

Lesson 6: The Kingdom is Divided
I Kings 10 -14

TEACHING NOTES

Solomon – Part 1 – A Taste of the Glory of God’s Kingdom

- ❖ Solomon is Anointed King (I Kings 1)
- ❖ Solomon Follows David’s Instructions (I Kings 2)
- ❖ Solomon’s Prayer – Wisdom (I Kings 3)
- ❖ Solomon’s Administration (I Kings 4)
- ❖ Solomon Builds the Lord’s Temple (I Kings 5-7)
- ❖ Solomon Dedicates the Temple (I Kings 8)
- * any questions – or thoughts on Christotelic Interpret / Applications?
- ❖ God Appears to Solomon (I Kings 9) **look at today we did not get here last week **
 - **God’s Promise**
 - God comes and speaks a second time
 - **READ I Kings 9:3**
 - God hear prayer
 - Consecrated house – put name there forever
 - God’s eyes and heart in Temple for all time
 - **READ I Kings 9:4-5**
 - If walk before God – as David – establish throne forever
 - **God’s Challenge**
 - **READ I Kings 9:6-9**
 - If not walk before God – you or people
 - Cast out Israel from the land
 - Cut off name from house
 - All people will see it and wonder
 - Know God has cut off people for not worship him
 - **Other Acts of Solomon**
 - Chapter ends with Solomon giving away cities to get wood for building projects – and the King of Tyre not happy as cities are bad
 - Tells of Solomon’s forced labor among Israelites
 - Also of ships and other things Solomon built

❖ **The Pinnacle: The Queen of Sheba Comes (I Kings 10a) **summarize, this is lesson 4****

- **Coming of the Queen of Sheba**
 - Location of Sheba unknown, but most think in Yemen
 - Journey of 1500 miles overland to Israel!
 - **READ I Kings 10:1-9 (esp. 6-9)**
 - Heard of fame of Solomon “concerning name of Lord”
 - Came to see / question
 - Solomon answered all, kept no secret
 - Took her breath away!
 - ½ not told me
 - Blessed be Lord for your throne
 - Because Lord love Israel forever made you king to administer justice and righteousness
 - They then exchange lavish gifts (she brings 120 Talents Gold – 4 ½ Tons!)
- **First Fruits of Abrahamic Covenant**
 - Summary to Isaac in **Genesis 26:2-5**
 - To offspring give all this land
 - Multiply offspring as stars of heaven
 - In offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed

Solomon – Part 2 - Midlife Crisis, End of Life Ruin

❖ **The Midpoint: Wealth, Power and Women Abound (I Kings 10b)**

- **20 Year in – Success**
 - Temple
 - Palace
 - Wealth
 - Wisdom
 - All the World see greatness of Kingdom
 - Queen of Sheba in I Kings 10a
- **20 Years to Go – Warning**
 - Warning: do not become addicted to success!
 - God warn at midpoint of life – all about following him alone!
 - Wealth, Power, Temple nothing if not follow God
 - God will judge, taking away success now or next generation, for sin
 - God’s Appearance in **I Kings 9:4-9**
 - **God’s Promise**
 - God hear prayer
 - Consecrated house – put name there forever
 - God’s eyes and heart in Temple for all time
 - If walk before God – as David – establish throne forever

- **God's Challenge**
 - If not walk before God – you or people
 - Cast out Israel from the land
 - Cut off name from house
 - All people will see it and wonder
 - Know God has cut off people for not worship him
 - **Also Review Deuteronomy 17:14-20**
- **Wealth and Power**
 - End of Chapter 10 – great wealth – silver as common as stone!
 - Also many chariots and horsemen – 10s of thousands!
 - Many from Egypt
 - Warning: I Kings 17
 - V. 16 – must not acquire horses from Egypt, lest go back
 - V. 17 – shall not acquire excessive silver or gold
 - V. 17 – shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest turn away
- **Lots of Foreign Women**
 - V. 11:3 – 700 wives and 300 concubines!
 - And his wives turned away his heart
- **Note on Wisdom**
 - – never says Solomon lost it! But wisdom with divided heart will now go the wrong way
 - – uses it to acquire wrong wealth, set up alliances with wrong people ... (some of wives mentioned in ch. 11 are from nations that will give Israel trouble later!)
- **Application for us:**
 - Many of us at Midlife
 - Have we done well so far? Finish well!
 - Have we not done well? Pray to God to finish well!
 - ***READ Holman Com. – Gary Inrig - Page 79 on Self-Inflicted Wounds***

