

## Lesson 17: The Division of the Kingdom

**Key Search Words - Israel, house, kingdom, tear, Judah, king, David, Solomon, Jeroboam, Rehoboam, Jerusalem, Samaria, seek, heart, provoke, anger, captive**

From our previous lessons on the Mystery of the Kingdom, we should now understand how God's Kingdom relates directly to God's wife - her body is the nation of Israel, her heart and soul is the city of Jerusalem, and her spirit is the Temple, or house of the Lord. Understanding this helps us to understand how the Bride of the King is being formed - the children of Israel provide the bones for the new body, the Church is building and growing the new heart of flesh and new soul within her natural body, and Jesus gives her God's Spirit, promising to give her His new spiritual body when He returns.

Rev 21:1-5 (ESV)

Rev 21:9 (ESV)

So, if the Church, the wife of Jesus, were actually practicing the two greatest commandments - loving God with all heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving her neighbor as herself - then she would be a united body and mighty witness of God's love in the world today. Unfortunately, though, she is actually a divided body, weak, and persecuted.

Luk 11:17 (GW)

Her heart should be functioning properly, beating as one, but because of the division in the Church, her heart is sick, deceived, and broken right now. Her disobedience to the commands of her Husband has weakened her heart and has divided His Kingdom and His city.

Jer 5:20-31 (ESV)

Her soul is mal-nourished and dry and her natural body is fat and sleek. Part of her has gone back into bondage and is being held prisoner by the prince of this world.

1Ki 8:33-36 (LITV)

1Ki 8:46-53 (LITV)

The only way she will be healed, healthy, and free is if she repents and goes back to the King to follow after the desire of His heart for His Kingdom and His city (review A Nourished and Enlarged New Soul).

God knew His Church would become divided and taken captive, so He gave us an example of this "division of the kingdom" during the times of the first kings of Israel to help us understand what has caused our division. It is imperative that we study and understand this at this time.

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So, what was in God's heart concerning His Kingdom? King David was a man after God's own heart. Because King David sought to love God with all his heart, David realized God's plan without even being told. Because of this, God went ahead and revealed the desire of His heart for His House and His Kingdom to King David through Nathan the prophet.

2Sa 7:1-29 (ESV)

God wanted to build a permanent house, or Temple, for His Name in His city where He could dwell with His people and He wanted His Kingdom established there forever (review BLT Level 3, Lesson 15f: A Close Relationship).

Psa 132:13-14 (JPS)

Even though it was in the heart of King David to build God's house, he was not allowed to build it, but God allowed his son, Solomon, to build it.

1Ch 22:7-10 (ESV)

1Ki 8:12-21 (ESV)

King Solomon was given great wisdom by God, but he also eventually disobeyed God, so God split the kingdom, giving ten tribes to Jeroboam, who was ruler of the house of Joseph.

1Ki 10:23-24 (ESV)

1Ki 11:6-13 (ESV)

1Ki 11:28-39 (ESV)

The city of Jerusalem was to stay under the control of the tribe of Judah and their descendants, or house of David.

\*\*Under "Tools" on the main menu of **e-Sword**<sup>®</sup>, open the Graphics Viewer to view a map of the divided Kingdom (ABS, The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah).

The ten tribes, or house of Israel, set up their own city, called Samaria. It was there where their kings set up altars for their idols and a temple for their false god, Baal.

1Ki 16:23-26 (ASV)

1Ki 16:29-33 (ASV)

After the death of King Solomon, his son, Rehoboam, reigned in Judah. Rehoboam had the tribe of Benjamin and the Levites on his side, all of them wanting to restore the

## Lesson 17: The Division of the Kingdom

kingdom, but Rehoboam did not set his heart to seek after God and His Law. Instead, he also set up altars on high hills to worship idols and sinned against God. So, while he was king, the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem and he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and of the king's house.

2Ch 12:1-9 (ESV)

1Ki 14:21-26 (ESV)

War did not leave either house. There was war between the house of Judah and the house of Israel, and war also came to each house by the surrounding nations. When a king would seek the Lord with their heart, then they would prosper and win their wars, but if a king would seek after idols and false gods, then God's wrath would fall upon him and they would be defeated.

2Ch 15:1-7 (ESV)

1Ki 15:25-30 (ESV)

2Ch 17:3-6 (ESV)

2Ki 10:28-32 (ESV)

2Ch 26:3-7 (ESV)

Their continued unfaithfulness provoked God to anger so that He brought His wrath on both houses, just as Moses prophesied upon his death. The sword of the Lord came upon the people of Israel, bringing destruction and captivity.

Deu 31:29 (ESV)

Deu 32:21 (ESV)

2Ki 17:5-24 (ESV)

2Ki 21:1-16 (ESV)

2Ki 24:1-16 (ESV)

God had sent messengers to warn them about the coming destruction and captivity, but they just mocked them and did not heed the warning.

2Ch 36:11-21 (LITV)