

/Let us begin with the ninth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin from chapter 12. / In verses 1 to 5, / all of Israel asks Rehoboam to lighten their yoke.

/All Israel gathered in Shechem to make Rehoboam king. / They brought Jeroboam, who had fled from Solomon and gone to Egypt.

/They suggested a condition for making Rehoboam king. / They would serve Rehoboam as king if he agreed to the condition. /If he did not, the people would not serve him as king.

/The people asked Rehoboam to lighten the heavy yoke Solomon put on them. / They had complaints toward King Solomon. / They had no chance to speak up when Solomon was alive, but now that Solomon was dead, they poured out their complaints to Rehoboam.

/It was not right for them to hold a grudge against Solomon. / This was because there was no other time in history when they were abundant and at peace as they were in Solomon's time. / Still, the people complained against the king, which showed that they betrayed Solomon's grace.

/It was true that the people worked heavily under Solomon during the twenty years it took to build the temple and the palace. / However, Solomon did not put a heavy yoke on them. /The laborers worked for a month, then stayed home for two months.

/Solomon did not receive many taxes from them. / Many kings brought gifts to Solomon because of the wisdom that God gave Solomon. /The nation grew abundant and rich because of Solomon's wisdom.

/The foreigners labored as slaves when they built the temple and the palace. /The Israelites did not do much work. /Therefore, it was wrong of them to complain that their yoke was heavy.

/People complain and are discontent no matter how wonderful their environments are. / This is why we need to learn to be content.

/Thus, they opposed Rehoboam being king and brought Jeroboam from Egypt. / They had the heart to make Jeroboam king.

/In verses 6-15, / Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders and listened to the young men. /

Rehoboam first consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon.

/They answered, / “Be a servant to them.” / “Give them a favorable answer.” / “Then they will be your servant forever.”

/Their advice was correct, and it was right thing for the leader to do. / The key to being a successful leader is to serve the people and answer them favorably.

/On the other hand, if a leader considers his people his servants, and tries to be served by them, he will surely fail. / Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders and consulted the young men who grew up with him.

/They answered, / “My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist. / My father laid on you a heavy yoke, and I will make it even heavier.”

/“My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.” / He would be stricter and would implement harsher policies than his father.

/After three days, when all Israel gathered together, Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders and followed the advice of the young men. / His response was wrong. / He should have said that God would rule over them with his words and glory. /Instead, Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders and answered the people harshly.

/Rehoboam should have answered correctly. /He should have respected the people, just as the elders advised. / He should have comforted them with good words. / Yet, he should not have said, “I will lighten your yoke.”

/In order for a nation of God to prosper, it must do what God tells it to do. / He should have taught the people, “God will be pleased and you will prosper if you carry your cross.”

/Had he done so, the people may have realized that they were wrong in asking him to lighten their yoke. / It was wrong to ask that their yoke be lightened. / At times, we try not to carry burdens and live easy lives.

/However, we must carry the burdens God placed on us. / It is not in the hands of kings to lighten

or make heavy our yoke, but it is in God's hands. / Kings and leaders must do everything on God's side, according to God's will.

/They must not act according to the people's demands, and they must not immediately deny the people's demands. /Leaders must answer correctly before God. /In this way, King Rehoboam answered the people harshly, and the Israelites left Rehoboam.

/This happened because both the king and the people left their faith and became arrogant. / This was also the fulfillment of God's word spoken through the prophet Ahijah.

/In verses 16-20, / Israel betrayed Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king. / After hearing Rehoboam's response, ten tribes of Israel betrayed Rehoboam and left the house of David.

/Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, but the people stoned him to death. / Rehoboam, however, escaped to Jerusalem.

/In verses 21-24, / God forbid Rehoboam from fighting against Israel. / Hence, the ten tribes of Israel made Jeroboam their king. /Because the ten tribes of Israel betrayed King Rehoboam, and as a result, the nation was separated, Rehoboam gathered a hundred and eighty-thousand men to regain the kingdom.

/Rehoboam could have won the war, because the ten tribes were not yet a nation nor did they have proper weaponry and soldiers. /Then the word of God came to the prophet Shemaiah.

/Shemaiah told Rehoboam and his people, through the word of God, "Do not go up to fight, but go home." /He told him that this was all God's doing.

/Then King Rehoboam and his people obeyed God's word and returned home. / This was worthy of blessings. / They could have won in battle, but they obeyed God and surrendered.

/We will be blessed if we do not do something when God says, "Do not," /no matter how capable we are of doing it, /and no matter how successful we will be if we do it. /We cannot do everything just because we think we can.

/In verses 25-33, / Jeroboam made golden calves and abandoned God's word. / After Jeroboam

became king, he built Shechem and Peniel, and made Shechem the capital city.

/Jeroboam, who separated Solomon's kingdom, worried that his people would return to Rehoboam. /He was worried that the people would see the magnificent temple that Solomon built, go to Jerusalem to worship, and return to Rehoboam.

