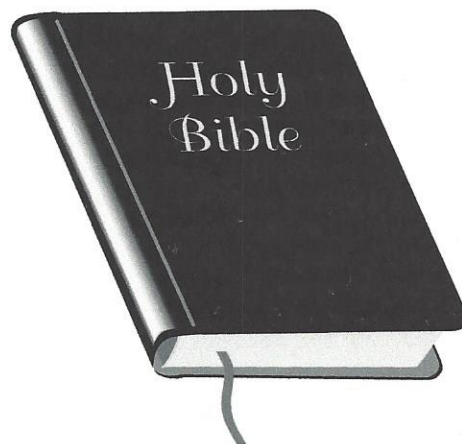


The Divided Kingdom



Part One

By Angela Wisdom

The Divided Kingdom

Lesson 1

VOCABULARY

Adversary - *An enemy or opponent.*

Fortify - *To fence in for protection, to defend.*

Introduction:

During this quarter, we will be studying about the divided kingdom of Israel. Previously, God's kingdom of Israel was united. During the period of time that they were united they had three kings: Saul, David, and Solomon.

During Solomon's reign, Israel became rich. (I Kings 10:27) But, Solomon turned away from God. Solomon's wives turned him from God with their idolatrous gods. God told him that his kingdom would be taken from his family. Only a small portion of the kingdom would be left to fulfill God's promise to Solomon's father, David. (I Kings 11: 1 - 13)

*God allowed **adversaries** to rise up against Solomon's kingdom: Hadad, Rezon, and Jeroboam.*

After the death of Solomon, the division of God's kingdom took place.

Division of God's Kingdom

I Kings 11; 12; II Chron. 10; 11; ~~13: 1-20~~

Jeroboam was a man who had been a servant of King Solomon. Solomon had seen what a good worker he was when the wall of Jerusalem had been repaired, so he made him an officer over the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.

One day as Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem, Ahijah the prophet met him and tore his coat into twelve pieces. He told Jeroboam to take ten of them and said, "God is going to take the kingdom away from Solomon and give ten tribes to you. But He will leave one tribe for Solomon because of His promise to David."

"God is doing this because Israel is worshipping

false gods and have not walked in His ways."

"You will be king over Israel, and if you do God's commands He will be with you and bless you as He did David."

When Solomon heard of the things that God had told Jeroboam, he tried to kill him. Jeroboam went to Egypt to escape Solomon, and stayed there until Solomon died.

When Jeroboam heard that Solomon was dead, he returned from Egypt.

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After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam went to Shechem, because all of Israel had gathered there to make him king.

Jeroboam was with all the congregation of Israel when they went to Rehoboam and said, "Your father put a heavy burden of work on all of us. Lighten the burden and we will serve you."

Rehoboam said, "Come back in three days."

Rehoboam asked the wise men, who had worked for his father Solomon, "How should I answer the people?"

The wise men said, "If you will be a servant to the people and speak good words to them, they will be your servants forever."

But Rehoboam did not like the advice that the older wise men gave him. He rejected their advice, and asked the young men, who he had grown up with, what he should do.

The young men said, "Tell the people that want their burdens made lighter that your little finger will be thicker than your father's waist. Tell them, 'My father put a heavy burden on you and I am going to make it even heavier. My father punished you with whips, but I will punish you with scorpions.'"

Three days later, the people of Israel came back to Rehoboam, and he answered the people harshly. He followed the advice of his young men to make Israel's burdens heavier.

Israel saw that Rehoboam did not listen to them, and they said, "What share do we have in David? Go to your tents to look after your own house." So all of



to your tents to look after your own house.” So all of Israel went home.

Rehoboam ruled over those who lived in the towns of Judah. But when he sent out a man to them who was a tax collector, the Israelites stoned him to death. Rehoboam, seeing the reaction of the people, got into his chariot and escaped to Jerusalem. From this day forward Israel was in rebellion against Judah.

When all of Israel heard that Jeroboam was back from Egypt, they called an assembly and made him king over Israel. Only the tribe of Judah was ruled by Rehoboam.

When Rehoboam arrived back in Jerusalem, he gathered the tribe of Judah and Benjamin together to fight against Israel and re-unite the kingdom. However, this did not please God. God sent word to His prophet, Shemaiah saying, “Do not go and fight against your brothers, the Israelites. All of you go home, for this word is from Me!”

So Rehoboam obeyed God’s word and did not battle against Israel.

Rehoboam began to **fortify** his cities in Judah. He put someone in charge of the cities and made sure they had plenty of food and weapons.

All the priests of the tribe of Levi left their homes in the other territories and came to live in Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving as priests to the Lord. The priests came to Jerusalem to seek God, and they strengthened the kingdom of Judah and made Rehoboam’s kingdom strong for three years.

When Jeroboam saw the priests return to Judah, he said to himself, “Now the kingdom will return back to David if the people go to sacrifice in Jerusalem. Their hearts will be turned back to God and unto Rehoboam. They will kill me and go serve Rehoboam.”

Jeroboam did not want this to happen, so he asked for advise on what to do and he decided to build two calves of gold. He told the people, “It is too much for you to go to Jerusalem to worship. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of Egypt!”

Jeroboam set up one golden calf at Dan and one at Bethel, and the people began to go to them to worship. He built shrines on high places for the people to worship at, and appointed priests from the people, even those who were not Levites. He decided what days he wanted the feast days to be on, and offered sacrifices on the altar he built at Bethel.

## Think About This...

Were you sad to read about God’s kingdom of Israel dividing? It was a sad occasion. But the division happened gradually. Over a long period of time, God’s people began to leave Him. God’s leaders carried a large responsibility for this happening.

If Solomon had been the kind of leader that God had wanted him to be, this division would not have taken place at this time.

Jeroboam was not the kind of leader that God wanted either. When the prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam that most of the kingdom would be given to him, he told him to do God’s commands and that God would bless him. Already we have seen that Jeroboam did not listen to God. He built two idols for Israel to worship, put his own priests in to serve, and established his own feast days. He did not serve God, and God did not bless him as we will see in the next lesson.

Being the kind of leader that God wants is important. Solomon and Jeroboam led many people to sin against God. Think how different Israel would have been if their leaders had been more interested in doing what God wanted, instead of what they wanted to do.

As we continue to study this period of Bible history, notice how God’s leaders affect God’s people and how they influence the people to serve or not to serve God..

## Memory Work

**Ps 119:97**

**Oh, how I love Your law! It is  
my meditation all the day.**

**(NKJ)**

## True or False

1. \_\_\_\_ Ahijah told Jeroboam, "God is going to let Solomon keep the kingdom."
2. \_\_\_\_ God divided the kingdom because Israel worshipped false gods and did not walk in His ways.
3. \_\_\_\_ Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam.
4. \_\_\_\_ Israel gathered to Shechem to make Rehoboam king.
5. \_\_\_\_ Israel wanted Rehoboam to give them heavier burdens.
6. \_\_\_\_ Rehoboam did not listen to the young men's advice.
7. \_\_\_\_ When Rehoboam sent out one of his tax collectors, the people were glad to see him.
8. \_\_\_\_ Israel made Jeroboam king when they heard that he was back from Egypt.
9. \_\_\_\_ Only Judah was ruled by Rehoboam.
10. \_\_\_\_ The priests of Levi left their homes in other territories and came to live in Judah.
11. \_\_\_\_ Jeroboam did not want the people to turn their hearts to God and to Rehoboam.
12. \_\_\_\_ Jeroboam built two calves of gold for the people to worship.
13. \_\_\_\_ All of Jeroboam's priests came from the tribe of Levi.
14. \_\_\_\_ The kind of leader God has for His people is important.

