

The Kingdom is Divided

The arrogance of Rehoboam; northern tribes secede; Jeroboam I and the northern kingdom of Israel; the "sin of Jeroboam" and judgment on his house; the Man of God and the prophet from Bethel; Abijam and Asa in Judah.

1 Kings 11:26–40 (again); 1 Kings 12:1–15:24; Proverbs 15 (again) and 16; 2 Chronicles 10–16.

Kings and Chronicles Reviewed

- 1–2 Kings: A major part of the Deuteronomic History (DH)
 - Themes
 - **God's judgment for apostasy (breaking the covenant)**
 - **God's continuing commitment to the House of David**
 - **God's ongoing call to repentance**
 - Synchronistic History
 - *Alternates between Judah and Israel*; uses formulas to correlate the two
 - **Very few kings lived up to the expectation of the writer and editors of Kings**
 - **Emphasizes fulfillment of prophecy regarding kings and dynasties**
- **1–2 Chronicles: Part of the Chronicler's History (CH)**
 - **written in the fifth century from a post-exilic perspective**
 - Idealism
 - **Negative features of the careers of David and Solomon are left out!**
 - Emphasis given to them and the good kings of Judah—Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah
 - **Temple-centered**
 - Kings are evaluated in regard to their treatment of temple and temple cult
 - Role of Levites privileged
 - **Focuses solely on Judah**

Structure of 1 Kings

- **The United Kingdom under Solomon (1:1–11:43)**
- **The Divided Kingdom (12:1–22:53)**
 - Rupture in the Kingdom (12:1–19)
 - Reign of Jeroboam in Israel (12:20–14:20)
 - Reign of Rehoboam in Judah (14:21–31); cf 2 Chronicles 10:1–12:16
 - Reign of Abijam (Abijah) in Judah (15:1–8); cf 2 Chronicles 13:1–22
 - Reign of Asa in Judah (15:9–24)
 - Reign of Nadab in Israel (15:25–31)
 - Reign of Baasha in Israel (15:32–16:7)
 - Reign of Elah in Israel (16:8–14)
 - Reign of Zimri in Israel (16:15–20)
 - Reign of Omri in Israel (16:21–23)
 - Reign of Ahab in Israel (16:29–22:40)
 - Reign of Jehoshaphat in Judah (22:41–50); cf 2 Chronicles 17:1–20:37
 - Reign of Ahazariah in Israel 22:51–53

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The Arrogance of Rehoboam

Rupture in the Kingdom (12:1–19)

- The request of the northern tribes (12:1–4)
 - Israelite tribes gather at **Shechem**, a northern city with strong patriarchal associations
- **The reply of Rehoboam (12:5–15)**
 - Proverbs 15:1, “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger”
 - Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”
- **The revolt of the northern tribes (12:16–19)**



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Jeroboam I and the Northern Kingdom of Israel (12:20–14:20)

- **Northern tribes make Jeroboam king** (12:20)
- Rehoboam's attack stopped by **Shemiah the prophet** (12:21–24)
- Jeroboam makes his capital in **Shechem** (12:25)
- **Jeroboam's golden calves** (12:26–33)
 - “And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord . . . Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in **Bethel**, and the other put he in **Dan**. And this thing became a sin . . .”
- **Elevating non-Levites to the priesthood** (13:33–34)

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The “Sin of Jeroboam” and Judgment on His House

- Bulls were a common symbol of divinity, male fertility, and strength in the Near East
- YHWH himself had been associated with a bull
 - “The Bull of Jacob” (Genesis 49:24; KJV renders “mighty God of Jacob”)
- The golden calf of Aaron (Exodus 32:19–35) was probably seen as supporting the Lord’s throne or chariot, much as the Ark of the Covenant later did
- The “Golden Calves” were placed in the north at Dan and in the south at Beth-el



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Ba'alim and Asheroth (Asherah = KJV "grove")



Left: Calf and shrine;
above: fertility goddess;
right: storm god riding a
bull

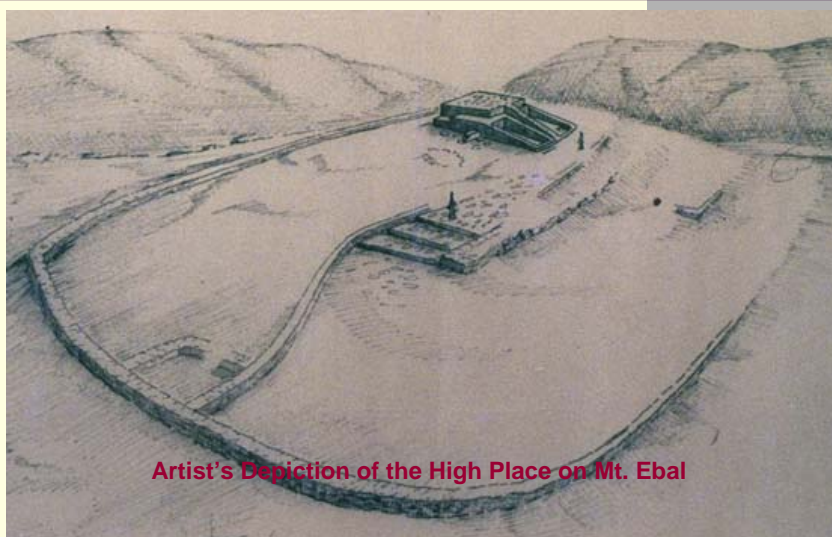


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"High Places" (Later) Unauthorized Shrines to YHWH



