

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 14 – A KINGDOM TORN IN TWO

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: the division of Israel into two kingdoms, the reign of Rehoboam king of Judah, the reign of Jeroboam king of Israel, the succession of kings

DIGGING IN

- 1) Explain how the kingdom of Israel became divided in two.
- 2) Jeroboam became king of the Northern Kingdom (Israel or Samaria). What did he do in order to prevent people from his territory from returning to Jerusalem to worship? Any short term gain was offset by the long term spiritual problems. What were the consequences of Jeroboam's sin both for him, his family, and his people?
- 3) The split of Israel and Judah led to continual warfare for hundreds of years. What issues divide God's people today? What is the solution for these divisions?

- 4) Under King Rehoboam, the people of Judah “engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.” The idolatry of the surrounding cultures became the idolatry of God’s people. How has the culture of America negatively influenced American Christianity today?

- 5) What is the standard used by God for a good king? Compare this with the standards we often use today to judge success.

- 6) Why did the sons of Hiel die during the rebuilding of Jericho? (pg 202) read Joshua 6:26. What does this incident teach us about God’s character?

- 7) This chapter related the rise and fall of many powerful men; their lives reduced to mere paragraphs. “Generations come and generations go.” (Ecclesiastes 1:4) How does studying this history give us perspective on our own lives and purpose?

Chapter 15: God’s Messengers

Bible Reference: 1 Kings 17-19; 21 Kings 2; 4; 6; Hosea 4-5; 8-9; 14; Amos 1; 3-5; 9