### USE YOUR BIBLE

1King 12:4 Thy father made our \_\_\_\_\_ grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ will serve thee. (KJV)  
Who said this? \_\_\_\_\_

1King 12:8 But he \_\_\_\_\_ the counsel of the \_\_\_\_\_ men, which they had given him, and consulted with the \_\_\_\_\_ men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: (KJV)  
Who did this? \_\_\_\_\_

1King 12:27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at \_\_\_\_\_, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto \_\_\_\_\_ king of Judah, and they shall \_\_\_\_\_ me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. (KJV)  
Who said this? \_\_\_\_\_



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 2

### VOCABULARY

**Bethel** - House of God is the meaning of this word. Bethel was the name of a place that Jeroboam built one of his golden calves.

**Intreat** - To pray or beg.

**Tomb** - A grave or burying place.

**High Places** - The people would build images on high places, or hills to worship. This worship was mainly idolatrous worship. "High Places" is used much of the time to refer to the worship of idols.

What has happened thus far...

*In our last lesson, God took the kingdom away from Solomon. God's prophet, Ahijah, told Jeroboam that he would give the majority of the kingdom to him, IF he would keep God's commands.*

*Solomon died and his son, Rehoboam, became king. However, Rehoboam did not listen to the people and made the burdens harder on them than his father had. Israel rejected him as king, and Rehoboam was left with only Judah to rule. Israel put Jeroboam in as their king.*

*Jeroboam rejected God's priests, the Levites, so the priests left their homes and went to Judah. Jeroboam became afraid that he would lose the kingdom, so he set up two golden calves for the people to worship — one at Dan and one at Bethel. He also put in his own priests and established places of worship. All of these were things God did not authorize.*

*Beginning with this lesson, we will tell you whenever we switch from telling Israel's history to Judah's history by putting "Israel" or "Judah" over the story. Keep in mind that while we are studying about Israel something is going on in Judah at the same time, and vice versa.*

### LESSON TEXT:

I Kings 13 - 14; II Chron. 12: 1 - 15

### ISRAEL

One day as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense, a man of God came out of Judah to Bethel. This man of God cried out against the altar and said, "O altar, altar, this is what the Lord says, "A child will be born to the house of David and his name will be Josiah. Josiah will offer the priest's bodies upon you who are now burning incense upon you, and their bones will be burnt upon you. This will be a sign from God, that the altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out."

When Jeroboam heard what the man of God said about the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Arrest him!" But the hand that he had stretched out toward the man of God shriveled up and he could not pull it back to himself. Also the altar split apart and the ashes spilt out.

Jeroboam then said to the man of God, "Intreat the Lord, and pray for me so that my hand will be restored.

The man of God intreated the Lord, and Jeroboam's hand was restored to him again.

King Jeroboam said to the man of God, "Come home with me and have something to eat, and I will give you a reward."

But the man of God said, "Even if you gave me half of your house I would not go with you, neither will I eat or drink water in this place. For the Lord gave me orders saying, "Don't eat or drink, and do not return back the same way that you came."

Then the man of God turned the other way to travel home.

Now living in Bethel was an old prophet. The old prophet's sons came to him and told him all that the man of God had done that day at Bethel. So the old prophet said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me", and then he climbed upon the donkey and rode after the man of God.

He found the man of God sitting under an oak tree and asked him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?"

The man of God said, "I am."

Then the old prophet said, "Come home with me



and eat bread.”

The man of God said, “I cannot return with you or go in with you, and I cannot eat or drink with you in this place, because the word of the Lord told me not to eat or drink there or to go back by the way I came.”

Then the old prophet said, “I am a prophet, just as you are. An angel spoke to me by Jehovah and said, ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he can eat bread and drink water.’” (*But the old prophet was lying to the man of God.*)

So the man of God went home with the old prophet and ate his bread and water, but while they were sitting at the table eating, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet. The old prophet told the man of God, “Jehovah has said that you have been disobedient to Him and have not kept His commandments. Instead you came back and ate bread and drank water in the place that the Lord told you not to, so you will not be buried in the tomb of your fathers.”

After the old prophet finished eating, he saddled the donkey for the man of God whom he had brought back with him.

As the man of God went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him. His body was on the road and the donkey beside him, and the lion standing beside them.

Some people passing by saw the lion beside the man and told about it in the city where the old prophet lived. When the old prophet heard about it he said, “It is the man of God who disobeyed Jehovah, so the Lord gave him to the lion, who killed him, just as the word of the Lord had warned him.”

The old prophet then told his sons, “Saddle my donkey.” And they did. Then he went and found the body of the man of God with the lion and donkey standing beside him. The lion had not eaten the man, or torn the donkey.

The old prophet picked up the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought him back to his own city to mourn for him and bury him. He laid the man of God in his own tomb. They mourned over him saying, “Woe, my brother!”

After they had buried him, the old prophet said to his sons, “When I die, bury me in the same grave the man of God is buried in; lay my bones beside his bones. Because, all the things the man of God said against the altar in Bethel, and against the houses on the high places in Samaria will surely happen.”

## JUDAH

When Rehoboam’s kingdom in Judah was stable, he strengthened his forces, and he forsook the law of God because he had not prepared his heart to seek the Lord.

Then all of Judah began to forsake God. They built **high places** and images on every high hill and under every green tree. They began to practice all kinds of sin that other nations around them did. These sins were things that the Lord had made Israel drive out of the land in earlier times.

Because of Judah’s sin, God allowed King Shishak of Egypt to attack Jerusalem. He came with a large army and took the fortified cities of Judah.

Then the Lord sent His prophet Shemaiah to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah. They were all gathered together in Jerusalem because of the attack of Shishak.

Shemaiah said to them, “The Lord has said that since you have forsaken Him, He has left you in the hands of Shishak.”

When the leaders and the King heard this, they humbled themselves and said, “The Lord is righteous.”

When the Lord saw that they had humbled themselves, He said to Shemaiah, “They have humbled themselves, so I will not destroy them, but will give them some deliverance. They will be Shishak’s servants so that they can learn that my service is different from the service of other kingdoms.

So, King Shishak carried off the treasures of the temple of God. He even carried off the gold shields that Solomon had made.

Rehoboam replaced the gold shields with ones of bronze.

When Rehoboam was humble before God, God did not destroy him completely. There was still some good left in Judah.

## Memory Work

Ps 119:97

**Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.(NKJ)**



## Prophecy Foretold and Fulfilled

When the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel he said that a child would be born named Josiah, and that Josiah would burn men's bones upon that altar.

Josiah was a king who would not be born for hundreds of years from this time. How could the man of God know of such a thing? The answer is that God inspired him to know it.

The marvelous thing about this prophecy is that IT WAS FULFILLED, or came true. In II Kings 23: 16, we can read about Josiah doing the very thing that the man of God said he would do.

Prophecies like this should build our faith in God. Only God could have known that such a thing would happen and tell it to the man of God.

