

done incidentally in connection with the reigns of the kings of Judah. The discussion of the king of Israel is only in ~~Chronicles~~ Chronicles, in Kings rather. And so it ~~is~~ in I Kings 12:25 to 14:20, a passage of nearly two chapters, all of which is dealing with the deeds of King Jeroboam and the events of his reign in Israel. That begins with a very important event from the Biblical viewpoint. Before it mentions the event that is important from a Biblical viewpoint, it mentions something that is important from the historical viewpoint which we might glance at for a second. Verse 25. What is the vital thing of verse 25 of I Kings 12? *(asks students)*

In verse 25 whether incidentally here because it is not the vital point from a Biblical viewpoint. But if you were writing a history from an economic or a military viewpoint of the northern kingdom, verse 25 here would be worth a whole page. Jeroboam built Shechem in Mount Ephraim and dwelt there. Shechem was an old city which had existed for many centuries. It was important in the life of Jacob; you remember the incident of Dinah, which took place there at Shechem. It is an important city for many centuries before this time. So when it says "Jeroboam built Shechem" it means he did building at Shechem. It doesn't mean that there wasn't a place there before. It means that he did considerable building there at that place which is called Shechem. Then when you read that Jeroboam dwelt therein; that is the old way of saying something that we would express in a technical term in modern English. What would we say about Shechem? ~~It was~~ (asks student) It was the capital at Shechem. That was the first thing Jeroboam had ~~built~~ to do. Jeroboam built a new kingdom; the capital of the whole kingdom was Jerusalem. Now Jeroboam has a new kingdom and Jerusalem null. He immediately starts out to build a capital very sensibly. You have to have a center of administration, and from a historical viewpoint that would be tremendously important. A writer of a secular history would devote a page to that and might devote a sentence or two to the rest of this chapter. But this is not a book of history in the secular sense. It is a book