

# The Kings of Judah and Israel

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## Author's Notes

This study of I Kings and II Kings is a journey through 373 years of Israeli history from King Solomon to the fall of Jerusalem. The stories relate literal facts. Therefore, our Bible study teaches history, the details of which were chosen by God for inclusion in the Old Testament scriptures. Heroic warriors, wicked tyrants and courageous prophets make the study of Israel's monarchy interesting and engages the imagination.

Like all scripture, I & II Kings consists of material eminently relevant to modern Christians (**2 Timothy 3:16**). The second focus of each lesson dwells on spiritual truth and asks you, the reader, to think about how that truth applies to him.

Each lesson begins with a main passage of scripture. Read that passage as you would read any other story. Your understanding of the flow of the story will be enhanced if you can read the entire passage at one time. The lessons usually cover between two and three chapters and should take only a few minutes to read. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your thoughts and enhance your understanding as you read.

Next, read the text of the lesson, looking up related Bible verses and answering the questions as you come to them. The text of the lesson contains some useful background information. Some questions are designed to help you understand the historical facts, some ask for your opinion, and others ask you to think about spiritual truth. Many of the questions should be helpful discussion starters for a Bible study group.

A box at the beginning of each lesson lists the kings and major prophets named in the Biblical text. These men and women are also listed in the index. All scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Appendix A is an outline of I & II Kings. Appendix B contains a chronological chart detailing the years each of the kings and prophets lived. Appendix C lists my comments about selected lesson questions.

My prayer and hope is that the study of I & II Kings leads you to a greater understanding of the historical details of Israel and Judah's monarchy, reveals more of the grandeur of God's character, and inspires you toward a lifelong love for obeying God daily.

## Lesson 1 – Introduction to Israel’s Monarchy

### I Samuel 8:1-10:27, II Samuel 7:8-17

Kings: **Saul**  
**David**

Prophets: **Samuel**  
**Nathan**

I Samuel was mainly written by the prophet and judge, Samuel, who lived from about 1105 BC to 1015 (see **I Samuel 10:25**). The purpose of the book is to tell the story of Israel’s history from the time of Samuel through the early years of David. The perspective is that of God’s prophet, telling the story as God wants it told.

The first part of our main passage describes the transition from a theocracy (a form of government headed by God) whose leading representative is Judge Samuel to a monarchy under King Saul.

Reread **I Samuel 8:1-5** and answer the following questions.

**1. Why did the people ask Samuel for a king?**

Samuel’s sons, Joel and Abijah, who had been appointed judges, were corrupt and caused significant discontent among the people.

**2. In your opinion, does Samuel, the sons of Samuel, or the people bear the most responsibility for the switch from theocracy to monarchy? Why?**

The sons bear much responsibility. Their corruption caused a revolution, in a sense. This desire for a king was not from God. Therefore, the sons of Samuel, and to a lesser degree Samuel’s lack of leadership, caused the people to turn from theocracy to monarchy. Ultimately, God holds the people responsible (**I Samuel 8:7**)

Reread **I Samuel 8:6-9** and answer the following question.

**3. How did God view the people’s request for a king?**

God accuses them of rejecting Him, a most serious offense. He compares their rejection to the people’s tendency to worship false gods.

Reread **I Samuel 8:10-18** and answer the following questions.

**4. List the consequences of the change from theocracy to monarchy?**

Loss of freedom. Sons will be soldiers. Some will be made to farm for the king. Some will build things for the army. Some will become servants. The king will take land and crops and livestock. The people will cry out, and God will not hear.

**5. Do similar circumstances exist in government today? If so, how?**

Taxes. Government beurocracy. Imminent domain, etc.

Answer the following questions from **I Samuel 9-10**.

**6. What kind of man was Saul?**

Tall. Commanded respect. Farmer, like most other people. Timid in some ways.

**7. Describe the ways in which God arranged for the success of the king He had chosen.**

He picked an imposing physical presence which commanded respect. Though the people had rejected God in favor of a king, God blessed the nation by using Samuel to set up Saul. Samuel instructed the people and Saul in the behavior of a king. In **I Samuel 10:26**, God touched the hearts of valiant men to accompany Saul.

I Samuel 25 – II Samuel were probably written by the prophets Nathan and Gad (look up **I Chronicles 29:29**). An unknown compiler assembled the writings of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad into the books we call I & II Samuel. The ancient Hebrew text simply called this book *The Book of Samuel*. The purpose of this divinely inspired history is to tell the story of Israel's monarchy until the time of Solomon.

The second part of our main passage contains promises God made to King David. These are known as *The Davidic Covenant*.

Reread **II Samuel 7:8-17** and answer the following questions.

**8. What past blessings had God given David in II Samuel 7:8-9?**

God made a shepherd a ruler. He has been with David. He has cut off the enemies of David. God made David's name great.

**9. What specific promises did God make for the future in II Samuel 7:10-17?**

The promises given can be summarized into three items. First, God promises that Israel will possess land forever, unmolested (v10). Second, God promises to establish an unending dynasty for David (v11-12, 13, 16). Third, God promises to establish an unending kingdom (v13, 15-16). Specific details are given as to how these promises will be fulfilled in the son who follows David to the throne of Israel (v12-15). David's heir will build a house for God (v13), his throne will be established (secure) (v13), God will chasten him when needed (v14), and God's mercy will not be removed from him (v15).

**10. What conditions did David have to meet in order to receive these promises from God?**

Nothing. This covenant is unconditional.

**11. How long were these promises to last?**

Forever

Read Luke 1:31-33 and answer the following question.

**12. How long will Jesus occupy the throne of David?**

Forever

God established and blessed the institution known as Israel's monarchy. The people rejected God by asking for a king.

**13. Can you name modern examples of God's blessing on institutions which are less than ideal?**

**14. Can God use you and your imperfections for His glory?**

## Lesson 2 – Transition from David to Solomon

### I Kings 1:1 – 2:46

Kings: <b>David</b> <b>Solomon</b>	Prophets: <b>Nathan</b>
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The kingdom of Israel had experienced many military victories under the reign of King David. The borders expanded in every direction. Israel's neighbors all allied with David or submitted to him by the end of his life. During David's later years, the greatest crises in the kingdom originated from within David's family.

The key verse for our main passage is **I Kings 2:46**. The last sentence states “**Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.**” The years of Solomon's reign were peaceful and prosperous mainly due to the firm establishment of the kingdom by David.

Solomon himself was probably very young when crowned king. If he were the first son of Bathsheba, he would be about 19 years old. However, **I Chronicles 3:5** places Solomon fourth in the list of her sons, which probably indicates he was fourth born. This would make him no more than about 16 years old. In any case, David describes Solomon as “**young and inexperienced**” in **I Chronicles 22:5**. Solomon had been brought up as a pampered prince of Jerusalem, unlike his rugged individualist father. Therefore, the establishment of the kingdom was crucial to Solomon's success.

David was growing older, and had trouble staying warm at night (**1:1**), so a unique solution was arranged. Abishag the Shunammite became a servant of David and was probably viewed as a concubine, although she did not enjoy conjugal relations with him (**1:4**).

#### 1. How was Abishag important in the power struggle during David's final years?

*She became the nightly companion of David during his later years. She therefore served as a symbol of royalty. Solomon feared that Adonijah's request for marriage to Abishag was another power grab.*

Adonijah was the oldest living son of David and seems to believe he was the favorite of the people. The conspirators to anoint Adonijah king did not inform David of their activity, implying disloyalty.

Reread **I Kings 1** and answer the following questions.

**2. List those who demonstrated a lack of loyalty to David. For each one, list a possible motive for their disloyalty.**

Adonijah – He wanted to be king and thought he deserved it as the oldest son of David.

Joab – Maybe he respected the strength of Adonijah more than Solomon.

Abiathar – Maybe he wanted the oldest son of David to rule.

David's other sons – Perhaps they couldn't respect Solomon as Bathsheba's younger son.

**3. How did David contribute to the character of Adonijah?**

Verse 6 explains that Adonijah was good looking and had never been rebuked by David.

These explain Adonijah's behavior. He was popular because of his looks and undisciplined because David did not rebuke him. Adonijah therefore came to believe that an attempt to seize power away from God's chosen, Solomon, would succeed.

**4. What lesson can a father learn from David's example as a father?**

Discipline your children! Stand for what is right. Sometimes, this means standing against the members of your own family.

**5. What do you think of the strategy proposed by Nathan to convince David to act in Solomon's behalf?**

**6. What steps did David take to ensure all the people understood his decision to make Solomon king?**

David ordered his most trusted servants to proclaim Solomon king. Zadok and Nathan anointed Solomon and proclaimed him as king to the people. Solomon rode on the royal mule.



David's life had been marked by many serious family problems and many acts of violence. Clearly, David wished to spare Solomon these difficulties. Reread **I Kings 2** and answer the following questions.

**7. What was David's first instruction to Solomon?**

Be strong and prove yourself a man. (**I Kings 2:2**).

**8. What did David tell Solomon to do in order to prosper (V3)?**

David's instruction to Solomon was to obey God if he desired to prosper. In particular, Solomon is told to carefully God's written word, the "Law of Moses" (**I Kings 2:3-4**).

**9. What steps did David suggest to establish Solomon's authority?**

Kill Joab (**V5-6**), show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite (**V7**), and kill Shimei (**V8-9**).

**10. Why were these suggestions of David important in establishing the authority of Solomon over Israel?**

Joab had shown a tendency to disobey orders and take matters in his own hand (**V5**). Showing kindness to the sons of Barzillai showed Solomon's kindness and tendency to build up the traditions of Israel. Shimei was also a loose cannon who may very well have caused much trouble for Solomon as he did for David. All of these showed Solomon's firm grip of the reigns of power.

**11. What other steps did Solomon take in establishing his reign?**

He removed Abiathar as high priest (**V26-27**) and executed Adonijah (**V13-25**).

**12. What principles of good leadership are demonstrated in I Kings 1-2?**

## Lesson 3 – Solomon, Wise Administrator

### I Kings 3:1 – 4:34

Kings: Solomon

These chapters describe the first three years of Solomon's reign before he began building the temple. The wisdom of Solomon became world famous. **I Kings 3:9** would be a key verse. Solomon asks God for wisdom and is given it by God. Christians are promised by God that wisdom will be given to them when they ask in faith (**James 1:5**). Solomon's great wisdom exceeded that of all men who came before and those that came after, except Jesus (**3:12,28; 4:29-34**).

Solomon, in spite of his great wisdom, makes many foolish choices. Contrary to the laws of God, Solomon marries an Egyptian princess (**3:1**). **I Kings 14:21** tells us that Rehoboam was 41 years old when Solomon died. He was the son of Naamah, an Ammonitess. **I Kings 11:42** tells us that Solomon reigned for 40 years. Solomon's marriage to Naamah occurred before he was crowned king. Therefore, this marriage to an Egyptian was at least the second marriage of Solomon. He did not completely turn his heart to following God as David did (**3:3b**). The high places were formerly dedicated to Canaanite pagan ceremonies. God had told His people to destroy these places and never to use them (**Deuteronomy 12:1-4**).

The tone of these two chapters is completely positive, yet the spiritual rot that eventually destroyed both Israel and Judah is also described.

Reread **I Kings 3** and answer the following questions.

1. How did Solomon seal his treaty with Egypt? (See **I Kings 9:16** for more detail)

He married an Egyptian princess (**V1**).

2. Read **Deuteronomy 17:17** and **I Kings 11:1-3**. What benefits and what disadvantages did Solomon's marriage to the Egyptian bring to Israel? Did the benefits outweigh the disadvantages?

Benefit – peace treaty and a city as a dowry. Disadvantage – Solomon's heart was turned away from God. Clearly, the disadvantage was greater. Obedience to God's law is always better.

3. Look up **II Corinthians 6:14**. What lessons can a single man or woman learn with regard to selecting a spouse?

Choose a spouse whose God is the same as yours. Make sure your potential mate believes the same way you do with regard to essential doctrine.

**4. When Solomon asked God for wisdom, what did God choose to give?**

The greatest wisdom any human other than Jesus ever had (V12), riches, and honor (V13).