## True or False

1. \_\_\_\_ Jeroboam wanted to arrest the man of God when he heard the prophecy about the altar at Bethel.
2. \_\_\_\_ The man of God stayed with Jeroboam and had something to eat.
3. \_\_\_\_ The man of God was from Israel.
4. \_\_\_\_ Rehoboam did not prepare his heart to seek God.
5. \_\_\_\_ God allowed Shishak of Egypt to attack Jerusalem because of Judah's sin.
6. \_\_\_\_ Shishak carried off the king of Judah.

## Use Your Bible

1. Who was the king of Israel at this time? I Kings 13: 1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was the king of Judah at this time? II Chron. 12: 1 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where was the man of God from? I Kings 13:1 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why was Jeroboam standing against the altar at Bethel? I Kings 13:1 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who did the man of God say would be born and burn men's bones on the altar? I Kings 13 :2 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did king Jeroboam want the man of God to intreat God? I Kings 13 :6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Did the old prophet tell the man of God the truth? I Kings 13 :18 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened to the man of God because he had listened to the old prophet? I Kings 13 : 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Did king Rehoboam continue to follow God's law? II Chron. 12 : 1 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What did Shemaiah the prophet say to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah that caused them to humble themselves before God? II Chron. 12 :5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Was there any good left in Judah when Rehoboam humbled himself? II Chron. 12 : 12 \_\_\_\_\_

# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 3

### VOCABULARY

**The city of David** - *An expression used of the city of Jerusalem. Many of the kings were buried there.*  
**Smote** - *To beat or defeat.*

**LESSON TEXT:** I Kings 13:33 - 14 ; 15: 1 - 24;  
II Chron. 13

### ISRAEL

Talking to the man of God at the altar in Bethel did not cause Jeroboam to turn from his evil ways. He continued to appoint priests for his high places. This sin of idolatry was the thing that led to Jeroboam's downfall.

Jeroboam had a son named Abijah who became sick. So Jeroboam said to his wife, "Disguise yourself so that no one will know you are my wife. Go to Shiloh, where Ahijah the priest is. Ahijah is the one who told me I would be king over Israel. Take ten loaves of bread, some cakes and some honey and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the young boy."

So Jeroboam's wife did what he said.

Now, Ahijah was blind and old, but the Lord had told Ahijah that Jeroboam's wife was coming. The Lord said, "When Jeroboam's wife comes she will pretend to be someone else and she will ask you about her son. You are to tell her what I say."

When Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam! Why are you pretending to be someone else? I have been sent to you with bad news. Tell Jeroboam that I raised him up to be My leader over Israel, taking the kingdom from the house of David. But he has not been like my servant David and kept my commands. He has done more evil than all those who went before him, making yourself gods. Because of this, disaster will come upon the house of Jeroboam. There will be no male descendant to follow you in your kingdom because your house will be burned up till it is gone. Anyone who belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city will be eaten by the dogs and those who die in the open

country will be eaten by the birds."

"Now, go back home. When your feet enter the city, your child will die. All of Israel will mourn for him and bury him. But he will be the only one belonging to Jeroboam who will be buried because he is the only one belonging to Jeroboam in whom the Lord has found anything good. Then the Lord will raise another king over Israel to cut off Jeroboam."

"One day the Lord will strike Israel and scatter them beyond the river because they have made idols and made the Lord angry. He will give Israel up because of Jeroboam's sin and the sin he caused Israel to commit."

Jeroboam's wife got up and left. As soon as she came to the threshold of her house, the boy died. They buried him and Israel mourned, just as Ahijah said they would.

### JUDAH

Rehoboam ruled over Judah for 17 years. During that time there was constant warfare between himself and Jeroboam. Finally, Rehoboam died and was buried in **the city of David**. Abijah, his son, reigned in his place over Judah.

During Abijah's reign, there was war between himself and Jeroboam. Abijah committed all the same sins that his father Rehoboam had done, and his heart was not fully devoted to God.

Abijah went to war against Jeroboam, and Jeroboam had twice as many men as he did. During the battle, Abijah stood upon Mount Zemarain in Ephraim and said, "Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel. Don't you know that the Lord has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants? Yet, Jeroboam rebelled against his master. He gathered wicked men around him and opposed Rehoboam, while Rehoboam was young and not strong enough to resist them."

Now, you are planning to resist the kingdom of the Lord, which is in the hands of David's descendants. You have a vast army and the golden calves that Jeroboam made to be your gods. You drove out the priests of the Lord and made priests of your own, as other nations do."



“As for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken Him! The priests who serve the Lord are sons of Aaron and the Levites assist them. We observe the requirements of the Lord, but you have forsaken Him. God is with us! He is our leader! His priests with their trumpets will sound the battle cry against you. Men of Israel! Do not fight against the Lord, for you will not succeed!”

While Abijah was speaking, Jeroboam has sent his troops around behind Judah to ambush them. Judah turned around and saw that they were being attacked from the front and the rear, and they cried out to the Lord. The priests blew their trumpets and the men of Judah raised a battle cry.

God **smote** Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. Israel fled and God delivered them into Judah's hand. 500,000 of Israel's able men were killed.

Judah was victorious because they relied on God. Abijah pursued Jeroboam taking from him the towns of Bethel, Jeshanah, and Ephron.

During Abijah's reign, Jeroboam did not regain power. When Abijah died, he was buried in **the city of David**.

Asa succeeded his father Abijah as king of Judah. During Asa's reign, there was peace for 10 years. Asa was a good king and he did what was right before God. He removed the altars and high places to foreign gods. He even made his own grandmother step down from being queen mother because of her idolatry. He commanded Judah to seek the Lord and obey His laws.

Asa built up the fortified cities while the land was at peace. He put up walls with towers and gates. The land prospered during his reign. He had a large well equipped army.

## Memory Work

**Ps 119:97 - 98**

**Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

**(NKJ)**

## Kings of the Divided Kingdom

**JUDAH**

**ISRAEL**

**Rehoboam** ☹️

**Jeroboam** ☹️

**Abijah** ☹️

**Asa** 😊

*See if you can remember these!*

## Think About It...

Does the death of Jeroboam's son seem sad to you? Sometimes things that seem sad are not sad at all, but are something to rejoice over.

Through the prophet Ahijah the Lord told Jeroboam's wife:

*IKing 14:13*

*13 "And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam. (NKJ)*

We can rejoice that Jeroboam's son died, because he was the only one in whom God had found something good. Had this son lived, more than likely he would have committed the same sins that his father had, and he would have been displeasing to God. An early death meant that he was the only one in Jeroboam's family who had hope of heaven. God had pronounced a curse on everyone else in Jeroboam's family.

I'm sure his death was probably sad to his parents, but his death was not sad; it was something to be happy for.



