

## **1 Kings 12-14**

Major Plot: **The kingdom of Israel was divided & both Israel & Judah fell into idolatry**

### **1. Historical Narrative**

Scene 1: The kingdom was divided into northern Israel (led by Jeroboam)  
& Southern Judah (led by Rehoboam)

- a. Jeroboam asked the newly enthroned Rehoboam to lighten the hard labour & taxes (12:1-5)
- b. Rehoboam rejected the older advisors suggestion to accede to the people's request but gave the people an even harder time according to the younger advisors' recommendations (12:6-15)
- c. Israel, under Jeroboam, rebelled against Rehoboam who fled back to Jerusalem (12:16-20)
- d. Rehoboam refrained from fighting against Israel according to Shemaiah's prophecy (12:21-24)

Scene 2: Jeroboam, introduced idolatry into northern Israel

- a. Jeroboam made Shechem the capital, built idols & worship sites throughout Israel & instituted his own religious festival, practices & priests so that the Israelites do not need to make their annual trips to Jerusalem (12:25-33)

Sub-scene: The failures & fate of the younger prophet of Judah & the older prophet of Israel represented that of the two kings & the two kingdoms

- (i) God sent a young prophet from Judah to prophesize His judgment against Jeroboam who tried but failed to recruit the prophet to serve under him (13:1-10)
- (ii) The young prophet bought into the lies of the older prophet from Israel & faced his death when he failed to obey God's instructions carefully (13:11-30)
- b. Jeroboam did not turn from his ways despite knowing the prophet's prophecy & fate (13:31-34)
- c. Jeroboam tried to manipulate a favourable response from the prophet Ahijah regarding his son's sickness but his son would die, his family would perish & his kingdom would fall, based on God's word through Ahijah, because of all the evil the former had done (14:1-20)

Scene 3: Rehoboam, allowed for idolatry in southern Judah

- a. Even under the reign of Rehoboam in Judah, people were building sacred pillars & poles, following pagan practices & as well as setting up shrine prostitutes (14:21-24)
- b. Judah, under Rehoboam, was invaded by the Egyptian king & had his palace & temple ransacked; Judah was also in constant war with Israel under Jeroboam (14:25-31)

### **2. Original Audience**

To the Israelites during the exile & when they return from exile, they were to remember how the kingdom was divided, how idolatry started & perpetuated throughout the land & how this became the reason for their captivity

### **3. Significance to Jesus Christ**

Unlike the failures of the kings which led to the division of the kingdom & rampant idolatry, Jesus Christ is the only person through whom, not only can we have the right understanding, worship of & relationship with God, we can also be a reconciled & re-united community.