

# Chapter 61: The Division of the Kingdom

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## Commentary on Chapter 61

The Faithfulness of God. See how the punishment threatened in chapter 60 was now brought to pass! Roboam's arrogance, led to the accomplishment of God's designs, by driving the ten tribes away from him. It was not that God willed the sin, but that He permitted it, in order that Solomon's sins against faith should be punished as He had said.

Arrogance and Flattery. Roboam's conduct towards his subjects was very unwise. It was his harsh answer to their appeal which drove them into rebellion. How could Roboam, the son of the wise Solomon, commit such a folly? He spoke and acted foolishly, firstly, because he was blinded by pride; secondly, because he would not take the advice of the wise, but followed instead that of his young companions, who took care to flatter his pride. You can see by this how passion makes a man blind, and how disastrous it is to listen to the voice of flatterers. "He that walketh with the wise, shall be wise: a friend of fools shall become like them" (Prov. 13, 20).

Gentleness. If Roboam had returned a kind, friendly answer to the people, he would have calmed them, and all the twelve tribes would have acknowledged him as their king. "A mild answer breaketh wrath: but a harsh word stirreth up fury" (Prov. 15, 1). "Blessed are the meek."

## Questions to be Answered Using the Bible History Book:

1. (a) What did the people of Israelites ask of Roboam? (b) What was his answer?

(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. When Roboam answered the Israelites harshly, what did the Israelites do?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which two tribes remained with Roboam?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Into what two kingdoms were the people of Israel divided from that day forward?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name the capital of each of the two kingdoms above

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why did Jeroboam make two golden calves?

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7. Where did Jeroboam place each of the golden calves?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Into what sins did the kings and the people of Israel begin to fall (see paragraph 7)?

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### Questions to be Answered Using the Commentary:

9. Did God will Roboam's sin? Explain.

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10. What two things led Roboam to answer the Israelites foolishly?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

11. What would have happened if Roboam had returned a kind, friendly answer to the Israelites?

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