

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

July 3, 1904

1 Kgs. 12 : 12-20. Study vs. 1-20—Memory Verses, 12-14.

Golden Text—Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.—
Prov. 16 : 18.



12 So Jer'obo'am and all the people came to Re'hobo'am the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him ;

14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke : my father *also* chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people ; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying which the LORD spake by Ahi'jah, the Shi'lonite unto Jer'obo'am the son of Ne'bat.

16 So when all Is'rael saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in Da'vid? neither *have we* inheritance in the son of Jes'se : to your tents, O Is'rael : now see to thine own house, Da'vid. So Is'rael departed unto their tents.

17 But *as for* the children of Is'rael which dwelt in the cities of Ju'dah, Re'hobo'am reigned over them.

18 Then king Re'hobo'am sent Ado'ram, who *was* over the tribute ; and all Is'rael stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Re'hobo'am made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jeru'salem.

19 So Is'rael rebelled against the house of Da'vid unto this day.

20 And it came to pass, when all Is'rael heard that Jer'obo'am was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Is'rael : there was none that followed the house of Da'vid, but the tribe of Ju'dah only.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One of the greatest and wisest of Israel's kings was Solomon, who had built the temple at Jerusalem. Though the nation was proud of its great ruler, many of the people were dissatisfied, because every day the king demanded more money from them for his buildings and armies, than they were able to pay. At last after forty years Solomon died, and his son Rehoboam was crowned king in his place.

But the young Rehoboam soon proved himself rash and foolish. As soon as the people heard that Solomon was dead, they banded themselves together under their general Jeroboam and came to the new king, asking him to make their laws fairer and their taxes lighter, and promising, if he would grant their request, to be his loyal

friends forever. "Give me three days," said Rehoboam, "to think the matter over, and then I will give you my answer."

In the meantime Rehoboam called the old men who had been his father's advisers, and asked them what they thought of the people's request. "Pay great attention to it," said they. "If you please the people now, you will make them your friends forever ; if not, they will turn against you."

But Rehoboam, not satisfied with the advice of his father's friends, next called a number of young men of his own age, and asked them what answer he should give the people. "Speak roughly to them," said the young men, "and say, 'My father made your burden heavy, but I will make it heavier. He chastised you with whips, but