

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.1, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.1, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on 1 Kings 12-13, specifically the division of Solomon's kingdom following his death. He explores the interplay between God's sovereignty and the free will of humans, particularly Rehoboam's choice to ignore the elders' advice. This decision led to the northern tribes' secession and the establishment of a separate kingdom under Jeroboam. Oswalt emphasizes that while God's will is ultimately fulfilled, human choices have real consequences, and the northern tribes consciously rejected participation in God's promise to the house of David. He encourages listeners to align themselves with God's purposes, even when it's difficult.

**2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.1 – Double click icon to
play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).**



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on11_1.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.1, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1:

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session11_1.pdf" (Dr. John Oswalt, Kings, Session 11, Part 1, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1)

Main Themes:

1. The Consequences of Disobedience and the Importance of Finishing Well:

- Dr. Oswalt begins by referencing the end of Solomon's reign, emphasizing that "there are no trophies given out for good beginnings. The prize is for those who finish well." Solomon's divided heart led to the kingdom being torn apart, setting the stage for the events in 1 Kings 12.

1. The Interplay of Divine Sovereignty and Human Free Will:

- This is a central theme. Oswalt emphasizes the tension between God's predetermined will and the real choices made by human beings. He argues that the Bible presents both as true, even though they are difficult to reconcile. "Again, as I've said to you numerous times, our brains are not big enough to hold together God's sovereignty...and human free will."
- He uses the division of the kingdom as an example: God had prophesied through Ahijah that Jeroboam would rule the northern tribes, yet Rehoboam still made a choice to reject the advice of the elders.
- He asserts that despite difficult circumstances, our actions should always be aimed towards fulfilling God's will. "When you have a choice to make, God has a will in this, and you ought to be asking Him, what is your will? What do you want to accomplish through me in this decision?"
- Even when discerning God's will isn't clear, acting with a heart centered on God's purposes allows Him to work through our choices, even mistakes.

1. The Significance of Choices and Their Consequences:

- The lecture highlights the importance of individual choices and their long-term ramifications. Rehoboam's decision to listen to the younger advisors instead of the elders had disastrous consequences.
- The choice of the northern tribes to reject the Davidic line is presented as a conscious and dangerous one: "As I look at that passage, I cannot escape the sense that the northern tribes are very consciously saying we're not going to have a part in what God is seeking to do through the house of David." Oswalt warns against making similar choices in our own lives.

1. **God's Desire for Partnership with Humanity:**

- Oswalt suggests that God actively seeks human participation in His plans, not because He needs us, but because He desires fellowship with us: "He loves us so much that He says, come on, come help me. Be part of this. Wow."

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Timeline:** The passage in 1 Kings 12-16 covers roughly 70-80 years, from Solomon's death (approximately 930 BC) to the reign of Ahab (around 850 BC).
- **Jeroboam's Background:** Jeroboam's time in Egypt may have influenced his later actions.
- **The People's Grievance:** The northern tribes sought relief from the heavy labor imposed by Solomon. "Your father put a heavy yoke on us; now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put upon us, and we'll serve you."
- **Rehoboam's Counselors:** The contrast between the advice of the older and younger counselors is presented as a failure of wisdom on Rehoboam's part.
- **Division as Fulfillment of Prophecy:** Rehoboam's actions, though a result of his own choices, fulfilled God's prophecy regarding the division of the kingdom. "So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the Lord, to fulfill the word the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite."
- **Rejection of Davidic Line:** The northern tribes' declaration, "To your tents, oh, Israel, look after your own house, David," signifies a deliberate rejection of God's promise to David.

- **Kingdom Choice:** Oswalt references 1 John to emphasize the fundamental choice between being in God's kingdom or another, urging listeners to choose participation in God's work.

Quotes:

- "There are no trophies given out for good beginnings. The prize is for those who finish well."
- "Again, as I've said to you numerous times, our brains are not big enough to hold together God's sovereignty...and human free will."
- "Your father put a heavy yoke on us; now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put upon us, and we'll serve you."
- "So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the Lord, to fulfill the word the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite."
- "As I look at that passage, I cannot escape the sense that the northern tribes are very consciously saying we're not going to have a part in what God is seeking to do through the house of David."
- "He loves us so much that He says, come on, come help me. Be part of this. Wow."

