

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
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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?
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?

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

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

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

4. List the consequences of the change from theocracy to monarchy?
5. Do similar circumstances exist in government today? If so, how?

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

6. What kind of man was Saul?
7. Describe the ways in which God arranged for the success of the king He had chosen.

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?

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

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

11. How long were these promises to last?

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

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

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: David Solomon	Prophets: Nathan
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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?

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.

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

- 4. What lesson can a father learn from David's example as a father?**
- 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'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?**
- 8. What did David tell Solomon to do in order to prosper (V3)?**
- 9. What steps did David suggest to establish Solomon's authority?**
- 10. Why were these suggestions of David important in establishing the authority of Solomon over Israel?**
- 11. What other steps did Solomon take in establishing his reign?**
- 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)
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?
3. Look up **II Corinthians 6:14**. What lessons can a single man or woman learn with regard to selecting a spouse?
4. When Solomon asked God for wisdom, what did God choose to give?
5. Why did Solomon's tactics in judging the case of two harlots work so well?

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)?**

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

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

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

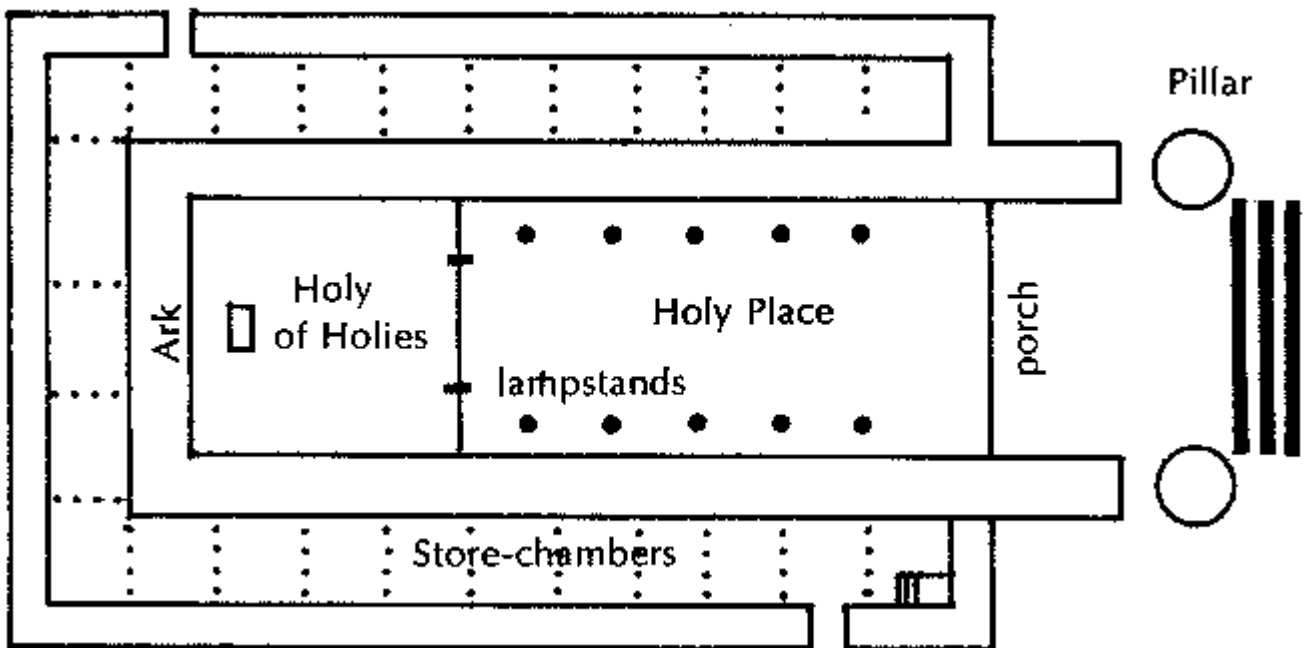
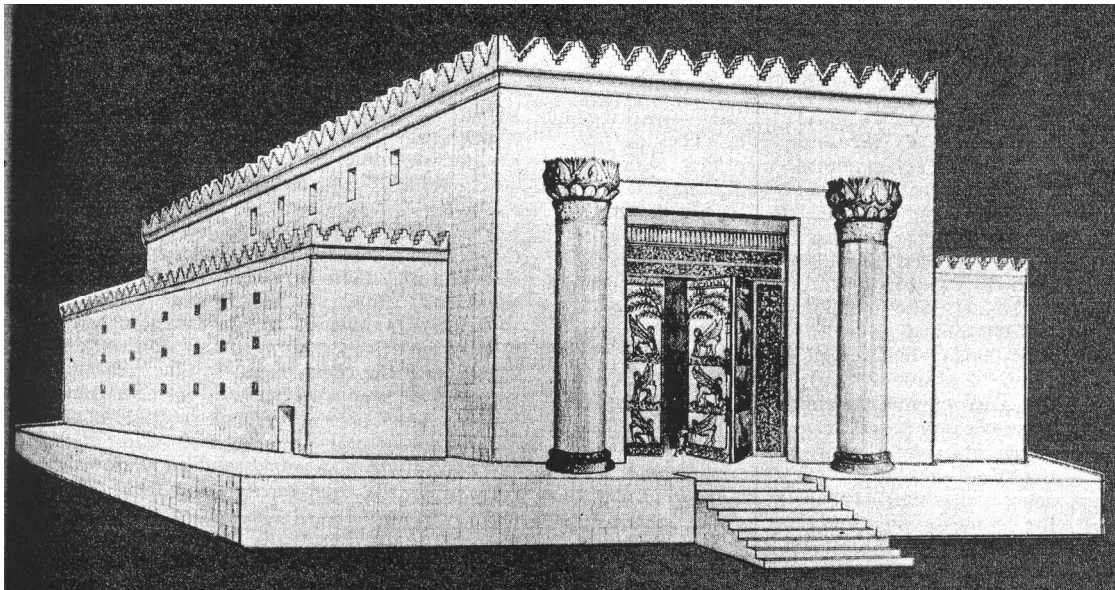
- 10. Solomon's great wisdom did not keep him from falling into sin. How can we avoid falling into sin? (provide scripture to support your answer)**