❖ **The Fall: Solomon Turns to Other Gods (I Kings 11a)**

- **Gods of Foreign Wives**
 - V. 1-2 – Foreign wives – of whom God commanded not to marry – Solomon clung to them in love
- **Gods of Solomon**
 - **Read I Kings 11:4**
 - In old age – turned heart to other Gods
 - Not wholly true to Lord (i.e. tried to have both!)
 - Goes on to tell of Ashtoreth, Milcom, and other gods he followed
- **Gods of the People**
 - V. 7 - Solomon actually built high places to other gods
 - V.8 – so he did for all his foreign wives!
 - Solomon is a multi-culturalist / manager of diversity
 - ** flag for us today **
- **The High Places**
 - First glimpse of trouble – I Kings 3:3
 - Full Blown Sin – I Kings 11:7
 - Repeated Sin of Kings of North and South!
 - High Places Defined:
 - Local cult or sacred place
 - Often flat, rock-hewn structure with altar
 - Sometime on height – Maggido, Arad
 - Also in cities and on plains – Jerusalem, Hazor, Dan
 - Some taken over from Caananites, others for worship of Yahweh
 - Tabernacle / true altar – 1st Great High Place – Gibeon
 - Several varieties:
 - Small rural “gate-shrines” with idols, ashera poles, standing stones to gods
 - “tent” shrines in the patriarchal tradition
 - a few had buildings for sacred vessels
 - Duet. 7:5; 12:3 forbid use of High Places to worship Yahweh
 - Could build temporary altars, but not permanent high place
 - Once Temple built all such high places signal syncretism and/or outright idolatry
 - In Kings – High Places always represent apostasy
- **The True God Responds**
 - **READ I Kings 11:9-10**
 - Lord angry – Solomon’s heart turn away
 - Did not keep command to not go after other Gods
 - **READ I Kings 11:11-13**
 - Surely tear Kingdom from you
 - But for David’s sake, not take from you, from son instead
 - Not take all, keep 1 tribe fore David and Jerusalem which I have chosen

❖ **The End: God's Verdict Solomon's Life (I Kings 11b)**

○ **God raises up adversaries**

- Enemy houses come against him
 - Hadad the Edomite
 - From Essua's line
 - David and Joab had attacked Edom
 - Egypt befriended Edom
 - Rezon, son of Eliada
 - Lived in Damascus, in Syria
 - Loathed Israel
 - Jeroboam
 - Servant of Solomon
 - Charge of all forced Labor
 - Rose against Solomon

○ **God makes promise to Jeroboam**

- God speaks to him through prophet Ahijah
- Will tear up Israel, give him 10 tribes
 - Jerusalem, for David's sake, will not be taken
 - Will leave a lamp for David
 - But will give you 10 tribes, you will be King of Israel
 - Note: Benjamin torn between North and South, so not counted in either here
- Why? Because they have forsaken me (notice 'they' – the people)
- Promise: If follow and obey God will establish Israel, afflict David (not forever, but for a time will afflict)
- Solomon seeks to kill Jeroboam, so he flees to Egypt

○ **God's Verdict – Solomon did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord - 11:6**

- **READ I Kings 11:6**
 - Solomon did evil in eyes of the Lord
 - Not wholly follow the Lord
 - As father David had done

○ **Solomon Dies**

- V. 41-43 – reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel 40 years, buried in City of David, then son Rehoboam took over

The Kingdom Divides

❖ The Foolishness of Rehoboam (I Kings 12a)

- **Assembly at Shechem**
 - Abraham enters the land at shechem, Gen. 12
 - Israel renews vows to God at Shechen after Conquest – Josh. 24
 - Joseph’s bones at Shechem
 - Abimalech declares self king at Shechem (Judges 9:6) – violent, bloodthirsty – slaughters brothers to get throne – killed by woman drop millstone on head
- **Rehoboam Turns down Wisdom, Goes way of Young Fool**
 - Jeroboam pleads for lessening of burden on people
 - Older advisors recommend that path
 - Younger men want clear power, say to increase burden
 - Note: looks exactly like wise and fool in Proverbs, which is telling since Rehoboam is Solomon’s son – i.e. one Proverbs written to!
 - Rehoboam takes younger advice – **I Kings 12:14** – I will lay on heavier burden, I will discipline with scorpions!
 - Notice also: **I Kings 12:15** – Brought about by the Lord, to fulfill prophecy of Ahijah
- **Rehoboam goes the way of “Pharaoh”, thus ‘Moses’ is raised up**
 - Lots of great building projects and wealth – but not for the people, rather it is all a burden on the people’s back
 - Slaves
 - Israelites forced labor
 - Rehoboam, like Pharaoh,
 - adds more weights on people
 - rule by fear / fist
 - Therefore God raises up Jeroboam, like Moses, lead Israel out

❖ The Rebellion of Jeroboah (I Kings 12b)

