

Rehoboam spoke to them in a very rough, proud way, as the young men had advised him to do, vs. 12-14. God was allowing all this. It was his plan that the greater part of his kingdom should be taken away from the proud Rehoboam and given to Jeroboam.

The Kingdom Divided—One of King Solomon's proverbs tells us "A soft answer turneth away wrath : but grievous words stir up anger," and so it was there,—the people of the Northern tribes of Israel became angry at

Rehoboam, and chose Jeroboam for their king. We'll draw a line on our map and print SHECHEM up here in the large northern part when Jeroboam became king over ten tribes of Israel.

Down here amongst the two tribes we'll print REHOBAM beside JERUSALEM. So the kingdom was divided. Because of pride and disobedience, Rehoboam lost most of it.

What the Lesson Teaches Me—PRIDE BRINGS TROUBLE.

FROM THE PLATFORM

THE REQUEST REFUSAL REVOLT

Call for the name of Solomon's son and successor,—Rehoboam. Question about Shechem, the place where the people gathered for the proclamation of the new king. Ask about THE REQUEST (Print) which the people made of Rehoboam, that he should lighten the burden of taxation and forced labor which Solomon had laid upon them. Get the scholars to tell you how Rehoboam treated this request, bringing out the story of his consultation, first with the old and then with the young men. Question about the outcome of the consultation, a REFUSAL (Fill in) of the reforms asked for by the people. Lastly, take up the outcome of the refusal, which was a REVOLT (Fill in) of ten tribes under Jeroboam, which left only two for Rehoboam to rule over. The point on which emphasis should be laid is, that this evil result flowed from a mistaken choice by Rehoboam. Stress should be placed on the importance of our making right choices.

Lesson VII.

JEROBOAM LEADS ISRAEL INTO SIN

August 15, 1915

1 Kings 12 : 25-33. Commit to memory vs. 28, 29.

GOLDEN TEXT—Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth : thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.—Exodus 20 : 4, 5.

25 Then Jerobo'am built She'chem in ¹mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein ; and ²went out from thence, and built Pen'uel.

26 And Jerobo'am said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of Da'vid :

27 If this people go up to ³do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jeru'salem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, *even* unto Rehobo'am king of Ju'dah, and they shall kill me, and ⁴go again to Rehobo'am king of Ju'dah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and ⁵said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jeru'salem : behold thy gods, O Is'rael, which brought thee up out of the land of E'gypt.

29 And he set the one in Beth'-el, and the other put he in Dan.

30 And this thing became a sin : for the people went to worship before the one, *even* unto Dan.

31 And he made ⁶an house of high places, and made priests ⁷of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Le'vi.

32 And Jerobo'am ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that *is* in Ju'dah, and he ⁸offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth'-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made : and he placed in Beth'-el the priests of the high places which he had made.

33 ⁹So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth'-el ¹⁰the fifteenth day of the eighth month, *even* in the month which he had devised of his own heart ; and ¹¹ordained a feast ¹²unto the children of Is'rael : and ¹³he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

Revised Version—¹the hill country of Ephraim ; ²he ; ³offer sacrifices ; ⁴return to ; ⁵houses ; ⁶from among all the people ; ⁷went up unto the altar ; so ; ⁸And he went up unto the altar ; ⁹on ; ¹⁰for ; ¹¹went up unto the altar, to burn incense.