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The Division:

- There Already Existed a Historic/Cultural Divide Between North & South
- After Rehoboam Increases the Tax Burden Northern Citizens Riot Murdering an Official Adoram
- Rehoboam Flees to Jerusalem and Organizes an Army of 180,000 (Benjamin Joins)
- The Prophet Shemaiah Proclaims God's Will for them Not to Engage "your brothers, the Israelites." (12:24)
- A State of War Existed Between the Kingdoms the Length of Rehoboam's Reign
  - o King Abijah of Judah (Rehoboam's Son) Won a Decisive Battle in Ephrem Crippling the Northern Kingdom (2 Chron. 13)

Cultural & Religious Competition in Israel:

- Fearing the Influence of the Levitical Priests, Jeroboam Establishes 2 Temples (Bethel & Dan)
  - o Hires from all Tribes to Become Priests
  - o Proclaims New Festival Days
- Manufactures 2 Golden Calves to Worship
  - o Identifies them as the God who "Brought you out of the land of Egypt." (12:28)
- Levites & Other Faithful Israelites Flee to the South

Political Makeup of the Southern Kingdom:

- Judah (Capitol & Largest State)
- Simeon (Politically Absorbed by Judah)
- Benjamin
- Levi (No Tribal State/Levitical Cities)
- Religious Refugees from the North

Political Makeup of the Northern Kingdom:

- Ephraim (Southern Temple/City of Samaria)
- Dan (Northern Temple)
- Manasseh (1<sup>st</sup> Capitol: Shechem)
- Levi (Unfaithful/Levitical Cities)
- Asher, Gad, Issachar, Naphtali, Reuben, Zebulun



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A Troubled Monarchy (Israel):

Baasha	909-886BC	Died of Natural Causes
Elah	886-885BC	Murdered by Zimri
Zimri	885 BC(7 Days)	Suicide by Fire
Tibni	885-880BC	Murdered by Soldiers of Omri (Rival Claim)
Omri	885-874BC	Died of Natural Causes
Ahab	874-853BC	To be Continued...

The House of David (Judah):

- Rehoboam (931– 913BC)
- Abijah or “Abijam” (913-911BC)
  - o Attempted Subjugation of Israel Unsuccessfully
  - o Military Victory (Battle of Mt. Zemaraim)
  - o “God Himself is with us and is our Captain!” (2 Chron. 13:12)
  - o Secured Judah from Israel
  - o Added Territory to Benjamin: Jeshanah, Ephron, Bethel
- Asa (911-870BC)

For Discussion:

- Share Reading and Journal Highlights.

Consider Along with the Bible:

- Does Power Really Corrupt?
- What Prevents Corruption?
- What is the Bible’s Definition of Good & Evil?

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