

Pastor Allen Jackson



Creation, Abraham, Exodus, Conquest, Judges

I. God, our Source

Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV®)

³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

II. Peer Pressure *even for adults*

1 Samuel 8:19-22 (NIV®)

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. ²⁰ **Then we will be like all the other nations**, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." ²¹ When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. ²² The Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king." Then Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Everyone go back to his town."

A. Syncretism (compromise)

Isaiah 57:19-21 (NIV®)

Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the Lord. "And I will heal them." ²⁰ **But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest**, whose waves cast up mire and mud. ²¹ "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

1 Timothy 6:6-7 (NIV®)

⁶ But **godliness with contentment is great gain**. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

B. Expressions of Grace

1. Judges ---Gideon, Samson, Samuel

2. Kings ---Saul, David & Solomon

3. limits of grace

III. The History Books

(I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles)

A. Nation Divided (the Divided Monarchy)

1. Israel (Northern Kingdom)

Samaria. King Jereboam

2. Judah (Southern Kingdom)

Jerusalem, King Rehoboam

1 Kings 12:4-17 (NIV®)

⁴ "Your father (Solomon) 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." ⁵ Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away. ⁶ Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked. ⁷ They replied, "**If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants.**" ⁸ But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. ⁹ He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us?'" ¹⁰ The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'--tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. ¹¹ My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'" . . . ¹⁶ When **all Israel** saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, O Israel! Look after your own house, O David!" So the Israelites went home. ¹⁷ But as for **the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.**

1 Kings 15:9-10 (NIV®)

⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, **Asa became king of Judah**, ¹⁰ **and he reigned in Jerusalem forty-one years.**

Kings 15:25-26 (NIV®)

²⁵ **Nadab son of Jeroboam became king of Israel** in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. ²⁶ He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, walking in the ways of his father and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

B. Rebellion

1. Ungodly momentum

1 Kings 12:26-30 (NIV®)

²⁶ Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. ²⁷ If 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." 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." 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.

2. Power of God's people

(God listens to His people---prayer)

Exodus 3:7 (NIV®)

⁷ The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

1 Kings 18:20-21 (NIV®)

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ **Elijah went before the people** and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." **But the people said nothing.**

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NIV®)

¹³ "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ **if my people**, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge You as the source of my life. Thank you for your extravagant provision on my behalf. I choose to walk in Your path, may your abiding presence bring distinction to my life. I repent of all compromise and rebellious attitudes. I want to cooperate fully with You. May Your people humble themselves before You and seek Your face that healing may come to our land. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV®) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®, COPYRIGHT © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.