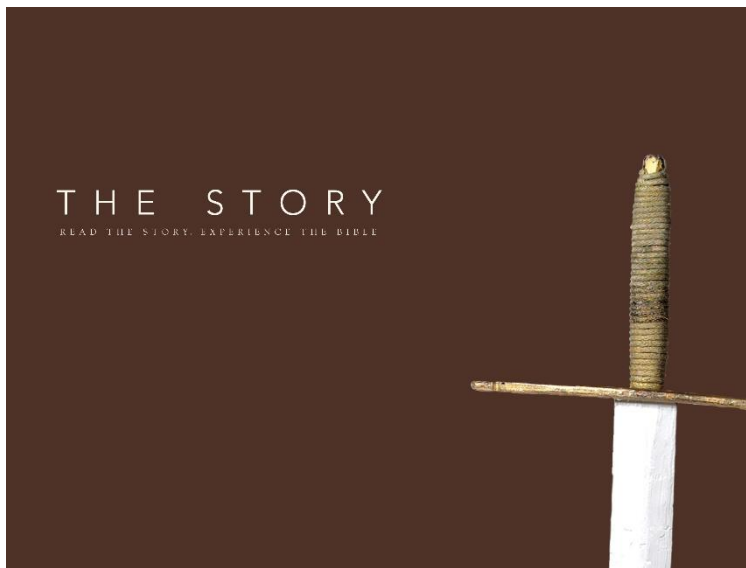


## Chapter 14: A Kingdom Torn in Two



### Chapter 14 Discussion Questions

1. After reading this chapter what does this part of story show you about God's character and what's important to Him?
2. The fourth king over the twelve tribes of Israel, the Grandson of David, inherited a robust and powerful kingdom, yet very shortly after his reign began there was trouble, and while much of it was prophesied to happen, the worst effects were self-inflicted.
  - a. What would you say was Rehoboam's greatest contribution to the divided kingdom?
  - b. Why did God initially decree that the kingdom would be torn in two and mostly taken from David's family?
3. Have you, in your experiences, seen where an organization, a band, or a family fractured?
  - a. What do you understand to be the cause(s)?
  - b. Have you ever seen or heard of restoration or renewal of those?
  - c. If so, what brought them back together? If not, why not?
4. Why was the kingdom split, what would you say are the reasons that were foundational to this messy squabble which ultimately created two nations?
5. Rehoboam asked advice from two sources – his peers and his elders.
  - a. What was each group's advice?
  - b. Who did he listen to and why?
  - c. Have you ever received conflicting advice?
    - i. How did you determine which advice to take?
    - ii. What was the result of the path you took?
6. Jeroboam was the newly installed King of Israel – the northern ten tribes. He noticed right away that Jerusalem, and God, still had influence on his kingdom – What did he do to circumvent this potential unifying behavior?
  - a. What were some results of Jeroboam's sweeping religious, social and economic reforms?
  - b. What was the reaction of the people to these changes?

- c. What was the evaluation of these changes by God – as spoken through the man of God?
7. What were the consequences that Jeroboam and his family personally experienced as a result of the false worship that he set up?
  - a. Can you think of a time when you strayed from godly behavior?
  - b. How did you know you were going down the wrong path?
8. When Jeroboam needed healing and information about his sick son he did turn to God, but it did not create a new pattern of behavior.
  - a. Have you noticed this type of behavior or pattern in the lives of others?
  - b. What does it mean to 'keep short accounts' with God?
  - c. How does someone overcome an extended pattern of disobedience?
9. Jeroboam freely broke the first two commandments.
  - a. What ways do we, in our culture do the same?
  - b. What are the effects of this disobedience in our culture?
  - c. How can this be combatted in our church and homes?
10. Judah, under Rehoboam, was not innocent of sin either, what did they do to disobey God's commands?
  - a. What did God bring about to show Jerusalem specifically His displeasure?
11. The temple gold was taken by the Egyptian, Shishak and Rehoboam replaced them with bronze.
  - a. What do you think this replacement caused the residents to think, feel, & understand about their new reality as a much smaller and vulnerable nation?
  - b. When we are forced to face reality that we're not as glorious as we think we are what ways do we often react?
12. Asa became king and he "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord" What did he do? What was the standard of being a good king according to God?
13. Asa acted shrewdly with the treasures that were in Jerusalem and did what with them?
  - a. Was were the effects this tactic had on the security of Judah's kingdom?
  - b. What are we willing to sacrifice for the benefit of peace in our homes?
14. Omri took the kingdom of Israel and his son, Ahab, inherited it from him. Ahab and his wife worshipped which god? How did their zeal for a false god began a time of great persecution for those who followed God?
15. What is the comparison of godly and ungodly leadership in the kings of Israel and Judah?
  - a. What are the effects of godly leadership on a people?
  - b. What are the effects of ungodly leadership on a people?
  - c. How difficult is it to counter the effects of a generation(s) of ungodly behavior?
  - d. What is the ultimate consequence of this type of leadership?