

Tel Dan
Departure from Faith
(1 Kings 11 – 16)

~ INTRO ~

TEL DAN...

- Is a fascinating site to see the remains of 3,000 years ago.

ON THE SURFACE...

- It appears innocent...
 - Until we consider what made this place toxic.

THE HISTORY...

- Of the divided kingdom!

THIS AREA WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED *Laish* – (Joshua 19:47) NLT.

- But it was re-named by the Israelite Tribe of Dan after they conquered it.
 - C.p. (Judges 18:1 & 27-29).

~ TEACHING ~

NOW... THE EVENTS...

- Which lead to a growing division within the 12-Tribes...
 - Happened at the end of King Solomon's reign.

(1 Kings 11:1-2) Solomon turned from God & loved many foreign women...

- This happened in his old age (v.4).

(1 Kings 11:6-11) Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...

- And God was angry with him as he worshipped other gods.

SO... THE REASON FOR THE DIVIDED KINGDOM:

Seen in (1 Kings 11:33) "*Solomon abandoned God...*"

AND... AFTER HIS DEATH...

- **Jeroboam** became King over 10 of the 12 tribes... know as Israel.
 - While Solomon's Son – **Rehoboam** –
 - Lead the 2 southern tribes of Judah.

THE PROBLEM THAT SURFACED HERE:

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- Was a political division of power...
 - Which led to a spiritual division of people.

This political division of Israel... (who's my king **Jeroboam** / **Rehoboam**?)

- Turned into a spiritual breakdown that moved people away...
 - From worshipping Israel's God... in Jerusalem.

(Deut. 12:13) NLT

"Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings just anywhere you like."

JEROBOAM...

- Feared that if the people worshiped God in Jerusalem...
 - They would turn away from him as their king.

SO... to avoid this political threat of his own future –

- He adopted pagan worship practices right here in Dan.
 - READ (1 Kings 12:26-33).

LESSON FOR US:

The tribe of Dan reveals the tendency we have...

- To follow man-made religion ... over biblical faith.
 - It's easier to do what is comfortable...
 - Instead of what is right.

THIS SITE TESTIFIES...

- As a warning from departing from the living God!

~ IN CLOSING ~

GOD IS ALWAYS LOOKING...

- For people that will do His will.
 - (2 Chron. 16:9) *"The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth..."*

80-YEARS LATER...

- God used King Josiah (2 Kings 23:25) and revival broke out.

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HERE'S A POWERFUL REMINDER...

“There was no king like Josiah who turned to the Lord with all of his heart and with all of his soul and with all of his might.”

CHURCH... BE ENCOURAGED TODAY...

- That God desires to use you – so stay faithful.
 - AMEN!!!