

E2E- Part 87

1 Kings 12

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May 4, 2025



1. Advancing the Kingdom of God was not the priority of the successive kings after David. It took just one generation to destroy what previous generations had built.
2. Rehoboam's prideful rejection of wise counsel reflects humanity's historical failure to listen to God.
3. This passage, and the whole of Scripture, maintain the tension between God's sovereignty and human responsibility.
4. Rehoboam's harsh response and foolish decisions divide the kingdom between him and Jeroboam. God allows this split because He is working a larger plan.
5. Jeroboam fears that the people in the northern tribes may want to return to the temple in Jerusalem, which would diminish his power. He devises an ungodly plan to build new worship centers featuring idols.
6. God allowed the kingdom to be politically divided, but does not permit false gods to be placed before Him.
7. There are now two nations, two capitals, two governments, two kings, and two religions.
8. Both Rehoboam and Jeroboam are corrupt. They are not pursuing God's agenda, but each their own.
9. The absence of seeking God in prayer in both kings serves as evidence that their hearts are not aligned with Him.
10. "When political power and economic wealth drives men, countries and families divide" – Jacob Iverson, E2E Book 8.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Victory in Jesus (Christ Won the Victory)
I'll Fly Away
Because He Lives
Old Rugged Cross/Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Much of Mark's teaching focuses on God's sovereignty and human responsibility.

- How do you feel about the idea that God was the one behind the events that resulted in the divorce of Judah and Israel into separate kingdoms?
- What do you think God's goal was in choosing to act in this way? What does it reveal about what God values?
- Why do you think God allows us to act in such ways that result in such human suffering and destruction?
- Do you think God does such things still today?
- While we don't have Scripture like 1 Kings 12:15 to tell us when He acts in that way, where else might you tend to believe God has done this? In History? In our society today? In or around your life? What is your reason for thinking that?

Mark references Matthew 6:33 as a contrast to the self-centered pursuit of things that essentially advance our own kingdoms.

Take a moment to read the verse and then talk about the following:

- How would you define what "Heavenly Treasures" are, in contrast to "Earthly Treasures?"
- In what ways have you been inspired by examples of people intentionally seeking to advance God's kingdom rather than their own? How has that inspired you to act differently today?
- What does it mean to advance God's kingdom rather than our own agenda? How might this look in your daily life?

Both kings were more concerned with preserving their power than following God's ways.

- What areas of your life might you be holding onto control rather than surrendering to God?

Take a moment to write down any action steps that you feel you need to take in light of this teaching and discussion. [Consider sharing them with one another and praying for their successful follow-through.]