**5. Why did Solomon's tactics in judging the case of two harlots work so well?**

Solomon discerned that the real mother would show her natural love for her child by desiring him to live with the other woman rather than be killed.

Chapter 4 describes the organizational structure that Solomon put in place to govern Israel. Reread this chapter and then answer the following questions.

**6. What jobs did Solomon delegate to his eleven princes (V1-6)?**

Priests, Scribes, Recorder (historian), commander of the army, head of officers (bureaucracy), king's friend (personal adviser), head of household (like white house chief of staff in the U.S.), and head of the labor force (slaves & forced servants).

**7. What were the duties of the 12 regional governors that Solomon appointed?**

Provide food for the king's household for one month and govern the affairs of the kingdom in their region. They also provided for the horses of war stationed throughout the kingdom (V26-28).

**8. Were the years of Solomon a time of war or peace? Did the people experience poverty, or prosperity?**

Peace (V20, 24-25). Prosperity (V20, 22-25).

**9. What evidence for the great wisdom of Solomon is given?**

Comparisons to other men of wisdom are given (V31), Solomon's fame is mentioned (V31), he spoke 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs (V32), he spoke about the natural world (V33), and many other world leaders came to hear him (V34).

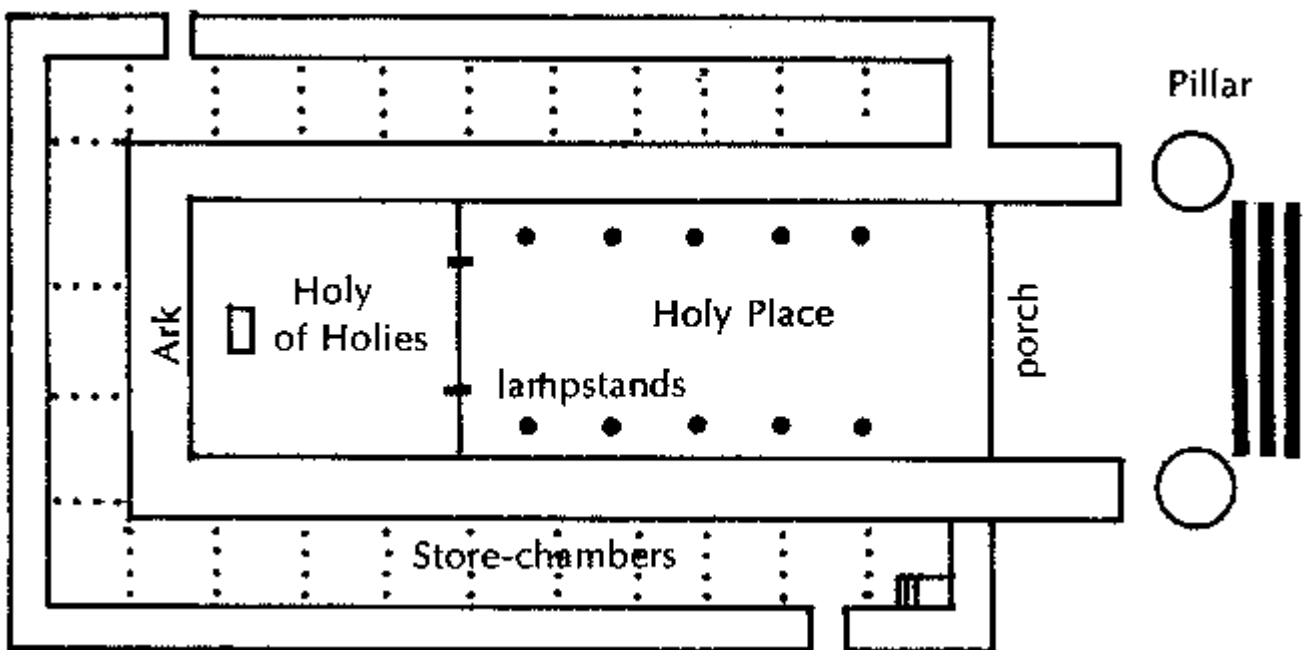
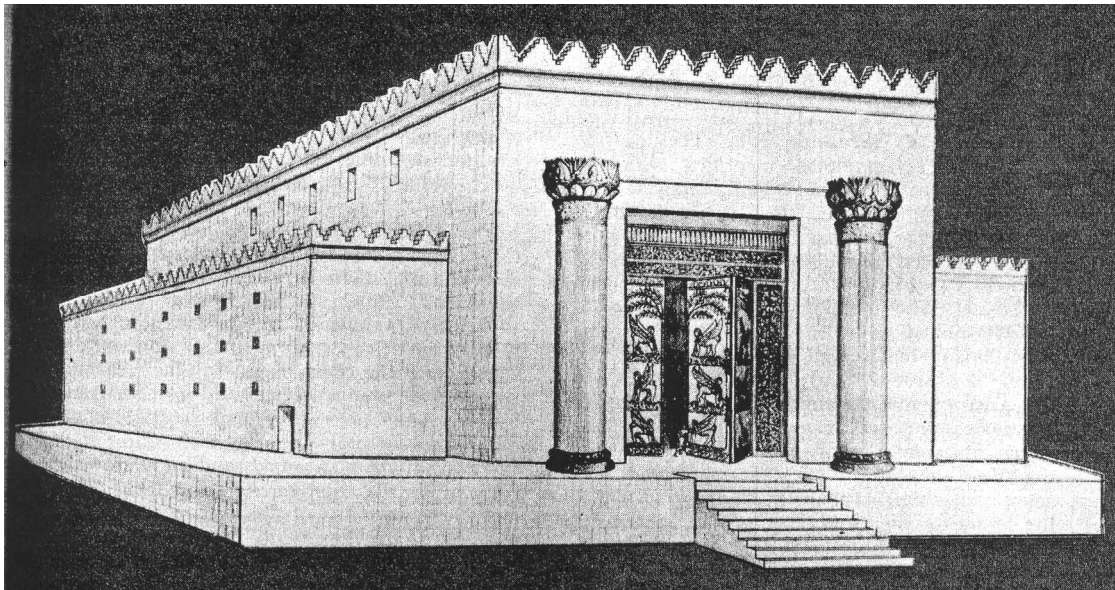
**10. Solomon's great wisdom did not keep him from falling into sin. How can we avoid falling into sin? (provide scripture to support your answer)**

## Lesson 4 – Solomon’s Temple

### I Kings 5:1 – 6:38

Kings: Solomon

Solomon’s temple is one of the most precious of symbols to all religious Jews. These chapters describe the construction and materials used in its construction. This project was undertaken with enthusiasm and reverence by Solomon and the people. The drawings which follow were copied from *Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, “Temple, Jerusalem”. Both are simplistic renderings of what these two chapters describe. Notice the priest opening the folding doors to suggest scale.



David had stored a great deal of material for the building of the temple. Read **I Chronicles 22:14-19** and answer the following questions.

**1. How much of the various materials did David set aside?**

V 14 100,000 talents gold (3,780 tons) - 1,000,000 talents silver (37,800 tons) – bronze, iron, timber, and stone beyond measure.

**2. What other preparations did David make?**

Many skilled workmen, including woodsmen & stonecutters (V15). David also spoke to the people, demanding they help Solomon (V16-19)

David contributed his personal possessions also. Read **I Chronicles 29:1-9** and answer the following questions.

**3. From I Chronicles 29:4, how much did David personally contribute?**

3,000 talents gold (113.4 tons) – 7,000 talents silver (264.6 tons).

The people consecrated themselves (**I Chronicles 29:5-9**) by giving 5,000 talents of gold (189 tons), 10,000 darics (gold coins, total weight about 189 pounds), 10,000 talents of silver (378 tons), 18,000 talents of bronze (680.4 tons), 100,000 talents of iron (3,780 tons), and precious stones.

**4. What lessons can you learn from the people's example of giving?**

Giving should be done willingly with rejoicing out of love for God. They responded to a specific need. Their giving was an act of consecration. Giving should reflect a life consecrated to God.

The total materials left by David for building the temple was: 108,000 talents of gold (4,082.4 tons), 1,017,000 talents of silver (38,442.6 tons) and other materials beyond measure. If gold is worth **\$320** per ounce and silver worth **\$4.52** per ounce, then those two materials alone are worth over **\$47 billion** in today's dollars (2002).

Reread **I Kings 5** and answer the following questions.

**5. What were the details of the contract between David and Hiram, king of Tyre?**

Hiram provided cedar & cypress logs from Lebanon, bringing them to Israel's coast (V9-10). David provided 20,000 kors of wheat (107,421 bushels) and 20,000 kors of pressed oil (1,000,000 gallons) each year while the temple was being built (V11). Solomon also provided 30,000 laborers to Hiram, 10,000 each month (1 month work, 2 months at home) (V13-14).

**6. How many Israelite workers did Solomon recruit?**

30,000 in Lebanon (V13), 70,000 who carried burdens (V15), and 80,000 who quarried stone (V15), and 3,300 who supervised (V16). Total is 183,300.

Reread **I Kings 6** and answer the following questions.

**7. What were the overall dimensions of the temple?**

60 cubits long (87.5 ft.), 20 cubits wide (29ft 2 in), and 30 cubits high (43ft 9 in) (V2).

**8. Why do you think Solomon thought it important to build the temple quietly (I Kings 6:7)? How is silence important to you?**

The silence showed reverence. Today we have "moments of silence" to remember people or important occasions. Silence allows our minds to be clear and listen to God.

**9. According to verses 11-13, where would God dwell if Solomon obeyed Him?**

God would dwell with the people. This had been God's intent (**Exodus 25:8**) until the people rebelled against Him (**Exodus 33:3,7**).

**10. How much of the temple was covered with gold?**

All of it, even the doors (V20-22).

**11. From verses 23-28 sketch what you think the inner sanctuary looked like.**

**12. What carvings were placed on the walls of the temple and on the doors?**

Cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers (V29,32,35).

**13. How long did the temple take to build (compare V1 and V38)?**

7 years, 5 months.



## Lesson 5 – Israel’s Golden Age

### I Kings 7:1 – 8:66

Kings: Solomon
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In the first 12 verses of chapter 7, a description of Solomon’s houses are given. Like the temple, Solomon’s house was lavishly finished. Each building shared a common courtyard which is described in verse 12.

**1. List each building Solomon built in I Kings 7:1-12.**

His own house (v1,8), “House of the forest of Lebanon” (v2-5), Hall of Pillars (v6), Hall of Judgment (v7), Pharoah’s Daughter’s house (v8).

The furnishings of the temple replaced most of those from the tabernacle. Reread **I Kings 7:13-51** and answer the following questions.

**2. Describe the man in charge of making things of bronze.**

Huram from Tyre was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali who married a man of Tyre. He is called wise and skilled in all kinds of bronze work (V13-14).

3. Fill in the following chart with all of the bronze things that were made for the temple as summarized in verses 40-45.

Item	Quantity	Description
Pillar	2	18 cubits high (26 ft. 3 in.), 12 cubit circumference (17.5 ft)
Capitals	2	on top of pillars, 5 cubits high (7' 4"), shaped like lilies (v19), topped w 200 pomegranates
Networks	2	covered capitals. wreaths of chainwork, 7 chains on each capital.
Pomegranates	400	Set on top of the pillar capitals.
Carts	10	4 cubits long & wide (70 in.), 3 cubits high (52.5 in), decorated by lions, oxen & cherubim. 4 wheels. Each held a laver.
Lavers on carts	10	Sat on carts. Held 40 baths (200 gal).
Sea	1	10 cubit diameter (14' 5.5"), 5 cubits deep (7' 4"), 30 cubit circumference (43' 9"). Surrounded by ornamental buds. Held 2,000 baths (10,000 gallons).
Oxen	12	Supported the sea, 3 facing each direction (NSEW).
Pots, Shovels, & Bowls	???	Pots were large cauldrons for cooking sacrificial meat. Shovels were used for handling the ash. Bowls were used in the rituals of sprinkling of water and blood.