Artist's Depiction of the High Place on Mt. Ebal



The Man of God from Judah

His Message and His Fall (13:1–32)

- **Prophecy about Josiah at Jeroboam's shrine at Bethel** (13:1–3; Cf. 2 Kings 23:15–18)
- **Sign of the Jeroboam's Hand and the Altar** (13:4–10)
- **The Old Prophet of Bethel Tests the Man of God** (13:11–22)
- **The Man of God Is Killed and Buried** (13:23–32)
- Jeroboam's sin recapitulated
 - "After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became *one* of the priests of the high places. And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut *it* off, and to destroy *it* from off the face of the earth." (13:33–34)



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Judgment on the House of Jeroboam (14:1–18)

- **Abijah, Jeroboam's son, falls ill** (14:1)
- Jeroboam's wife sent to Ahijah (14:2–4)
- **Ahijah's prophecy** (14:5–16)
- **The child dies** (14:17–18)
- **Death of Jeroboam** (14:19–20)

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Rehoboam Reigns over Judah (14:21–31; cf 2 Chronicles 10:1–12:16)

- **Apostasy in Judah** (14:21–24)
 - “Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their ancestors had done. **For they also built for themselves high places, pillars** (KJV “images”), **and sacred poles** (KJV, “groves” for female goddess Ashera) **on every high hill and under every green tree; here were also male temple prostitutes** (KJV, “sodomites”) **in the land.** They committed all the abominations of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.” (14:22–24 NRSV)
- **Attack by Shishak of Egypt** (14:25–28)
- **Death of Rehoboam** (14:29–31)



A standing stone or “pillar” representing a deity (YHWH or Canaanite)

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The View of the Chronicler’s Historian

Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 10:1–12:16)

- Revolt against Rehoboam (10:1–19)
- Rehoboam’s Attack Stopped by Shemiah the Prophet (11:1–4)
- Judah and Benjamin Fortified (11:5–12)
- Priests and Levites support Rehoboam (11:13–17)
 - **“such as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel”**
(11:16, CH’s phrase for faithfulness)
- Rehoboam’s Marriages (11:18–23)
- Egypt attacks Judah (12:1–12)
 - **Rehobom turns from the Lord (12:1)**
 - Shishak invades (12:2–4)
 - **Shemaiah’s warning and Rehoboam’s repentance (12:5–8)**
 - **Rehoboam and Judah humbled (12:9–12)**
- Death of Rehoboam (12:13–16)

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Abijam and Asa in Judah

- **Abijam (Abijah) Reigns over Judah in Wickedness** (15:1–8; cf 2 Chronicles 13:1–22)
- **Asa in Reigns over Judah in Relative Righteousness** (15:9–24)
 - His reforms (15:9–15)
 - “And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron. **But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.**” (15:22–24)
 - Alliance with Aram against Israel (15:16–24)

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The Chronicler on Abijah (Abijah; 2 Chronicles 13:1–22)

- Victory over Jeroboam (13:2b–20)
 - **Abijah's sermon against Israel** (13:4–12; remember he was wicked in 1 Kings!)
 - “Ought ye not to know that **the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant** of salt? . . . But as for us, **the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him**; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business: And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense . . . And, behold, **God himself is with us for our captain**, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.” (13:5, 10–12)
 - **The Lord delivers Judah** (13:13–20)
- Mighty acts of Abijah (13:21–22)

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The Chronicler on Asa (14:1–16:14)

- Early reforms (14:1–8)
- Ethiopian invasion repulsed (14:9–15)
 - *Asa's prayer* (14:11)
 - *The Lord delivers Judah* (14:12–15)
- Reliance on the Lord (15:1–19)
 - Azariah's prophecy (15:1–7)
 - Asa's reforms (15:8–18)
 - *puts away idols, renews the Lord's altar* (15:8)
 - *gathers Judah, Benjamin, and the faithful of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon* (15:9–11)
 - *oath to the Lord sworn* (15:12–15)
 - other acts (12:16–18)
 - No more war (18:19)
- Alliance with Aram condemned (16:1–10)
- Asa's disease and death (16:11–14)