

Park Street Church Christian Formation – Fall 2016

From Fissured to Fractured: 1 Kings 12-15

Introduction

- Review: two declarations
 - Solomon’s apostasy (1 Kings 11:9-13)
 - The prophecy of Ahijah from Shiloh (1 Kings 11:29-39)
- Preview:
 - Why and how geo-politics matter
 - Lessons in obedience and trust

“Mapping Time and Place”

United Monarchy under Saul, David, Solomon

Temple Construction – 966 BC

<u>Date</u>	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Prophets</u>	<u>Judah</u>	<u>Foreigners</u>
931	<i>Jeroboam</i>	Ahijah “Man of God”	Rehoboam	Egypt (Shishak)
	Abijah	Shemaiah		
	Nadab		Abijah	
	<i>Baasha</i>	Azariah/ Hanani	Asa	Syria

Geo-Politics 101

- Who is in the northern orbit? “Israel” “Ephraim” “Samaria”
- In the south? Judah
- Border area – Benjamin

Differences between North and South

- Changing capitals in north; Jerusalem in south
- Changing dynasties in north; Davidic dynasty in south
- North more open to foreign influence

Unpacking This Just a Bit More

- Capitals of north: Shechem, Tirzah, Samaria
- Border area: Benjamin
- Locations of Bethel and Dan - And why are these cities important?

Rehoboam’s Error in Judgment [1 Kings 12:6-18]

- The importance of Shechem
- Whose advice . . . ?
- Subtext about Solomon’s top-down reign
- Rehoboam’s hasty departure

Jeroboam's New Religion ["seeker-friendly" – 12:25-33]

- What's the problem?
- A reminder: It is the truth that sets people free, not feeling good!
- What are the results?
- The faithful headed south – and . . .

Somebody Headed South [1 Kings 13]

- Who was the "man of God" from Judah?
- What was his destination?
- What was his message? [13:2-9]
- The fate of the "man of God" – who was the old prophet and why did he cause the man of God to sin?
- Jeroboam's "response" [verse 33]

Aftermath: Apostasy in the South; Assassination in the North

- Shemaiah's message [12:21-24]
- Rehoboam's religious apostasy and the punishment – invasion by Shishak [14:21-28]
- The end of Jeroboam's dynasty [14:1-18; 15:25-30]
 - Abijah died
 - The prophecy of Ahijah of Shiloh against the house of Jeroboam via Jeroboam's wife
 - Nadab assassinated by Baasha

The Davidic Dynasty Continues [1 Kgs 15:9-15; parallel in 2 Chr 14:1-15:19]

- What did Asa do to effect religious reform?
- Why was the successful battle against Zerah the Cushite important?
- Azariah's message - hold on to this

In the meantime up north. . . [1 Kings 15:16-22; 2 Chronicles 16:1-10]

- Baasha came out on top – having assassinated the opposition
- Baasha attempted to extend his control over the more isolated south
- Here's how it worked.

What's a King to Do?

- Baasha's move provoked an extraordinary piece of diplomacy – apparently successful.
- It also inspired an equally extraordinary rebuke from the prophet, Hanani
- ***What are the lessons for us?***