- **Israel leaves Judah**
 - **I Kings 12:16-17** – The Kingdom divides
- **Reheboam Tries to Regain Kingdom**
 - Sends Adoram – task master over forced labor
 - Israel stones him
 - Rehoboam mounts army to attack
 - God speaks through Shemiah not to attack
 - In end Judah and part of Benjamin all that stay with Reheboam

❖ **Jeroboam's Decent into Godlessness (I Kings 12c-13)**

○ **Jeroboam's High Places**

- Afraid people will go to Jerusalem for sacrifices, turn back to Rehoboam, then come and kill him!
- So sets up altars at Bethel and Dan (**see map**)
- **But notice description- I Kings 12:28-29**
 - Two Golden Calves!
 - “These are Gods that brought you out of Egypt”
 - Satan – nothing new in his playbook!
 - Ex. Yenchko trip to Ganges to top Hindu Shrine
 - Huge idol on top of all, over all, Serpant around Falix Symbol!
- Starts at Shechem, moves to Penuel, then Bethel and Dan
 - Anti-Abraham – stated and Shechem and built altars to God on various mountains around promised Land – here Jeroboam builds altars to false gods!
- I Kings 12:30-31
 - This was a SIN
 - Also appointed non-Levites as priests
 - Later made his own festivals, like those of Judah

○ **Prophet Denounces High Places**

- Man of God from Judah – crys out against altar at Bethel
- Says God will tear down altar
- Jeroboam stretches out hand against man of God
- Hand withers
- Altar torn down and ashes scatters
- King – “Entreat God for me”
- Prayed and hand restored
- King offers reward, but prophet says God said he may not eat or drink
 - Note: then man of God disobeyed and went to eat with lying prophet, God had him eaten by a Lion!
 - This new prophet now declares all spoken against Bethel and high places will indeed come to pass!
- **I Kings 13:33-34**
 - After all these things – Jeroboam not turn from evil
 - Made preists for high places again
 - This became sin – so bhouse cut off and destroyed from face of earth

❖ **God Removes Jeroboam, and His Entire house** (I Kings 14a)

- Abijah, Jeroboam's son gets sick
- Sends wife (disguised) to Shiloh, to Ahijah the prophet
- God's "unbearable news" for Jeroboam
 - I exalted you as leader of my people
 - I tore the nation from my servant David – who obeyed me
 - You have done evil beyond all who were before you
 - You made gods of metal, provoking me to anger
 - You cast me behind your back
 - I will bring hardship to your house, cutting it off from Israel
 - Burn up house as dung until it is all gone
 - Any who die in city – dogs will eat
 - Any who die in country – birds shall eat
 - (to wife) Go home – when feet enter city son will die, be buried and mourned – only in house to be buried because in his something pleasing to God
 - Moreover God raise up new king to cut Israel from Jeroboam
 - Israel as reed shaken in water, Lord strike her and uproot and scatter her beyond Euphrates
 - Because they made asherim, provoking the Lord
 - Lord will give up Israel because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin
 - I Kings 14:19-20 – he died after 22 years on throne, Nadab his son replaced him

❖ **God Removes Rehoboam from the Throne** (I Kings 14b)

- **I Kings 14:22 – 24** – Judah did evil in sight of the Lord
 - Sinned more than all their fathers
 - Also built high places, pillars, asherim on every hill and under every tree
 - Male cult prostitutes
 - Did according to Abominations of people God drove out of land
- Everything Taken
 - Egypt attacks Jerusalem
 - Take treasure of Temple and Palace
 - Rehoboam replace gold shields with bronze, guard them continually
- Rehoboam dies
 - War between Jeroboam and Rehoboam
 - Reigned 17 years
 - Abijah, his son, replaced him

Applications for Us (note: *Get Here with at least 10 minutes!*)

1) Starting Well:

- a. Solomon's Wisdom, Temple and Kingdom
- b. Rehoboam's Foolishness

2) Ending Well:

- a. Solomon's Midlife Crisis
- b. Jeroboam's High Places

3) The Glory of God

- a. The Queen of Sheeba Blessed
- b. Rehoboam & Jeroboam Cursed

4) Kingdom Fulfilled in Christ

- a. Jesus's Application of the Queen of Sheeba

Matthew 12:42 and Luke 11:31

{Next Class is dependant on number of classes left!}

Next Class: 40 Kings in 40 Minutes! ("Kingdom in Rebellion"/ "Kingdom Devastated")

- ❖ **I Kings 15 – II Kings 17** – The Northern Kingdom
- ❖ **II Kings 15 – II Kings 27** – The Southern Kingdom

Next Class:

- ❖ **I Kings 15 – II Kings 17** – The Northern Kingdom