

## THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED

*A divided heart leads to a divided life.*



THE STORY: 1 KINGS 11:1-10

MONDAY

### Solomon loved the world

Solomon loved the world – Solomon took wives from among the pagan peoples of Canaan despite God’s warning. These foreign women eventually led Solomon’s heart away from the Lord. As a result, Solomon began serving false gods. Solomon’s “heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God” (1 Kings 11:4). Solomon was afforded great privileges. The kingdom was passed on to him, he was given the honor of building a glorious temple for the Lord, and the Lord appeared twice to Solomon. The Lord reached out to Solomon and gave him the name Jedidiah, which means “beloved of the Lord” (2 Samuel 12:25). In spite of God’s obvious favor, Solomon disobeyed God by taking 700 wives and building high places for the Canaanite gods. Solomon fell tragically – from building the temple of the Lord to building temples for false gods.

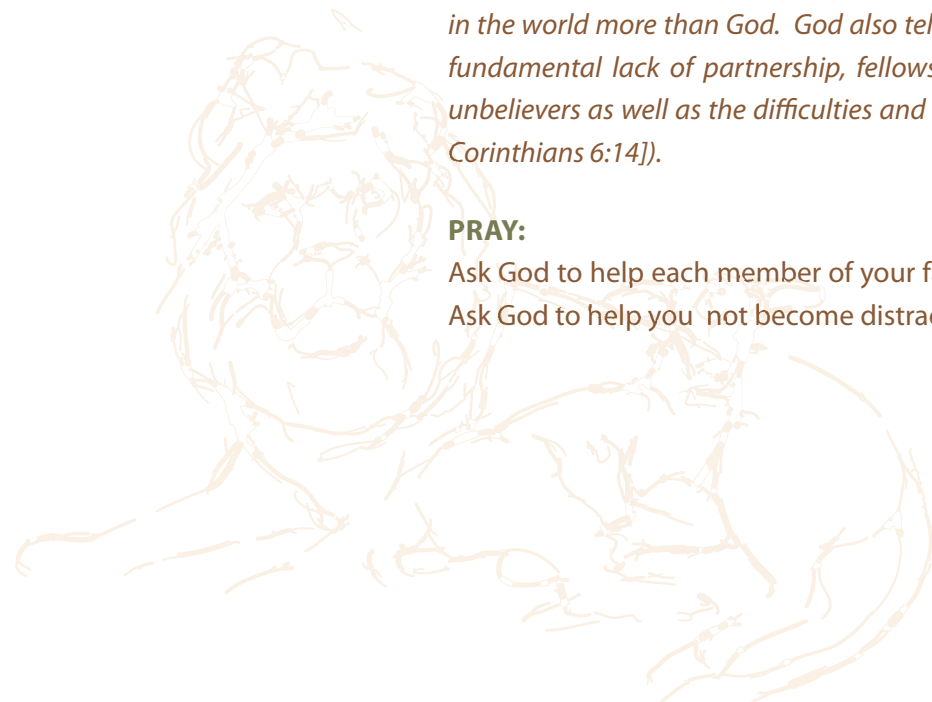
#### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Solomon turn away from the Lord? *(Solomon followed the desires of his flesh instead of God. Solomon did not follow the warning of the Lord not to take wives among the pagan nations. His worldly wives wanted to maintain their false worship. This proved to be a snare to Solomon enticing him to join with his wives in worshipping idols and dishonoring the Lord.)*

Can we be led astray by the world too? *(Yes. We can be led astray by loving anything in the world more than God. God also tells us not to marry unbelievers because of the fundamental lack of partnership, fellowship, and agreement between believers and unbelievers as well as the difficulties and temptations that result from such a union [2 Corinthians 6:14]).*

#### PRAY:

Ask God to help each member of your family to serve the Lord with a whole heart. Ask God to help you not become distracted by the things of the world.





