

Summary Handout

The Influence of Wicked and Righteous Leaders

Lesson
27
Summary

1 Kings 12-14; Rehoboam seeks to impose greater burdens upon the people—The ten tribes revolt and turn to Jeroboam—Jeroboam turns to idolatry and worships false gods.

1 Kings 13; Jeroboam is smitten and then healed by a prophet from Judah—The prophet delivers his message, is led astray by a prophet from Beth-el, and is slain by a lion for his disobedience—Jeroboam continues false worship in Israel.

1 Kings 14; Abijah foretells the ruin of Jeroboam's house, the death of his child, and the scattering of Israel because of their idolatry—Jeroboam dies and Nadab reigns—Judah, under Rehoboam, turns to wickedness—Shishak of Egypt takes treasures from temple—Rehoboam dies and Abijam reigns.

2 Chronicles 17; Jehoshaphat reigns well and prospers in Judah—Priests travel and teach out of book of the law of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20; Ammonites and others come against Judah—Jehoshaphat and all the people fast and pray—Jabaziel prophesies deliverance of Judah—Their attackers war among and destroy themselves.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Israel's Divisive Politics: It seems that the Lord wants the Children of Israel to learn and accept their true leader. Yet, surrounded by other peoples with governments of “men,” Israel lost the vision of a Lord's government. “Following Solomon's death, dissension and rebellion broke out in Israel. Rehoboam, Solomon's son and heir to the throne, was unable to maintain the unity of the kingdom and the northern section seceded as a separate state. Rehoboam maintained control of Jerusalem and the territory of Judah in the south, encompassing the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, while Jeroboam was crowned ruler of the kingdom of Israel to the north, with the remaining ten tribes. In order to assert his independence from Judah, Jeroboam built new temples in his territory and appointed new priests. This religious rebellion became a source of great sorrow for the prophets, who saw it as the beginning of the decline of Israel . . . For over two centuries the two kingdoms remained thus estranged, often warring with one another when not preoccupied with battling invaders from the outside. While Judah retained the leadership of the descendants of the House of David, Israel suffered a series of revolutions and coups, resulting in constant changes in leadership.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Vehicle for Apostasy and Ultimate Destruction: “While there is no record of Jeroboam's activities in the administrative and military organization of his new kingdom, there are records that he instituted the ritual of calf worship in Israel by making two golden calves, placing one at Dan in the north and the other at Beth-El in the south, and proclaiming them holy places. The *aggadah* (legends) criticizes Jeroboam severely for this, claiming he tried to replace the Law of Moses with idol worship and failed because the people of Israel would not accept this.” “Jeroboam is remembered as a man who started with good intentions, trying to oppose the excessive power which the House of David had accumulated, but who was himself tempted by power and whose wisdom and judgment were subsequently impaired.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Jehovah is Judge: Jehosaphat, a righteous king, reflects the name he bore. Since the Hebrew name of the Lord, Jehovah, is unspeakable, it has been replaced by many forms. Subsequently, a name or word that begins or ends with Jeho, Yah, Iah, Ah, etc. is referring to the Lord. The word ‘shofet’ in Hebrew means judge. Jeho-shofet means Jehovah is Judge.

Kings in Life and Death: The place where the kings of Israel and after the division, Judah, lived at was known as the Mount Moriah (Moreh is teacher - ended with Ah - and means taught of Jehovah or Jehovah teaches). The

place where the king's bodies were placed when they died is on the Mount of Olives. Between the two mounts is a valley, popularly known as the Kidron Valley. One of its ancient names is the Valley of Jehoshofet. The valley separates the Mount of Olives, a place where the Lord atoned while living and Mount Moriah where he atoned in death.

Fading into the Sunsets: High places and groves became places of entertainment. Theatrics, entertainment and a substitute religious excitement replaced true religion and its edifying spiritual gifts. Some of the popular theatrics included priests “fighting” against evil. When they were about to fail, a beautiful, unmarried woman would come to the rescue. Together, they fought off evil and won! Ah, how terrific, “good” triumphs over “evil.” Then, as history and legend tell us, the victories were celebrated by the priests and the virgins as they faded into the sunset (a basic James Bond movie scenario). Consider how crafty Satan is - sexual aberration and immorality became a justified reward for “fighting evil.”

High Places: To begin with, “high places” may have been intended for “district temples” because travel to Jerusalem might have taken too much time and effort. Soon, they corrupted. “From the moment of its dedication, the Temple in Jerusalem served as the central sanctuary for the Children of Israel. The Bible speaks of the existence of other "high places" at which sacrificial worship did take place. Although scholars differ as to whether these places had a legal status, they all agree that from the time of Josiah (622 B.C.E.) at least, there was no other legal sanctuary in Israel or Judea.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Home Temple: Our homes can become the “temple” model of the Lord’s house. Entertainment brought in by various “vicarious” means may challenge us today as it did in the past! On the other hand, our homes may just be the model to prepare us daily to live with Him, in His house and in His city.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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