

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: Whose Side is God On?

TEXT: 1 Kings 11-12; 2 Chronicles 11

Whose Side is God On?

Football teams praying

Civil War prayers of president Lincoln

Marital relationships

Employee vs. employers

Dems v. Repubs

Praying and believing the Lord is on their side and opposed to the other

Solomon – expansion, favor and folly, idolatry and loss of kingdom.

Rehoboam – goes to Shechem to be established as king.

- Gets counsel from elders – ignores it.
 - If followed the Lord would have blessed.
- Gets counsel from his friends – takes their counsel.
- Ten tribes reject him.

Hadad – Edom – South of the Boarder – Vengeful rival

Rezon – East Syria – Political Rival

Jeroboam – Israel – God's Rival

Rehoboam

Takes his father's seat.

Heads to Shechem.

Is asked to lessen the labor of the people.

Advice of elders.

Advice from his friends and the younger.

Stiffens the labor.

Israel breaks away.

So, he wants to force them with war.

1 Kings 12:21-24

²¹ *When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mustered all Judah and the tribe of Benjamin—a hundred and eighty thousand able young men—to go to war against Israel and to regain the kingdom for Rehoboam son of Solomon.*

²² *But this word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: ²³ “Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah, to all Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, ²⁴ ‘This is what the LORD says: Do not go up to fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing.’” So they obeyed the word of the LORD and went home again, as the LORD had ordered.*

2 Chron. 12:1-2, 5, 6, 12, 14

After Rehoboam’s position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD. ² Because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem in the fifth year of King Rehoboam.

⁵ *Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, “This is what the LORD says, ‘You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.’” ⁶ The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “The LORD is just.” ⁷ When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: “Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance.*

¹² *Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD’s anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah.*

¹⁴ *He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD.*

Jeroboam

- Head of Solomon’s labor force.
- Gets word from man of God.
- Leaves to go to Egypt.
- Returns.

1 Kings 11:29-33

²⁸ *Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the tribes of Joseph.*

²⁹ About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country, ³⁰ and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. ³¹ Then he said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes. ³² But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe. ³³ I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molech the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in obedience to me, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my decrees and laws as David, Solomon's father, did.

Ashtoreth – fertility, sexuality, debauchery.

Chemosh – War, anger, dissent.

Molech – burning and sacrifice of children.

Later as king the man of God gave a word about the splitting of the altar

He reaches to seize the man

His hand withers and the altar split

1 Kings 13:6

⁶ Then the king said to the man of God, "Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored." So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before.

1 Kings 13:33-34

³³ Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places. ³⁴ This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.

Observations

1. Both men were appointed by God to be king.
2. Both men were offered the same deal by God.
3. Both men had godly voices speaking truth into their life.
4. Both chose sin and were evil.

So, who side is God on?

We get our answer from a battle conversation that took place nearly 500 years earlier.

Joshua 5:13-14

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."

The answer is neither!

The Lord is on HIS OWN side.

The question is:

Are We On The Lord's Side?

The most important question is whether you are on my side.

You follow my directions and decisions—not the other way around."

God gives the same deal to everyone.

- To Saul
- To David
- To Solomon
- To Rehoboam, and
- To Jeroboam

God is consistent.

If you do this...I will do that.

If you worship me and do not follow the gods of this land, I will make your rule last forever.

If you don't, I will take it all from you.

1 Kings 11:37

³⁷ However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. ³⁸ If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you an enduring dynasty.

God has His purposes and understanding, and He offers the same deal to you and me today.

Will you be with Him?

Hebrews 1:1-2 says that the word of God came from the prophets of old... but now through the son, Jesus.

John 3:16, the most often quoted and memorized verse in the entire Bible, tells us that God loves the entire world.

Romans 2:11 tells us that God does not show favoritism. God loves us all, and that all-encompassing, all-embracing love is one of the things that makes him God. He does not have favorites. He is not partisan or political. He is above the kind of petty squabbles and conflicts that we humans get into. God is not involved in the struggles that often define us and consume us.

Jesus said –

- Come and follow me.
- Obey my commandments.
- Abide in me and I will abide in you.
- Do this and everlasting Life is yours.

He is truly above it all—he doesn't take sides!