



THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER

First and Second Kings for Groups

GROUP/FAMILY

Session 3

- Watch the sermon “Dormant Vessels” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Feed your soul daily with the subsequent text through Devotions 1513-1518 (on [YouTube/podcast](#)) and share them with the one you are discipling.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit 1 Kings 11
Devotions 1513-1518 exposit 1 Kings 13,
For more resources, visit: jessecampbellministries.com

Context

First Kings 12 opens at a moment of national transition. Solomon is dead, and his son Rehoboam ascends the throne. Israel gathers at Shechem, a covenantally loaded location associated with Abraham, Joshua, and covenant renewal. The people are not rebelling yet; they are petitioning. Solomon's reign, though glorious, had been economically oppressive, marked by forced labor and heavy taxation. Rehoboam inherits not only a kingdom, but unresolved tensions created by Solomon's policies. Jeroboam's return from exile signals unfinished business from chapter 11—God's judgment on Solomon is now pressing toward fulfillment. The elders' counsel reflects traditional wisdom rooted in servant leadership, while the younger advisers represent a new aristocracy shaped by privilege rather than covenant responsibility. Rehoboam's decision is not merely political miscalculation; it is theological rebellion. God had warned Solomon that disobedience would fracture the kingdom. Here, human pride becomes the instrument by which divine judgment unfolds, showing how covenant history advances through real choices with real consequences.

The Big Idea of the Text

Rehoboam rejected the elders' counsel to speak kindly in favor of his idiot friends' advice to be a tyrant and divided the kingdom of Israel by what seemed like his pride, but was actually God's sovereign hand.

Connecting the Session to the Sermon

In verses 23-40 of Pastor Jesse's sermon text, we met Jeroboam. Remember in today's session text that the mysterious prophet Ahijah had directly foretold Jeroboam that he would receive 10 of the 12 tribes! The theme we saw in the sermon of God promising rewards for His people's faithfulness and His *generationally* repeated warnings of discipline for rebellion is played out practically with behind-the-scenes insight. When Ahijah tore his new cloak into twelve pieces to promise ten "pieces" of the kingdom to Solomon's promising servant Jeroboam, Solomon was still on the throne!

Jeroboam had to know it would not last and that God was absolutely going to be faithful to His promises to David's house. In fact, Ahijah told him as much.

This means that Jeroboam had already been told of the coming schism between Judah and the smaller tribes. He had been given the "election" results by God before Rehoboam, Solomon's son and successor, drove those ten tribes away with his pride and promised cruelty anyway.

Ahijah will return Avengers: Jeroboam's Downfall (1 Kings 14).

Biblical Text (CSB) - 1 Kings 12:1-19

Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. ²When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about it, he stayed in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon's presence. Jeroboam stayed in Egypt. ³But they summoned him, and Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam: ⁴"Your father made our yoke harsh. You, therefore, lighten your father's harsh service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵Rehoboam replied, "Go away for three days and then return to me." So the people left. ⁶Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive, asking, "How do you advise me to respond to this people?"

⁷They replied, "Today if you will be a servant to this people and serve them, and if you respond to them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."

⁸But he rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and attended him. ⁹He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to this people who said to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?"

¹⁰The young men who had grown up with him told him, "This is what you should say to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you, make it lighter on us!' This is what you should tell them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist! ¹¹Although my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips.'"

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king had ordered: "Return to me on the third day." ¹³Then the king answered the people harshly. He rejected the advice the elders had given him ¹⁴and spoke to them according to the young men's advice: "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips."

¹⁵The king did not listen to the people, because this turn of events came from the Lord to carry out his word, which the Lord had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat. ¹⁶When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered him:

What portion do we have in David?

We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.

Israel, return to your tents;

David, now look after your own house!

So Israel went to their tents, ¹⁷but Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam managed to get into the chariot and flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹Israel is still in rebellion against the house of David today.

Applying Our Lives to the Text

- How do verses one through three show Israel seeking relief rather than rebellion, and how does this challenge assumptions about God's patience with wounded people?
- What do verses four through seven reveal about servant leadership, and how does Jesus fulfill this wisdom in His gentle authority toward sinners?
- In verses eight through eleven, how does Rehoboam's rejection of counsel reveal pride, and where do we resist Christ's humility today?
- How do verses twelve through fifteen demonstrate God's sovereignty without removing human responsibility, and why is this tension essential to repentance?
- What do verses sixteen through eighteen teach about the consequences of harsh leadership, and how does Jesus stand apart as the true Shepherd-King?
- How does verse nineteen call us to examine whether we submit joyfully to Christ's rule or fracture fellowship through self-protective pride?



The Takeaway: So What Church?

We will listen carefully before responding defensively. We will reject prideful strength and embrace Christlike humility. We will repent where authority has been used harshly rather than sacrificially. This passage points to Jesus, the true Son of David, who did not increase burdens but bore them Himself. Where Rehoboam fractured the kingdom through pride, Jesus unites His people through the cross, calling us into repentance and gentle obedience under His lordship.

For Parents:

SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

First Kings 12:1-19 shows us what happens when a leader refuses to listen. Rehoboam wanted to be strong, but he chose pride instead of kindness. That caused people to walk away. God lets us see this so we understand why we need Jesus. Jesus is a King who listens, who helps instead of hurting, and who carries our heavy loads for us. When Jesus leads, He doesn't make life harder; He gives rest. God was teaching His people to wait for a better King—one who would rule with love and truth. That King is Jesus.

FOLLOW ALONG

To cover the subsequent scripture in Daily Devotions 1513-1518, subscribe to Jesse Campbell Ministries on YouTube or on most podcast apps.

OTHER OFFERINGS

With an abundance of Bible Books to cover just like this study, there's plenty more to explore and learn from JCM, such as:

- The Seven Thunders: The Book of Revelation for Groups
- And Then You Will Know: The Book of Ezekiel for Groups
- Daniel: The Book of Daniel for Groups
- Dear Skeptical Friend: The Gospel of Luke for Groups
- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Apologetic Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
- The Revival Project: A Transformative Study of Nehemiah
- And many more!



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ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.