

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DIVISION OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL



Adapted by Deborah Parrish from *HIS Story: Just in Time* of the Crossroads Series Bible Curriculum.

- Under kings Saul, David, and Solomon, Israel was a united nation.
- God admonished Solomon that Israel would be divided after his death because of his sins and his walking away from God. (1 Kings 11:9–13)
- King Solomon greatly taxed his people to pay for his luxuries and forced them to work on his building projects. When his son Rehoboam took the throne after Solomon died, he refused to reduce the taxes despite the outcry from his people.
- The ten northern tribes decided to split away and chose Jeroboam as their king, keeping the name Israel.
- The two tribes in the South, Benjamin and Judah, remained with Rehoboam as their king and took the name Judah.
- To keep his people from traveling to Jerusalem to worship at the temple there, Jeroboam built shrines and idols and instituted a new day of worship in the North. He feared they would lose their loyalty to him if they returned to Jerusalem. Idolatry was an ongoing problem for the northern tribes.
- Both nations, Israel and Judah, continued to struggle with political strife, in addition to religious turmoil.

