

## Series: Biblical Heroes and Zeros – week 12

CDOBC – beginning (*Resuming*) on 11/6/11

Title: “Rejecting Your Godly Potential”: Jeroboam

November 6, 2011

1 Kings 11:26-14:20; 2 Chronicles 10-13

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**OBJECTIVE:** To help us know the incredible offer we have from God in Christ – and to increase our dependence on God’s Word.

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### Announcements

- Welcome / guests – communication cards
- Oikos Class
- Prayer Gathering – tonight in room #1 @ 6 p.m.
- Men’s Breakfast this Saturday – in room #2
- Welcome Class – 11/9 & 11/16
- All-Church Work Day – this Saturday – 9 a.m.

### Opening prayer

The Bible is full of fascinating people, and although they lived thousands of years ago, they dealt with the same issues we deal with today. The reason for this is that human nature has not changed over the course of history. Of course, the technology that surrounds us is ever-changing, but no matter how primitive or how advanced our technology is, our innate, human tendencies are the same.

Most of the people in Scripture were courageous in their life and faith, but not all of the people in Scripture were good examples for us. “*Biblical Heroes & Zeros*” is a sermon series that will help us learn about some of the “heroes” in Scripture that are not discussed very much – but they were faithful men and women, and God used them in some great ways. We’ll also take a look at some of the “zeros” in Scripture – those who were not faithful and yet I believe God has included them in the Bible so we can understand their mistakes and sins so that we don’t repeat their ill-fated decisions.

Romans 15:4

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Over the next five sermons, I hope you will be encouraged and instructed by the lives of these fascinating people as we learn about some more “heroes & zeros” in the Bible.

*(For the first eleven heroes and zero’s we looked at, visit the sermon page on the church’s website.)*

**Rejecting Your Godly Potential: Jeroboam – Zero**

1 Kings 11:26-14:20; 2 Chron. 10-13

Historical Setting:

931 B.C.

Jeroboam I

Because of Solomon’s sin, his son (Rehoboam) would not inherit the united kingdom of Israel. God told Solomon in 1 Kings 11:11-13, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.”

So, while Solomon was in the last years of his life, God raised up adversaries to Solomon, who caused problems for him. One of these adversaries was named Jeroboam. We are introduced to Jeroboam in 1 Kings 11:26-28. In these verses, we are told that Jeroboam was a “man of standing” and that Solomon noticed “how

well the young man did his work”, so Solomon promoted Jeroboam to a position of leadership over the labor force.

In the next verse (11:29), we are introduced to the prophet Ahijah, who was from the historic town of Shiloh, and Ahijah told Jeroboam that God was going to divide the nation that had been united under Saul, David, and Solomon, and Jeroboam would be given ten of the tribes to rule over. Once again, the reason for this judgment was the sins of Solomon.

But this was no simple promise of becoming a king. That day – when Jeroboam met Ahijah on the country road – was the day that Jeroboam won the lottery!

### **God promises a dynasty to Jeroboam** *11:37-39*

Read with me the incredible promise that God was offering to Jeroboam.

Read 1 Kings 11:37-39

“However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. 38 If you do whatever I command you and walk in my ways and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you. 39 I will humble David's descendants because of this, but not forever.”

No details are given in Scripture, but commentators speculate that Jeroboam tried to put together a political coalition right away to take over the kingdom, which led to vs. 40...

40 Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt, to Shishak the king, and stayed there until Solomon's death.”

This was a monumental promise! The Davidic Covenant was an amazing Covenant...it was a Covenant that blessed the house of David for all eternity! And now, God was offering a very similar – almost identical covenant to Jeroboam!

This is where we take the historical events of Jeroboam's life, and connect them with our life.

The covenant that was offered Jeroboam was great...but we have a greater covenant that God has offered us...it's the New Covenant we find in Jeremiah 31. God has made an offer to everyone in this room – an offer that He will forgive you of all your sins, He will redeem you – He will reconcile you back to a relationship with Him. He will give you His Spirit to guide you each day into holiness, and all He requires of us is to admit our sins to Him and believe in His Son Jesus, that He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins.

Jeroboam had an amazing offer from God...but you and I have a much better offer!

What have you done with the offer of salvation in this life now – and salvation that promises eternal life in Heaven!

Let's look again at Jeroboam...

After Ahijah's prophecy about Jeroboam's rise to power, he became a wanted man in Solomon's kingdom – so he sought refuge in Egypt (vs. 40). After Solomon's death, he returned to Israel, as preparations were being made to make Solomon's son, Rehoboam, the nation's fourth king.

Throughout Solomon's reign, he had been heavy-handed toward the people. He had taxed them heavily and brought them into forced labor. Rehoboam was given wise counsel which was to lighten the burden on the people, but he rejected that counsel in a bravado-laden speech.

