

### The Intention of God

--Deuteronomy 17:14-20 indicated God's ultimate desire to have a king over his people who would reign for him. The question was one of "when", not "if". We think the intention of God was not to make a concession to weakness in time but to bring a king who would represent him to the nation and indicate to it the character and power of its deity. The people we think, were precipitous. David seems to have been in the mind of God all along. But the selection of Saul allowed them to have their way while preparing for God's king in due time.

A lot of lessons may be learned from this account and the way in which the nation, losing its trust in God, made havoc for itself for the moment and for years to come as well.

### 3. Further notes on the rebellion dividing the Kingdoms

The Kingdom actually endured two periods of division...one during the early reign of David while he ruled at Hebron and Ish-bosheth held the loyalty of many of the other tribes (Saul's son). This was only about 7 years duration and of a minor sort. This second division is still unhealed and will not be totally overcome until God resolves all of these things in the future.

The particular causes for the rebellion are these:

The troubled rule of Solomon's later years 1Kings 11:9-13

Solomon's domestic problems in general

The Judgment of God 1 Kings 11

In connexion with this one must observe the promise of God to honor the Davidic covenant of 2 Sam. 7

The character and activity of Rehoboam

Rehoboam is a good example of a leader remote from his people... and there are several lessons about him that would be a good study for pastors and leaders in our day. He took the advice of the younger men although, if you check the text, they were in their "forties" at this time and were only younger by comparison. Self-will and a lack of perspective doomed his rule.

The character and ability of Jeroboam

Although his rule will become a disaster, at the time of the division he possesses well what Rehoboam lacks...and uses it to ally himself with the people and secure their following of his leadership. The whole thing is of God, of course, and without that it would not have succeeded. It is not that God is big for revolt---but God is giving a lesson to the house of David and to all following generations who will profit from the past.

Note the steps and decisions in the action carefully. You can learn a lot about successful and unsuccessful managing of persons from this account.