah (Leithart 101) – see partial fulfillment in Josiah!*

**The man of God knew God's revelation** (NASB says it came as a command to me v. 17), he should not have gone without hearing directly from the Lord

- **Galatians 1 comes to mind** – *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*
- **We live in a world that at every turn tries to tamper with God's Word either outside or even inside the church** (False Teachers) (Cults like Mormonism) – we need to Bereans who test the spirits (1 John 4) or we will end up in spiritual graves

**(Verse 20) The prophet from Bethel, ironically now, hears a legit word from the Lord and lets the man of God know that he will die because he has disobeyed the Word of God.**

- **The man of God departs towards a miraculous death, killed by a lion**, but lion doesn't act very lionly – doesn't devour the man, or the donkey, and neither the lion nor donkey flee! Not very Donkely! **IT is God ordained providing more evidence that his words to Jeroboam are true!**

**Old Prophet buries the man of God in his grave because he recognizes he truly is a man of God who's words will come true** in the destruction of the high places and trying to make amends – THIS IS TRUE OF ALL THE PROPHETS!

- **And he is now united with Judah in his death**, just like Israel will be united with Judah in their death to bring about ultimate resurrection!

**What do we learn here? A few things:**

- Prophets are not perfect, they need a greater prophet themselves – one is a liar, one is disobedient! And they can't escape Disobedience either
- Usefulness to God does not always guarantee future fruitfulness

**And strikingly even after all of this, Jeroboam will not repent – READ 13:33-34**

- **Jeroboam refuses to repent and return to Torah** – but continues in open defiance of the one who put him in power – continuing head first down a path of destruction even though God has shown this man to be a prophet
- **And now his whole house will suffer consequences and so will Israel (head/body correlation)** – as nation rises and falls on the back of the Kings faithfulness!
- **His house will be wiped out because he is a false prophet according to Deuteronomy 13:1-5:** *“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.”*

**Questions to Consider:**

- What sort of things is God saying directly in his word that you are turning from?
- Is it possible you are being led astray by another voice? TV Preacher? Co-Worker?
- WE see that God is patient with us... but he will punish idolaters, of which we all are! But there is hope in another King!

#### **4) Chapter 14: A Need for a Better King (Read through verse 14)**

**Overview:** Now we see the collapse of Jeroboam's Reign – **we see a sick son**, which is an indictment on the sick nature of his kingdom, the heir is gravely sick.

- **He continues to try and control the situation so sends his wife in disguise to Ahijah**, the prophet he predicted his reign, but Ahijah is not fooled. He recognizes her showing his viability as a prophet!
- **Ahijah says cause of violation of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment** (v. 9) all his male descendants will be cut off – **the contrast is clear: the faithful David will never lack a son, and all yours will be eaten**
  - o He reminds him of the Torah *“And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away.” Deuteronomy 28:26*

**Ahijah gives the final word of doom for Jeroboam:**

- **The comparison to David is clear:** David walked in path of Torah and when he didn't he repented – Jeroboam was promised a strong Kingdom if he would walk in the way of the Law and he did not, and was obstinate about it
- **So all the Kings are weighed next to David and found wanting** – Though he wasn't perfect – but Jeroboam is worse than all the previous as he invented pagan worship and led his people into it!
  - o **VERSE 17: Result, his house will be exterminated and in eerie similarity to the death of the firstborns** in Exodus, as soon as her feet hit the threshold the Son dies!
  - o *And we will see next week, eventually all his males will be cut off and his house will not reign!*

**And now the greatest punishment will come upon them – A REVERSE EXODUS (EXILE):**

- **READ 15 and 16** – The people who came through **the Sea of Reeds (red Sea)** will be shaken like a reed in water
- **The nation who was planted in the land**, will be uprooted and scattered, and those who exited Egypt over the Nile will now return to Exile **over another waterway the Euphrates!**

**The Word of God will not fail – The Curses of the Torah will come upon them – Deuteronomy 28 and 29:**

*“Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God. And as the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other...and the LORD will bring you back in ships to Egypt...Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, and went and served other gods and worshiped them’”*

**And Jeroboam dies and sleeps with his fathers because the wages of sin is death!**

**Conclusion – They need a better King (and we need) – One who is obedient and rules with wisdom – who comes to lighten our heavy Yoke!**

- **The book of Kings is meant to make the Israelites and us long for a better King *who in wisdom establishes a Kingdom that cannot be shaken from the inside or the outside because he is faithful to Torah and leads his people into true worship!***

**Christocentric:**

- **There will be another King who is no Pharaoh** – He comes to seek and Serve the Hurting! He says to those in this room, come to me those who are heavy laden (Yoked) and **I will give you REST!**
- **This King knows the OT (12 years old)** – and he knows the poor kings of the past did not act as servants, but he comes as a servant to his people **washing their feet and bringing Light YOKE**

**Another King is coming who doesn't milk the people for his own good, but provides in abundance for his people, providing for their ultimate need of restored worship and relationship with the True God! Bringing Shalom between God and man!**

- **Another King who doesn't protect power by using God, but instead though equal with God does not account equality with God a thing to be grasped**

**And this King will be a better Prophet too – one who kept God's rule down to the letter**

- **Another prophet, greater than Moses who leads people out of their greatest slavery to sin and death and hell!**

**This Prophet and King will be another Josiah who will reunite the nations...**

- **He also like the man of God will condemn the worship area as a den of thieves** and disrupt the false worship of the pagans by turning over altars and tables in the temple leading people into true Worship!
- **He also will resist the seductions of dining with demons in the wilderness** and will hold fast to the words of His father...

**Ironically, Leithart says:** *“The fate of this faithful prophet will be the same of the fate of the unfaithful man of God. He is mauled, exiled to the grave of another man, but this prophet and this Josiah do not remain in the grave anymore than Israel and Judah do, for he is Judah who dies for the sake of the harlot Israel”* (102)

- **Ezekiel 37 promises unification will only come after exile and death...** then comes resurrection! This happens **on a Sunday morning**, as the True Israel and Judah walk out of a grave in the Middle East!

**And so now rejoice that our fate is wrapped up in the actions of our King! Resurrection is coming for us!**

**This King is Jesus – the Obedient Son of David who will take the punishment for disobedient kings and our punishment**

- He will hang on a Cross for us so that if we will repent he will give us Rest from all that weighs us down, all our guilt and shame
- **HE goes off into exile and He like every King before Him would die and rest with his Fathers...** but **He would not need an heir** to follow him because he would only rest for 3 days!
- **And now He is establishing an everlasting Kingdom** because He rules by Wisdom and as a servant who gives SHALOM!

**What is our Response? REPENT**

- **Unbeliever – don’t follow in the path of Jeroboam** inventing religion for yourself or making idols – confess that you have no hope apart from Christ
- **Believer – our response is repentance from our idols and then desperate calling out** for increased affections for this MIGHTY KING!

**Don’t let this time of Response go by – WE will be here at front – but find someone:**

- Confess Sin
- Or confess hurt to someone – and then remind each other that Jesus gives us REST from our Burdens and Hurt!

**And so we turn to a King today who is no Evil Emperor or Pharaoh – but is a King who offers out to people like us: Drug Addicts, Adulterers, and liars, and murders, and tax cheats, and self-righteous legalists –**

**PEACE!**

**And we long for that day: *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”***