

~ISRAEL, THE DIVIDED KINGDOM (338)

- **JUST 120 years after Saul became the first king of Israel, the nation was torn in two. Why? Because of the apostasy of King Solomon.**
- **Desiring to please his foreign wives, Solomon allowed rank idolatry to infiltrate the nation, building high places to false gods. This interfaith was abhorrent to Yehowah.**
- **Yet, loyal to his covenant with David, God did not cut short the Davidic dynasty. Rather, he decreed the ripping away of part of the nation.**
- **It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (1 Kings 11:7)**
- **And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods. (1 Kings 11:8)**
- **And Yehowah came to be incensed at Solomon, because his heart had inclined away from Yehowah the God of Israel, the one appearing to him twice. (1 Kings 11:9)**
- **And respecting this thing he commanded him not to go after other gods, but he had not kept that which Yehowah had commanded. (1 Kings 11:10)**
- **Yehowah now said to Solomon; For the reason that this has taken place with you and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I laid in command upon you, I shall without fail rip the kingdom away from off you, and I shall certainly give it to your servant. (1 Kings 11:11)**
- **However, in your days I shall not do it, for the sake of David your father. Out of the hand of your son I shall rip it away. (1 Kings 11:12)**
- **Only it will not be all the kingdom that I shall rip away. One tribe**

I shall give to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen. (**1 Kings 11:13**)

- This occurred in **997 B.C.E.** when the actions of Solomon's headstrong son Rehoboam incited ten tribes to rebel and form a kingdom largely in the northern part of the land but also including Simeonite enclave cities scattered throughout Judah. Only the tribes of Benjamin and Levi remained loyal to the southern kingdom in Judah.
- Jeroboam, the first king of the northern kingdom, feared he would lose the allegiance of his people if they continued worshiping at Jerusalem, so he instituted a religion of his own.
- He placed golden calves at Dan far to the north and at Bethel just 17 kilometers (11 miles) north of Jerusalem. He also installed his own priesthood and arranged for his own holy days.
- And Jeroboam began to say in his heart; Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. (**1 Kings 12:26**)
- If this people continues going up to render sacrifices in the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem, the heart of this people will also be bound to return to their lord, Rehoboam the king of Judah, and they will certainly kill me and return to Rehoboam the king of Judah. (**1 Kings 12:27**)
- Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden calves and said to the people; It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. (**1 Kings 12:28**)
- Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (**1 Kings 12:29**)
- And this thing came to be a cause for sin, and the people began to go before the one as far as Dan. (**1 Kings 12:30**)
- And he began to make a house of high places and to make priests from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. (**1 Kings 12:31**)
- And Jeroboam went on to make a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival that was in Judah, that he might make offerings upon the altar that he had

made in Bethel, to sacrifice to the calves that he had made, and he put in attendance at Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. (1 Kings 12:32)

- And he began to make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had invented by himself, and he proceeded to make a festival for the sons of Israel and to make offerings upon the altar to make sacrificial smoke. (1 Kings 12:33)
- Israel thus became a land **divided** both politically and religiously, a land vulnerable to foreign aggression and wracked by civil war. Cut off from Yehowah's pure worship, the ten-tribe kingdom sank deep into moral and spiritual corruption. Yet, Yehowah continued to send his prophets to urge them to repent.

PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS With Related Scriptures

- **Bethel**
- And the report itself came clear to Joab, for Joab himself had inclined to follow Adonijah, although Absalom he had not inclined to follow, and Joab went fleeing to the tent of Yehowah and began to hold fast to the horns of the altar. (1 Kings 2:28)
- Then King Solomon was told; Joab has fled to the tent of Yehowah, and there he is beside the altar. So Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying; Go, fall upon him! (1 Kings 2:29)
- **Carmel (Mount)**
- And now send, collect together all Israel to me at **Mount Carmel** and also the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of the sacred pole, who are eating at the table of Jezebel. (1 Kings 18:19)
- And Ahab proceeded to send among all the sons of Israel and collect the prophets together at **Mount Carmel**. (1 Kings 18:20)
- Then Elijah approached all the people and said; How long will you be limping upon two different opinions? If Yehowah is the true God, go following him, but if Baal is, go following him. And the people did not say a word in answer to him. (1 Kings 18:21)

- **And Elijah went on to say to the people; I myself have been left as a prophet of Yehowah, I alone, while the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men. (1 Kings 18:22)**
- **Now let them give us two young bulls, and let them choose for themselves one young bull and cut it in pieces and put it upon the wood, but they should not put fire to it. And I myself shall dress the other young bull, and I must place it upon the wood, but I shall not put fire to it. (1 Kings 18:23)**
- **And you must call upon the name of your god, and I, for my part, shall call upon the name of Yehowah, and it must occur that the true God that answers by fire is the true God. To this all the people answered and said; The thing is good. (1 Kings 18:24)**
- **Elijah now said to the prophets of Baal; Choose for yourselves one young bull and dress it first, because you are the majority, and call upon the name of your god, but you must not put fire to it. (1 Kings 18:25)**
- **Accordingly they took the young bull that he gave them. Then they dressed it, and they kept calling upon the name of Baal from morning till noon, saying; O Baal, answer us! But there was no voice, and there was no one answering. And they kept limping around the altar that they had made. (1 Kings 18:26)**
- **And it came about at noon that Elijah began to mock them and say; Call at the top of your voice, for he is a god, for he must be concerned with a matter, and he has excrement and has to go to the privy. Or maybe he is asleep and ought to wake up! (1 Kings 18:27)**
- **And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (1 Kings 18:28)**
- **And it came about that, as soon as noon was past and they continued behaving as prophets until the going up of the grain offering, there was no voice, and there was no one answering, and there was no paying of attention. (1 Kings 18:29)**
- **At length Elijah said to all the people; Approach me. So all the**