Upon hearing that Rehoboam would be even more demanding of them; the people rebelled, and basically seceded from the kingdom. They immediately found Jeroboam, and made him king over the Northern tribes of Israel.

This was a major even in the history of Israel. The nation never recovered from this division. The southern kingdom became known as Judah and kept Jerusalem as its capital and always had a descendent of David as their king. The northern kingdom held onto the name Israel and eventually made Samaria it's capital. Over the course of history, these two rival kingdoms would be at war with each other, and eventually both kingdoms were defeated and taken into exile (Northern kingdom by Assyrians in 722 B.C., and the southern kingdom by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.)

Many of the O.T. prophets (minor) lived and ministered during the exiles.

During the time of Jesus, 900 years later, there was still great hatred and animosity between the remnants of the southern kingdom toward the northern kingdom (Samaritans).

Back to Jeroboam...his *downfall* begins (1 Kings 12:26-33). He is a zero because he rejected the dynasty God offered him. He chose his own way over the way of God.

**Jeroboam didn't depend on God's Word.** 12:26-33

Jeroboam realized that he had a problem...at least he had a problem that seemed to make the promises of God unlikely to be fulfilled. When the nation had been unified, the center of their religious and political life was in Jerusalem. However,

Jerusalem was in the southern kingdom of Judah – controlled by Rehoboam (Solomon’s son). Each year, the people were to journey to Jerusalem for the various religious festivals. He feared that when they would go to Jerusalem, that their allegiance would shift to Rehoboam, and that he would lose his power and possibly his life. *Read vs. 26-27*

26 Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. 27If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam."

So, instead of trusting and depending on God’s Word...instead of seeking God in his time of uncertainty and fear...instead of seeking the prophets of God for advice, he came up with his own solution. Verse 26 says that he “thought to himself”, which tells us that his solution to this problem was no whim – it wasn’t a hasty or rushed thought. Verse 28 drives home the point even further, it says “After seeking advice”. Whose advice did he seek? It wasn’t God’s advice...it wasn’t the prophet’s or priests advice. It was the advice of his advisors...it was human wisdom...it was political expediency that drove him, not the promises of God.

What was his grand solution that he believed would keep the allegiance of his people and keep his kingdom intact? It was to form a counterfeit religion to the true religion that God had called the nation to observe and that God had based His promise of a dynasty upon.

**Read vs. 28-33**

28 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." (Exodus 32:4b) 29 One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan.

30 And this thing became a sin; the people went even as far as Dan to worship the one there. 31 Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. 32 He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made. 33 On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing, he offered sacrifices on the altar he had built at Bethel. So he instituted the festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to make offerings."

Let's apply this to our life today...

Do you ever face points of decision in your life that if you obey God's Word, it seems impossible that anything good can result?

Relationships and loneliness...The bible calls me to a life of holiness and purity. But, if I truly live this moral, it might cause the person I'm dating to leave me and then I'll be lonely. If I give in a bit in this area, then we will grow closer together, and if we get married, then what was the harm after all?

I know the Bible says that I shouldn't be united to non-believers ("unequally yoked" – 2 Cor. 6:14). But there are no Christian singles I know and am attracted to! I'm attracted to someone who is such a nice person – they have good morals and they work hard, are respectful, and they even come from a good family. So, what's the

harm? Why does God want to restrict this area of my life so much? Doesn't He want me to be happy, or would He rather have me obedient and alone?

Sometimes God's way seems to be the obstacle to our happiness...or even the obstacle to what He has promised us. But this is one of the great lies of Satan. God's way is always the best way. God's way is always the path to the deepest satisfaction.

Jeroboam didn't know how the people would not turn their hearts to Rehoboam. But Jeroboam did have the Word of God – the promises of God. The circumstances before him seemed to nullify the promises of God – but that is precisely the time that our faith is tested.

Illus. – Debbie Ionnatti – job at Dillards...wanting to meet quota through dishonest means.????

## God promises Jeroboam's destruction 13:33-34

“Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places. 34 This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.”

14:8-11 – “Thrust Me behind your back”!

“I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David... 9 You have done more evil than all who lived before you.

You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back. 10 " 'Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam.

I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel--slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. 11 Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!

1 Kings 16:2, 19, 26; 22:52 – “...followed the example of Jeroboam, continuing the sins of idolatry that Jeroboam had led Israel to commit.”

## Application

Embrace God’s offer of forgiveness and salvation

- Admit your sins
- Believe in Jesus and His death on the cross as payment for your sins.
- Choose to live for Christ daily

Depend on God’s Word

Live your life by obeying what God says...not what you think is best.

Be confident in God...trust Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.”

Close in prayer – transition to communion (*Pastor Scott 2<sup>nd</sup> service*)