

**“Of the Lord”**  
**Bible Stories Sermon Series, Pt. 27 – 1 Kings 12:1-16, 24**  
**March 3, 2018**

**I. King Rehoboam’s Blunder**

- A. Rehoboam foolishly heeded the advice of his moronic young advisors.
- B. This move cost him most of his kingdom.
- C. From then on, God’s Old Testament People were divided:
  - 1. The Northern Kingdom (10 Tribes) = Israel
  - 2. The Southern Kingdom (Judah and Benjamin) = Judah
- D. Yet, all of this was “of the Lord”. (1 Kings 12:15)

*1 Kings 12:24 – Thus says the LORD, “You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from Me.”*

**II. God’s Sovereign Control of Human Sin**

- A. God allows and uses the sins of fallen people to accomplish His purposes.
- B. The story of Old Testament Israel was the grandest example of that principle.
  - 1. Israel’s laws were given to increase the trespass.
  - 2. This led to their greatest trespass, which, like all things, was foreordained. (Acts 2:23)
  - 3. But all of this was to display God’s grace and wisdom:

*Romans 5:20 - Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.*

- C. The Lord even allows us to sin to accomplish His own good purposes in our lives.
  - 1. Our sin humbles us.
  - 2. Our sin shows us our need for constant dependence upon Him.
  - 3. Our sin teaches us to be merciful to those who sin against us.