4. List the golden things made by Solomon in verses 48-51.

altar of gold, showbread table of gold, 10 golden lampstands (5 on left, 5 on right), golden lampstand utensils (V50), golden hinges.

When the construction of the temple was complete, Solomon called for a festival which all of Israel was invited to attend. The dates mentioned in verse 1 indicate this was the Feast of Tabernacles. The building and dedication of the temple form the main thrust of scriptural content with respect to Solomon. Reread chapter 8 and answer the following questions.

**5. Name the items brought to the temple from the tabernacle in verse 4.**

Ark, the tabernacle itself (appropriate during the feast of tabernacles, also called the feast of tents), all of its furnishings.

**6. Why couldn't the priests continue to minister in the temple on this occasion?**

The glory of the Lord filled it (V10-11).

**7. Review II Samuel 7:12-13. What promises of God did Solomon tell the people had been fulfilled in verses 12-21?**

David was chosen to lead Israel (V16), Solomon built the temple (V19), David's dynasty would continue forever (V20), the temple was built to be the permanent dwelling place of God (v20-21)

Solomon's prayer of dedication in verses 22-53 forms an excellent model for our prayers. He begins by praising God for His faithfulness in keeping promises (V22-24). He then asks God to continue keeping His promises (V25-26). He speaks of God's transcendence (V27), asks God to listen to the prayers of the people made toward the temple (V28-30), and asks God to forgive (V30). He then makes 7 specific requests of God in the hearing of all the people.

8. Fill in the following table, listing each specific request of Solomon in your own words and what similar request we today should make to God.

Verses	Request	Similar Request We Should Make
31-32	When people take an oath, please judge fairly.	Help us keep our promises, maturing us and making us more faithful.
33-34	When the people sin and are judged, forgive them when they ask.	In the midst of trials due to our own sin, please forgive us.
35-36	When the people sin and are judged, forgive them & bring back prosperity.	Forgive me my sin and teach me the good way in which I should walk.
37-40	Forgive Your people and cause them to fear You	Forgive my sin and give me an abiding respect for You, Almighty God.
41-43	When a foreigner prays to You, answer their prayers for your glory.	For Your glory, Lord, bring others all over the world into Your kingdom through salvation.
44-45	Give us success in battle when we call on Your name.	Give our nation success against our enemies when we depend on You.
46-53	When Your people are taken captive, forgive and restore them.	When we sin, create in us a clean heart and restore our fellowship with You.

Solomon blesses the people in verses 54-61, reminding them of God's faithfulness and asking them to be faithful to God. Their loyalty would cause all nations to know of Israel's God, the only true God (V60).

9. How does your faithfulness impact others? Can you think of specific examples of how your conduct led someone else to God?

## Lesson 6 – The Acts of Solomon

### I Kings 9:1 – 11:43

Kings: **Solomon**

Prophets: **Ahijah**

Reread chapter 9 and answer the following questions.

1. **How long would the LORD dwell in the temple Solomon had made (V3)?**

Forever.

2. **What would God do if Israel forsook their God (V6-9)?**

If Israel forsook God, He would cut off Israel from their land(V7), .cast out the new temple from His sight (V7), Israel would become a proverb and byword (V7), the temple would be detestable in the sight of others (V8), and publicly bring calamity on Israel(V9)

3. **Why do you think God promised rewards and punishments to Solomon in verses 3-9? Does God reward and punish Christians today for the same reasons? (Look up Colossians 3:23-25)**

Certainly, God wants His people to obey. The tone of the passage and the method of punishment seems to indicate that God desires that other nations give Him glory as well as His own people. God's motives have not changed.

4. **Who were the slaves of Solomon? (V15-23) What work were they forced to do? (V15-23)**

Foreigners, not native Israelites (V20-22). They built the temple (V15), Solomon's house (V15), & fortifications at strategic cities (V15 "Millo", V18,19).

The queen of Sheba who visits Solomon in chapter 10 came from southwest Arabia, modern day Yemen. That nation was peopled by a man named Sheba, a grandson of Abraham and Keturah (see Genesis 25:1,3). The Bible predicts that people of Sheba will one day honor the Messiah (see Psalms 72:10,15 & Isaiah 60:6) and bring him gifts of gold, incense, & praise.

Reread chapter 10 and answer the following questions.

**5. Why did the queen of Sheba visit Solomon? (V1-10) What was her response to what she saw?**

She heard of Solomon's reputation "concerning the name of the LORD" (V1) and wanted to see for herself. She decided his great reputation for words and wisdom was true (V6). She was also impressed with his prosperity. (V7) She indicates the servants of Solomon are privileged to serve such a man. (V8) She glorifies God. (V9) She then gives Solomon gold, spices and gems.

**6. What were the sources of Solomon's wealth? (V10-15)**

Sheba's gifts (V10), Hiram's gifts (V11), taxes (V14), traveler's duties (V15), trader's fees (V15), tribute from Arabia (V15), governor's fees (V15),

**7. What were the luxurious things Solomon made? (V18-23)**

Ivory throne covered with gold & guarded by golden lions(V18-20), golden drinking vessels (V21-22), silver, ivory, apes, & monkeys (V22).

**8. Look up Ecclesiastes 5:10-12. What did Solomon say about riches?**

A person who loves money will not be satisfied with money (V10), love of money is vanity (V10), the more stuff you have, the more people want what you have (V11), copious riches cause loss of sleep (V12).

Reread chapter 11 and answer the following questions.

**9. From verses 1-8, what was the cause of Solomon turning away from God when old?**

Solomon's love for his foreign wives turned him away from God.

**10. Do the people you love most, such as a spouse, have a large impact on your beliefs and behavior? (read II Corinthians 6:14 and Proverbs 27:17). How does this truth impact your behavior?**

Yes! I will not get intimately close to those who would pull me away from God. Conversely, I will get intimately close to those who will challenge me to be more like Christ.

**11. Name the three main adversaries that God raised up against Solomon in punishment for his faithlessness?**

Hadad the Edomite (V14), Rezon (V23), and Jeroboam (V26).

**12. What kind of man was Jeroboam?**

From the tribe of Ephraim (V26), a mighty man of valor (V28), and industrious (V28).

**13. Describe the visual illustration Ahijah uses to show Jeroboam that he will one day rule over 10 tribes.**

Ahijah tears the new garment he was wearing into 12 pieces and gives 10 of them to Jeroboam (V30-32). The one tribe mentioned in V32 apparently includes both Benjamin and Judah (**I Kings 12:23**).

**14. Who was hurt by Solomon's rebellion against God? Do others suffer when you sin?**

All of Israel was hurt. Yes!

## Lesson 7 – Divided Kingdom

### I Kings 12:1 – 14:31

Judah's Kings: Rehoboam

Israel's Kings: Jeroboam

Prophets: Ahijah  
Shemaiah

Reread I Kings 12:1-24 and I Kings 14:21-31 and answer the following questions.

1. Who was the leader of the northern 10 tribes? How did he come to leadership? (*see I Kings 11:26-40*)

Jeroboam. He had been made a leader by Solomon and Ahijah predicted his rise to power.

2. When Solomon died, what did the people request of Rehoboam?

They wanted him to lower their taxes.

3. List those Rehoboam sought advice from. Who did he listen to?

Solomon's advisers and his own youthful companions. He listened to his own youthful companions.

4. Read Proverbs 11:14; 12:5,15; 15:22; 19:20-21. What do you learn from these verses concerning wise counsel? From whom should we seek advice? Who did Rehoboam fail to seek advice from?

We should seek counsel from others, in abundance. Those with experience and their own wisdom offer good advice. The best counsel comes from God. Rehoboam failed to seek advice from God.

5. Who stopped the civil war after Israel rebelled?

God stopped the war through the mouth of Shemaiah (12:22-24).

6. Did Rehoboam do well in the sight of God during his first few years as king?

No!



- 7. How did God punish Rehoboam and Judah? Read II Chronicles 12:12. What was the result of God's punishment?**

Egypt conquered Judah and robbed the riches of the temple. The result was Rehoboam's humbling and more faithful attitude toward God.

Reread **I Kings 12:25-14:20** and answer the following questions.

- 8. What false worship did Jeroboam begin? Why did he do it?**

Worship of the golden calves. He felt this was the only way to maintain his power.

- 9. What punishment was pronounced upon the altar as a result of Jeroboam's idol worship?**

Josiah would kill the false priests on their own false altar.

- 10. What happened to the prophet who disobeyed God?**

He was torn to pieces by a lion.

- 11. What future doom did Ahijah pronounce upon Jeroboam when his wife asked for the life of her child?**

Every male of his house would die. The dogs would eat those who died in the city and the birds would eat those who died in the country. Also, the child would die.

- 12. Reflect on how Rehoboam's response to God's judgment differed from Jeroboam's. What does this mean for you?**

Rehoboam listened, Jeroboam didn't. I intend to listen

## Lesson 8 – War between Israel and Judah

### I Kings 15:1 – 16:28

Judah's Kings: <b>Abijam</b> <b>Asa</b>	Israel's Kings: <b>Nadab</b> <b>Baasha</b> <b>Elah</b> <b>Zimri</b> <b>Omri</b> <b>Ahab</b>	Prophets: <b>Jehu</b>
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Our study of the kings of Judah and the kings of Israel will continue at an accelerated time table from this point on. Less information is given about many of the kings than was given about David and Solomon. Judah maintained their Davidic dynasty for 350 years, from which was born the Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 1:1-16**), the ultimate fulfillment of the promises given to David (**II Samuel 7:10-17**). Meanwhile, Israel endured nine different dynasties over a period of 250 years.

The book of Chronicles focuses on the kings of Judah, only discussing Israel when the paths of the two nations cross. We will turn to **I & II Chronicles** many times for more information about Judean kings and their activities. Occasionally, statements arise in **Chronicles** that seem different from those in **Kings**. These apparent discrepancies display divergent methods of record keeping between Israel and Judah. Israel began counting years at the moment the king was crowned while Judah began counting the first of the following year. The custom shared by both kingdoms of crowning a son co-regent while Dad still lived created periods of overlapping rule which adds to the confusion. Biblical chronology is an important study, but we will use the Judean system as written in **Kings**.

Reread **I Kings 15:1-8** and also read **II Chronicles 13:1-22** and answer the following questions about Abijam.

**1. How long did Abijam reign in Judah?**

3 years (**I Kings 15:2**).

**2. Describe Abijam's spiritual summary as written in Kings.**

He was evil, and not loyal to the LORD (**I Kings 15:3**)

**3. How did Judah win the great battle with Israel?**

Israel had set an ambush while Abijam sermonized (**II Chronicles 13:13-15**). When Judah realized they were surrounded, they cried out to God for help, who won the battle for them.

**4. How many soldiers of Israel were killed in that battle?**

**500,000 (II Chronicles 13:17)**

Reread **I Kings 15:9-24** and also read **II Chronicles 14-16** and answer the following questions about Asa.

**5. How many years did Asa reign in Judah? 41 Describe Asa's spiritual summary as written in Kings.**

**He did what was right and was loyal to God (I Kings 15:11-14)**

**6. Why did Asa depose Maachah, his grandmother, from her position of queen mother? (I Kings 15:13, II Chronicles 15:16)**

**She made an obscene image of Asherah, a Canaanite deity.**

**7. Asa had an army of 580,000 (II Chronicles 14:8). How did he defeat the Ethiopian army of 1,000,000 men with 300 chariots? (II Chronicles 14:9-15)**

**Asa asked God for help, who "struck" the Ethiopians.**

**8. What should you do when trouble knocks on your door? Rewrite the thoughts expressed in II Chronicles 14:11 to apply to a time of your own need.**

**Go to God in prayer! Trust Him! "Lord, You are almighty God while I am helpless. I need help, please. I trust You. I depend on You to solve my problem. In your name, I will proceed. Bring glory to Yourself through this situation."**

Reread **I Kings 15:25-16:28** and answer the following questions.

**9. How many years did Nadab reign in Israel? 2 Describe Nadab's spiritual summary as written in Kings.**

**He did evil (I Kings 15:26)**

**10. How did Nadab's reign end?**

He was killed by Baasha, along with his entire household as foretold.

