#### Lesson 13:

#### Jeroboam Leads Israel into Sin

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

1 Kings 11:26-40; 12:25-14:20

MEMORY WORK:

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God expects us to worship Him in the way His Word says to, without adding anything or taking anything away from it.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Who was king after Solomon? Did he listen to the people who would have helped him to make good choices? What happened to Rehoboam’s kingdom? Today, we will learn how another man, whose name sounds a lot like Rehoboam, became king over the rest of the kingdom! Let’s see if he followed God.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jeroboam was the son of Nebat and Zeruah, of the tribe of Ephraim. He was smart, talented, brave, and very ambitious. When he was a young man, he worked for King Solomon and was in charge of a large building project in Jerusalem. The prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam that God would one day make him king over 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel. When Solomon heard about this prophecy, he tried to kill Jeroboam, so Jeroboam ran away to Egypt. [NOTE: The pharaoh in Egypt who gave Jeroboam sanctuary was not Solomon’s father-in-law, but the man who succeeded him.]

**NOTE:** Solomon married the daughter of the Egyptian pharaoh (1 Kings 3:1). The pharaoh in Egypt who gave Jeroboam sanctuary was not Solomon’s father-in-law, but the man who succeeded him.

1. When Solomon died, Jeroboam decided it was safe to leave Egypt and go home to Israel. The Israelites met at Shechem where Rehoboam was to be anointed king. Jeroboam and the Israelites pleaded with Rehoboam to make their burdens (work on royal projects and taxes) lighter; he promised to give them an answer three days later. When Rehoboam came back and told them that he would make their taxes even higher and their work even harder, most of the Israelites decided they would rather have Jeroboam as their king instead. [This would be a good time to talk about and explain the meanings of the words “rebel” and “rebellion.”]
2. The prophet Ahijah had previously told Jeroboam that he must remain true to God and obey His Law if he expected God to bless him and help him be a good king (1 Kings 11:38). But Jeroboam wanted popularity and power more than he wanted God’s help. So he decided to ignore God’s Law.
   * He changed the **object** of their worship; he gave them two golden calves to worship instead of God. Remember God’s command: “You shall have no other gods before me!”
   * He changed the **place** of worship from Jerusalem (God’s chosen city, where the Temple was) to Bethel and Dan, so that his followers wouldn’t go to Jerusalem to worship— where they might have been drawn back into serving Rehoboam and David’s descendants as king (1 Kings 12:26ff).
   * He changed special **days** of worship (feast days) so that the Israelites wouldn’t go back to Jerusalem to worship.
   * He changed **those who served** in worship; he made men priests who were not from the tribe of Levi, as God had commanded. Jeroboam even acted as a priest himself.

**NOTE:** In setting up these two idols, it is notable that in 1 Kings 12:28 we are told that Jeroboam used the same words that Aaron used in Exodus 32:4,8 after he had made the golden calf for the Israelites at Sinai.

1. Jeroboam had a very large altar built for the sacrifices, but on the first day it was to be used, God sent a warning to Jeroboam through another prophet. The prophet told him that he must change his ways, but Jeroboam ordered his soldiers to arrest the prophet. When the king pointed to the prophet and gave the order to his soldiers, the king’s hand instantly withered and the altar was completely split in two.
2. Even though the prophet of God warned Jeroboam, he did not change his ways. There was continuous warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam, weakening both nations and making both open to outside attacks. Jeroboam’s corrupt influence led Israel into a continuous downward spiral spiritually during his 22 years as king. The people of the 10 northern tribes could have chosen to do right, but they eagerly followed Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:30; 16:26). Every single king of the northern tribes (Israel) who came after Jeroboam followed his example and worshipped idols instead of God.
3. God gave Jeroboam the responsibility and the privilege of being a king over the 10 northern tribes. He had the authority to lead, but he did not use that authority wisely; he forgot that he was under the authority of Almighty God. Jeroboam did not have the authority (the right, the privilege) to change God’s laws about anything—especially not for worship. We have no right either (we do not have the authority) to change the pattern of worship God has given to us in the New Testament. ILLUSTRATION: Teachers in school have the authority (the right) to tell us how to behave, what assignments to do, and what supplies we will need. What happens if (1) you don’t behave according to your teachers’ rules? (2) you don’t do your assignments? (3) you don’t bring the supplies she asks for? (4) you change an assignment because you think you have a better idea?
4. Talk with the kids about elements of our worship and how important it is not to change them or add to them, any more than we should change anything that the Bible tells us to do. With the older children, read important scriptures related to our worship, such as Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 16:2; John 4:24.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces,

* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “11-12-13” in the Visuals Folder. Begin on slide 6. Many of these pictures will review things covered in last week’s lesson. But this week, focus the attention on Jeroboam. Emphasize how he changed worship for the northern tribes.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

Note: Depending on how the calendar falls, this may be the last lesson for these students. If Wed. is singing night, refer to the Wednesday portion of the lesson for more ideas to use for the Sunday class time.