## Questions



1. What sin led to the downfall of Jeroboam and his kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the name of Jeroboam's son who became sick? I Kings 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_
3. To whom did Jeroboam send his wife to inquire about his son? I Kings. 14: 2 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Jeroboam want his wife to do before she went to the prophet? I Kings 14:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who told Ahijah that the wife of Jeroboam was coming? I Kings 14:5 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the Lord say would happen to the son of Jeroboam? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Would the kingdom of Jeroboam continue? I Kings 14:14 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who became king over Judah when Rehoboam died? II Chron. 13:1 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Was Abijah (*Abijam*) a good king? I Kings 15:3 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who did Abijah fight against? II Chron. 13:2 \_\_\_\_\_
11. What two things had Jeroboam done to cause him to lose his kingdom? II Chron. 13: 8 - 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Who **smote** Jeroboam in the battle with Abijah? II Chron. 13: 15 \_\_\_\_\_
13. Why did Judah win the battle? II Chron. 13: 18 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Who became king over Judah when Abijah died? I Kings 15: 8 \_\_\_\_\_
15. Was Asa a good king? I Kings 15: 11 \_\_\_\_\_
16. What did Asa command Judah to do? II Chron. 14: 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 4

### VOCABULARY

**Siege** - *To confine, shut up, or enclose. During a battle one army would surround the opposing army and besiege it. In other words they would surround it and shut it up so that no one could get in or out of the city. Many times a city under siege would give up themselves to the opposing army.*

**Prevail** - *To stop, stay, or restrain.*

**Spoil** - *The booty or plunder from war. Anything valuable that an army would take back with them, that had belonged to the ones fought against, was considered "spoil".*

**Oath** - *A solemn appeal to God as witness to something serious.*

*As we begin today's lesson: Jeroboam is still king over Israel and Asa is the king over Judah.*

**LESSON TEXT:** I Kings 15; II Chron. 14: 9 - 15; 15: 1 - 7 ; 16 : 1 - 12

### ISRAEL

The second year that Asa was the king of Judah, Jeroboam died and Nadab, the son of Jeroboam, began to reign over Israel. Nadab only reigned as king for two years and during that time he was an evil king who walked in the same sins that his father Jeroboam had walked.

While Nadab was king, a man named Baasha began to plot against him. Baasha smote Nadab at a place called Gibbethon, while Nadab was laying siege to Gibbethon. He killed Nadab and reigned as king over Israel.

As soon as Baasha became king over Israel, he killed all of Jeroboam's family. Not one person remained in Jeroboam's family, fulfilling the prophecy that Ahijah the prophet had told Jeroboam.

### JUDAH

The Lord had given King Asa rest from battles

and wars for 10 years. During that 10 years, Asa fortified his cities and equipped a large army. But, that peace ended when Zerah, the Ethiopian, marched against Judah with his vast army.

Zerah met Asa in battle in the valley of Zephathah near Mareshah.

Before the battle, Asa called out to the Lord and said, "Lord, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, for we rely on you and we have come here in your name. You are our God; don't let man **prevail** against you."

The Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah. The Ethiopians fled and Asa and his army pursued them as far as Gerar. So many of the Ethiopians died that day that they could not recover from their losses. The Lord crushed them and Judah carried away very much **spoil**.

Judah defeated the cities around Gerar and the fear of the Lord came upon the people there. Judah carried off much livestock, sheep, and camels before returning to Jerusalem.

The spirit of God came upon a prophet named Azariah and told him to meet with Asa and tell him and all of Judah and Benjamin, "Listen to me, the Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. Be strong and don't give up, for your work will be rewarded."

Asa took courage when he heard the words of Azariah the prophet. He removed the idols out of the land of Judah and Benjamin, and from the towns that he had captured during battles. He repaired the altar in front of the temple, then he assembled all the people in Judah to make sacrifice to the Lord and enter into a covenant with God. Those who entered into the covenant with the Lord were to seek God with all their hearts and souls. But those who did not seek God were to be put to death.

The people took an **oath** to the Lord and rejoiced with shouting, trumpets and horns. They had sought the Lord with all their hearts, and He gave them rest.

This happened during the 15th year of Asa's



reign. There was no more war during Asa's reign until the thirty-fifth year.

## **JUDAH AND ISRAEL**

In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign, Baasha, the king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified the city of Ramah. Baasha did not want anyone to leave or enter the territory of Asa.

When Asa saw what Baasha had done, he took all the silver and gold treasures that were in the temple of the Lord and had his servants take them to Ben-hadad, the king of Syria in Damascus.

Asa sent word to Ben-hadad saying, "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between your father and my father. See the present I am sending you of silver and gold. Now, break your treaty with Baasha, the king of Israel, so he will withdraw from me."

Ben-hadad heard what king Asa had to say and sent his own army against the cities of Israel.

Baasha heard what was going on in his own cities, and he stopped the work that was going on in the city of Ramah and went to Tirzah to fight Ben-hadad's army.

While Baasha was gone from Ramah, Asa gave the orders to carry away the building materials that Baasha had been using there. With those building materials, Asa built up his own cities of Geba and Mizpah.

## **JUDAH**

Asa may have thought that he did the right thing, but God was not pleased. Hanani the prophet came to Asa and said, "Because you relied on the king of Syria and not on the Lord, the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand. Don't you remember the mighty army of the Ethiopians and how the Lord delivered them into your hand? The Lord will strengthen those who are fully committed to Him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."

Asa became so angry at what Hanani told him that he put Hanani in prison, and began oppressing some of the people.

## **Think About It ...**

**It didn't take Asa long to forget about the Lord helping him win the battle against the Ethiopians did it?**

**When faced with his foe, Baasha, Asa tried to win by making a treaty with the king of Syria. He didn't ask God for help, and that was his problem.**

**He also forgot that God did not want His people to make treaties with people from other nations. (Ex. 34: 12)**

**When we leave God out of our lives and do not call upon Him to help us with our problems, but try to solve them ourselves, we can be just like Asa was. God told him, "The Lord is with you when you are with Him. Seek Him and He will be found by you. Forsake Him, and he will forsake you."**

**The same is true for us. We need to always remember that we are to seek God in ALL we do if we want Him to be with us!**

## **Memory Work**

**Ps 119:97 - 98**

**Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

**(NKJ)**



## Kings of the Divided Kingdom

### JUDAH

Rehoboam ☹️

Abijah ☹️

Asa 😊

### ISRAEL

Jeroboam ☹️

Nadab ☹️

Baasha ☹️

*See if you can remember these!*

## MAP WORK

Find :

GIBBETHON

DAMASCUS

RAMAH

TIRZAH

GEBA

## Use Your Bible

1. Who reigned as king after Jeroboam? I Kings 15: 25 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long did Nadab reign? I Kings 15: 25 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who killed Nadab, and reigned in his place? I Kings 15:28 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Baasha do to all who remained in Jeroboam's family? I Kings 15:29 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What message did the prophet Azariah give to Asa, king of Judah? II Chron 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Asa and Judah seek God? II Chron. 15: 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who did Asa make a treaty with? II Chron. 16: 2 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Was Asa happy with the words that Hanani the prophet told him? II Chron. 16: 10 \_\_\_\_\_

# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 5

### VOCABULARY

**Baal** - *The supreme male god of the Canaanites.*

**Asherah** - *A Canaanite goddess, the counterpart of Baal.*

**Sodomites** - *A male prostitute. Many of the idol worshippers would worship their god by doing this terrible sin of sodomy. God condemned this sin when he destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19).*

*As we begin: Baasha is the king of Israel and Asa is the king of Judah.*

### LESSON TEXT:

**I Kings 16; 22: 2 - 50; II Chron. 17: 1 - 19**

### ISRAEL

The Lord sent word to Baasha through Jehu, the son of Hanani. The Lord said, "I lifted you up and made you leader of My people, but you have walked in the ways of Jeroboam and caused My people to sin, provoking Me to anger. So I am going to utterly sweep away you and your house and make your house like the house of Jeroboam. Anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the city will be eaten by the dogs, and those who die in the country will be eaten by the birds."