**11. How many years did Baasha reign in Israel? 24 Describe Nadab's spiritual summary as written in Kings.**

He did evil (**I Kings 15:34**)

**12. What did God pronounce against Baasha through the prophet Jehu?**

His household would be destroyed. The dogs would eat those who died in the city and the birds would eat those who died in the fields (**I Kings 16:3-4**).

**13. How many years did Elah reign in Israel? 2 Describe Elah's spiritual summary as written in Kings.**

He did evil (**I Kings 16:13**)

**14. How did Elah's reign end?**

He was killed by Zimri while he was drunk, along with his entire household as foretold by Jehu.

**15. How long did Zimri reign in Israel? 7 days Describe Zimri spiritual summary as written in Kings.**

He did evil (**I Kings 16:19**)

**16. How did Zimri's reign end and Omri's begin?**

Israel made the army chief Omri king and Zimri killed himself by burning the palace down around him.

**17. How many years did Omri reign in Israel? 12 Describe Omri's spiritual summary as written in Kings.**

He did evil (**I Kings 16:25-26**)

**18. How did Omri decide to name his new capitol city of Samaria?**

He named it after Shemer, the owner of the hill purchased to build the city.

## Lesson 9 – Elijah, Yahweh’s Messenger

### I Kings 16:29 – 19:21

Israel’s Kings: **Ahab**

Prophets: **Elijah**

Reread **I Kings 16:29-17:24** and answer the following questions about Ahab.

**1. How long did Ahab reign in Israel?**

22 years (**I Kings 16:29**).

**2. Who was Ahab’s wife?**

Jezebel was a Sidonian (16:31), a city in modern day Lebanon. It was Phoenician (Canaanite) and Jezebel was a Baal worshiper just like her people.

**3. Read Joshua 6:26 and compare it to I Kings 16:34. Well over 500 years had passed between these two verses. Write down a way God has kept His promise to you recently.**

**4. After telling Ahab about the drought, where did Elijah hide and how was he cared for?**

He went to the brook Cherith (**17:3**), and the ravens brought him bread and meat twice per day (**17:6**).

**5. Why did Elijah leave the brook, and where did he go? How was he cared for?**

He left the brook because it dried up (**17:7**) and he went to stay with a widow of Zarephath (**17:10**). The widow’s flour bin and jar of oil would not be used up as long as Elijah stayed there (**17:14**).

**6. What miracle did Elijah pray for on behalf of the widow’s son? What was her reaction?**

The son who had died came back to life (**17:20-22**). The widow responded by saying she knew Elijah was God’s man and always spoke God’s truth (**17:24**).

Reread **I Kings 18:1-46** and answer the following questions.

**7. What remarkable thing had Obadiah done for God?**

He hid 100 prophets of God from Jezebel, saving their lives (**18:3-4**).

**8. Describe the contest Elijah proposed to Ahab.**

The prophets of Baal would build an altar and sacrifice, but light no fire under it. Elijah would do likewise. The God who answered by sending fire from heaven would be declared the one true God.

**9. How did Elijah give the advantage in this contest to the prophets of Baal? How did he handicap himself?**

The prophets of Baal went first. Elijah waited all day for them. He then covered his altar with a great deal of water.

**10. God answered Elijah's prayer with great power. What then happened to the prophets of Baal?**

They were executed (**18:40**).

**11. When Elijah prayed for rain and God answered with a gully washer, what miraculous event happened to Elijah? Why do you think God would do this?**

He gathered his robes around his waist and outran Ahab's chariot who was seeking shelter in Jezreel (**18:46**). Perhaps God did this as a witness to Ahab of his own mighty power. Perhaps this increased the respect which Ahab had for Elijah, preserving his life.

**12. List some ways God turns people back to Him?**

He sends them preachers, teachers, and evangelists (**Romans 10:14**). He provided Christians who witness with their lives and mouths (**I Peter 3:15-16**). He sends sorrow and suffering of many kinds in order to cause them to turn to God for help. He humbles them, sometimes through embarrassing circumstances (**II Corinthians 12:19-21**). He makes them poor, sick, weak, humble, or scared so that they will listen. God also sends trials to Christians to enhance their witness (**James 1:2-4**). God created church discipline in order to bring Christians back to their relationship with Him (**Matthew 18:15-17, James 5:19-20**).

Reread **I Kings 19:1-21** and answer the following questions.

**13. Why did Elijah feel sorry for himself?**

He thought he was alone (**19:10**).

**14. How did God bring Elijah back to Himself?**

He spoke in a still small voice (**19:12-13**). He told Elijah how to recruit future help, and informed him that he was not alone (**19:15-18**).

**15. How do you listen to God?**

Get alone and be quiet.

## Lesson 10 – Ahab, New Low for Evil

### I Kings 20:1 – 22:40

Judah's Kings: **Jehoshaphat**

Israel's Kings: **Ahab**

Prophets: **Elijah**  
**Micaiah**

Reread **I Kings 20:1-43** and answer the following questions.

1. **Upon the first visit from the messengers of Ben-Haddad, what tribute was Ahab willing to give them?**

V3-4 – silver, gold, loveliest wives and children.

2. **What was demanded of Ahab upon the second visit of the messengers of Ben-Hadad? Did Ahab give them their tribute?**

V6 – anything in Ahab's house or the houses of his servants that was pleasant.  
No! (V7-8)

3. **According to the prophet, why did God allow Ahab and Israel to win this first battle?**

So Ahab would know that Yahweh was God! (V13)

4. **How did Ben-Hadad escape in the first battle?**

V20 - He rode a horse with the cavalry.

5. **How many Syrians were killed in the second battle?**

V29 – 100,000

6. **How did Ben-Hadad escape the second battle?**

They humbled themselves by wearing sackcloth (V31) and begged for their lives.  
Ahab let them go (V34)

7. **Why was a man eaten by a Lion?**

V35-36 - He had refused to strike the prophet when asked to do so.



**8. Why did the prophet wait by the road for the king with the appearance that he had been beaten?**

V41-42 - The prophet illustrated with his story about an escaping Syrian prisoner that Ahab should not have allowed Ben-Hadad to escape.

Reread **I Kings 21:1-29** and answer the following questions.

**9. Why did Ahab covet the vineyard of Naboth?**

The vineyard would make a good garden attached to the palace

**10. Why did Naboth wish to keep his vineyard? (for more information, read about the year of jubilee in Leviticus 25)**

V3 – Naboth wished to keep his family’s inheritance, which had been given to him by God. Apparently Ahab did not intend to keep the laws concerning the returning of sold property to the original family during the year of jubilee as expressed in Leviticus 25.

**11. How did Jezebel obtain the vineyard for Ahab?**

She convinced city leaders (V8) to trick Naboth into attending a fast where two false witnesses (V10) claimed Naboth was a blasphemer and traitor (V13). Naboth was then stoned.

**12. What judgment was pronounced on Ahab by God through Elijah?**

He and Jezebel would be killed and eaten by dogs (V19,23). Ahab’s male descendents would also all be killed (V21)

**13. According to verses 25 and 26, what was Ahab’s spiritual evaluation? Who stirred up Ahab to evil?**

Ahab was called the most wicked king of Israel to that point. Jezebel stirred him up.

**14. When Ahab repented, how did God respond?**

V29 - The judgment against Ahab’s children would not take place until after his death.

Reread **I Kings 22:1-40** and answer the following questions.

**15. Who helped Ahab fight against the Syrians?**

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah (V2)

**16. What did the first group of 400 prophets tell Ahab about the coming war?**

He would win!

**17. What did Micaiah prophesy about the coming war?**

They would lose, and Ahab would die (V17,28)

**18. Who did Micaiah say convinced the first group of prophets to lie?**

V21-23 – A spirit volunteered to convince the prophets to lie to Ahab.

**19. How did Ahab die?**

He was struck by a random arrow.

**20. What unpleasant message has God given to you in the Bible that you need to obey?**

I need to do good for those who spitefully use me! I need to love my enemies!

## Lesson 11 – Transition from Elijah to Elisha

### I Kings 22:41 – II Kings 2:25

Judah's Kings: **Jehoshaphat**

Israel's Kings: **Ahaziah**

Prophets: **Elijah**  
**Elisha**

Reread **I Kings 22:41-53** and answer the following questions.

- 1. How long did Jehoshaphat reign in Judah and what was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned 25 years (V42) and did what was right in the eyes of God (V43).

Reread **I Kings 20:1-43** and answer the following questions.

- 2. How long did Ahaziah reign in Israel and what was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned 2 years (V51) and did evil in the eyes of God (V52).

Reread **II Kings 1:1-18** and answer the following questions.

- 3. When Ahaziah was injured, who did he enquire of to determine his prognosis?**

He sent messengers to enquire of Baal-Zebub (V2).

- 4. God responded to Ahaziah. What was His answer?**

Ahaziah would die (V16).

- 5. What happened to each of the 3 groups of 50 soldiers that Ahaziah sent to Elijah?**

The first two groups were killed by fire from heaven (V10,12). The third group was spared and escorted Elijah to Ahaziah because the captain humbled himself before God (V13-15).

Reread **II Kings 2:1-25** and answer the following questions.

- 6. How was Elijah removed from this earth?**

A fiery chariot came to get him (V11).

- 7. What did Elisha ask of Elijah just before he left?**

Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

**8. What was Elisha's first miracle? Had Elijah ever done a similar thing?**

He struck the waters of the river which parted (V14). Yes (V8).

**9. What other two miracles did Elisha perform?**

He healed the waters of Jericho (V21) and cursed some rude boys, causing two female bears to maul 42 of them (V24).

**10. Does the same holy spirit that empowered Elisha empower you? (*Look up I Corinthians 2:11-14 and I Corinthians 3:16*)**

Yes!

## Lesson 12 – Elisha Begins

### II Kings 3:1 – 5:27

Judah's Kings: **Jehoshaphat**

Israel's Kings: **Joram**

Prophets: **Elisha**

Reread **II Kings 3:1-27** and answer the following questions.

- 1. How long did Joram reign in Israel and what was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned 12 years (V1) and did what was evil in the eyes of God (V2).

- 2. What tribute did Mesha, king of Moab pay, and what event marked his rebellion?**

He gave 100,000 lambs and the wool from 100,000 rams (V4). He rebelled upon the death of Ahab (V5).

- 3. Name the three kings that went to war with Mesha.**

Joram (V6), Jehoshaphat (V7), and the king of Edom (V9)

- 4. These three kings approached Moab from the south through Edom. They found themselves in what kind of serious trouble?**

There was no water (V9).

- 5. How did God, through the word of Elisha, rescue these three kings?**

God sent water into the valley they were in miraculously (V17,20).

- 6. God predicted through Elisha that the war would be won. What orders were also given by God for Joram and Jehoshaphat to carry out? Did they carry out those orders?**

Every fortified city and every choice city was to be attacked, every good tree cut down, stop every water spring, and ruin good land with stones (V19). Yes, the orders were carried out. (V25).

The final results of the war with Moab given in verse 27 are inconclusive. It is possible that the remaining Moabite army quit fighting and returned home. In this case the Moabite king would probably have been killed. It is also possible that Edom and Judah quit fighting, forcing Israel to also quit. In this case, the king lived on. Either way, Moab was largely destroyed, but not completely subjugated. They therefore continued to be a problem for Israel and Judah.

Reread **II Kings 4:1-44** and answer the following questions.

**7. How were the debts of the prophet's widow paid?**

Elisha told her to take a little oil she had in the house, collect a large number of vessels from her neighbors, and fill them with oil from her vessel. She did so, and then sold the oil. (V1-7)

**8. What reward did Elisha predict God would give the kind Shunammite woman in return for providing food and a place to stay?**

A son would be born to her (V15-17).

**9. How did the Shunammite's son die?**

His head hurt and he laid his head on his mother's lap and died (V19-20).

**10. When the Shunammite asked Elisha for help with her dead son, what resulted?**

God raised the son to life by answering the prayers of Elisha (V33,35-37).