/Thus he implemented a godless policy and abandoned God's word to keep people from going up to Jerusalem to worship. / Jeroboam made two golden calves to keep people from going up to Jerusalem.

/He set one up in Bethel and the other in Dan, and he told the people to worship it. / Jeroboam served the golden calves as God. / Also, because the people wanted to see God with their physical eyes, they believed that the calves were God.

/During the Exodus, Aaron made a visible golden calf. / Jeroboam told the people to worship the calves because it would be tiring and inconvenient to go far to worship God.

/This was one way of lightening the Israelites' yokes. / Even in today's time, there are many believers who go to nearby churches because it is easy. / There are also many who say that they will believe when they see something.

/Some will believe after a seeing a vision or hearing a voice. / Some believe in order to be healed of a disease or for worldly success. / These are the same as making a golden calf and worshipping it as God.

/The proper way of worship in their time was to go to Jerusalem. / Yet, the majority of the Israelites were deceived by Jeroboam, and they worshiped the golden calves as God at Bethel and Dan.

/However, there were some among them who went to the Jerusalem temple in the south and offered sacrifices. / Yet, most of them went to Dan or Bethel to worship the golden calves.

/Even today, there are many leaders who mislead believers to throw away the truth and go down another path. / In those times, it was a great sin against God's law to build high places.

/Another sin Jeroboam committed was appointing someone who was not a Levite as priest. / Jeroboam also sinned by instituting a festival. / Leviticus 23:34 / says the Feast of Tabernacles was to be celebrated on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, and Jeroboam changed it to the fifteenth day of the eighth month.

/They worshiped God, appointed priests, and kept festivals, but they were all contrary to the Scriptures. / However, many did not realize this and they thought it was all the same.

/They were probably happy because they got to see the king every time they went up to give offerings because the king personally went to Bethel and Dan to make sacrifices. / They did not properly worship God according to the Scriptures.

/They tried to worship God conveniently. / They were deceived by the kindness of the king and abandoned the truth. / Jeroboam committed sins and he caused all the people to commit sins as well.

/Israel would later be destroyed because of such sins.

/In 13:1-3, / a man of God went to Jeroboam in the north to proclaim God's word. / This man of God from Judah went to Bethel in northern Israel to deliver God's word.

/Jeroboam at that time was standing by the altar to make an offering. / Seeing this, the man of God cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD.

/He said that a son named Josiah would be born to the house of David, and he would sacrifice priests of the high places who made offerings there. / As a sign, the altar would be split apart and the ashes on it would be poured out.

/This young prophet was brave. / He was a prophet who risked his life to proclaim God's word, God's command. / The king became enraged when heard the young prophet's prophecy of judgment.

/The king stretched out his hand from the altar and told his people to seize the prophet. / Then the king's hand shriveled up and he could not pull it back. / Then according to the sign, the altar split apart and the ashes poured out.

/It happened just as God said it would. / King Jeroboam became afraid, and he asked the man of God to intercede with the LORD and pray for his hand to be restored.

/The man of God prayed and the king's hand was restored. / This was also a sign. / Obedience to God's word may seem like a disadvantage and lead to death, but when we obey, God's power will be revealed.

/Here the man of God prayed for the king with a heart of love for the enemy. / We must hate the sin, but love the sinner. / King Jeroboam wanted to treat the man of God, but the man of God refused.

/This was because God commanded him not to eat or drink or return through the way he got there. / This was why he could not eat or take anything from the king. / God's authority would fall if the man received anything from the king.

/He was also not to return by the way he came. / If he returned by the way he came, there was the chance that someone would harm him. / A man of God must proclaim God's word, refuse to eat as God commands him, must not receive possessions, and must only go the way God tells him to go.

/In verses 11-19, / an old prophet lies and cheats the man of God. / There was an old prophet in Bethel. / His sons reported everything the man of God did in Bethel.

/Upon hearing this, he asked his sons the way the man of God took, and rode a donkey to follow the man. / He saw the man of God resting under an oak tree. / He greeted the man and asked him to eat with him in his home.

/Bethel was not very far from the border of Judah. / It was wrong of the young man of God to rest under the oak tree without crossing the border of Judah. / If he continued on his way without rest, he would have passed the border.

/The man of God met the old prophet because he rested under the oak tree. / We must not rest in our paths of faith. / It will be easy to be tempted and deceived by Satan when we stop to rest.

/When the old prophet asked offered the young man something to eat, the man of God refused by the words of God. / The old prophet said that he too was a prophet. / He also lied to the man of God that an angel of God sent him there.

/The old prophet said that the angel told him, “Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.” / Deceived by the old prophet, the man of God returned with him to his house and ate and drank.

/The young man of God disobeyed God’s word and as a result received God’s judgment. / The young prophet was deceived by the words of the old prophet, “I too am God’s servant. An angel told me these things.”

