

The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 11-14



The Story

King Solomon began ruling Israel following and believing the true God. God gave Him a very large kingdom and lots of money. When Solomon got older, he forgot about the true God and believed in idols. God was very sad that Solomon had turned away from Him. Because Solomon turned away from God, God said that He would divide Solomon's kingdom into two parts.

Solomon died. His son began to rule the kingdom. The new king's name was Rehoboam. The people in the kingdom had to work very hard for Solomon. They also had to pay him lots of money, called taxes. The people in the northern part of the kingdom did not want to do these things anymore. The people's leaders went to the new king, Rehoboam and asked, "Please take away some of the hard work and taxes that your father made us pay. Then we will be your servants." Rehoboam didn't know how to answer. He said, "Give me three days to think about it."

Some of Solomon's advisors were with Rehoboam. Their job was to tell the king what he should do. Rehoboam asked them to help him answer the question the people had asked. The advisors said, "Listen to the people. Take away some of the hard work

and taxes." Rehoboam didn't like this answer. He went to ask some of his friends what he should do. His friends said, "Make the people work harder and pay you more money." Rehoboam liked this answer. He told the leaders, "You will work harder and pay more taxes for me than you did for my father."

The leaders of the people did not like this answer. They decided that another man, Jeroboam, would be their new king. God's words to Solomon had come true. Solomon's kingdom was split into two parts.

Rehoboam stayed king over the southern part of Solomon's kingdom. His kingdom was called Judah. Jeroboam became the king of the northern part of Solomon's kingdom. His kingdom was called Israel.

Both Rehoboam and Jeroboam were bad kings. They did not listen to what God was telling them. They made idols for the people to worship. So, the people did not worship the true God. Both of these kings made their people turn away from God. Because they did these bad things and did not say they were sorry, God promised that bad things would happen to their families.

God's kingdom of Israel is divided.

Activity One - Answer these Review Questions together.

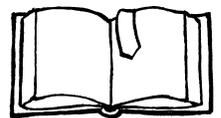
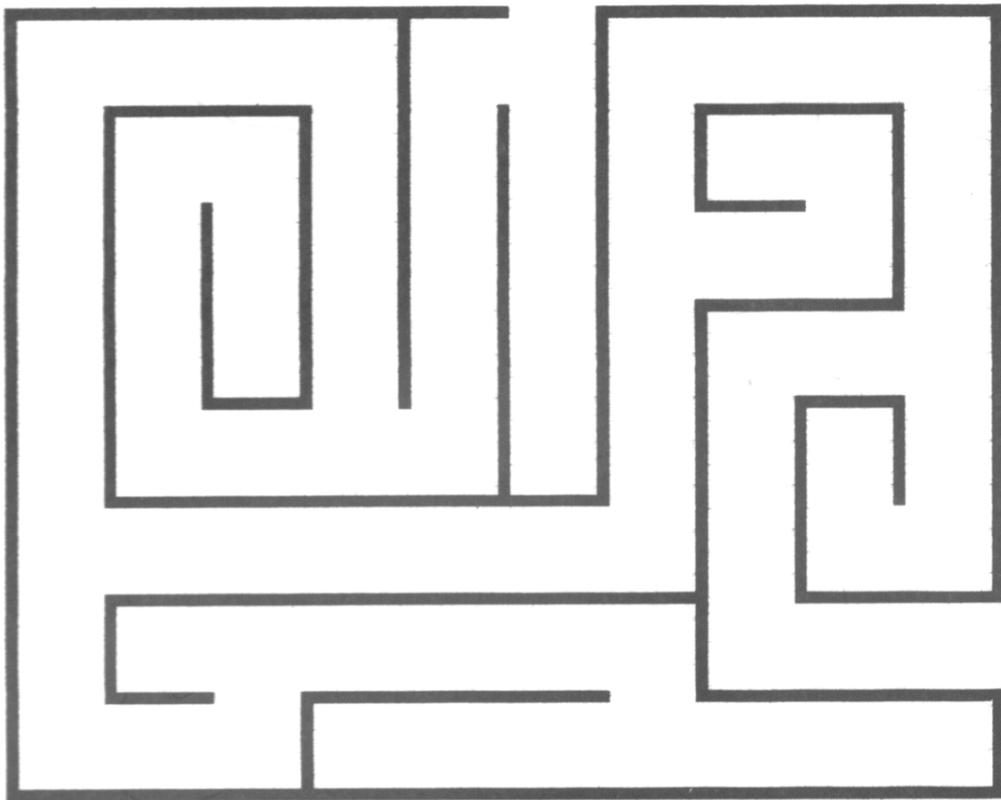
1. Who began to rule after Solomon had died?
2. Some of the leaders of the people came to Rehoboam and asked him a question. What did they want Rehoboam to do?
3. Rehoboam asked two groups of people what he should do about the people wanting to do less work and pay less money to him. Which group of people did Rehoboam listen to—Solomon’s advisors or his friends?
4. Because Rehoboam listened to his friends, what did the leaders of the people do?
5. There were now two kings in Solomon’s kingdom. Whose words had come true?
6. All of God’s words come true. God said that bad things would happen if Solomon did not listen to what God had to say. Which other two people did not listen to what God had to say?
7. Bad things would happen to Rehoboam and Jeroboam if they did not listen to God. What do you think would happen to us if we do not believe and listen to what God has told us?

Activity Two - The sentences below tell about the story. If the sentence says something that is correct, circle yes. If the sentence says something that is wrong, circle no.

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| 1. God was happy with King Solomon. | Yes | No |
| 2. All the people liked Rehoboam as king. | Yes | No |
| 3. Rehoboam listened to Solomon’s advisors. | Yes | No |
| 4. Some of the people chose a new king. | Yes | No |
| 5. Solomon’s kingdom did not split into two. | Yes | No |
| 6. The new kings were bad kings. | Yes | No |
| 7. The new kings listened to God’s words. | Yes | No |
| 8. All of God’s words came true. | Yes | No |

Disobedience to God has dire consequences.

Activity Three - Use a pencil or a crayon to help the children find the path that leads them to the God's Word.



Passages

Psalms 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Hymn - TLH #462 or v. 1, 4

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for giving us Your Word in the Bible. Please help us to walk in the path that You set for us. Watch over us so that one day we will see You in heaven. Amen.