**11. What made the prophet's stew deadly, and what did Elisha do about it?**

Some unknown wild gourds had been thrown in, since food was scarce due to famine (V38-39). Elisha threw some flour into the pot, and there was then nothing harmful.

**12. What did Elisha feed 100 men with?**

20 barley loaves and some newly ripened grain (V42).

**13. List some miracles that Jesus did that seem similar to those over which Elisha presided.**

Jesus raised the dead and multiplied loaves of bread. When the disciples needed tax money, Peter went fishing and found a coin in a fish's mouth. Jesus made good wine.

Reread **II Kings 5:1-27** and answer the following questions.

**14. Who was Naaman? What was his problem:**

Naaman was commander of the army of Syria (V1). He had leprosy (V1).

**15. How did Naaman hear about Elisha?**

An Israelite girl, a slave in his house, told him about the prophet in Israel. (V2-4).

**16. What did Elisha ask Naaman to do in order to be healed? Why did God heal Naaman?**

He was to wash in the Jordan river 7 times (V10). The reason Naaman was healed by God was so that *“he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.”* (V8)

**17. What has God done for you to make you aware of Him?**

**18. Why did Gehazi get leprosy?**

Naaman had offered Elisha great gifts, but Elisha refused to take them. Gehazi ran after Naaman as he left, and accepted some. Elisha pronounced the judgment of leprosy on Gehazi.

**19. Naaman was humbled when Elisha would not meet him personally, but sent a servant (V10). He was also humiliated by being asked to wash in a dirty river (V12). How has God humbled you in order to teach you or improve your character?**

## Lesson 13 – Elisha Continues

### II Kings 6:1 – 8:15

Prophets: <b>Elisha</b>
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Reread **II Kings 6:1-33** and answer the following questions.

- 1. Why was the loss of the axe head so important?**

It had been borrowed (V5).

- 2. Why couldn't the king of Syria make war against Israel the way he wanted?**

Elisha told the king exactly what the king of Syria was going to do (V9,12). The king even became convinced a traitor was at fault (V12).

- 3. The king of Syria surrounded Dothan with a great army. Why wasn't Elisha worried?**

The mountain around Elisha was full of horses and chariots of fire (V17).

- 4. Name some specific events in your own life where God protected you from danger as He did for Elisha and his servant (V16-17).**

It had been borrowed (V5).

- 5. What did the king of Israel do with the blind captives Elisha brought to him?**

He gave them a feast and sent them home (V22-23). This ended the raids into Israel (V23).

Verse 24 begins the story of a great famine in Samaria due to a Syrian invasion. The famine was so severe that the unappetizing dish of a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver (about **2 lbs.** or about **\$145**). A quarter cab (about 1 cup) of Pigeon (or dove) dung sold for 5 shekels of silver (about **2 oz.** or about **\$9**).

- 6. Why did a woman require help of Israel's king during this famine?**

She had made an agreement with another woman to eat their sons. The other woman hid her son when it was time to eat him (V29).



**7. What did the king determine to do when he heard the woman's plight?**

He determined to kill Elisha (V31).

Reread **II Kings 7:1-20** and answer the following questions. Elisha responds to the king by predicting that a seah (about **1/3 bushel**) of flour would sell for a shekel (**\$4**) and two seahs (about **2/3 bushel**) of barley would sell for a shekel (**\$4**). In other words, the famine would miraculously end in one day.

**8. When Elisha predicted the end of the famine, what judgment did he predict against the king's officer who doubted?**

He would not eat of the cheap food (V2).

**9. How did the end of the famine and the death of the king come about? Tell the story briefly in your own words.**

God caused the Syrians to hear noise like the chariots and horses of a great army (V6). They fled hastily, leaving behind tents, horses, donkeys (V7), silver, gold, clothing (V8), and weapons (V15). Four lepers entered the empty camp, ate their fill (V8), took some spoil (V8), and then told the Israelites inside the city (V10). The king thought it was a trap (V12) and stayed in the city while his servants investigated the fantastic tale of the lepers (V14, 17). The officer who doubted was given charge of the city gate. When the story turned out to be true, the people rushed out the gate, trampling the king's officer (V17).

Reread **II Kings 8:1-15** and answer the following questions.

**10. How did Elisha and his servant help the Shunammite woman, both before the 7 year famine and after?**

Elisha warned the woman to leave because the famine was coming (V1) and the servant Gehazi told the king about the special relationship the woman had with Elisha who then restored her land to her (V5-6).

**11. When Ben-Hadad, king of Syria became ill, he sent Hazael, his servant, to enquire of Elisha whether he would recover. What predictions did Elisha make? What did Hazael do?**

Elisha predicted the king would recover, but die (V10). He then predicted that Hazael would become king (V13) and destroy Israel's strongholds, kill Israel's men, dash Israel's children, and rip apart the womb of Israel's pregnant women (V12). Hazael left, killed Ben-Hadad, and reigned in his place (V15).

## Lesson 14 – Jehu, Destroyer of Kings

### II Kings 8:16 – 10:36

Judah's Kings: **Jehoram**  
**Ahaziah**

Israel's Kings: **Jehu**

Prophets: **Elisha**

Reread **II Kings 8:16-24** and also **II Chronicles 21:1-20** and then answer the following questions.

1. **How many years did Jehoram, king of Judah, reign and what was his spiritual evaluation?**

8 years (II Kings 8:17) and he did evil in the sight of God (II Chronicles 21:5-6).

2. **Who was Jehoram's wife?**

The daughter of Ahab (II Kings 8:18, II Chronicles 21:6).

3. **Who did Jehoram kill in order to establish his kingdom?**

All of his brothers and other princes (II Chronicles 21:4).

4. **How did God punish Jehoram for leading Judah into idolatry and for killing his brothers?**

He and his family would get sick. He would be so ill that his intestines came out (II Chronicles 21:14-15).

Reread **II Kings 8:25-27** and answer the following questions.

5. **How long did Ahaziah, king of Judah, reign and what was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned for 1 year and did evil in the sight of God (II Kings 8:26-27).

6. **What was his mother's name, the wife of Jehoram and daughter of Ahab?**

Athaliah (II Kings 8:27).

Reread **II Kings 8:28-10:36** and then answer the following questions.

7. **Why does Ahaziah go to Jezreel in Israel?**

He went to see his uncle (mother's brother) who was recovering from his wounds (8:29)

- 8. Ramoth Gilead is near the border with Syria. Why did Elisha send a messenger there to an Israeli army commander?**

That commander, Jehu, was to be anointed king of Israel (9:3,6).

- 9. What did the prophetic messenger dispatched by Elisha predict concerning the house of Ahab?**

They would be struck down (9:7), all male members would die (9:8), and Jezebel would die unburied and eaten by dogs (9:9-10)

- 10. List, in order, those people killed by Jehu and how they were dispatched.**

Joram was shot by an arrow (9:24) and was thrown into Naboth's field (9:25-26). Ahaziah was shot by Jehu's servants (9:27) and buried in Jerusalem (9:28). Jezebel was thrown out of her own window by two or three of her eunuchs at Jehu's order (9:32-33); Jehu ran her over, splattering blood (9:33); and when they went to bury her, the dogs had eaten all but her skull, feet, and palms of her hand (9:34-35). The 70 sons of Ahab (10:1) were killed by the leaders of the city who had raised them (10:7). Jehu then killed the great men of Ahab's house, Ahab's close acquaintances, and Ahab's priests (10:11). Next, 42 brothers of Ahaziah, king of Judah, were killed at the well of Beth Eked (10:12-14). Next, Jehu killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria (10:17). Finally, Jehu killed all those in Israel who came to a proclaimed feast to Baal (10:18-28)

- 11. How long did Jehu reign in Israel and what was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned for 28 years (10:36), was given credit for ridding Israel of Baal (10:28), but refused to turn away from sin (10:29,31).

- 12. Jehu showed his zeal for God by killing all those related to Ahab. He would not, however, follow God with his whole heart. How do you show zeal for God? Do you follow with your whole heart?**

## Lesson 15 – Joash, the Boy King

### II Kings 11:1 – 12:21

Judah's Kings: Athaliah  
Joash

Reread **II Kings 11:1-3** and also **II Chronicles 22:10-12** and then answer the following questions.

1. **God had promised that a descendent of David would always sit on the throne in Jerusalem (II Samuel 7:13,16). Why do you think Athaliah tried to kill all the heirs to the throne?**

The previous king, Ahaziah, married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab (**II Kings 8:27**). Athaliah's father, Ahab, had worshipped Baal because of the influence of Jezebel. Jehu, the new king in Israel, had slaughtered all the men of her family. She likely sought to have her revenge and to restore the worship of Baal.

2. **Who was the father of Jehoshabeath? Who was the husband of Jehoshabeath?**

King Jehoram was her father (**II Chronicles 22:11**) and the priest Jehoiada was her husband (**II Chronicles 22:11**).

3. **Who do you think raised Joash (Who is “her” in II Kings 11:3 and “them” in II Chronicles 22:12?**

The “her” refers to Jehoshabeath and “them” refers to her and her husband Jehoiada.

Reread **II Kings 11:4-21** and also **II Chronicles 23:1-21** and then answer the following questions.

4. **How was Athaliah's rule overthrown and that of Joash established?**

Jehoiada organized soldiers to guard the king and kill Athaliah. The leadership of Israel was part of the agreement made in advance without the knowledge of Athaliah. A covenant was then established between God and the leaders of Judah that they would follow God.

5. The events surrounding the succession of Joash to the throne of Judah became a spiritual revival for the people of Judah. What events showed that a revival was taking place? How should revivals in our era be similar?

The people rejoiced with loud music and praise to God(II Kings 11:19, II Chronicles 23:13,18,21). They removed evil from the land (II Kings 11:18). There was peace, or at least quiet (II Kings 11:20). They established a covenant between Jehoiada, the king, the people, and God (II Kings 11:17, II Chronicles 23:16). Revivals should be marked by joyful worship of God, repentance, obedience, and then peace.

6. How old was Joash when he became king?

7 (II Kings 11:21)

Reread II Kings 12:1-21 and II Chronicles 24:1-27 and answer the following questions.

7. How long did Joash reign in Judah and what was his spiritual evaluation?

He reigned for 40 years (II Kings 12:1), did what was right while Jehoiada advised him (II Kings 12:2), but was unable to completely remove Baal worship (II Kings 12:3)

8. What great project did Joash demand the priests and Levites raise money to complete? Was the project completed slowly or quickly?

The repair and restoration of the temple. The fund raising went slowly (II Kings 12:6), but the work was completed eventually, at the urging of the king (II Kings 12:7).

9. From II Chronicles 24:14, what was made with the money left over?

Articles for the house of the LORD were made.

10. How old was Jehoiada when he died?

130 (II Chronicles 24:15)

11. What did Joash do with the son of Jehoiada?

He was killed while prophesying against Judah when they returned to Baal.

**12. When threatened by Syria, what tribute did Joash give?**

He gave the sacred and precious articles of the temple and the palace to make Hazael, king of Syria, go away (II Kings 12:17-18).

**13. How did Joash die?**

While wounded from the battle with Syria (II Chronicles 24:25), two of his servants conspired to kill him (II Kings 12:19-21).

**14. Joash saw great revival and great spiritual depravation. The advice of Jehoiada seems key to Joash's own spiritual behavior. How important are spiritual advisers to you?**

## Lesson 16 – Lukewarm Spirituality

### II Kings 13:1 – 14:29

Judah's Kings: Amaziah  
Azariah

Israel's Kings: Jehoahaz  
Jehoash  
Jeroboam II

Prophets: Elisha

Reread **II Kings 13:1-25** and then answer the following questions.

1. What was the spiritual evaluation of Jehoahaz, king of Israel? How long did he reign?

He was evil and reigned 17 years (**II Kings 13:1**).

2. During the reign of Jehoahaz, God judged Israel with destruction from the Syrians. According to II Kings 13:5, God provided a deliverer when the king repented. What does the following verse (II Kings 13:6) say about Israel spiritually?

They did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam and kept their wooden idols.

3. How long did Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz, reign in Israel and what was his spiritual evaluation?