So Baasha died and was buried in Tirzah. His son Elah became the new king of Israel. Elah was king over Israel for only two years.

One day, as Elah was getting drunk in the city of Tirzah, one of his officials named Zimri plotted against him. Zimri came in, struck Elah down and killed him. Then he put himself in as the new king of Israel.

As soon as Zimri became king, he destroyed all the family of Baasha, just as the prophet Jehu prophesied it would happen, because of Baasha's and Elah's sin of idolatry.

At this same time, the army of Israelites who were camped at Gibbethon heard what Zimri had done. So they proclaimed the commander of their army, Omri, the new king over Israel.

When they proclaimed Omri king, he took his

army from Gibbethon and went to Tirzah to lay siege to that city.

When Zimri saw that Omri had control of the city of Tirzah, he went into the royal palace and set it on fire around him. Zimri died in the fire.

When Zimri died, the people of Israel became divided. Some of them supported Omri, but some of them supported a man named Tibni. Omri's support was stronger than Tibni's, so Omri became king. Tibni died.

Omri became king of Israel on the 31st year of Asa, king of Judah's reign. Omri reigned 12 years. Six of them were in Tirzah.

Omri bought a hill and built a city on the hill, calling it Samaria. Samaria became the capitol city of Israel.

Omri was an evil king, and continued in the sins of Jeroboam by worshipping idols. He sinned more than all those who had been before him.

In the 38th year of Asa, king of Judah, Ahab, the son of Omri, became king over Israel. Ahab reigned in the capitol city of Samaria for 22 years.

Ahab was an evil king. Not only did he worship the golden calves of Jeroboam, but he married a woman named Jezebel, who was a daughter of the Zidonians. When Ahab married Jezebel, he began to worship **Baal**, even building a temple and an altar for the false god. He made an **Asherah** pole, and did more to provoke God than all the kings who had been before him.

### JUDAH

When Asa, king of Judah, was in his 39th year as king, he became diseased in his feet. Although his disease was serious, he did not seek help from the Lord, but from his own doctors.

Asa died in the 40th year of his reign. He was buried in a tomb that he had prepared for himself in the city of David. They laid his body on a bed of spices and perfumes and burned a big fire in his honor.

Jehoshaphat became king of Judah after his father Asa died. Jehoshaphat reigned 35 years in Judah. He was a good man who continued doing the good that his father had begun. He took the



sodomites out of the land and did not worship Baal. He worshipped the God of his father and followed God's commands, not behaving as Israel did. He removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah.

Because Jehoshaphat followed God, God established his kingdom and gave him riches and honor.

During the 3rd year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent the priests and Levites throughout the cities of Judah to teach the law of the Lord to the people.

All the nations around Judah began to fear the Lord, and they did not make war against Judah. The Philistines and Arabians brought Jehoshaphat gifts. He became more and more powerful and built forts and cities in Judah. He also had a powerful army.

### A PROPHECY FULFILLED

In the days of Joshua, God told Israel that any man who would rebuild the city of Jericho would lose his firstborn and his youngest sons. (Joshua 6:26)

When Ahab was king, a man named Hiel began to rebuild the city of Jericho. When he laid the foundation of the city his firstborn son died, and when he set up the gates his youngest son died. (I Kings 16:34)

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES! This prophecy fulfilled should give us more faith in the God that we serve.

### Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 99

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

(NKJ)

## Kings of the Divided Kingdom

### JUDAH

Rehoboam ☹

Abijah ☹

Asa ☺

Jehoshaphat ☺

### ISRAEL

Jeroboam ☹

Nadab ☹

Baasha ☹

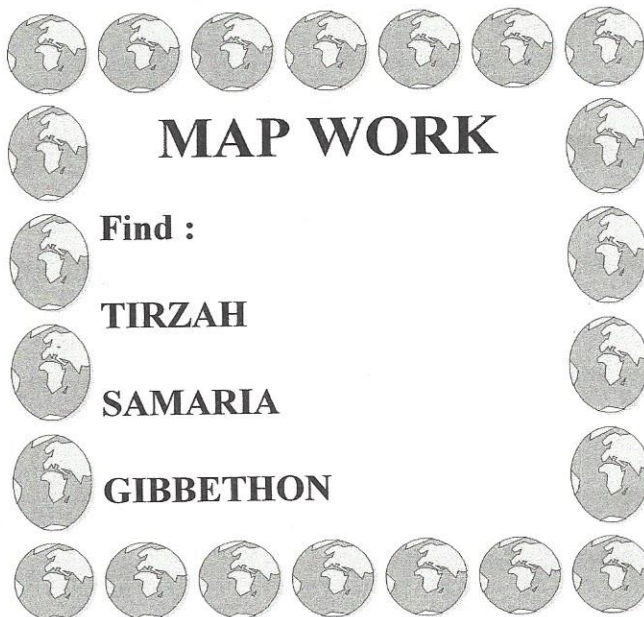
Elah ☹

Zimri ☹

Omri ☹

Ahab ☹

*See if you can remember these!*



# Multiple Choice

( Underline the correct answer )

1. The Lord sent word to Baasha through ( Jeroboam , Jehu , Elah ) that he was going to destroy his kingdom.
2. When Baasha died, his son ( Tirzah , Zimri , Elah ) became the new king of Israel.
3. ( Elah, Zimri, Omri ) destroyed the family of Baasha as soon as he became king.
4. The army of the Israelites wanted ( Zimri , Omri ) for their new king.
5. ( Asa , Zimri , Omri ) killed himself by setting the palace on fire.
6. Omri was a ( good , evil ) king.
7. ( Zimri , Baasha, Ahab ) was the son of Omri.
8. Ahab was a ( good , evil ) king.
9. When Asa became diseased in his feet, he sought counsel from ( the Lord , his doctors ) .
10. ( Jehu , Jehoshaphat ) was the son of Asa who became king over Judah.
11. Jehoshaphat continued in the ( evil , good ) that his father had begun.
12. ( Omri , Ahab , Jehoshaphat ) sent out priests and Levites to teach the people God's word.
13. When Hiel began to rebuild the city of Jericho, his sons ( prospered , died ) .
14. ( Ahab , Jehoshaphat ) removed the sodomites, high places , and Asherahs from the land when he was king.



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 6

### VOCABULARY

**Widow** - *A woman whose husband has died.*

#### *As we begin:*

*Ahab is the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat is the king of Judah.*

*For the next few lessons, Ahab and the prophets, Elijah and Elisha, will be the principle characters in our stories.*

#### LESSON TEXT:

**I Kings 17 ; James 5 : 17 - 18; Luke 4: 25 - 26**

### ELIJAH

*Elijah was an important character in God's plan — not only for the period that we are studying, but he also was a person who was referred to in the New Testament. Elijah came at a time when Israel was struggling in their choice between the worship of the true God, and the worship of Baal. In another lesson we will see a contest on Mt. Carmel in which Elijah would prove to Israel who the true God is.*

*Elijah did not die, and we will see that his influence lived on, even after his ascension into heaven. Great men who serve God have an influence that lives on long after they are gone.*

*In the New Testament, Elijah appeared with Moses and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:3).*

### ISRAEL

Now, Elijah the Tishbite from Gilead came to king Ahab and said, "As the Lord, God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will not be dew or rain except at my word."

