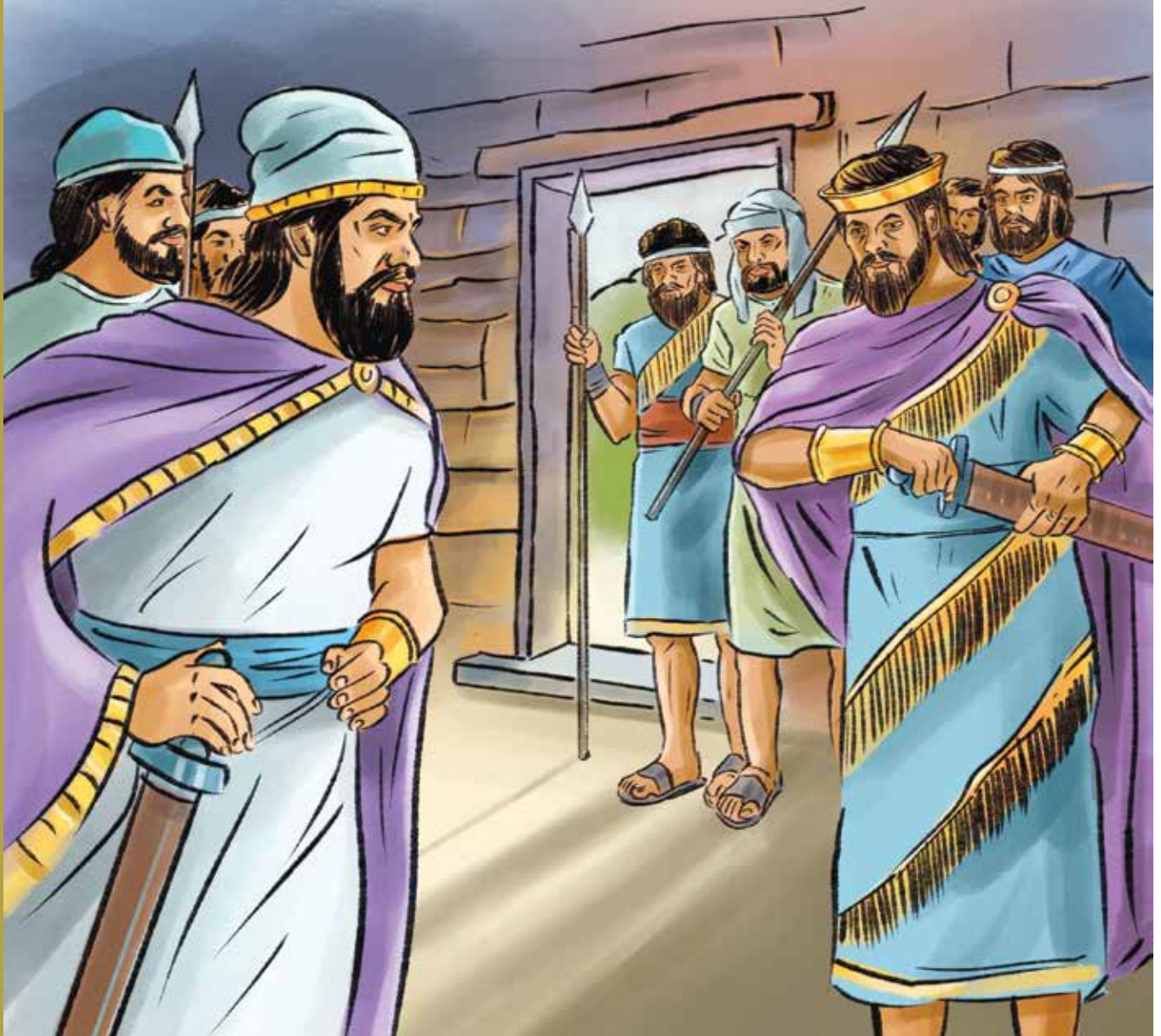


The Divided Kingdom



After Solomon, the southern tribes declared his son, Rehoboam, as their king. But the northern tribes revolted, causing a divide that led to the downfall of the kingdom.

