



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

12th May 2024

A DIVIDED KINGDOM (NORTH & SOUTH)



Rehoboam and Jeroboam - two leaders whose great power leads to the division of God's nation. Rehoboam was the rightful king of God's people but lacked David's leadership talents or Solomon's youthful wisdom. The scene was set in Solomon's time.

V.9 The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel ... *"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.* (1 Kings 11). So what does this passage teach us?

1 This raises an interesting question - If God had already decided what was to happen to Rehoboam, was he responsible for his choices at all? Whilst we are fully free to choose our path's God remains faithful and fully in control.

2 Two types of power and authority – Formal and natural
Rehoboam became King because he was in line to the throne. Formal authority. But Jeroboam also had authority to lead. His power and authority was natural. This was recognised even by Solomon who promoted him, but he also became the voice of the oppressed people of God and they made him their king. Rehoboam didn't discern between good and poor advice. If he had remained close to God, he might have chosen better.

3 The Divided Kingdom- Rehoboam remained king of only one tribe, Judah but Jeroboam became king of the 10 tribes of Israel in the north. According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, worldwide there are 45,000 different Christian denominations. Unity is a thing to be desired , worked and prayed for.

4 Why do people fall out – how does it happen?

It starts with a **lack of love for God**. If loving God is not our focus, we may begin to love other things. With Rehoboam it was enjoyment of great power - "Now tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. " Jeroboam loved to please people and sought his own power and position. Their love for power more than God, brought them into conflict. But loving God squeezes out the poison. *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength* (Deuteronomy 6.5).

Lack of Love for People: Rehoboam showed little if any love for his people. Yet the scripture Leviticus 19.18 was available to him... *"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD."*

The principle of Love is powerful. Every single Christian has a role in bringing and keeping peace by simply, loving our neighbour. This passage is a study in human nature in general and power in particular. As its says in Ecclesiastes 1.9, *"There is nothing new under the sun"*



Bible Verse for 2024: 1 Peter 2:5

“..You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house... acceptable to God” .

This Week– Sunday 12th May 2024:

Morning Worship at 10.30am. Tony Hardy will be preaching from 1 Kings 12:1-19 on the theme: **‘A Divided Kingdom (North and South).’**

BCP (traditional) Communion at 3pm.

Next Week 19th May 2024:

Special service with prayer at 10.30am. Matt will be preaching on the theme: **‘Pentecost’.**

May 12th to 18th, Please Pray for:

- People living in Shawlea Avenue, Woodlea Avenue, Sunnylea Avenue & Briarlea Gardens.
- Matt meeting Heather, manager of Foodbank, for supervision on Wednesday.
- Meaningful refreshment by the Spirit for all at Pentecost next Sunday (19th).
- Fruitful Foodbank special collection at Asda Reddish on Friday & Saturday.
- ‘Message’ working in schools, prisons & communities in Canada.
- Persecuted Christians amongst refugees in Europe sharing the Gospel with others.
- Good handover as Chris Rogers steps down as intercessions coordinator.

Looking Ahead:

Next Sunday, Pentecost: Please wear fire colours for Pentecost or bring a scarf in red/orange/yellow.

Greater Manchester Prayer: On Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 7:30pm – 9:30pm, at Audacious Church, Trinity Way, Manchester, M3 7B.

Prayer Journal: Please pick up a copy of "Thy Kingdom Come" Prayer Journal. This covers the 9 days from Ascension Day to Pentecost and encourages all to pray for growth, as we ask our Father in heaven to bring His Kingdom nearer.

Prayer for Exams: Please remember to pray for those doing exams, from University to Year 6 SATS.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE DOING EXAMS:

“Loving God, Be with me now as I prepare for my exams.

Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have given me and for the opportunity of education. Thank you for those who have taught me well. Calm my nerves and anxiety. Help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the questions in the very best way that I can. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

MOST NEEDED: Long life Orange Juice, Pasta Sauce Jars, Curry Sauce Jars, Tinned Chicken /Ham Tinned, Tuna, Tinned Corned Beef, Tinned Carrots Tinned Sweetcorn, Coffee *Shampoo*****