THE STORY: 1 KINGS 11:14- 43

TUESDAY

## God raised up an adversary

God raised up an adversary - From that time on, God allowed no peace in Solomon's kingdom and raised up adversaries against Solomon. But God did demonstrate grace by allowing Solomon to remain king for the sake of his father David (1 Kings 11:34). Solomon resisted the judgment of the Lord by trying to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam escaped to Egypt. Because God loves us, as he loved Solomon, He will not allow us to prosper forever. In due time, he allows the consequences of our sin to come to us so that we might repent.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did God raise up enemies against Solomon? *(Solomon did not obey the Lord.)*

Does the same warning apply to us? *(Yes. In Galatians 6:7-8 Paul warns us that we will reap what we sow. If we sow to please the sinful nature, we will reap destruction. God will not be mocked.)*

### PRAY:

Ask God to help you live a life that is honoring to Him.

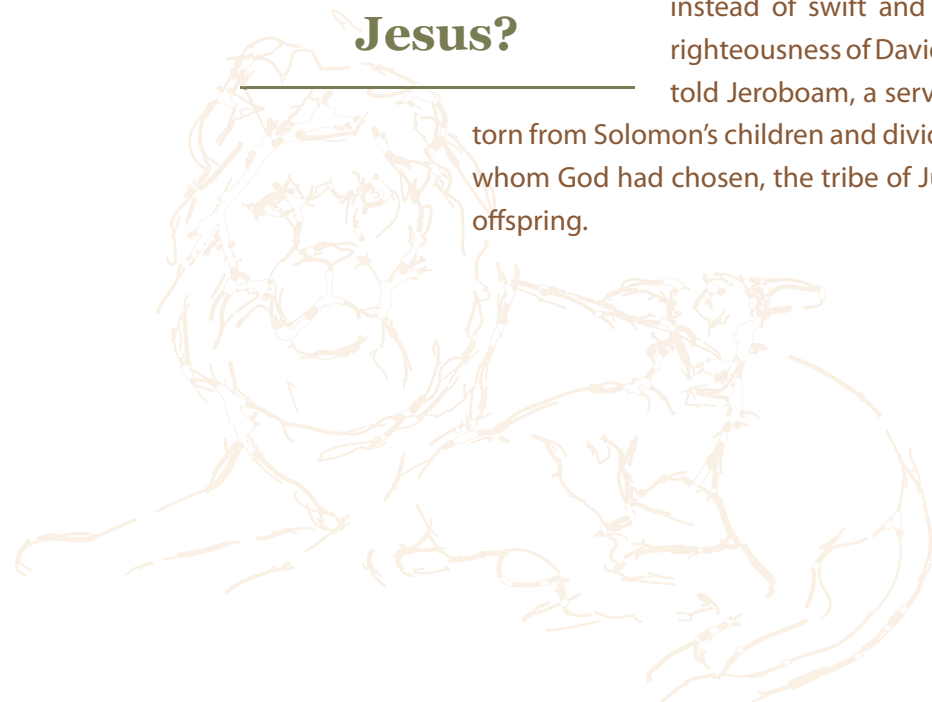


THE STORY: 1 KINGS 11:11-13

WEDNESDAY

## Where is Jesus?

Mercy in Solomon's judgment – After listing the charges against Solomon, the Lord brought punishment to Solomon. One might expect God to instantly wipe out Solomon and, perhaps, all of Israel. But instead of swift and complete judgment, God remembered the righteousness of David, Solomon's father, and extended mercy. God told Jeroboam, a servant of Solomon, that the kingdom would be torn from Solomon's children and divided. But, for the sake of David and Jerusalem, whom God had chosen, the tribe of Judah would remain under the rule of David's offspring.



**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why did God spare Israel? *(God wanted to honor the service of David and was looking forward to His plan of salvation through Jesus.)*

Does God show us mercy? *(Yes. God does show us mercy. Every one of us has sinned greatly against the Lord. We deserve death, yet He spares our lives and has provided the gospel to us that we might be saved from the penalty of our sin. If we trust in Christ, we can be saved.)*

**PRAY:**

Pray that God would pour out salvation on every member of your family.



