

"A Kingdom Torn In Two"

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (November 17, 2013)

Introduction: A lot of movies over the past decade have been made to remind us of things we want to do in life before we die. It is the goal of most movies to make you relate to the characters and the storyline as quickly as possible. Good movies have an impact on us. When movies are critiqued or reviewed, there are six categories considered. The six categories are: setting, characters, point of view, plot, resolution, and theme. Today in ***The Story*** we will approach it as we would a movie, considering the six categories of review. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. The Setting

- A. Solomon's heart is divided.
- B. Solomon dies after reigning for 40 years (**I Kings 11:42**).

II. The Main Characters

- A. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, destined to be king (**I Kings 12:1**).
- B. Jeroboam, Nebat's son, destined to be king (**I Kings 11:26-40, II Chronicles 9:29**).

III. The Point of View

- A. The Upper Story
- B. The Lower Story

IV. The Plot

- A. The Need for Conflict
- B. The Drama of Conflict (**I Kings 12:1-14**)

V. The Resolution

- A. There cannot be two kings (**I Kings 12:16-17, 20**).
- B. The nation is divided into two kingdoms.

VI. The Theme

- A. The upper story has a theme: God keeps His promises.
- B. The lower story has a theme: There is a ripple effect to our decisions.

Conclusion: The stakes go up when you're a leader, because your decisions affect more people. Just as decisions can have a negative impact, they can also have a positive impact. We should consider how decisions impact our family, our business, our money, our neighborhood, our school, our country, and our church family. Think in terms of generations. What will your children and grandchildren say about you? What do you want them to say? During the divided kingdom there were 38 kings, and only five of them followed God. Be one of those five. And if you have a checkered past.... Don't blame your past.... Change your future!