He reigned 16 years and was evil (**II Kings 13:10-11**).

4. The prophet Elisha dies during the reign of Jehoash. On his deathbed, he prophesies that Jehoash will successfully fight the Syrians. What caused Elisha's anger in II Kings 13:19?

Jehoash did not show enough zeal in hitting the ground with arrows. Therefore, he would not completely destroy Syria, but only win three battles (**II Kings 13:19**).

5. What last miracle did God do through Elisha?

A hastily buried man came back to life when his dead body touched the bones of Elisha (**II Kings 13:21**).

6. Compare the zeal Elisha had for God to that of the nation of Israel as portrayed in II Kings 13. How did the people and their kings show lack of dedication to God?



7. **How can people in your church show zeal for God? How can you show commitment to God?**

Reread **II Kings 14:1-29** and then answer the following questions.

8. **How long was the reign of Amaziah, son of Joash, king of Judah? What was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned 29 years (**II Kings 14:2**) and did what was right in the eyes of God, but not as well as David (**14:3**). The false idol worship was not completely abolished (**14:4**).

9. **How did Amaziah fare in the battle against Israel, ruled by Jehoash?**

He was captured, the wall of Jerusalem was broken down, and the city was plundered (**II Kings 14:11-14**).

10. **How did Amaziah die?**

He was killed by conspirators (**14:17-20**).

11. **In Israel, how long did Jeroboam II reign and what was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned 41 years, and did evil (**14:23-24**).

12. **Was Israel strengthened or weakened during the reign of Jeroboam II? Why?**

Israel was strengthened (**II Kings 14:25,28**). God strengthened Israel because their affliction was very bitter and He did not want them completely destroyed (**14:25-26**). God therefore used an evil king, Jeroboam II, to save Israel (**14:27**).

**13. What role did Jonah play in the reign of Jeroboam II (see Jonah 1:1 and following)?**

He prophesied that territory would be restored to Israel (II Kings 14:25). The book of Jonah probably takes place at this time, meaning a spiritual revival takes place in one of Israel's most dangerous enemies (Jonah 3:5-10)

## Lesson 17 – Israel Destroyed

### II Kings 15:1 – 17:41

Judah's Kings: <b>Azariah</b> <b>Jotham</b> <b>Ahaz</b>	Israel's Kings: <b>Zechariah</b> <b>Shallum</b> <b>Menahem</b> <b>Pekahiah</b> <b>Pekah</b> <b>Hoshea</b>
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1. Fill in the following table using information from the above passage and from II Chronicles 26:1 – 28:27.

King	Num Yrs Rule	Spiritual Evaluation	Important Event(s)
Israel: Zechariah	6 mo.	did evil (15:9)	last of Jehu's line (15:11-12)
Shallum	1 mo.	don't know	killed Zechariah in public (15:10)
Menahem	10 yr	did evil (15:18)	gave tribute to Pul, king of Syria (15:19)
Pekahiah	2 yr	did evil (15:24)	killed by his officer & Gileadites (15:25)
Pekah	20 yr	did evil (15:28)	Assyria took cities & captives (15:29-30)
Hoshea	9 yr	did evil (17:2)	Israel destroyed by Assyria (17:5-6)
Judah: Azariah (Uzziah)	52 yr	did what was right (15:3), but not completely (15:4-5, II Chron. 26:3-23)	Got leprosy (15:5)
Jotham	16 yr	did right (15:34), and became mighty as a result (II Chronicles 27:6)	built temple upper gate (15:35) & defeated Amonites (II Ch. 27:5)
Ahaz	16 yr	did right (16:2) but followed Baal (16:3-4, II Chro 28:2-3) & then Syrian gods (16:10-16, II Chro 28:22-25)	Syria took captives (II ch 28:5) who Ahaz paid Assyria to rescue (16:7,9), but Assyria didn't help (II ch 28:20-21). Israel killed 120,000 (II ch 28:6) & took 200,000 captives (II ch 28:8) but prophet Oded made them to be returned (II ch 28:9-15)

**2. What specifically happened to Israel, its king, its people, and its land?  
(II Kings 17:3-6, 24)**

Hoshea, the king, was imprisoned after rebelling against Assyria. The people were mostly taken captive, and the land was settled by people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim.

**3. List the reasons God gave for Israel's destruction.**

They had worshipped foreign gods(17:7), followed foreign customs (17:8), built false places of worship (17:9), served idols (17:11), they did not hear the prophets (17:14), rejected statutes & God's covenant & God's testimonies (17:15), worshiped the "host of heaven" (17:16), killed sons & daughters (17:17), witchcraft & soothsaying (17:17), and sold themselves for evil (17:17)

**4. Which of the above accusations might apply to your community, state, or nation?**

**5. What punishment did God send the peoples occupying Israel (Samaria) because they did not fear Him?**

God sent lions among them which killed some of the people (17:25)

The term "**Samaritan**" makes its first and only appearance in the Old Testament in **II Kings 17:29**. Reread **II Kings 17:29-41**, whose subject is these Samaritans, and answer the following questions.

**6. Summarize the Samaritan's religious habits. How long did they practice religion in this way?**

They "feared the LORD", even appointing priests for that purpose (17:32), but also served "their own gods" (17:33). They practiced religion in this way for at least 3 generations and "to this day" (17:41).

## Lesson 18 – Hezekiah, Yahweh Strengthens

### II Kings 18:1 – 20:21

Judah's Kings: **Hezekiah**

Prophets: **Isaiah**

Reread **II Kings 18:1-20:21** and answer the following questions. For further information concerning the spiritual reforms of king Hezekiah, read **II Chronicles 29-32**.

- 1. How long did Hezekiah reign as king of Judah? What was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned 29 years (**18:2**), and did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done (**18:3**).

- 2. How did Hezekiah show his zeal for God?**

He destroyed idol worship from Israel (**18:4-8**), including removing the bronze serpent of Moses.

- 3. Why did Hezekiah destroy the bronze serpent that Moses had made?**

The people worshipped it like an idol.

- 4. What was the result of the first Assyrian invasion of Judah during Hezekiah's reign?**

Hezekiah paid tribute of 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold (**18:14**) taken from the temple and the king's treasuries (**18:15**).

- 5. Summarize the words spoken by the Assyrian leaders the second time they invaded Judah.**

They asked Judah not to trust Egypt (**18:21**), not to trust God (**18:22**), and that God had sent them (**18:25**). They also tried to cause the people not to follow the leadership of Hezekiah in trusting God(**18:29-35**).

- 6. How did Hezekiah respond to these words of the Assyrian leadership during their second invasion?**

Hezekiah mourned (sackcloth, **19:1**), entered the temple (**19:1**), and inquired of the prophet Isaiah(**19:2-7**).

**7. What did Isaiah predict would be the result of Assyria's second invasion?**

The invaders would leave because of a rumor and would die in their own land (19:6-7).

**8. The leaders of Assyria sent Hezekiah a letter before retreating from their second invasion. Summarize it's message and Hezekiah's response.**

The letter said the gods of other lands had not saved them, and Judah's God would not save them (19:10-13). Hezekiah spread the letter before God and asked for His help.

**9. Why did Hezekiah say he was asking for God's deliverance in II Kings 19:19?**

So that other nations would know God.

**10. How did God respond to Hezekiah's request?**

185,000 Assyrian soldiers died by the hand of the angel of the LORD (19:35), and Sennacherib, king of Assyria, was killed by his sons (19:37).

**11. When Hezekiah grew sick enough he was going to die, what did he do about it?**

Hezekiah prayed (20:2-3).

**12. How did God respond to Hezekiah's request? What sign did God give Hezekiah on this occasion?**

God caused Hezekiah not to die (20:7), and gave him another 15 years of life (20:5). God caused the sun to progress backward on the sundial 10 degrees (20:11).

**13. How were the messengers from Babylon treated by Hezekiah? What did God say about Hezekiah's treatment of these messengers?**

Hezekiah treated them well and showed them the treasures of the kingdom (20:12-13). God decreed Babylon would one day take all that belongs to Judah (20:17).

## Lesson 19 – Evil, Repentance, and Revival

### II Kings 21:1 – 23:30

Judah's Kings: **Manasseh**  
**Amon**  
**Josiah**

Prophets: **Hulduh**

Reread **II Kings 21:1-26** and answer the following questions.

**1. How long did Manasseh reign as king of Judah? What was his spiritual evaluation?**

He reigned 55 years (**21:1**), and did evil in the eyes of the LORD, like the foreign nations that God had cast out(**21:2**).

**2. List the evil deeds that Manasseh seduced his people into performing. God compared Judah's evil to that of the Canaanite peoples that lived in the land before in II Kings 21:9. How did Judah compare?**

1. Manasseh rebuilt "high places" (**21:3**),
  2. built altars to Baal (**21:3**),
  3. made wooden images (**21:3**),
  4. worshiped the "host of heaven" (**21:3**),
  5. built "altars" in the temple (**21:4**),
  6. built altars to the "host of heaven" in the courts of the temple (**21:5**),
  7. made his son pass through the fire (**21:6**),
  8. practiced soothsaying (**21:6**),
  9. used witchcraft (**21:6**),
  10. consulted with spiritists and mediums (**21:6**),
  11. he "**EVEN**" set up a carved image of Asherah in the temple (**21:7**),
  12. and he filled Jerusalem with much innocent blood (**21:16**).
- Judah did "more evil" than the Canaanite peoples God destroyed before (**21:9**).

**3. What was God's judgment on Judah because of this evil, as spoken by "the prophets"? What were some of the metaphors God used to describe this judgment?**

God would "forsake" the people (**21:14**), deliver them into the hands of their enemies (**21:14**), and they would be victims of plunder (**21:14**).  
People who heard about this judgment would have ears that "tingle" (**21:12**).  
God would stretch over Jerusalem the "measuring line of Samaria" (**21:13**).  
Judah's description was called "the plummet of the house of Ahab" (**21:13**).  
God would wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish (**21:13**).

4. **II Chronicles 33:10-17** tells us about Manasseh's personal punishment and repentance. Briefly summarize these verses. Did the people wholeheartedly turn to God also?

Manasseh was carried to Babylon by Assyria (not to Ninevah, the capitol) and was in "torment" (33:11-12). He prayed for deliverance and God did so (33:13). Manasseh then took away foreign gods & idols out of Jerusalem (33:15), repaired the altar of the LORD (33:16), and commanded Judah to serve God (33:16). The people did not turn to God completely (33:17).

5. How long did king Amon rule and what was his spiritual evaluation?

Amon ruled 2 years (21:19) and did evil (21:20).

6. How did Amon's rule end and what happened to his servants?

Amon was killed by his servants (21:23) who were then executed (21:24).

Reread **II Kings 22:1-23:37** and answer the following questions.

7. How long did Josiah reign as king of Judah? What was his spiritual evaluation?

He reigned 31 years (22:1) and did right in the sight of God (22:1).

8. From **II Chronicles 34:3-7**, what were the early reforms of Josiah?

He sought God (34:3), and began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of foreign idol worship (34:4-7).

9. In the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah's reign, what large reform project was begun?

They began to clean up and repair the temple (22:3-7).

10. Why did Josiah tear his clothes in **II Kings 22:11**?

The "Book of the Law" was found in the temple (22:8) and read to Josiah (22:10). Terrible judgment was coming because the people had not obeyed God (22:13).

11. Josiah enquired of God what would happen. What did God say through the prophetess Huldah?

The calamity pronounced by the "Book of the Law" would come to pass, but not during the reign of Josiah (22:16-20).



**12. After hearing God's message through the "Book of the Law" and from Huldah, what did the king do for his people? How did they respond?**

He gathered all the people and read to them from the "Book of the Law" (22:2).  
He then made a covenant with them to obey God's rules (22:3). The people ALL  
"took a stand" for the covenant (22:3).