/We too can be deceived if we are not careful. / The man of God here was destroyed because he was deceived. / Satan teachers that what is wrong is right, and he deceives people to make them commit sins.

/During the Japanese colonization in South Korea, a pastor cited Romans 13:1 and falsely taught that worshipping Japanese shrines was acceptable, and he caused many believers to sin.

/Even in today’s time, many falsely teach 1 Timothy 4:4-5 and allow people to eat food offered to ancestors. / The man of God disobeyed God’s word. / God told him not to eat, but the young prophet listened to the old prophet and believed that God told him to eat and drink.

/God does not change his words. / If God told us not to do something, then we must not do it until the end. / If we first believed the truth, then we must hold onto it until the end. / Regardless of what other people say, our faith must not be shaken.

/In verses 20-24, / the deceived man of God died. / God’s word of judgment came upon the old prophet. / The old prophet deceived the man of God, but God used the old prophet just as God used the donkey to rebuke Balaam.

/He said, “You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your fathers.” / This meant that the man of God was to die as punishment.

/Just as God said, the man of God returned on a donkey, and he was killed by a lion. / However,

the lion did not eat the body of the man. / The lion did not eat the donkey but stood still.

/Why didn't the lion eat the donkey? / The lion symbolizes Satan. / Satan kills only the life and works of those who disobey God's word. /Yet, it leaves those with dead faith alone.

/The donkey was the man's possession and property. / The lion killed only the prophet and did not harm the donkey, which shows that the devil only cuts off the works of life of believers. / The lion did not touch the man's possession and property. /If a believer is cut off of his spiritual works of life, he is as good as dead.

/In verses 25-32, / the young prophet was buried. / The old prophet buried the man in his city and mourned for him. / Through this we can know that he faithfully served God and loved the young prophet.

/Then why did he deceive the man of God and cause him to die? / The old prophet did not stand firm on God's word. / The old prophet knew that God's word would be fulfilled and lived for himself, even though he knew that all prophets were precious.

/The old prophet tried to use God's things for himself. / Though his aim was good, he resorted to humanly ways to achieve the goal. / He was the same as those today who compromise God's word a little bit and use faith as a tool to achieve their goals.

/In verses 33-34, / Jeroboam was destroyed for his sins. / Even after he saw the altar split apart and his hand shriveled up, he did not repent and continued to do evil.

/This showed that anyone who does not repent even after receiving rebuke, punishment, and encouragement of God's word, and continues to walk down that path will be destroyed like a beast.

/In 14:1-5, / Jeroboam's wife went to see the prophet Ahijah. / Jeroboam told his wife to disguise herself and to go to Shiloh where prophet Ahijah was. His son was sick, and he sent his wife to find out what would happen to his son.

/Ahijah is the one who prophesied that Jeroboam was going to be king. / God knew that Jeroboam's wife would disguise herself and visit Ahijah, and God told Ahijah about this. / God also told the prophet how he should answer her. / God knows everything in our hearts and God



judges justly.

/In verses 6-9, / the prophet rebuked Jeroboam's wife. / The prophet Ahijah rebuked her as she entered through the door.

/He said that God made Jeroboam king, but Jeroboam did not give thanks to God. / Jeroboam did not keep God's commands or follow God with all his heart as David did.

/Instead, he did evil and made other gods, provoked God to anger, and thrust God behind his back.

/In verses 10-16, / Ahijah prophesied about the judgment that would fall upon Jeroboam's house. / God would burn up and cut off everyone in his house as one burns dung until it is gone.

/Ahijah prophesied that dogs would eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and birds would feed on those who die in the country.

/Because Jeroboam did not repent and worshiped golden calves and the Asherah poles even after he was rebuked, he would be taken captive to Babylon.

/The death of Jeroboam's son foretold the destruction of his house. / God's word was fulfilled when Baasha revolted against Jeroboam and his house was destroyed.

/In verses 17-20, / Jeroboam and his son died.

/Verses 21-24, / speak of the sins of King Rehoboam. / Rehoboam, son of Solomon of southern Judah, became king at the age of forty-one, and he ruled for seventeen years. / Judah did not sin like Israel by worshiping golden calves.

/However, Judah committed more sins than their fathers committed and stirred up the LORD's anger. / They worshipped Asherah poles under the spreading trees and worshiped other various idols.

/There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land. / Hence, God became angry and punished

Judah. / God punished both Israel and Judah for their sins.

/In verses 25-28, / the king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. / In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Judah. / This was because of the sins Judah committed against the LORD.

/At this time, the prophet Shemaiah came and rebuked him. / Because Rehoboam humbled himself after he heard the rebuke, God said that he would still save them. / Because the Egyptians took all the gold shields that Solomon made, Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them.

/The gold shields symbolize the glory and authority of a king. / Because the king lost all the gold shields to his enemy as the price for his sins, his authority and glory was lost.

/In verses 29-31, / there was continual warfare. / There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. / After Rehoboam's death and burial, his son Abijah became king.

/With this we will conclude the ninth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you.