

Major Event: Decline of the Kingdom

Lesson 1: Rehoboam (931- 913 BC)

Scriptures: I Kings 11:4- 14:31; 2 Chronicles 10:1-12:16

Central Text: I Kings 11:11; I Kings 12:1-15, 16, 19; 2 Chronicles 11:1-4

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God's promise to tear the kingdom from Solomon because of idolatry (I Kings 11:11) fulfilled. Rehoboam did not pray for wisdom as his father had (2 Chron. 1:10) and forsook the wise counsel of the elders for the foolish advise of his young friends (1 Kings 12:8). Rehoboam did partially obey the LORD by not fighting against Israel and fortifying the defenses of Judah (2 Chron. 11:4,11, 23).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

- Of God:**
1. Veracity: God fulfilled his promise to Solomon to tear the kingdom from his son but leave Judah for David's sake.
 2. Omnipotence: God used the bad choices of men to accomplish His plan.
 3. Holiness: God's own character demanded judgment for idolatry.
- Of Man:** A sinful, rebellious heart revealed in Rehoboam's decision to heed the voices of his friends.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Psalms 133- God's desire for unity among His children; Titus 1:6-9- contrast Rehoboam's rash decisions with God's expectations.

Notes: God's loyal covenant love to His chosen people is revealed in Israel's history. Even though His holiness demanded judgment for the people's idolatry He kept covenant with David by allowing his descendant to retain Judah and the holy city Jerusalem. Also, God's permissive will is revealed in this history. Just as God had forewarned Israel against choosing a king but allowed it (I Sam. 8:7) He allowed the kingdom to split because of idolatry. Rehoboam showed poor leadership by ignoring a valid request of the people and the sage counsel of the elders at a critical time in Israel's history causing calamity.