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?

2. What other preparations did David make?

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?

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?

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?

6. How many Israelite workers did Solomon recruit?

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

7. What were the overall dimensions of the temple?
8. Why do you think Solomon thought it important to build the temple quietly (I Kings 6:7)? How is silence important to you?
9. According to verses 11-13, where would God dwell if Solomon obeyed Him?
10. How much of the temple was covered with gold?
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?
13. How long did the temple take to build (compare V1 and V38)?

Lesson 5 – Israel’s Golden Age

I Kings 7:1 – 8:66

Kings: Solomon

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.

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.

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)

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

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.

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

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

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		
35-36		
37-40		
41-43		
44-45		
46-53		

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
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Reread chapter 9 and answer the following questions.

1. How long would the LORD dwell in the temple Solomon had made (V3)?
2. What would God do if Israel forsook their God (V6-9)?
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)
4. Who were the slaves of Solomon? (V15-23) What work were they forced to do? (V15-23)

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?

- 6. What were the sources of Solomon's wealth? (V10-15)**
- 7. What were the luxurious things Solomon made? (V18-23)**
- 8. Look up Ecclesiastes 5:10-12. What did Solomon say about riches?**

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?**
- 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?**
- 11. Name the three main adversaries that God raised up against Solomon in punishment for his faithlessness?**
- 12. What kind of man was Jeroboam?**
- 13. Describe the visual illustration Ahijah uses to show Jeroboam that he will one day rule over 10 tribes.**
- 14. Who was hurt by Solomon's rebellion against God? Do others suffer when you sin?**

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*)
2. When Solomon died, what did the people request of Rehoboam?
3. List those Rehoboam sought advice from. Who did he listen to?
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?
5. Who stopped the civil war after Israel rebelled?
6. Did Rehoboam do well in the sight of God during his first few years as king?
7. How did God punish Rehoboam and Judah? Read II Chronicles 12:12. What was the result of God's punishment?