The name, Israel, which referred to the original, undivided kingdom, was retained by the northerners who declared the rebel Jeroboam as their king, while the portion held by the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin, who worshipped Yahweh and remained loyal to the dynasty of David, became known as Judah.



Jeroboam broke away from Jerusalem by building sanctuaries at Bethel where Jacob had his dream, and at Dan. He placed a golden calf in each of the two sanctuaries as he saw Yahweh as a political entity belonging exclusively to Solomon and his people.

And so began the downfall of the Jewish nation with religion getting trapped in nationalism and political rivalry. Tragedies began to visit Jeroboam and his kingdom after a curse from a prophet of God split the altar into two and paralysed his hand while he was offering sacrifice to the false god.

The kingdom of Judah too had slipped into idolatry by beginning to worship Baal and Asherah. An angry Prophet Jeremiah foretold its downfall which began when pharaoh Shishak invaded Judah and plundered its wealth. The Egyptian invaded the northerners too, weakening them as well.

But the rivalry between the Israelites continued as they had completely forgotten Yahweh's Law of love and concern for the neighbour. As a consequence the holy land of Israel was mired in political unrest.

The prophets' words finally came true when the people of God were forced into exile.



Word of God

1 Kings 12: 25 – 13: 5

King Jeroboam of Israel fortified the town of Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there for a while. Then he left and fortified the town of Penuel. He said to himself, "As things are now, if my people go to Jerusalem and offer sacrifices to the Lord in the Temple there, they will transfer their allegiance to King Rehoboam of Judah and will kill me."

After thinking it over, he made two bull-calves of gold and said to his people, "You have been going long enough to Jerusalem to worship. People of Israel, here are your gods who brought you out of Egypt!" He placed one of the gold bull-calves in Bethel and the other in Dan. And so the people sinned, going to worship in Bethel and in Dan. Jeroboam also built places of worship on hilltops, and he chose priests from families who were not of the tribe of Levi.

Jeroboam also instituted a religious festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival in Judah. On the altar in Bethel he offered sacrifices to the gold bull-calves he had made, and he placed there in Bethel the priests serving at the places of worship he had built. And on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, the day that he himself had set, he went to Bethel and offered a sacrifice on the altar in celebration of the festival he had instituted for the people of Israel.

At the Lord's command a prophet from Judah went to Bethel and arrived there as Jeroboam stood at the altar to offer the sacrifice. Following the Lord's command, the prophet denounced the altar: "O altar, altar, this is what the Lord says: A child, whose name will be Josiah, will be born to the family of David. He will slaughter on you the priests serving at the pagan altars who offer sacrifices on you, and he will burn human bones on you." And the prophet went on to say, "This altar will fall apart, and the ashes on it will be scattered. Then you will know that the Lord has spoken through me." When King Jeroboam heard this, he pointed at him and ordered, "Seize that man!" At once the king's arm became paralyzed so that he couldn't pull it back. The altar suddenly fell apart and the ashes spilled to the ground, as the prophet had predicted in the name of the Lord.

Insight

St. Ignatius Loyola: Founder, Society Of Jesus



St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556) was a Spanish priest who co-founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He was the first Superior General of the congregation. The Jesuits who served as missionaries in various countries helped to reform the Catholic Church. Jesuits have been working all over the world in various fields including education and social work.

Notes

**Know
Now**

**READ : JUDAH AND ISRAEL:
A Divided Monarchy by Siegfried
H. Horn - <https://bit.ly/2zomSot>
and the book The Destruction of
Jerusalem by Holford George which
gives historical details about the
destruction and devastation
of Jerusalem as well as the
calamities that befell the
Jewish people.**

my TASK this week

To Watch

To Read

To Do



Scan For Help



Home

Read chapter two from the Book of Amos. This chapter describes the reasons for the rejection of Israel by Yahweh.