- people approached him. Then he proceeded to mend the altar of Yehowah that was torn down. (1 Kings 18:30)
- So Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom Yehowah's word had come, saying; Israel is what your name will become. (1 Kings 18:31)
 - And he went on to build the stones into an altar in the name of Yehowah and to make a trench, of about the area sowed with two seah measures of seed, all around the altar. (1 Kings 18:32)
 - After that he put the pieces of wood in order and cut the young bull in pieces and placed it upon the pieces of wood. He now said; Fill four large jars with water and pour it upon the burnt offering and upon the pieces of wood. (1 Kings 18:33)
 - Then he said; Do it again. So they did it again. But he said; Do it a third time. So they did it a third time. (1 Kings 18:34)
 - Thus the water went all around the altar, and the trench also he filled with water. (1 Kings 18:35)
 - And it came about at the time that the grain offering goes up that Elijah the prophet began to approach and say; O Yehowah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant and it is by your word that I have done all these things. (1 Kings 18:36)
 - Answer me, O Yehowah, answer me, that this people may know that you, Yehowah, are the true God and you yourself have turned their heart back. (1 Kings 18:37)
 - At that the fire of Yehowah came falling and went eating up the burnt offering and the pieces of wood and the stones and the dust, and the water that was in the trench it licked up. (1 Kings 18:38)
 - When all the people saw it, they immediately fell upon their faces and said; Yehowah is the true God! Yehowah is the true God! (1 Kings 18:39)
 - Then Elijah said to them; Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one of them escape! At once they seized them, and Elijah then brought them down to the torrent valley of Kishon

and slaughtered them there. (1 Kings 18:40)

- **Dan**

- It was only the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, with which he caused Israel to sin, that Jehu did not turn aside from following them, that is, the golden calves of which one was in Bethel and one in **Dan**. (2 Kings 10:29)

- **Jerusalem**

- When Rehoboam arrived at **Jerusalem**, he immediately congregated the house of Judah and Benjamin, a hundred and eighty thousand choice men able-bodied for war, to fight against Israel so as to bring the kingdom back to Rehoboam. (2 Chronicles 11:1)

- **Jezreel**

- At length Jehu came to **Jezreel**, and Jezebel herself heard of it. And she proceeded to paint her eyes with black paint and do her head up beautifully and to look down through the window. (2 Kings 9:30)

- And Jehu himself came in by the gate. She now said; Did it go all right with Zimri the killer of his lord? (2 Kings 9:31)

- At that he raised his face toward the window and said; Who is with me? Who? Immediately two or three court officials looked down at him. (2 Kings 9:32)

- So he said; Let her drop! Then they let her drop, and some of her blood went spattering upon the wall and upon the horses, and he now trampled upon her. (2 Kings 9:33)

- After that he came on in and ate and drank and then said; You men, please, take care of this accursed one and bury her, for she is the daughter of a king. (2 Kings 9:34)

- When they went to bury her, they did not find anything of her but the skull and the feet and the palms of the hands. (2 Kings 9:35)

- When they returned and told him, he went on to say; It is the word of Yehowah that he spoke by means of his servant Elijah

- the Tishbite, saying; In the tract of land of Jezreel the dogs will eat the flesh of Jezebel. ([2 Kings 9:36](#))
- And the dead body of Jezebel will certainly become as manure upon the face of the field in the tract of land of Jezreel, that they may not say; This is Jezebel. ([2 Kings 9:37](#))
 - **Samaria**
 - In the thirty-first year of Asa the king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel for twelve years. In Tirzah he reigned six years. ([1 Kings 16:23](#))
 - And he proceeded to buy the mountain of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and began to build on the mountain and call the name of the city that he built by the name of Shemer the master of the mountain, **Samaria**. ([1 Kings 16:24](#))
 - **Shechem**
 - And Rehoboam proceeded to go to **Shechem**, for it was to Shechem that all Israel came to make him king. ([1 Kings 12:1](#))
 - And Jeroboam proceeded to build **Shechem** in the mountainous region of Ephraim and to dwell in it. Then he went forth from there and built Penuel. ([1 Kings 12:25](#))
 - **Tirzah**
 - In the third year of Asa the king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in **Tirzah** for twenty-four years. ([1 Kings 15:33](#))
 - **Enclave cities**
 - Then the second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the sons of Simeon by their families. And their inheritance came to be in the midst of the inheritance of the sons of Judah. ([Joshua 19:1](#))
 - And they came to have in their inheritance Beer-sheba with Sheba, and Moladah. ([Joshua 19:2](#))
 - And Hazar-shual and Balah and Ezem. ([Joshua 19:3](#))

- **And Eitlad and Bethul and Hormah. (Joshua 19:4)**
- **And Ziklag and Beth-marcaboth and Hazar-susah. (Joshua 19:5)**
- **And Beth-lebaoth and Sharuhem, thirteen cities and their settlements. (Joshua 19:6)**
- **Ain, Rimmon and Ether and Ashan, four cities and their settlements. (Joshua 19:7)**
- **And all the settlements that were all around these cities as far as Baalath-beer, Ramah of the south. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Simeon by their families. (Joshua 19:8)**