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

- 8. What false worship did Jeroboam begin? Why did he do it?**
- 9. What punishment was pronounced upon the altar as a result of Jeroboam's idol worship?**
- 10. What happened to the prophet who disobeyed God?**
- 11. What future doom did Ahijah pronounce upon Jeroboam when his wife asked for the life of her child?**
- 12. Reflect on how Rehoboam's response to God's judgment differed from Jeroboam's. What does this mean for you?**

Lesson 8 – War between Israel and Judah

I Kings 15:1 – 16:28

Judah's Kings: Abijam Asa	Israel's Kings: Nadab Baasha Elah Zimri Omri Ahab	Prophets: Jehu
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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?
2. Describe Abijam's spiritual summary as written in Kings.
3. How did Judah win the great battle with Israel?
4. How many soldiers of Israel were killed in that battle?

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? ____ Describe Asa's spiritual summary as written in Kings.

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

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)

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.

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

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

10. How did Nadab's reign end?

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

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

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

14. How did Elah's reign end?

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

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

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

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

Lesson 9 – Elijah, Yahweh’s Messenger

I Kings 16:29 – 19:21

Israel’s Kings: Ahab	Prophets: Elijah
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Reread **I Kings 16:29-17:24** and answer the following questions about Ahab.

1. How long did Ahab reign in Israel?
2. Who was Ahab’s wife?
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?
5. Why did Elijah leave the brook, and where did he go? How was he cared for?
6. What miracle did Elijah pray for on behalf of the widow’s son? What was her reaction?

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

7. What remarkable thing had Obadiah done for God?

- 8. Describe the contest Elijah proposed to Ahab.**
- 9. How did Elijah give the advantage in this contest to the prophets of Baal? How did he handicap himself?**
- 10. God answered Elijah's prayer with great power. What then happened to the prophets of Baal?**
- 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?**
- 12. List some ways God turns people back to Him?**

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

- 13. Why did Elijah feel sorry for himself?**
- 14. How did God bring Elijah back to Himself?**
- 15. How do you listen to God?**

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?**
- 2. What was demanded of Ahab upon the second visit of the messengers of Ben-Hadad? Did Ahab give them their tribute?**
- 3. According to the prophet, why did God allow Ahab and Israel to win this first battle?**
- 4. How did Ben-Hadad escape in the first battle?**
- 5. How many Syrians were killed in the second battle?**
- 6. How did Ben-Hadad escape the second battle?**
- 7. Why was a man eaten by a Lion?**
- 8. Why did the prophet wait by the road for the king with the appearance that he had been beaten?**

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

9. Why did Ahab covet the vineyard of Naboth?

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

11. How did Jezebel obtain the vineyard for Ahab?

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

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

14. When Ahab repented, how did God respond?

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

15. Who helped Ahab fight against the Syrians?

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

17. What did Micaiah prophesy about the coming war?

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

19. How did Ahab die?

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

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?**

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?**

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?**
- 4. God responded to Ahaziah. What was His answer?**
- 5. What happened to each of the 3 groups of 50 soldiers that Ahaziah sent to Elijah?**

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

- 6. How was Elijah removed from this earth?**
- 7. What did Elisha ask of Elijah just before he left?**

8. What was Elisha's first miracle? Had Elijah ever done a similar thing?
9. What other two miracles did Elisha perform?
10. Does the same holy spirit that empowered Elisha empower you? (*Look up I Corinthians 2:11-14 and I Corinthians 3:16*)

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?
2. What tribute did Mesha, king of Moab pay, and what event marked his rebellion?
3. Name the three kings that went to war with Mesha.
4. These three kings approached Moab from the south through Edom. They found themselves in what kind of serious trouble?
5. How did God, through the word of Elisha, rescue these three kings?
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?

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?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. How did Naaman hear about Elisha?

