

Lesson, 1 Kings 12: 16-25. Read 1 Kings 12: 1 to 14: 20. Commit vs. 16 19

16. So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

17. But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18. Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

19. So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

20. And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

21. And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

22. But the word of God came unto Shemlah the man of God, saying,

23. Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,

24. Thus saith the Lord, Yeshall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the Lord, and returned to depart, according to the word of the Lord.

25. Then Jeroboam built Shechem in Mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein: and went out from thence, and built Penuel.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger."—Prov. 15: 1.

LESSON PLAN.

1. Israel Rebels, vs. 16-19.
2. Israel chooses a new king, vs. 20.
3. God confirms the division, vs. 21-25.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Wise counsel rejected, 1 Kings 12: 1-11.
 T. The kingdom divided, 1 Kings 12: 12-25.
 W. Idolatry established, 1 Kings 12: 26-33.
 T. The event foretold, 1 Kings 11: 28-40.
 F. Despising counsel, Prov. 15: 1-14.
 S. Refusing to hear, Zech. 7: 8-14.
 S. Pride and destruction, Prov. 16: 16-33.

The I. B. R. A. Sel.

CATECHISM.

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 105, (Psalm) 535, 531, 556.

Historical Setting.

This lesson tells of a leading epoch in the history of the Hebrews. Solomon's reign is over. Up to this time Israel has been one nation, but from this date, 937, there are to be two nations:—the northern, called Israel, or Ephraim, or Samaria, and the southern, called Judah.

The division of the tribes is as follows: Israel included Joseph (=Ephraim and Manasseh), Issachar, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, Gad, and Reuben. Eventually the greater part of Benjamin and probably the whole of Simeon and Dan were included in the kingdom of Judah.

Causes of Disruption.

(a) *Personal.* There had been a long continued jealousy between the tribe of Joseph and the tribe of Judah. Until the time of David the house of Joseph had been in the ascendancy, and the chief rulers had been drawn from its families, e.g. Joshua, Gideon, Deborah, Saul, Samuel, (see also Deut. 13: 13; Judges 8, 1. 12; 16.) But when David was chosen king and his sons began to claim the throne as if by right, Ephraim was annoyed.

The members of this tribe began to chafe under the rule of the house of Judah; and from the history it becomes evident that the men of Israel and the men of Judah did not entertain feelings of mutual esteem. 2 Sam. 19: 40. Ps. 78: 67-68. Several times trouble broke out against David and Solomon, while the northern tribes were all the time striving for independence. Accordingly when this opportunity arose, the old family feud was quick to reassert itself.

(b) *Social.* Under Solomon, despotic tendencies grew apace, and oppressive taxation combined with forced labour led to a widespread dissatisfaction. The seeds of national discontent were sown by the extravagance and oppression of the Davidic dynasty.

(c) *Religious.* "The cause was from the Lord" 1 Kings 12: 15. Idolatry had crept in within recent years, and had become so extensive that the stern prophetic voice of Ahijah the Shilonite declares that the Lord will punish the sin of the land, 1 Kings 11. 29-37.

Outline history of the Kingdoms.

(a) *Israel* had the more brilliant record as long as it lasted. Its land was fertile and