Elijah prayed fervently to the Lord that it might not rain, (and it did not for three years and six months).

After Elijah said this to Ahab, the word of the Lord came to Elijah and said, "Get away from here. Turn toward the east and hide by the brook Cherith which flows into the Jordan River."

"You will drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

So Elijah did what the Lord told him to do. He went and stayed by the brook Cherith. Every morning and evening the ravens brought him bread and meat, and he drank from the brook.

After a time, the brook dried up because there was no rain in the land. Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah again. The Lord said, "Go at once to Zarephath at Zidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow there to supply you with food."

So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. When he got to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and said, "Would you please bring me a little water so that I may drink?"

The woman went to get the water, and as she was on her way Elijah called out to her again saying, "Please bring me a piece of bread."

The woman replied, "As the Lord your God lives, I don't have any bread, — only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

Elijah said, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first, make a small cake of bread from what you have and bring it to me, then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the God of Israel says: The flour will not be used up and the oil will not run dry until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the land."

The woman went home and did as Elijah said, and there was food for Elijah, the woman, and her son for many days. The jar of flour was not used up, and the jug of oil did not run dry, just as the Lord had spoken by Elijah.

Now, some time later the widow's son became ill. He became worse and worse, until he died.

The widow said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and cause the death of my son?"

Elijah said, "Give me your son."

Then Elijah took her son from her arms and carried him to an upstairs bedroom where he was staying. He laid her son on his own bed and cried out to the Lord saying, "O Lord, my God, have you brought tragedy upon this widow whom I am staying



with, by causing her son to die?"

Then Elijah stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the Lord, "O Lord, I pray, let this boy's life come back to him."

The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life came back to him. Elijah picked him up and carried him to the room where his mother was. He gave him to her and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

Then the widow said, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is truth."

### Some Things to Think About...

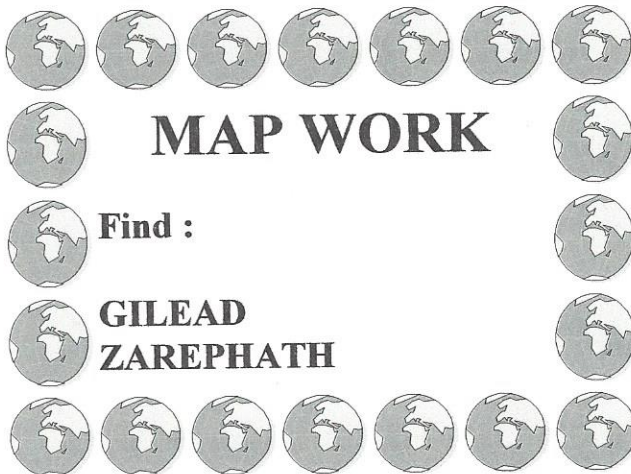
The book of James tells us that the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. (James 5: 16) Elijah was a righteous man who accomplished much with his prayers to the Father. The Lord did not let it rain on the earth for three years and six months, after Elijah prayed that it might not rain. (James 5:17)

This should let us know that if we are what God wants us to be, our prayers can be effective —our prayers will be answered by God. It is also frightening, in that we should be very careful what we pray for.

Think also about the faith of the widow of Zarephath. She showed great faith, to feed Elijah in a time of drought, when there was not much food or water.

Since she was from the north in Zarephath, she was probably not a Jew, but a Gentile. (Luke 4:25 - 26) God showed her His power everyday when the flour and oil were still there and they had enough to eat. He provided what they needed because of their faith.

If we have faith in God, He will provide our needs also!



## Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 99

**Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

**I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**

**(NKJ)**

## Use Your Bible

(All the answers are in I Kings 17)

1. To whom did Elijah say, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, there will not be dew or rain these years, except at my word." ? v. 1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who told Elijah to hide from Ahab at the brook Cherith? v. 2-3 \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did God feed Elijah? v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did the Lord say that Elijah should go after the brook dried up? v. 9 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who was in the city gathering sticks? v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_
6. How much food did the widow have in her house? v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did the widow and her son plan to do after they ate the food? v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_
8. How long did Elijah say the widow would have food? v.14 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who caused the flour and oil to be replenished every day? v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who did Elijah call to, after the widow's son died? v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who heard Elijah and returned life to the child? v. 22 \_\_\_\_\_
12. What did the woman say that she knew, after her son was healed? v.24 \_\_\_\_\_



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 7

### VOCABULARY

**Famine:** *A time when there is a shortage of food and much hunger. The famine is brought on in this lesson by the lack of rain on the land.*

### As we begin:

*Keep in mind that Ahab is still the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah.*

*We will continue with the story of Elijah, the prophet, in this lesson. Elijah presents himself to Ahab in Samaria, the capitol of Israel.*

### LESSON TEXT: I Kings 18

### ISRAEL

After a long time had passed, the Lord came to Elijah in the third year and said, "Go present yourself to Ahab and I will send rain on the land."

So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. The famine was very severe in Samaria at that time.

There was a man in charge of Ahab's palace named Obadiah. Obadiah was a man who believed in the Lord. In fact, while Jezebel, Ahab's wife, was killing the Lord's prophets, Obadiah took one hundred of the prophets, hid them in two caves, and supplied them with food and water.

One day, Ahab called Obadiah to himself and said, "Go throughout the land, to all the springs and valleys, and find grass to keep our horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill them."

So Ahab went in one direction and Obadiah went in the other direction in search of grass. As Obadiah was walking along, he met Elijah. Obadiah recognized Elijah and fell on his face before him saying, "Is it really you Elijah?"

Elijah said, "Yes. Go tell your master that Elijah is here."

Obadiah said to Elijah, "What have I done wrong that you would send me to Ahab to be put to death? There is not a nation or kingdom where my master has not searched for you. When they would say that you were not there, he would make them swear that they

could not find you. And now, you are wanting me to go to Ahab and say, 'Elijah is here!'?"

"When I leave you I don't know where the Spirit of God may take you. If I tell Ahab about you, and then he doesn't find you, he will kill me. Yet, I have worshipped the Lord since I was a young man."

"Haven't you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord? I hid one hundred of them in two caves and fed them with bread and water. And now you are telling me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.'? He will kill me!"

Elijah said, "As the Lord lives, I will present myself to Ahab today."

So Obadiah left Elijah and went to Ahab, telling him what Elijah said. Ahab went to meet Elijah.

When Ahab saw Elijah he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

Elijah said, "I haven't made trouble for Israel, but you and your father's house have. You have forsaken God's commands and followed after Baal. Now, I want you to gather all Israel and meet me on Mount Carmel. Bring with you four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at the table of your wife Jezebel."

So Ahab sent word out to all of Israel and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

When they were all assembled, Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, then follow Him. But if Baal is God, follow him."

After Elijah said this, the people said nothing.

Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Now, get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one bull, cut it into pieces, and put it on the wood. But do not set it on fire."

"I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood, but I will not set fire to it."