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

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

18. Why did Gehazi get leprosy?

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: Elisha

Reread **II Kings 6:1-33** and answer the following questions.

1. Why was the loss of the axe head so important?
2. Why couldn't the king of Syria make war against Israel the way he wanted?
3. The king of Syria surrounded Dothan with a great army. Why wasn't Elisha worried?
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).
5. What did the king of Israel do with the blind captives Elisha brought to him?

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?

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

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?

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

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?

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?

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?
2. Who was Jehoram's wife?
3. Who did Jehoram kill in order to establish his kingdom?
4. How did God punish Jehoram for leading Judah into idolatry and for killing his brothers?

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

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

7. Why does Ahaziah go to Jezreel in Israel?

- 8. Ramoth Gilead is near the border with Syria. Why did Elisha send a messenger there to an Israeli army commander?**
- 9. What did the prophetic messenger dispatched by Elisha predict concerning the house of Ahab?**
- 10. List, in order, those people killed by Jehu and how they were dispatched.**
- 11. How long did Jehu reign in Israel and what was his spiritual evaluation?**
- 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?

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

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

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?

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?

6. How old was Joash when he became king?

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?

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

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

10. How old was Jehoiada when he died?

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

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

13. How did Joash die?

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?
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?
3. How long did Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz, reign in Israel and what was his spiritual evaluation?
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?
5. What last miracle did God do through Elisha?
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?**

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

- 10. How did Amaziah die?**

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

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

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

Lesson 17 – Israel Destroyed

II Kings 15:1 – 17:41

Judah's Kings: Azariah Jotham Ahaz	Israel's Kings: Zechariah Shallum Menahem Pekahiah Pekah Hoshea
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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			
Shallum			
Menahem			
Pekahiah			
Pekah			
Hoshea			
Judah: Azariah (Uzziah)			
Jotham			
Ahaz			

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

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

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?

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?

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?
2. How did Hezekiah show his zeal for God?
3. Why did Hezekiah destroy the bronze serpent that Moses had made?
4. What was the result of the first Assyrian invasion of Judah during Hezekiah's reign?
5. Summarize the words spoken by the Assyrian leaders the second time they invaded Judah.
6. How did Hezekiah respond to these words of the Assyrian leadership during their second invasion?
7. What did Isaiah predict would be the result of Assyria's second invasion?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lesson 19 – Evil, Repentance, and Revival

II Kings 21:1 – 23:30

Judah's Kings: Manasseh Amon Josiah	Prophets: Huldah
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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?
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?
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?
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?
5. How long did king Amon rule and what was his spiritual evaluation?
6. How did Amon's rule end and what happened to his servants?

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?

8. From II Chronicles 34:3-7, what were the early reforms of Josiah?
9. In the 18th year of Josiah's reign, what large reform project was begun?
10. Why did Josiah tear his clothes in II Kings 22:11?
11. Josiah enquired of God what would happen. What did God say through the prophetess Huldah?
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?
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.
14. How does II Kings 23:21-23 describe the excellence of the Passover held during the 18th year of Josiah's reign?
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?

Lesson 20 – Decline of Judah

II Kings 23:31 – 25:30

Judah's Kings: Jehoahaz Jehoiakim Jehoiachin Zedekiah
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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?
2. How much tribute did Pharaoh Necho force Judah to pay?
3. Where did Jehoahaz die?
4. How long did Jehoiakim reign as king of Judah? What was his spiritual evaluation?
5. After serving Nebuchadnezzar as vassal for three years, Jehoiakim rebelled. What did God do and why?
6. Read **II Chronicles 36:6-7**. Where did Jehoiakim die?
7. How long did Jehoiachin, king of Judah, reign? What was his spiritual evaluation?
8. How many captives did Nebuchadnezzar take all together, in addition to the king and his family?

