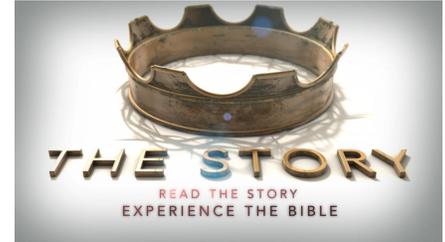


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for May 30, 2021:
Chapter 14: A Kingdom Torn in Two



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. What are your family traditions around Memorial Day weekend? Do you have relatives or friends who died as a result of their military service?
2. Can you think of one older person who has been a source of wisdom and guidance for your life?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, “Come back to me in three days.” 13 The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, 14 he followed the advice of the young men and said, “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.” 15 So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the Lord, to fulfill the word the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite. 16 When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: “What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse’s son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!” So the Israelites went home. 17 But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them. 18 King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

1 Kings 12:12-19

1. What one word could you use to describe the period in Israel’s history following the reign of King Solomon?
2. *There is nothing civil about a civil war.* Why are civil wars particularly painful?
3. When Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, was faced with a decision about the heavy taxes he was placing on the people, he sought two sources of input, his father’s elders and his friends. Why do you think each gave the advice they did? Whom did Rehoboam not consult?
4. Solomon’s elders encouraged Rehoboam to serve the people, believing the people would gladly follow him. Can you think of any examples of this, biblical or otherwise?
5. Jesus says in John 10 that the thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy. Where have you seen evidence of this? Why do you think Satan works at dividing us from each other and from God? How can we fight against this? (Ephesians 6:10-17)
6. Randy Frazee notes, *Whenever Israel was fully devoted to God, they were strong and prospered; but when they divided their loyalty with other gods or interests, they were weakened.* Where do you see evidence of this in *The Story* or in your own life?

7. Why do you think Jeroboam erects the golden calf idols in Bethel and Dan?
8. This chapter shows the sin of spiritual compromise through idolatry is of great concern to God. It led to Solomon's poor finish as king. It led to the fall of the northern and southern kingdoms. What are ways that idolatry can still slip into our lives today?

- **SERVE** *others*

How has the division in our country over the last year brought division in your life? How might you take the initiative to bridge that division?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**