**13. For each evil deed you listed in question 2, write down the number of the verse(s) in II Kings 23:4-20, 24 that shows how Josiah caused Judah to repent.**

- |                      |             |       |          |
|----------------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| 1. 8, 13, 15, 16, 20 | 4. 4, 5, 11 | 7. 10 | 10. 24   |
| 2. 4, 5              | 5. 4, 12    | 8. 24 | 11. 4, 7 |
| 3. 6, 7, 14, 15      | 6. 4, 5     | 9.    | 12. 24   |

**14. How does II Kings 23:21-23 describe the excellence of the Passover held during the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah's reign?**

It was like one which had never been during the time of the judges or the kings.  
Josiah did it right for the first time in hundreds of years.

**15. Write down an instance where you heard the words of the Bible, repented of sin, and radically changed your behavior as a direct result. If all Christians did this, would it be revival?**

YES!

## Lesson 20 – Decline of Judah

### II Kings 23:31 – 25:30

Judah's Kings: Jehoahaz  
Jehoiakim  
Jehoiachin  
Zedekiah

Reread **II Kings 23:31-24:16** and answer the following questions.

1. **How long did Jehoahaz reign as king of Judah? What was his spiritual evaluation?**  
He reigned 3 months (**23:31**), and did evil in the eyes of the LORD (**23:32**).
2. **How much tribute did Pharaoh Necho force Judah to pay?**  
100 talents of silver & 1 talent of gold (**23:33**).
3. **Where did Jehoahaz die?**  
He died in Egypt (**23:34**).
4. **How long did Jehoiakim reign as king of Judah? What was his spiritual evaluation?**  
He reigned 11 years (**23:36**). He did evil in the sight of the LORD (**23:37**).
5. **After serving Nebuchadnezzar as vassal for three years, Jehoiakim rebelled. What did God do and why?**  
God sent raiding bands of Chaldeans (Nebuchadnezzar was Chaldean), Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites (**24:2**). God did this because of the sins of Manasseh (**24:3**), in particular because of the innocent blood spilt (**24:4**).
6. **Read II Chronicles 36:6-7. Where did Jehoiakim die?**  
He died in Babylon as a result of his rebellion (**II Chronicles 36:7-7**).
7. **How long did Jehoiachin, king of Judah, reign? What was his spiritual evaluation?**  
He reigned 3 months, 10 days (**24:8, II Chronicles 36:9**). He did evil (**24:9**).

8. How many captives did Nebuchadnezzar take all together, in addition to the king and his family?

He took 10,000 of the best soldiers, craftsmen, and leaders (24:14-16).

Reread II Kings 24:17-25:30 and answer the following questions.

9. Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiachin's uncle king, renaming him Zedekiah. How long did Zedekiah rule and what was his spiritual evaluation?

He reigned 11 years (24:18) and did evil in the sight of the LORD (24:19).

10. Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon, and in his ninth year Nebuchadnezzar came to besiege Jerusalem. How long did the siege last?

2 years, from the ninth year until the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah's rule (25:2).

11. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Zedekiah?

Nebuchadnezzar killed Zedekiah's sons, put Zedekiah's eyes out, fettered him with bronze, and took him to Babylon.

12. What did Nebuzaradan, the captain of Nebuchadnezzar's guard, do one month after Jerusalem fell?

He took captive the rest of the people of Jerusalem, leaving only the poorest (25:11-12). He also carried off the remaining treasures of the land (25:13-17).

13. What tragedy took place at Riblah?

Seraiah, the chief priest, Zephaniah, the second priest (25:18), the officer in charge of the men of war, 5 close associates of the king, the army's chief recruiting officer, and 60 other men (25:19) were all killed by Nebuchadnezzar.

14. Read Jeremiah 38:17-18. Did Zedekiah follow the advice Jeremiah gave him?

No!

15. From II Kings 22:12 we know that Ahikam, son of Shaphan had met the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah 26:24 tells us that Ahikam saved the prophet's life. Ahikam's son Gedaliah is made governor of Judah after Zedekiah's removal to Babylon. How did Gedaliah follow Jeremiah's advice?

He followed it well by submitting to the Chaldeans (25:24).

**16. When is it appropriate, in your opinion, to submit to the tragic rule of evil people, and when is it more appropriate to fight?**

**17. What positive event does the book of Kings end with? Why is this important?**

The book of Kings ends with the release of Jehoiachin from prison to a place of prominence in Babylon (25:27-30). This event is important in reiterating the promise given to David that he would always have an heir (II Samuel 7:8-17).

# Appendix A – Outline of I & II Kings

*Derived from The Open Bible*

## Part One: The United Kingdom (I Kings 1:1 – 11:43)

### I. Establish Solomon as King .....1:1–2:46

- A. Appointment of Solomon as King ..... 1:1-53
  - 1) Decline of David ..... 1:1-4
  - 2) Plot of Adonijah to be King ..... 1:5-9
  - 3) Anointing of Solomon ..... 1:10-40
  - 4) Submission of Adonijah ..... 1:41-53
- B. Solidification of Solomon as King ..... 2:1-46
  - 1) David's Charge to Solomon ..... 2:1-9
  - 2) David Dies ..... 2:10-11
  - 3) Solomon Established as King ..... 2:12-46

### II. Rise of Solomon..... 3:1-8:66

- A. Solomon Marries Pharaoh's Daughter..... 3:1-2
- B. Solomon's Wisdom ..... 3:3-28
- C. Solomon's Administration ..... 4:1-34
  - 1) Eleven Princes..... 4:1-6
  - 2) Twelve Governors..... 4:7-19

- 3) Solomon Reigns in Wisdom ..... 4:20-34
- D. Temple and Solomon's House Built... 5:1-8:66
  - 1) Temple Built ..... 5:1-6:38
  - 2) Solomon's House Built..... 7:1-12
  - 3) Furnishings of Temple ..... 7:13-51
  - 4) Temple Dedication..... 8:1-66

### III. Decline of Solomon ..... 9:1-11:43

- A. Davidic Covenant Restated ..... 9:1-9
- B. Disobedience of Solomon ..... 9:10-11:8
  - 1) Sale of Cities..... 9:10-14
  - 2) Enslavement of Canaanites ..... 9:15-28
  - 3) Wealth Grows ..... 10:1-29
  - 4) Marriages with Foreign Women ... 11:1-3
  - 5) Idol Worship ..... 11:4-8
- C. Punishment of Solomon ..... 11:9-40
- D. Death of Solomon..... 11:41-43

## Part Two: The Divided Kingdom (I Kings 12:1 – II Kings 17:41)

### I. Kingdom Divided

- A. Cause of Division ..... 12:1-24
  - 1) People Request Tax Relief..... 12:1-5
  - 2) Rehoboam's Foolish Response... 12:6-15
  - 3) Revolt of Northern 10 Tribes .... 12:16-24
- B. Reign of Jeroboam in Israel..... 12:25-14:20
  - 1) Sin of Jeroboam ..... 12:25-33
  - 2) Warning of Prophet..... 13:1-6
  - 3) Sin of Prophet ..... 13:7-19
  - 4) Judgment on Prophet ..... 13:20-32
  - 5) Continued Sin of Jeroboam..... 13:33-34
  - 6) Judgment on Jeroboam ..... 14:1-20
- C. Reign of Rehoboam in Israel..... 14:21-31
  - 1) Sin of Rehoboam ..... 14:21-24
  - 2) Judgment on Rehoboam..... 14:25-31

### II. Reign of Abijah in Judah .....15:1-8

### III. Reign of Asa in Judah .....15:9-24

- A. Obedience of Asa ..... 15:9-15
- B. Disobedience of Asa..... 15:16-22
- C. Death of Asa..... 15:23-24

### IV. Reign of Nadab in Israel .....15:25-31

### V. Reign of Baasha in Israel..... 15:32-16:7

### VI. Reign of Elah in Israel .....16:8-14

### VII. Reign of Zimri in Israel.....16:15-20

### VIII. Reign of Omri in Israel .....16:21-28

### IX. Reign of Ahab in Israel ..... 16:29-22:40

- A. Sin of Ahab ..... 16:29-34
- B. Ministry of Elijah ..... 17:1-19:21
  - 1) Miracle of Drought ..... 17:1-16
  - 2) Gentile Son Raised to Life..... 17:17-24
  - 3) Fire on Mt. Carmel ..... 18:1-40
  - 4) Miracle of Rain ..... 18:41-46
  - 5) Failings of Elijah..... 19:1-18
  - 6) Call of Elisha ..... 19:19-21
- C. Wars with Syria..... 20:1-43
  - 1) First Victory over Syria ..... 20:1-21
  - 2) Second Victory over Syria..... 20:22-43
- D. Murder of Naboth..... 21:1-16
- E. Death of Ahab ..... 21:17-22:40
  - 1) Prediction of Ahab's Death..... 21:17-29
  - 2) Defeat by Syria ..... 22:1-36
  - 3) Death of Ahab..... 22:37-40

### X. Reign of Jehoshaphat in Judah....22:41-50

### XI. Ahaziah in Israel... I Ki. 22:51-II Ki. 1:18

- A. Spiritual Evaluation..... I Ki. 22:51-53
- B. Political Situation ..... II Ki. 1:1
- C. Death of Ahaziah..... 1:2-18

### XII. Reign of Joram in Israel..... 2:1-8:15

- A. Transition from Elijah to Elisha ..... 2:1-25
  - 1) Chariot of Fire Takes Elijah..... 2:1-11
  - 2) Elisha Uses Elijah's Authority... 2:12-25
- B. Spiritual Evaluation of Joram..... 3:1-3
- C. Political Situation under Joram ..... 3:4-27
- D. Ministry of Elisha..... 4:1-8:15
  - 1) Widow's Oil ..... 4:1-7

- 2) Shunamite's Son ..... 4:8-37
- 3) Deadly Stew ..... 4:38-41
- 4) Multiplication of Loaves ..... 4:42-44
- 5) Healing of Naaman ..... 5:1-27
- 6) Floating Ax Head ..... 6:1-7
- 7) First Syrian Attack ..... 6:8-23
- 8) Second Syrian Attack ..... 6:24-7:20
- 9) Shunamite Woman ..... 8:1-6
- 10) King of Syria ..... 8:7-15

### **XIII. Reign of Jehoram in Judah .....8:16-24**

### **XIV. Reign of Ahaziah in Judah..... 8:25-9:29**

- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Ahaziah ..... 8:25-27
- B. Political Situation under Ahaziah ..... 8:28-9:26
  - 1) Battle Against Syria ..... 8:28-29
  - 2) Anointing Jehu King of Israel ..... 9:1-13
  - 3) Execution of Jehoram ..... 9:14-26
- C. Death of Ahaziah ..... 9:27-29

### **XV. Reign of Jehu in Israel ..... 9:30-10:36**

- A. Elisha's Prophecy Fulfilled ..... 9:30-10:28
- B. Spiritual Evaluation of Jehu ..... 10:29-31
- C. Political Situation under Jehu ..... 10:32-33
- D. Death of Jehu ..... 10:34-36

### **XVI. Reign of Athaliah in Judah .....11:1-16**

- A. Joash Saved ..... 11:1-3
- B. Jehoiada Overthrows Athaliah ..... 11:4-12
- C. Death of Athaliah ..... 11:13-16

### **XVII. Reign of Joash in Judah ... 11:17-12:21**

- A. Renewal of Covenant ..... 11:17-21
- B. Spiritual Evaluation of Joash ..... 12:1-3
- C. Reign of Joash ..... 12:4-21

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### **XXV. Reign of Menahem in Israel ...15:16-22**

### **XXVI. Reign of Pekahiah in Israel...15:23-26**

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### **XXVIII. Reign of Jotham in Judah..15:32-38**

### **XXIX. Reign of Ahaz in Judah .....16:1-20**

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- B. Imprisonment of Hoshea ..... 17:3-4
- C. Captivity of Samaria ..... 17:5-6
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- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Zedekiah ..... 24:17-19
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## Appendix B – Chronological Chart