* Robe Puzzle – Master copy is in lesson file. Briefly tell story of Jeroboam and Ahijah from 1 Kings 11:26-40.  Then have the students color the robe and cut it up into the 12 pieces.  Then, they can try to put it together again.
* Give each child a sheet of construction paper on which you have drawn a line down the middle and “Jeroboam” on one side and “Rehoboam” on the other. Also give each child a circle (or square) to glue under each name. At the end of the lesson, as you remind them of choices Jeroboam and Rehoboam made, ask the children to draw a sad face on the circles (or squares) to show which king did not please God. [You could give them sad face stickers instead.] (“[Jeroboam and Rehoboam Activity Sheet](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32-165Jeroboam%20and%20Rehoboam.pdf)” provided in activity sheets)
* Modify the above to use as a class activity: draw a line down the middle of the

chalkboard or a magnetic board. Write “Jeroboam” on one side of the line and “Rehoboam” on the other. As you remind the children of choices both kings made, ask them individually to put sad face cutouts under the appropriate king’s name.

* Worship booklets: for each child in the class, cut three sheets of copy paper (or

construction paper) in half and stack them like a book. Staple the stack along the left edge to make a booklet. Write “I will worship God the right way!” on the cover page. Write (or help each child write) SING (page 1), PRAY (page 2), GIVE (page 3), LISTEN (page 4), LORD’S SUPPER (page 5). Give the children pictures that they can color and glue onto each page. As they work on their booklets, talk to them about having the right attitude and behavior during worship.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

1. Talk about how we are to behave in worship, that worship is one way we show God how much we love Him. If you want to show your mother that you love her, do you purposefully do what she says **not** to do? How would your dad feel if you said, “Daddy, I love you very much!” and then did something (on purpose) that he told you not to do? How would your mom or dad feel if you disobeyed them over and over and over? Would they believe that you really loved them? If we love our parents, we don’t disobey them on purpose. If we love God, we don’t disobey Him on purpose—and that includes the way we worship Him. Read John 14:15.
2. Ask several teenagers or adults to act out good and bad behavior during worship. Ask your students to point out the wrong and right behaviors.
3. In conjunction with Sunday’s ILLUSTRATION about authority, talk about other people who have authority over us (i.e., that have the right to tell us what to do, point out what is right and wrong), such as policemen, judges, elders, etc.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Depending on how the calendar falls, you may not have class (Singing night w/Wiley Dean) Remember that since Wednesday is a review of Sunday, the quarter always begins with the first Sunday of the month not the first Wednesday (August/Nov/Feb/May).
* If you do have class this would be a good time for a general Bible review.

Review Questions

1. Who were Jeroboam’s parents?
   1. Nebat and Zeruah, of the tribe of Ephraim
2. For whom did Jeroboam work when he was a young man?
   1. Solomon, on a large building project in Jerusalem
3. What prophet told Jeroboam that he would one day be king of 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel?
   1. Ahijah
4. What did Solomon try to do when he found out about Ahijah’s prophecy?
   1. He tried to kill Jeroboam.
5. Where did Jeroboam hide from Solomon?
   1. Egypt
6. How long did Jeroboam stay in Egypt?
   1. Until Solomon died
7. When Jeroboam came back to Israel, how did he help the people of Israel?
   1. He helped them plead with Rehoboam to lower the taxes and their work load.
8. What decision did Rehoboam make regarding the Israelites’ taxes and work load?
   1. He would make their taxes higher and their work load harder.
9. What did the people of Israel decide to do when they heard Rehoboam’s decision?
   1. They decided to follow Jeroboam instead and make him their king.
10. What had the prophet, Ahijah, told Jeroboam he must do in order for God to bless him and help him to be a good king?
    1. He must remain true to God, and obey God’s laws.
11. What did Jeroboam want more than God’s help?
    1. Popularity and power
12. What aspects of worship did Jeroboam change during his reign?
    1. The object of their worship, the place of their worship, the days of worship (feast days), and those who served in worship
13. What large object did Jeroboam have built?
    1. An altar for sacrifices
14. Another prophet came to speak to Jeroboam on the day that the altar was to be used. What did this prophet say to Jeroboam?
    1. He told him that he must change his ways and obey God.
15. What happened when Jeroboam ordered his soldiers to arrest the prophet?
    1. His hand instantly withered and the altar he had built was completely split in two.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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