After we have done this, you call upon the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire, He is God."

The people answered Elijah and said, "What you say is good."

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal,



"Choose one bull and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call upon the name of your god, but do not light the fire under the animal."

So Baal's prophets took a bull and prepared it. From morning until noon they called upon their god saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no answer from their god. And they leaped around the altar that they had made.

At noon, Elijah began to mock them saying, "Shout louder! Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is thinking, or busy, or traveling on a journey. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."

At this the people began to shout louder, even slashing themselves with knives and swords until their blood flowed.

Midday passed and Baal's prophets continued their prophesying until time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response; no one answered; no one paid any attention.

Then Elijah said to all of the people, "Come near to me."

So all the people came close, and Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. He took twelve stones, to represent the twelve tribes whom the Lord had told would be named Israel. With those stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Around the altar he dug a trench large enough to hold two measures of seed. Then he put the wood on the altar, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the altar. After he did this, he said, "Fill four barrels with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

After the people had done this, Elijah said, "Pour water on it a second time." The people did, and Elijah said, "Pour water on it a third time." The people did and water ran down around the altar and filled up the trench around it.

When it was evening, Elijah stepped forward and prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that You are the God of Israel, and that I am your servant, and that all of these things have been done at Your command."

"Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that You are God, and that You are turning their hearts back again."

Then fire from the Lord came down and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and also licked up the water in the trench.

When all the people saw this, they all fell prostrate on their faces and cried out, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

Then Elijah said to the people, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!"

The people seized them and Elijah had them brought to the brook Kishon where he killed them.

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go eat and drink, for there is the sound of the rushing of rain."

Ahab left Elijah to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel, bent down to the ground, and put his face between his knees.

Elijah had a servant with him, and he said to his servant, "Go, look toward the sea."

The servant looked and said, "There is nothing there."

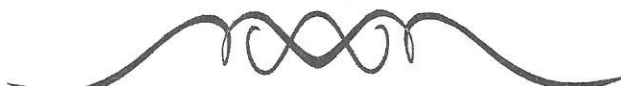
Elijah did this seven times, saying, "Go back."

The seventh time, the servant came back and said, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea."

Elijah said, "Go to Ahab and tell him to prepare his chariot and leave before the rain stops him."

Meanwhile, the sky became dark with clouds, it became windy, and a heavy rain came. Ahab rode away, going to Jezreel.

Then the power of the Lord came upon Elijah. Elijah tucked his coat into his belt, and ran ahead of Ahab, all the way to Jezreel.



## MAP WORK



Find :



Mt. Carmel



Kishon River



Jezreel





## Memory Work

**Ps 119:97 - 100**

**97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**

**100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.**

## Thought Questions

Why do you think Ahab told Elijah that he was a "troubler" of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The people of Israel did many foolish things in service to the god Baal. Do people today do things that are just as foolish? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think Elijah had the people pour so much water on the altar? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Use Your Bible

(All answers are in I Kings 18)

1. Who told Elijah that he would send rain upon the earth? v.1 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was destroying, or killing, the prophets of the Lord? v.4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who hid one hundred of the prophets? v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Obadiah's reaction when he saw Elijah? v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where had Ahab looked for Elijah? v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What was Obadiah afraid that Ahab would do to him? v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Ahab say when he saw Elijah? v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Elijah say the people of Israel were doing? v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_
10. How long did the people call upon the god Baal? v. 26 & 29 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Did their god answer? v. 29 \_\_\_\_\_
12. What did the twelve stones represent that Elijah built the altar with? v. 31 \_\_\_\_\_
13. What did Elijah want the people to know in his prayer to God? v. 36 \_\_\_\_\_
14. What was the people's reaction when they saw the fire burn up the altar? v. 39 \_\_\_\_\_
15. How big was the cloud that proved to Elijah that God kept His word? v. 44 \_\_\_\_\_
16. Who gave Elijah the power to run ahead of Ahab to Jezreel? v.46 \_\_\_\_\_

# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 8

### VOCABULARY

**Wilderness** - *An uninhabited land.*

**Broom tree** - *A dense, twiggy bush that grows to about 12 feet tall. It is sometimes called a Juniper.*

**Mantle** - *A cloak or coat.*

*In our last lesson, Elijah and the prophets of Baal had a contest on Mt. Carmel to find out who the true God was. The Lord showed King Ahab and Israel that He is the true God.*

*After the contest, the Lord caused it to rain — something that had not happened in three and one half years.*

*In this lesson, we find out that Ahab and his wife Jezebel were not happy with the results of the contest that was on Mt. Carmel.*

### LESSON TEXT: I Kings 19

#### ISRAEL

When King Ahab returned to Jezreel, he told his wife Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets of Baal with a sword.

This did not make Jezebel happy, so she sent word to Elijah saying, "May the gods deal with me severely if I have not taken your life, like you took the life of the prophets, by this time tomorrow."

Elijah realized that his life was in jeopardy, and he ran for his life. He came first to Beersheba in Judah and left his servant there. Then Elijah went for a day's journey into the wilderness.

He came to a broom tree and sat down under it. Then Elijah began to pray that he might die. He said, "It is enough, O Lord! Take my life because I am no better than my fathers." Then he lay down and went to sleep.

Suddenly, an angel touched him and said, "Arise and eat."

Elijah looked, and there by his head was a cake of bread that had been baked on hot coals, and a jar of water. Elijah ate and drank and then he laid back down and went to sleep again.

The angel of the Lord came to him a second time, touched him and said, "Arise up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."

Elijah got up and ate and drank. The food strengthened him, and he traveled forty days and forty nights on the strength of that food, until he reached Mount Horeb, the mountain of God.

At Mount Horeb, Elijah went into a cave to spend the night. During the night, the word of the Lord came to him and said, "What are you doing here Elijah?"

Elijah said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. Israel has rejected Your covenant, broken down Your altars, and put Your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too!"

Then the Lord said to Elijah, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord."

Then a powerful wind tore into the mountain and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

After the fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice. When Elijah heard this, he pulled his mantle over his face, and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here Elijah?"

Elijah said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. Israel rejected Your covenant, broke down Your altars, and put Your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

The Lord said to Elijah, "Go back the way you came and go to the wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. Also, anoint Jehu as the king over Israel, and anoint Elisha as prophet to take your place."

"And it will happen that whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael will be killed by Jehu, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu will be killed by Elisha."

"Yet, Elijah, there are still seven thousand in Israel who have not bowed down their knees to Baal, and have not kissed him."



So Elijah left the mountain and went to find Elisha. He found him plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth pair. Elijah threw his mantle around him.

Elisha left the oxen and ran after Elijah saying, "Let me kiss my father and my mother goodbye, and then I will follow you."

Elijah said, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

So Elisha turned back, killed a yoke of his oxen, and over a fire he made with his plowing equipment, he cooked the oxen and gave it to the people to eat. Then he followed after Elijah and became his servant.

## Think About It...

Did you notice that Elijah seemed to be very discouraged and depressed in this lesson? He had reason to be. He had been on Mount Carmel where God proved to the people that He is the true God. The prophets of Baal had been killed. Things seemed to be going well. Elijah may have thought that God would continue to wipe out the false prophets like he did at Mt. Carmel. Then, Ahab and Jezebel made trouble for him and Israel again, making him have to escape for his life.

