

# The Story

## Session 15: "A Kingdom Torn In Two"

Buhler Mennonite Church Sanctuary (and BMC YouTube live-stream) – April 7, 2021

*"Your father put a heavy yoke on us,  
but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us,  
and we will serve you."*

1 KINGS 12:4 (NIV)

### 1. Opening & Praying



### 2. Introduction: WATCH THE SCRIPTURE VIDEO

*"There is nothing civil about civil war."*

- **Reflect on it/Talk About It:** This part of the story unfolds like an epic Hollywood drama: conflict, intrigue, war, and flashes of redemption amidst heartbreaking rebellion. *Tell about a movie you enjoyed that has strong redemptive themes. What is one life lesson that can be learned from this movie?*

- 3. Review:** As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. Commit Movement 2 & 3 to memory.

MOVEMENT 2: *"God builds a brand-new nation called Israel. Through this nation, God will reveal his presence, power, and plan to get us back. Every story of Israel will point to the first coming of Jesus --the One who will provide the way back to God."*

MOVEMENT 3: *"Jesus left the UPPER STORY to come down into our LOWER STORY to be with us and to provide the way for us to be made right with God. Through faith in Christ's work on the cross, we can now overturn Adam's choice and have a personal relationship with God."*

**Since by man came death ... by man came also the resurrection of the dead!**

**For as in Adam all die ... even so in Christ shall all be made alive!** (MESSIAH by G.F. Handel - 1 Cor 15:21-22)

#### 4. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- What group did Rehoboam make the mistake of listening to for counsel?
  - a. The elders who had served his father Solomon.
  - b. His wife who had given him good counsel in the past.
  - c. The young men who had grown up with him.
  - d. A group of kings from the surrounding nations.
  
- What was the reason for Jeroboam's eventual downfall?
  - a. He made other gods for himself.
  - b. He attacked Rehoboam to try to take over the southern kingdom.
  - c. He died of leprosy.
  - d. He was murdered by one of his servants.
  
- Which of the following was considered one of the good kings?
  - a. Jeroboam
  - b. Asa
  - c. Abijah
  - d. Ahab
  
- Which is the chronological sequence of the kings of Judah?
  - a. Solomon, Jeroboam, Baasha, Zimri
  - b. Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Asa
  - c. Solomon, Rehoboam, Asa, Zimri
  - d. Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa

#### 5. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

**Video Guide:** As you watch the video use the following outline to record anything that stands out to you.

- Setting for the Story:
  - \* The LOWER STORY is how \_\_\_\_\_ see the Story unfold.
  - \* The UPPER STORY is how \_\_\_\_\_ sees the Story unfold.
  
- Main characters: meeting Rehoboam and Jeroboam:
  - \* King Rehoboam goes with the advice of the \_\_\_\_\_ men.
  
- LOWER STORY plot, resolution, and theme:
  - \* When we are divided within, we will eventually \_\_\_\_\_ .
  
- UPPER STORY plot, resolution, and theme:
  - \* Israel was completely \_\_\_\_\_ the UPPER STORY of God.
  - \* We need to align our \_\_\_\_\_ to God's UPPER STORY plan.

**6. Video Discussion/Journaling:** Write down your answers.

- What part of Randy's teaching encouraged or challenged you the most? Why? Did anything jump out, calling you to action? Did anyone have an "aha!" moment?
- When Solomon's son, Rehoboam, was faced with a decision about the heavy taxes he was placing on the people, he sought two sources of input (1 Kings 12:1-11; THE STORY, pp. 193-194) *What was each source and how did their advice conflict?*

*Why do you think the advice was so radically different?*

- In their wisdom, the elders told Rehoboam that if he SERVED the nation, the people would gladly follow him. Jesus modeled this truth in the New Testament when he washed the disciple's feet (John 13). *How can serving with a humble heart actually make a person a stronger leader?*

*What are ways you could grow in service (be more effective) as you seek to influence the lives of the people around you? Who is one person God is calling you to serve this week?*

- This section of THE STORY as well as the teaching and life of Jesus illustrate that a divided house will always fall. *What practical things can we do to bring peace in our family and within our homes?*

*Satan loves to divide. If the enemy has created conflict in your family, local church, city, nation (or is trying to do so), how can you battle against this and seek healing and peace?*

- From the perspective of the LOWER STORY the division in the kingdom was a result of Rehoboam's harsh leadership style. From the UPPER STORY, we know that Solomon's idolatry and compromise were cascading like a line of dominos into the nation's future. *What can we learn from the wrong attitudes and actions of both father and son in this story?*

A house divided against itself can't stand.  
We need to do our part in making sure this is not happening in our home, our church, or our

## 7. Personal Reflection:

Meditate this week on these 3 questions:

1. *Am I a peacemaker or a source of conflict in my relationships and how can I seek to build bridges and heal broken relationships in my life?*
2. *When I am placed in situations where I am called to be an influencer and leader, am I a humble servant?*
3. *Are there any idols in my life ... even little ones? If so, what can I do to cast them out?*

To experience the full blessings of God, to ensure that everything works out for the good in our life, we need to love God above all and align our lives to God's UPPER STORY

## 8. Personal Action:

One of the most divisive organizations in the history of the world--sadly--has been the church. As you move about your community in the coming week, commit to pray for every church you pass. Ask for God's blessing and guidance for these brothers and sisters.

## 9. Double Check Your Pop Quiz [c/a/b/d]

**Video Notes Answer Key:** we / God / younger / crumble / distorting / lives

## 10. Next Week: Session 16: "God's Messengers" (Hosea 14:4)".