Year(B.C.)	Kings of Judah	Kings of Israel	Prophets
960	Solomon..... (960-935)	Solomon..... (960-935)	Samuel
950			Nathan
940			
930	Rehoboam..... (931-915)	Jeroboam..... (931-910)	Ahijah
920			Shemaiah
910	Abijah ..... (915-911)		
900	Asa ..... (911-869)	Nadab..... (910-908)	Jehu
890		Baasha..... (908-886)	
880		Elah..... (886-885)	
870	Jehoshaphat..... (870-848)	Zimri ..... (885)	
860		Tibni ..... (885-884)	
850	Jehoram..... (848-835)	Omri..... (884-870)	Elijah
840	Ahaziah..... (835-834)	Ahab ..... (870-848)	Micaiah
830	Athaliah ..... (834-828)	Joram ..... (848-834)	Elisha
820	Joash ..... (828-789)	Jehu..... (834-806)	
810			
800		Jehoahaz ..... (806-790)	
790	Amaziah..... (789-761)	Jehoash ..... (790-775)	
780			
770		Jeroboam II ..... (775-746)	
760	Azariah ..... (761-710)		
750		Zachariah ..... (746-745)	
740		Shallum..... (745)	
730		Menahem ..... (745-738)	
720		Pekahiah ..... (738-737)	
710	Jotham..... (710-705)	Pekah ..... (737-732)	
700	Jehoahaz ..... (705-700)	Hoshea ..... (732-724)	Isaiah
690	Hezekiah ..... (700-687)	Fall of Samaria .. (722-721)	
680	Manasseh ..... (687-642)		
670			
660			
650			
640	Amon ..... (642-640)		
630	Josiah ..... (640-609)		Hulduh
620			
610	Jehoahaz ..... (609)		
600	Jehoiakim..... (609-598)		
590	Jehoiachin ..... (598-597)		
580	Zedekiah ..... (597-587)		
	Fall of Jerusalem.....(587)		

## Appendix C – Question Comments

### Lesson 1

1. The sons bear much responsibility. Their corruption caused a revolution, in a sense. This desire for a king was not from God. Therefore, the sons of Samuel, and to a lesser degree Samuel's lack of leadership, caused the people to turn from theocracy to monarchy. Ultimately, God holds the people responsible (**I Samuel 8:7**)
7. He picked an imposing physical presence which commanded respect. Though the people had rejected God in favor of a king, God blessed the nation by using Samuel to set up Saul. Samuel instructed the people and Saul in the behavior of a king. In **I Samuel 10:26**, God touched the hearts of valiant men to accompany Saul.
9. The promises given can be summarized into three items. First, God promises that Israel will possess land forever, unmolested (**II Samuel 7:10**). Second, God promises to establish an unending dynasty for David (**v11-12, 13, 16**). Third, God promises to establish an unending kingdom (**v13, 15-16**). Specific details are given as to how these promises will be fulfilled in the son who follows David to the throne of Israel (**v12-15**). David's heir will build a house for God (**v13**), his throne will be established (secure) (**v13**), God will chasten him when needed (**v14**), and God's mercy will not be removed from him (**v15**).
10. Nothing. This covenant is unconditional.
11. Forever.

### Lesson 2

3. **I Samuel 1:6** explains that Adonijah was good looking and had never been rebuked by David. These explain Adonijah's behavior. He was popular because of his looks and undisciplined because David did not rebuke him. Adonijah therefore came to believe that an attempt to seize power away from God's chosen, Solomon, would succeed.
8. David's instruction to Solomon was to obey God if he desired to prosper. In particular, Solomon is told to carefully God's written word, the "Law of Moses" (**I Kings 2:3-4**).

### Lesson 4

4. Giving should be done willingly with rejoicing out of love for God. They responded to a specific need. Their giving was an act of consecration. Giving should reflect a life consecrated to God.
8. The silence showed reverence. Today we have "moments of silence" to remember people or important occasions. Silence allows our minds to be clear and listen to God.
9. God would dwell with the people. This had been God's intent (**Exodus 25:8**) until the people rebelled against Him (**Exodus 33:3,7**).



## Lesson 5

8.

Verses	Request	Similar Request We Should Make
31-32	When people take an oath, please judge fairly.	Help us keep our promises, maturing us and making us more faithful.
33-34	When the people sin and are judged, forgive them when they ask.	In the midst of trials due to our own sin, please forgive us.
35-36	When the people sin and are judged, forgive them & bring back prosperity.	Forgive me my sin and teach me the good way in which I should walk.
37-40	Forgive Your people and cause them to fear You	Forgive my sin and give me an abiding respect for You, Almighty God.
41-43	When a foreigner prays to You, answer their prayers for your glory.	For Your glory, Lord, bring others all over the world into Your kingdom through salvation.
44-45	Give us success in battle when we call on Your name.	Give our nation success against our enemies when we depend on You.
46-53	When Your people are taken captive, forgive and restore them.	When we sin, create in us a clean heart and restore our fellowship with You.

## Lesson 6

3. Certainly, God wants His people to obey. The tone of the passage and the method of punishment seems to indicate that God desires that other nations give Him glory as well as His own people. God's motives have not changed.
5. She heard of Solomon's reputation "concerning the name of the LORD" (V1) and wanted to see for herself. She decided his great reputation for words and wisdom was true (V6). She was also impressed with his prosperity. (V7) She indicates the servants of Solomon are privileged to serve such a man. (V8) She glorifies God. (V9) She then gives Solomon gold, spices and gems.
8. A person who loves money will not be satisfied with money (V10), love of money is vanity (V10), the more stuff you have, the more people want what you have (V11), copious riches cause loss of sleep (V12).

## Lesson 7

4. We should seek counsel from others, in abundance. Those with experience and their own wisdom offer good advice. The best counsel comes from God. Rehoboam failed to seek advice from God.

## Lesson 8

3. Israel had set an ambush while Abijam sermonized (**II Chronicles 13:13-15**). When Judah realized they were surrounded, they cried out to God for help, who won the battle for them.
- 6 She made an obscene image of Asherah, a Canaanite deity.

## Lesson 9

6. The son who had died came back to life (**17:20-22**). The widow responded by saying she knew Elijah was God's man and always spoke God's truth (**17:24**).
11. He gathered his robes around his waist and outran Ahab's chariot who was seeking shelter in Jezreel (**18:46**). Perhaps God did this as a witness to Ahab of his own mighty power. Perhaps this increased the respect which Ahab had for Elijah, preserving his life.
12. He sends them preachers, teachers, and evangelists (**Romans 10:14**). He provided Christians who witness with their lives and mouths (**I Peter 3:15-16**). He sends sorrow and suffering of many kinds in order to cause them to turn to God for help. He humbles them, sometimes through embarrassing circumstances (**II Corinthians 12:19-21**). He makes them poor, sick, weak, humble, or scared so that they will listen. God also sends trials to Christians to enhance their witness (**James 1:2-4**). God created church discipline in order to bring Christians back to their relationship with Him (**Matthew 18:15-17, James 5:19-20**).

## Lesson 10

3. So Ahab would know that Yahweh was God! (V13)
10. V3 – Naboth wished to keep his family's inheritance, which had been given to him by God. Apparently Ahab did not intend to keep the laws concerning the returning of sold property to the original family during the year of jubilee as expressed in **Leviticus 25**.

## Lesson 11

5. The first two groups were killed by fire from heaven (V10,12). The third group was spared and escorted Elijah to Ahaziah because the captain humbled himself before God (V13-15).
10. Yes!

## Lesson 12

1. Every fortified city and every choice city was to be attacked, every good tree cut down, stop every water spring, and ruin good land with stones (V19). Yes, the orders were carried out. (V25).

### Lesson 13

9. God caused the Syrians to hear noise like the chariots and horses of a great army (V6). They fled hastily, leaving behind tents, horses, donkeys (V7), silver, gold, clothing (V8), and weapons (V15). Four lepers entered the empty camp, ate their fill (V8), took some spoil(V8), and then told the Israelites inside the city (V10). The king thought it was a trap (V12) and stayed in the city while his servants investigated the fantastic tale of the lepers (V14, 17). The officer who doubted was given charge of the city gate. When the story turned out to be true, the people rushed out the gate, trampling the king's officer (V17).

### Lesson 14

7. He went to see his uncle (mother's brother) who was recovering from his wounds (8:29)

### Lesson 15

1. The previous king, Ahaziah, married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab (**II Kings 8:27**) Athaliah's father, Ahab, had worshipped Baal because of the influence of Jezebel. Jehu, the new king in Israel, had slaughtered all the men of her family. She likely sought to have her revenge and to restore the worship of Baal.
3. The "her" refers to Jehoshabeath and "them" refers to her and her husband Jehoiada.
5. The people rejoiced with loud music and praise to God(**II Kings 11:19**, **II Chronicles 23:13,18,21**). They removed evil from the land (**II Kings 11:18**). There was peace, or at least quiet (**II Kings 11:20**). They established a covenant between Jehoiada, the king, the people, and God (**II Kings 11:17**, **II Chronicles 23:16**). Revivals should be marked by joyful worship of God, repentance, obedience, and then peace.

### Lesson 16

4. Jehoash did not show enough zeal in hitting the ground with arrows. Therefore, he would not completely destroy Syria, but only win three battles (**II Kings 13:19**).
8. He reigned 29 years (**II Kings 14:2**) and did what was right in the eyes of God, but not as well as David (**14:3**). The false idol worship was not completely abolished (**14:4**).
12. Israel was strengthened (**II Kings 14:25,28**). God strengthened Israel because their affliction was very bitter and He did not want them completely destroyed (**14:25-26**). God therefore used an evil king, Jeroboam II, to save Israel (**14:27**).

### Lesson 17

2. Hoshea, the king, was imprisoned after rebelling against Assyria. The people were mostly taken captive, and the land was settled by people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim.

3. They had worshipped foreign gods(17:7), followed foreign customs (17:8), built false places of worship (17:9), served idols (17:11), they did not hear the prophets (17:14), rejected statutes & God’s covenant & God’s testimonies (17:15), worshiped the “host of heaven” (17:16), killed sons & daughters (17:17), witchcraft & soothsaying (17:17), and sold themselves for evil (17:17)

## Lesson 18

5. They asked Judah not to trust Egypt (18:21), not to trust God (18:22), and that God had sent them (18:25). They also tried to cause the people not to follow the leadership of Hezekiah in trusting God(18:29-35).

## Lesson 19

2. 1. Manasseh rebuilt “high places” (21:3),
  2. built altars to Baal (21:3),
  3. made wooden images (21:3),
  4. worshiped the “host of heaven” (21:3),
  5. built “altars” in the temple (21:4),
  6. built altars to the “host of heaven” in the courts of the temple (21:5),
  7. made his son pass through the fire (21:6),
  8. practiced soothsaying (21:6),
  9. used witchcraft (21:6),
  10. consulted with spiritists and mediums (21:6),
  11. and “EVEN” set up a carved image of Asherah in the temple (21:7).
 Judah did “more evil” than the Canaanite peoples God destroyed before (21:9).
4. Manasseh was carried to Babylon by Assyria (not to Ninevah, the capitol) and was in “torment” (33:11-12). He prayed for deliverance and God did so (33:13). Manasseh then took away foreign gods & idols out of Jerusalem (33:15), repaired the altar of the LORD (33:16), and commanded Judah to serve God (33:16). The people did not turn to God completely (33:17).

- |                          |             |       |          |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| 13. 1. 8, 13, 15, 16, 20 | 4. 4, 5, 11 | 7. 10 | 10. 24   |
| 2. 4, 5                  | 5. 4,12     | 8. 24 | 11. 4, 7 |
| 3. 6, 7, 14, 15          | 6. 4, 5     | 9.    | 12. 24   |

## Lesson 20

5. God sent raiding bands of Chaldeans (Nebuchadnezzar was Chaldean), Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites (24:2). God did this because of the sins of Manasseh (24:3), in particular because of the innocent blood spilt (24:4).
13. Seraiah, the chief priest, Zephaniah, the second priest (25:18), the officer in charge of the men of war, 5 close associates of the king, the army’s chief recruiting officer, and 60 other men (25:19) were all killed by Nebuchadnezzar.
17. The book of Kings ends with the release of Jehoiachin from prison to a place of prominence in Babylon (25:27-30). This event is important in reiterating the promise given to David that he would always have an heir (II Samuel 7:8-17).

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