

# (1) Jeroboam I

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## **BIBLICAL RECORD:**

- 1 Kings 11:26-40; 12:20, 25 – 14:25
- 1<sup>st</sup> reference: 1 Kings 11:26
- Last reference: 2 Chronicles 13:20
- Mentioned 90 times in the Bible

## **POSITION:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> King in the Northern Kingdom of Israel

## **DYNASTY:** 9 dynasties totaling 19 kings

- 1<sup>st</sup> of 9 dynasties in the Northern Kingdom.
- Founder of Israel's 1<sup>st</sup> dynasty (Jeroboam & Nadab)

## **REIGN:**

- 22 years
- 931-909 B.C.

## **CHARACTER:**

- Bad

## **DEATH:**

- **2 Chronicles 13:15, 20** – “Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah . . . So Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the Lord struck him, and he died.”

## **FAMILY:**

- From the tribe of Ephraim . . . An Ephraimite from Zeredah
- Son of Nebat
- Mother was Zeruch. The Septuagint calls her Sarvia and said she was a harlot.  
Remember: some names have variations.
- His wife was Ano, an Egyptian princess
- Sons: Abijah, . . . . . Nadab

## **RULER(s) IN THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM:**

- Rehoboam (17), the 1<sup>st</sup> King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah
- Abijah (3) the 2<sup>nd</sup> King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Abijah became king of Judah during Jeroboam's 18<sup>th</sup> year Jeroboam's reign in Israel.
- Into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Asa (41), the 3<sup>rd</sup> king in the Southern Kingdom

## **PROPHET(s)**

- Ahijah, the prophet of Shiloh – Told him God would give him ten pieces” of Israel.” 1 Kings 11:29-31
- Shemaniah, the man of God. 1 Kings 12:22

- “Man of God” - The younger prophet from Judea killed by the lion. 1 Kings 13:23-27

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

- 90 Bible references to him . . . 40 more than to Rehoboam in the Southern Kingdom.
- Called Jeroboam I so as not to confuse him with the 13<sup>th</sup> king of Israel, Jeroboam II
- The King who established his kingdom in idolatry.
- In 21 cases, where Jeroboam’s name is mentioned, his apostasy is linked to it.
- Jeroboam's sins are mentioned 22 times in 1 & 2 Kings — more than the sins of any other person in Scripture.

### **FACTS:**

- One of Solomon’s officials before the kingdom divided. 1 Kings 11:26-29
- Ahijah told him God would give him “ten pieces” of Israel. 1 Kings 11:29-39
- Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam . . . Jeroboam fled to Egypt to Shishak, the king . . . Stayed there until Solomon’s death. 1 Kings 11:41-42
- Made king by the people. 1 Kings 12:20
- Fortified **Shechem** and lived there. 1 Kings 12:25
  - Located between Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal
  - Located about 34 miles north of Jerusalem.
  - Located 7 miles southeast of Samaria (future capital of the Northern Kingdom)
  - Abraham had built his 1<sup>st</sup> altar there after crossing into Canaan. Genesis 12:6  
Occupied by the Caananites when Abraham arrived.
  - Jacob and his family settled there after he returned from Haran. Genesis 33:18-20  
He bought a piece of ground from Hamor . . . Dinah, daughter of Leah, was defiled by Shechem, who wanted to marry her . . . Simeon and Levi slaughtered the men of Schechem . . . Genesis 34.
  - Joseph is buried there. Request – **Genesis 50:25** . . . . . Bones Taken out of Egypt – **Exodus 13:19** . . . . . Bones buried in Shechem – **Joshua 24:29** (14 verses after Joshua’s great statement of faith in Joshua 24:15 and just 3 verses before the Book of Joshua closes.)
  - Became one of the six cities of refuge . . . Central location west of the Jordan River. Joshua 21:20-21 (**West:** Kedesh (Naphtali) . . . Shechem (Ephram) . . . Hebron (Judah). **East:** Golan (Manasseh) . . . Ramoth in Gilead (Gad) . . . Bezer in Bashan (Reuben)
  - Called Sychar in the New Testament . . . . . Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. John 4:7-25
- Built up the city of Peniel. 1 Kings 12:25
  - Peniel - The place where Jacob had wrestled with God. Genesis 32:24-31
  - In other passages the name form is changed to “Penuel.”
  - Located somewhere on the north bank of the Jabbok, a stream which intersects the mountain range of Gilead, (Joshua 12:2,5), and falls into the Jordan on the east about midway between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. It was anciently the border of the children of Ammon (Numbers 21:24; Deuteronomy 2:37; 3:16). It was on the south bank of the Jabbok that the interview took place between Jacob and

Esau (Genesis 32:22), and this river afterward became, toward its western part, the boundary between the kingdoms of Sihon and Og (Joshua 12:2,5). Its modern name is Wady Zurka.

- Set up two golden calves, one Bethel in the south and the other at Dan in the north. 1 Kings 12:26-39
- Prophecy from the man of God regarding the altar at Bethel. **2 Kings 13:3** – “That same day the man of God gave a sign: ‘This is the sign the Lord has declared: This altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.’” Was fulfilled in during the reign of Josiah in **2 Kings 23:15** – ““Even the altar at Bethel the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin-even the altar and high place he demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder and burned the Asherah pole also.”
- Set up shrines on high places and appointed priests who were not Levites. 1 Kings 12:31
- Set up pagan feasts modeled after the feasts observed in Jerusalem. 1 Kings 12:32
- Offered sacrifices at Bethel during “a month of his choosing.” 1 Kings 12:33
- Hand shriveled up and was restored at the altar in Bethel. 1 Kings 13:1-6
- His son, Abijah, became ill. Had his wife disguise herself and go and inquire at the prophet Ahijah at his house in Shiloh. 1 Kings 14:1-18
- Ahijah prophesied that Jeroboam’s house (family) would be cut off (destroyed). 1 Kings 14:14. Baasha, Israel’s 3<sup>rd</sup> king, fulfilled this prophecy in 1 Kings 15:28-30
- **1 Kings 14:30** – “There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.”
- Jeroboam fought against Ahijah (3), Judah’s 2<sup>nd</sup> King and was defeated. **2 Chronicles 13:20** – “Jeroboam did not regain power during the time of Abijah. And the Lord struck him down and he died.” The military victory went to Judah that day.

#### **LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE & REIGN:**

- Self preservation is strong. 1 Kings 11:26-30
- Even those most blessed by God can choose to rebel against him and become the greatest of sinners 1 Kings 11:37-38; 14:14-16.
- We must accept the parts of God’s will that we do not understand. **1 Kings 12:24** – “. . . “for this thing is from Me.”
- Convenience in religion may not always be what is right in religion. 1 Kings 14:28
- It is not for man to change God’s religion but for God’s religion to change man. 1 Kings 14:28
- Cannot alter the commandments of God. 1 Kings 13:18:18
- Some are not impressed with the power of God. **1 Kings 13:34** – “Even after this Jeroboam did not change his evil ways . . .”
- Be sure your sins will find you out. 1 Kings 13:33-34
- Some people never trouble themselves with God until trouble comes. 1 Kings 14:1-18

#### **KEY PASSAGE(s):**

- **1 Kings 14:15-16** - “Then the LORD will shake Israel like a reed whipped about in a stream. He will uproot the people of Israel from this good land that he gave their ancestors and will scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, for they have angered the LORD by worshiping

Asherah poles. **He will abandon Israel because Jeroboam sinned and made all of Israel sin along with him”**

- **1 Kings 12:28** – “Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!’”