

## Lesser of Two Evils 1 Kings 12 (Pg. 311)

Solomon's son, King Rehoboam, did not intend to lose the larger part of his nation. But that is exactly what happened.

### A. Foolish King Rehoboam (south) 12:4-19

The heavy yoke involved an oppressive tax burden to sustain the extravagance of the royal court.

Principle: *Leaders are established by God for the **good of the people.***

The nation divided and things became deadly.

### B. Idolatrous King Jeroboam (north) 12:20-32

Jeroboam got busy building up his **defenses.**

1. Disobedience.

a. Object of idolatry: two **golden calves.**

b. Place of idolatry: shrines.

c. Personnel of idolatry: priests from every class of people (not Levites).

Principle: Leaders ought to **honor God** above all else.

2. Judgment against King Jeroboam. 13:4-5; 33-34

His hand **withered** and the **altar** was torn apart.

### Conclusion:

King or peasant—democrat, republican or independent—  
how can one stand for righteousness?