This briefing document should provide a comprehensive overview of the key points discussed in the provided excerpts.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.1, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1

The Divided Kingdom: A Study Guide to 1 Kings 12-13 (Part 1)

I. Key Concepts & Themes

- **The Division of the Kingdom:** Understand the historical and spiritual causes that led to the split between the northern and southern tribes of Israel.
- **Divine Sovereignty vs. Human Choice:** Analyze the interplay between God's preordained plan and the free will of individuals like Rehoboam and Jeroboam.
- **The Consequences of Disobedience:** Explore the long-term repercussions of rejecting God's will and choosing a path of self-interest.
- **Leadership & Counsel:** Examine the importance of wise counsel and the dangers of arrogance and short-sighted decision-making in leadership.
- **Participating with God:** Understand the call to actively engage with God's purposes and the implications of choosing to stand apart from His plans.

II. Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. What were the primary reasons behind the division of Solomon's kingdom according to Dr. Oswalt?
2. What was the request made by the northern tribes when they approached Rehoboam?
3. What were the differing pieces of advice offered to Rehoboam by the older and younger counselors?
4. According to Dr. Oswalt, how did Rehoboam's desire to appear strong influence his decision-making?
5. How does Dr. Oswalt describe the relationship between human choices and divine sovereignty in this passage?
6. What was Jeroboam's role prior to becoming king of the Northern tribes, and how might this have influenced his leadership?
7. What does the phrase "To your tents, oh, Israel" signify in the context of the narrative?

8. Why does Dr. Oswalt consider the northern tribes' actions to be particularly dangerous?
9. How does Dr. Oswalt relate the choices made in 1 Kings 12 to the broader message of 1 John?
10. What is the lesson or takeaway from the first eleven chapters of Kings, according to Dr. Oswalt?

III. Quiz: Answer Key

1. The kingdom was torn in two because of Solomon's failure to honor the Lord's name and his divided heart. Solomon didn't finish well.
2. The northern tribes requested that Rehoboam lighten the harsh labor and heavy yoke that Solomon had placed upon them, promising to serve him if he did.
3. The older counselors advised Rehoboam to concede to the people's demands and lighten their burden, while the younger counselors urged him to assert his authority and be even harsher than his father.
4. Rehoboam's desire to appear strong led him to reject the advice of the older counselors and embrace the harsh stance of the younger ones, ultimately contributing to the kingdom's division.
5. Dr. Oswalt explains that human choices and divine sovereignty are in tension; God's will is accomplished through human choices, but people still bear responsibility for their decisions.
6. Jeroboam was in charge of forced labor for the northern tribes under Solomon. Dr. Oswalt wonders if Jeroboam's time in Egypt influenced him in one way or another.
7. This phrase signifies a rejection of the Davidic dynasty and a declaration of independence from the southern kingdom.
8. Dr. Oswalt finds it dangerous because they consciously chose not to participate in fulfilling God's promise to the house of David.
9. Dr. Oswalt relates the choice of the tribes of Israel in 1 Kings 12 to the choice that John presents in his book, that of being in God's kingdom, or in the other kingdom.

10. That the prize is for those who finish well, and that there are no trophies given out for good beginnings.

IV. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the theological implications of the tension between divine sovereignty and human free will as presented in 1 Kings 12. How does Oswalt suggest we navigate this tension in our own decision-making?
2. Analyze Rehoboam's leadership choices in 1 Kings 12. What factors influenced his decisions, and what lessons can be learned from his failures?
3. Compare and contrast the characters of David and Jeroboam as leaders, considering their responses to adversity and their relationship with God. How does the text suggest their actions had long-lasting consequences?
4. Explore the concept of "participating with God" as presented by Oswalt. What does it mean to actively engage with God's purposes, and what are the potential consequences of choosing to stand apart?
5. Evaluate the role of counsel in the decision-making process as depicted in 1 Kings 12. How does the text illustrate the importance of seeking and heeding wise advice?