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?
10. Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon, and in his ninth year Nebuchadnezzar came to besiege Jerusalem. How long did the siege last?
11. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Zedekiah?
12. What did Nebuzaradan, the captain of Nebuchadnezzar's guard, do one month after Jerusalem fell?
13. What tragedy took place at Riblah?
14. Read **Jeremiah 38:17-18**. Did Zedekiah follow the advice Jeremiah gave him?
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?
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?

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 King1:1–2:46

- 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 Judah15:1-8

III. Reign of Asa in Judah15:9-24

- 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 Israel15:25-31

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

VI. Reign of Elah in Israel16:8-14

VII. Reign of Zimri in Israel16:15-20

VIII. Reign of Omri in Israel16:21-28

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 Judah22:41-50

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 Judah8:16-24

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 Judah11:1-16

- A. Joash Saved 11:1-3
- B. Jehoiaida 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

XVIII. Reign of Jehoahaz in Israel13:1-9

XIX. Reign of Jehoash in Israel13:10-25

- A. Rule of Jehoash 13:10-13
- B. Last Acts of Elisha 13:14-25
 - 1) Israel's Victory Foretold 13:14-19
 - 2) Death of Elisha 13:20
 - 3) Resurrection at Elisha's Tomb 13:21
 - 4) Israel's Victory over Syria 13:22-25

XX. Reign of Amaziah in Judah14:1-22

- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Amaziah 14:1-6
- B. Political Situation under Amaziah 14:7-14
- C. Death of Jehoash & Amaziah 14:15-22

XXI. Reign of Jeroboam II in Israel 14:23-29

XXII. Reign of Azariah in Judah15:1-7

XXIII. Reign of Zechariah in Israel...15:8-12

XXIV. Reign of Shallum in Israel.....15:13-15

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

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

XXVII. Reign of Pekah in Israel15:27-31

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

XXIX. Reign of Ahaz in Judah16:1-20

XXX. Reign of Hoshea in Israel17:1-41

- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Hoshea 17:1-2
- B. Imprisonment of Hoshea 17:3-4
- C. Captivity of Samaria 17:5-6
- D. Causes of Captivity 17:7-23
- E. Sins of the Foreigners 17:24-41

Part Three: The Surviving Kingdom of Judah (II Kings 18:1 – 25:30)

I. Hezekiah in Judah 18:1-20:21

- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Hezekiah 18:1-8
- B. Political Situation under Hezekiah . 18:9-20:19
 - 1) Assyria Invades Israel 18:9-12
 - 2) 1st Assyrian Invasion, Judah 18:13-16
 - 3) 2nd Assyrian Invasion, Judah 18:17-19:37
 - 4) Recovery of Hezekiah 20:1-11
 - 5) Wealth Shown to Babylon 20:12-13
 - 6) Babylonian Exile Prophecy 20:14-19
- C. Death of Hezekiah 20:20-21

II. Reign of Manasseh in Judah21:1-18

- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Manasseh 21:1-15
- B. Political Situation under Manasseh 21:16
- C. Death of Manasseh 21:17-18

III. Reign of Amon in Judah21:19-26

IV. Reign of Josiah in Judah 22:1-23:30

- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Josiah 22:1-2

- B. Renewal of Covenant by Josiah 22:3-23:27
 - 1) Temple Repaired 22:3-7
 - 2) Book of Law Discovered 22:8-10
 - 3) Repentance of Josiah 22:11-14
 - 4) Prophecy of Blessing 22:15-20
 - 5) Renew Covenant & Reforms 23:1-3
- C. Political Situation under Josiah 23:28-29
- D. Death of Josiah 23:30

V. Reign of Jehoahaz in Judah23:31-34

VI. Reign of Jehoiakim in Judah.. 23:35-24:7

VII. Reign of Jehoiachin in Judah24:8-16

VIII. Reign of Zedekiah in Judah 24:17-25:21

- A. Spiritual Evaluation of Zedekiah 24:17-19
- B. Political Situation, Zedekiah 24:20-25:21

IX. Governorship of Gedaliah25:22-26

X. Release of Jehoiachin in Babylon 25:27-30

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).

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|--------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| 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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