

**Lesson 4**  
The Kingdom Divides  
( 1 Kings 12:1-24; 2 Chronicles 10:1 – 11:4 )

**Questions**

1. What request did Jeroboam and the Israelites have for Rehoboam (1 K. 12:1-5; 2 Chron. 10:1-5)?
  
2. What counsel did the old men give Rehoboam, what counsel did the young men give Rehoboam, and which counsel did Rehoboam follow (1 K. 12:6-15; 2 Chron. 10:6-15)?
  
3. Who ruled over Israel and who ruled over the tribe of Judah (and Benjamin) when the kingdom divided (1 K. 12:16-20; 2 Chron. 10:16-19)?
  
4. What did Rehoboam choose 180,000 men to do and what did the Lord tell him through the prophet Shemaiah (1 K. 12:21-24; 2 Chron. 11:1-4)?
  
5. Who was the cause of the kingdom dividing, according to 1 Kings 12:15, 24 and 2 Chronicles 10:15 and 11:4?

**Digging Deeper**

1. What is the approximate date for the dividing of the kingdom of Israel (1 K. 12:16-20; 2 Chron. 10:16-19)?
  
2. Where in 1 Kings had the Lord spoken by Ahijah the prophet to Jeroboam (1 K. 12:15; 2 Chron. 10:15)?
  
3. Locate the following on a map: Shechem (1 K. 12:1; 2 Chron. 10:1).

## **Applications for Today**

1. Good leaders will listen to the people and do what is best for the people, not for themselves (1 K. 12:5, 16; 2 Chron. 10:15-16; Prov. 14:28).
2. Be careful from whom you get your counsel and don't be so quick to dismiss the counsel of older, wiser men (1 K. 12:6-11; Prov. 11:14; 12:15; 15:22; 20:18; 24:6).
3. Be careful not to let your peers give you bad advice (1 K. 12:6-11; 2 Sam. 15:1-37; Prov. 12:5).
4. A kingdom, city, or house divided against itself cannot stand (1 K. 12:16-19; Mt. 12:25).
5. Following bad counsel leads to further problems and bad ideas (1 K. 12:18-19, 21; 2 Sam. 17:1-29; Isa. 19:11).
6. God's word always comes true (1 K. 12:15; 2 Chron. 10:15; Mt. 5:18; 1 Pet. 1:25).
7. God works "behind the scenes" in the affairs of men to bring about his plans for his people (1 K. 12:15, 24; 2 Chron. 10:15; 11:4; Josh. 11:20; Judg. 14:4; Prov. 21:1).