V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Rehoboam:** Solomon's son and successor; his unwise decisions led to the division of the kingdom.
- **Jeroboam:** A leader from the northern tribes who was prophesied to become king of the northern kingdom; his actions after becoming king led Israel into idolatry.
- **Divine Sovereignty:** The belief that God is in ultimate control of all things and that He is going to accomplish his will.
- **Human Free Will:** The capacity of humans to make choices independent of any prior cause or condition.
- **House of David:** Refers to the lineage and dynasty of King David, to whom God promised an enduring kingdom.
- **Ahijah the Shilonite:** The prophet who foretold the division of the kingdom and Jeroboam's rise to power in the north.
- **Northern Tribes (Israel):** The ten tribes that broke away from the Davidic kingdom under Rehoboam's rule.
- **Southern Kingdom (Judah):** The kingdom consisting primarily of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin that remained loyal to the house of David.
- **Yoke:** A symbol of burden and oppression, referring to the heavy demands placed upon the people by Solomon.
- **Providence:** God's ongoing involvement in and governance of the world.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.1, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

FAQ on 1 Kings 12-13 (Part 1)

- **What is the main lesson from Solomon's reign and how does it set the stage for 1 Kings 12?**
- The main lesson from Solomon's reign is that good beginnings are not enough; finishing well is what truly matters. Solomon's failure to honor the Lord and his divided heart led to the tearing apart of his kingdom. This sets the stage for 1 Kings 12 by showing that disobedience has consequences and introduces a period of division and turmoil.
- **What was Jeroboam's role before the events of 1 Kings 12, and how might his time in Egypt have influenced him?**
- Jeroboam was anointed by God to be the king of the northern tribes. He had been in charge of forced labor for these tribes under Solomon. After Solomon sought to kill him, Jeroboam fled to Egypt. His time in Egypt, a pagan country, may have influenced him negatively, potentially contributing to his later choices and leadership style.
- **How does 1 Kings 12 illustrate the tension between God's sovereignty and human free will?**
- 1 Kings 12 demonstrates that God's will is accomplished through human choices, even when those choices seem to contradict what is expected. Ahijah's prophecy about the kingdom's division was certain, but it was fulfilled through the actions of Rehoboam and the people of Israel. God works through, not manipulates, human actions to achieve His purposes.
- **What request did the people of Israel make to Rehoboam, and what were the potential consequences of his decision?**
- The people requested that Rehoboam lighten the harsh labor and heavy yoke that Solomon had placed upon them. If Rehoboam had agreed, it might have required him to make some financial sacrifices and potentially maintain a united kingdom.

However, by refusing, he risked alienating the northern tribes and causing a permanent split.

- **Why did Rehoboam reject the advice of the elders and follow the advice of the younger counselors?**
- The text suggests that Rehoboam wanted to project an image of strength and was unwilling to make concessions. While the older counselors advised leniency to maintain unity, the younger counselors encouraged a show of force to establish his authority. Ultimately, Rehoboam chose the path that aligned with his desire to appear strong.
- **How did Rehoboam's decision fulfill God's plan, despite his own free will in the matter?**
- Rehoboam's decision to reject the people's request and answer them harshly fulfilled the prophecy given to Jeroboam by Ahijah. Despite Rehoboam's exercise of his own free will, God used his actions to bring about the division of the kingdom, which was part of His predetermined plan. This highlights the interplay between human choices and divine sovereignty.
- **What was the significance of the northern tribes' declaration, "To your tents, oh Israel," and how did it relate to God's promise to David?**
- The declaration "To your tents, oh Israel" was a clear statement of secession and rejection of the house of David. The northern tribes were consciously choosing not to participate in the fulfillment of God's promise to establish an enduring dynasty through David. This was a dangerous stance, as it meant separating themselves from God's plan and blessing.
- **What is the takeaway message regarding participating in God's plans?**
- The takeaway is a strong encouragement to actively seek out and participate in God's plans. It may involve difficulty or unpleasantness, but aligning oneself with God's purposes is essential. Choosing to be part of God's kingdom and what He is doing in the world is far better than pursuing one's own desires and potentially opposing His will.