

Royal Lessons for Life

Jeroboam and Nadab

(Israel)

Jeroboam's Biography

- Jeroboam the Ephraimite first appears as promising governor, first over a construction project then over two tribes – I Kings 11:26-28
- The prophet Ahijah foretells of his eventual reign over ten tribes – I Kings 11:29-39
- He appears to have rebelled against Solomon and hid in Egypt – I Kings 11:26,40
- He is proclaimed king over the rebellious Ten Tribes of Israel after Rehoboam's ascension – I Kings 12:20
- To further the division between the tribes, Jeroboam creates a new syncretic religion with new holy sites (Dan and Bethel), priesthood, sacrificial system, and calendar of holy days – I Kings 12:25-33, II Chronicles 11:15
 - "The calf worship that he established was a mixture of calf and Jehovah worship" – B.H. Carroll
 - He ignored God's warnings against this – I Kings 13, 14:1-18
 - This religion with some modifications will dominate the Northern Kingdom for 350 years, until their downfall to the Assyrians – II Kings 17:22-23
- God judged him with the death of his son Abijah and the promise to end his dynasty – I Kings 13:33-34, 14:7-16, 15:29-30
- He continued to antagonize Judah for the length of his reign – I Kings 14:30, 15:6; II Chronicles 13:3-19
- He reigned for 22 years and was succeeded by his son Nadab – I Kings 14:19-20

Nadab's Biography

- Nadab reigned for 2 years and followed in his father's footsteps – I Kings 15:25-26
- He kept up the hostilities with Judah – I Kings 15:32
- He is assassinated by Baasha while besieging Gibbethon – I Kings 15:27

Lessons from the Lives of Jeroboam and Nadab

- Although Jeroboam's reign was established by God, it was brought down by his sin – Proverbs 14:34
- Jeroboam attempted to mix truth with error in his new religion, which only brought more error and judgment – Deuteronomy 12:29-32, Galatians 1:6-9
- The actions of Jeroboam affected his dynasty and caused it to end – Exodus 20:4-5, Numbers 14:18