

unit I

Jan 5

- I have read: 1) 1 Kings 12-22, II Kings 1-8
2) Syllabus, pp. 1-16
3) Bright, A History of Israel, pp. 209-234

What Happened: The reading for this Unit covers the division of Israel into two kingdoms after the death of Solomon. Rehoboam, son of Solomon retains the rule over Judah and part of Benjamin, and Jeroboam, who is not of the house of David, but "A mighty man of valour; and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph," (1 Kings 11:28) (Was Rehoboam himself of the house of Joseph?) became King of Israel which comprised the 10 Northern tribes of Israel. Jeroboam disobeyed the Lord and so lost his promise of having a "sure" house descend from him, and Israel's Kingship reverted to the pattern of Saul's day: "Prophetic designation followed by popular acclaim."

(Pg 211, Bright, A History of Israel). Judah, on the other hand, became a monarchy by descent from David, thus fulfilling the prophesy that (gen. 49:10) "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a law-giver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." The time covered by this reading is a little over one hundred years, from about 922 B.C. to 815 B.C.

The reign from Rehoboam (Judah) is as follows: Rehoboam, Abijam, Asa (who was a righteous king), Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah (Ahaziah's wife, Joash).
The Kings of Israel from Jeroboam: Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Jehu, Jehoash.

Ahab. (By the reign of Ahab Israel had become so wicked and idolatrous that the Lord called one of his greatest prophets, Elijah to call Israel to repentance. Elijah was followed by Elisha.) Ahab was followed by Ahaziah, Jehoram, and Jehu. Jehu, annointed by Elisha, killed Jehoram and Jezebel and destroyed the Ba'al temples and Priests both in Judah and Israel, thus cutting off the alliances with Tyre (pg 235, Bright) He also killed Judah's king Ahaziah & family which ended the alliance between Israel and Judah which had prevailed during the Omri reigns. While this wiped out the pagan worship in both nations, it greatly weakened the internal structure of both Israel and Judah and disrupted the political alliances between Tyre and other neighboring kingdoms. *V. good analysis.*

2. What briefly were the factors that caused the rise of Jeroboam to Kingship and what caused his Apostacy? Several factors were involved. 1) the northern Kingdoms had never fully accepted the right of the heirs of David to reign. There was a desire on the part of some to reactivate the amphictyonic tradition. (Kings appointed by the Prophets and acclaimed by the people) 2) Rehoboam's refusal to lift the burdens (tax, tribute, and labor) imposed by his father Solomon triggered the secession of the 10 Northern tribes, who then acclaimed Jeroboam King of Israel. (Bright, pps. 210, 211)

Jeroboam had previously been ordained by Ahijah to be Israel's King, and when Solomon died he returned to Israel. After being acclaimed King the Lord promised Jeroboam that he would build him a SURE HOUSE, "as I built for David" if he would be keep "all that I command thee", but Jeroboam had more fear of man than of the Lord and because he was afraid to let his people worship in the temple in Judah he built centers of worship in Israel and established an official state cult. (Bright 217) These official shrines were at opposite ends of the realm with annual feasts in the 8th month designed to rival the feast of the seventh month in Jerusalem. The book of Kings brands these cults as idolatrous and apostate, but Jeroboam intended them not as images of Yahweh but as pedestals upon which the invisible Yahweh was conceived as standing or enthroned. (Allbright, FSAC, pp 298-301, Bright) These were in a bull symbol and was "rejected by normal Yahwism because it was too closely associated with the fertility cult to be safe." Since there was a half-baptised minority of Canaanites in Israel it was easy for these shrines to become corrupted to Ba'al. (Bright 218) Even the Prophet Ahijah who ordained Jeroboam rejects him after this. Another polluting factor was the proximity of Israel to other nations not of the worship of Jehovah.

3. When ye do as I say, I am bound, but when ye do not as I say, ye have no promise." (D&C 82:10) If Jeroboam had feared the Lord more than Men and obeyed his instructions the entire history of Israel may have been different. But he gave into expediency and lost his promise which was such a great one. It was the same old story, repeated over and over in the Bible and the B.O.M.--when the nations followed the Lord they prospered and were blessed, and when they were wicked and disobedient, the Lord withdrew his spirit and destruction and wickedness came upon them. Jeroboam's problems would have been less intense if those who had conquered the northern nations had followed the Lord's instructions and destroyed the peoples there. They did not and as a result the influence of the pagan nations were catastrophic and they became a "trial" to Israel. Our problems today are no different. We consistently put "other Gods before Him"--ours are as clearly idols as the idols of the people during the Old Testament times--money, riches, material things, fame, etc. Our best recourse, too, is the same--listen to the prophets--they will not lead us astray.

Excellent A

Anne: How can a long-winded person like myself stick to one page?

Ida-Rose

If at first you don't succeed try, try again -- This was a hard + long unit to "boil down" It will be easier --