

In the Footsteps of Jeroboam

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In last week's article, we briefly discussed some aspects of King Jeroboam—the first king after the northern 10 tribes of Israel separated from Judah.

Have you ever taken a look at the negative influence that King Jeroboam had over the kings of Israel who followed him? In this article, we will notice how kings of Israel were identified with the sins of King Jeroboam.

Early proclamation

As we get started, let's notice a proclamation from God to Jeroboam.

1 Kings 14:7-11—"Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel, and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes; but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back—therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone. The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!" ' "

1 Kings 14:15-16—"For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger. And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."

List of Israel's kings

When a Bible student reviews a list of the early kings of the northern tribes of Israel, he notices that most followed in the footsteps of Jeroboam.

- Nadab—1 Kings 15:25-26
- Baasha—1 Kings 15:33-34
- Elah
- Zimri—1 Kings 16:18-19
- Omri—1 Kings 16:23-26
- Ahab—1 Kings 16:30-31
- Ahazia
- Jehoram—2 Kings 3:1-3
- Jehu—2 Kings 10:29-31
- Jehoahaz—2 Kings 13:1-2
- Jehoash—2 Kings 13:10-11
- Jeroboam II—2 Kings 14:23-24
- Zechariah—2 Kings 15:8-9
- Shallum
- Menahem—2 Kings 15:17-18
- Pekahiah—2 Kings 15:23-24
- Pekah—2 Kings 15:27-28
- Hoshea

Later evaluation

Notice a later evaluation (also unfavorable) about King Jeroboam in the Bible.

2 Kings 17:20-23—“And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight. For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.”