THE STORY: 1 KINGS 11:43 – 12:24

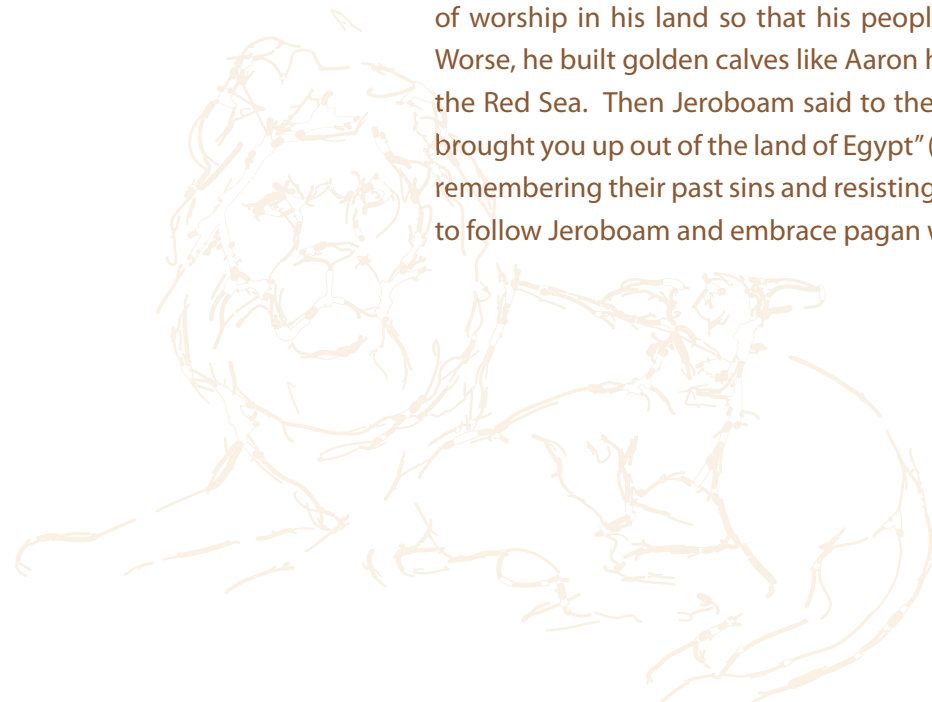
THURSDAY

## Rehoboam's foolish pride

Rehoboam's foolish pride – After God said He was going to give Jeroboam ten of the twelve tribes of Israel, Jeroboam returned from Egypt and asked Rehoboam, Solomon's son, to reduce the tax burden. Rehoboam rejected the council of the older advisors. Instead he chose the council of his friends who suggested he increase the taxes. In addition, Rehoboam threatened oppression.

The ten northern tribes (Israel) broke off from Judah and Jerusalem just as the Lord had said. Rehoboam planned warfare to bring them back under the house of David, but the Lord commanded him not to go to war against his relatives, for it was the Lord's doing that the kingdom had been divided (1 Kings 12:23). Rehoboam listened to the Lord's command.

Jeroboam grew arrogant. Instead of being faithful to the Lord, he built places of worship in his land so that his people would not have to travel to Jerusalem. Worse, he built golden calves like Aaron had done years earlier after the crossing of the Red Sea. Then Jeroboam said to the people, "Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt" (1 Kings 12:28 and Exodus 32:4). Instead of remembering their past sins and resisting a new temptation, the people were eager to follow Jeroboam and embrace pagan worship again.



**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Did Rehoboam listen to the counsel of the older, wiser advisors? (*No. Rehoboam rejected the council of the older, wiser advisors for the council of the other young men who had grown up with him.*)

What is likely to happen if children reject the wise and godly counsel of their parents for the foolish advice of their peers? (*If children reject good counsel from their parents for bad advice from friends, they are likely to experience the same disaster that came on Jereboam. God tells children to obey their parents and to treasure their advice.*)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to give you strength to obey your parents, even if your friends have different counsel.



THE STORY: MALACHI 3:1-3

FRIDAY

## On the road to Emmaus.

In this passage, Malachi prophesied the coming of John the Baptist, who would prepare the way before Christ. There is also a hint that when Christ comes, He will judge the earth and provide an acceptable offering to bring Israel back into favor with God.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How can men like Malachi write things hundreds of years before they happen? (Malachi was a prophet. Old Testament prophets spoke for God. Though Malachi was only a man, he was used to pass on God's words and God's plan).

How does God pass on His Word to us today? (*God gave men His words to write down which are preserved as the books of the New Testament.*)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for His Word. Thank him for the Old Testament which looked forward to Christ and for the New Testament which celebrates the coming of Christ and looks forward to His return.