Elijah became so discouraged that he began to think that he was the only one who wanted to serve the true God. But God showed him some things. First, He showed Elijah that he was not the only one serving Him. The Lord said,

*1 King 19:18*

*18 "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him." (NKJ)*

The Lord was telling Elijah here that there were still a good number of people in Israel who were not worshipping Baal.

Secondly, God said to Elijah twice,  
*1 King 19:13*

*...then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (NIV)*

God was telling Elijah, and showing him, that everything did not depend on him. God is the one in control.

We need to remember these same lessons when we are discouraged.

## Memory Work

**Ps 119:97 - 100**

**97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**

**100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.**

## MAP WORK

**Find :**

**Mt. Carmel**

**Beersheba**

**Mt. Horeb**

**Damascus**



## Thought Questions

1. Why do you think Jezebel was not happy about Elijah killing all the prophets of Baal? I Kings 16: 31 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Elijah prayed to God that he might die. God did not let him die, but sent him food. Why do you think God did not want Elijah to die? I Kings 19: 15 - 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. When it seems that we are the only one who is wanting to do what God wants and what is right, what should we think about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MATCH

**Jezebel**

**Elijah would anoint him to replace Ahab as king over Israel.**

**Elijah**

**The mountain of God where God spoke to Elijah.**

**angel**

**Elijah would anoint Hazael to be king over this place.**

**small still voice**

**Elijah sat down under this and prayed that he might die.**

**Mount Horeb**

**Elijah killed the prophets of this god at Mt. Carmel.**

**Syria**

**He touched Elijah and told him to arise and eat.**

**Elisha**

**She wanted to kill Elijah.**

**broom tree**

**Elijah heard this after the wind, earthquake and fire.**

**Baal**

**He would replace Elijah as God's prophet.**

**Jehu**

**God told him that 7,000 in Israel had not bowed their knees to Baal.**



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 9

### VOCABULARY

**Elders of the land:** *Older men in Israel who had authority.*

**Boast:** *To be praised, to glory, to be commended.*

**Vast:** *A great number, crowd, or multitude.*

**Plains:** *Level country.*

**Sackcloth:** *A loose cloth or bagging worn when one was in mourning or humiliation.*

### LESSON TEXT: I Kings 20

#### ISRAEL

Now, Ben-hadad king of Syria was getting his entire army ready, along with thirty-two kings and their horses and chariots, to fight against Israel in Samaria. He besieged Samaria and sent his messengers to Ahab king of Israel. His message said: "Your gold and silver are mine, and the best of your wives and children are mine."

King Ahab replied, "Just as you say, my lord the king, I am yours and all I have is yours."

Later, the messengers came with another message from Ben-hadad. It said: "You shall give me your silver and gold, your wives and your children. About this time tomorrow, my officials will search your palace and the houses of your servants. They will take everything of value and carry it away."

When Ahab received this message he sent for all the elders of the land. Ahab said to them, "Observe how this man is looking for trouble. When he sent for my wives and children, my gold and silver, I did not refuse him."

The elders and the people replied, "Don't listen to Ben-hadad, or agree to his commands."

So Ahab sent a message back to Ben-hadad that said, "Your servant will do all that you commanded the first time, but I cannot meet this demand."

Ben-hadad's servants took Ahab's message back to him, and Ben-hadad sent another message back to Ahab. The message said, "If enough dust remains in Samaria when I am through, to give each of my men

a handful, then I hope the gods will deal severely with me."

Ahab sent a message back saying, "One who puts on his armor should not **boast** like one who takes it off." (*In other words: a man who is just putting on his armor has not been to battle yet. A man who is taking off his armor has already been to battle.*)

When Ben-hadad's messengers brought Ahab's message to him, he and the other kings were drinking in their tents. After he received the message he said to his men, "Prepare to attack."

Meanwhile a prophet came to king Ahab and said, "This is what the Lord has said, 'Do you see this **vast** army? I will give it into your hands today, and then you will see that I Am the Lord.'"

Ahab replied, "But who will do this?"

The prophet said, "The Lord has said that the young officers and commanders of the provinces will."

Ahab asked, "Who will start the battle?"

The prophet replied, "You will."

So Ahab summoned his young officers and commanders to him. There were 232 men. Then he assembled the rest of his army of 7,000 men and set out to fight Ben-hadad at noon that day.

At that very time, Ben-hadad and the 32 kings with him were in their tents getting drunk. Ben-hadad had his scouts out watching, and they saw the commanders of Ahab's army coming. The scouts reported to Ben-hadad, "Men are advancing from Samaria."

Ben-hadad said, "If Ahab's army is coming out in peace, take them alive. If they have come for war, take them alive."

Ahab's young officers marched out of Samaria with his army behind them. Everyone of them were killing the Syrians as they came to them. The Syrians began to flee, and Israel was pursuing them. Ben-hadad escaped on horseback with some of his men.

Ahab's army overpowered Ben-hadad's horses and chariots, and many of the Syrians died.

The prophet came to Ahab again and said, "Strengthen your position and see what must be done, because the king of Syria will attack you again at the return of the year."



Meanwhile, Ben-hadad's men were advising him, "Israel was too strong for us because their gods are gods of the hills. If we fight them in the **plains**, we will be stronger than they."

"Now do this: Remove all the kings from their commands and replace them with officers. You must also raise up another army like the one you lost so we can fight Israel on the **plains**. Then surely we will be stronger than they are."

Ben-hadad agreed with this, and did what they said.

The next year, Ben-hadad gathered his army and went up to Aphek to fight Israel.

Israel went out to meet Ben-hadad's army, and camped opposite of them. They looked like two small flocks of goats compared to the **vast** army of Syrians that filled the countryside.

The man of God came near to Ahab and said, "This is what the Lord says, 'Because Syria thinks the Lord is a god of the hills and not a god of the valleys, I will deliver this **vast** army into your hands, and you will know that I Am the Lord.'"

For seven days both armies camped opposite of each other. On the seventh day, they joined into battle. Israel killed 100,000 Syrian foot soldiers in one day. The rest of the Syrian army escaped to the city of Aphek. In Aphek a wall collapsed, killing 27,000 of Ben-hadad's soldiers. Ben-hadad fled into the city, and hid himself in an inner room.

As he was hiding, his soldiers said to him, "We have heard that the kings of Israel are merciful. Let's go to the king of Israel with **sackcloth** around our waists and ropes on our heads. Perhaps he will spare your life."

So, wearing **sackcloth** around their waists, and ropes on their heads, they went to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-hadad says, 'Please let me live.'"

King Ahab replied, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

Now, Ben-hadad's men took this as a good sign and said, "Yes, your brother Ben-hadad."

"Go get him." said Ahab.

Ben-hadad came out to meet Ahab, and Ahab had him come up into his chariot.

Ben-hadad said to Ahab, "I will return the cities that my father took from your father. You may set up marketplaces in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria."

Ahab replied, "I will set you free with this treaty."

So Ahab made treaty with Ben-hadad and let him go.

Now one of the sons of the prophets said to his companion at the command of God, "Strike me with your weapon."

But the companion refused to do this. So the prophet said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the Lord, as soon as you leave me a lion will kill you."

After the man left the prophet, a lion found him and killed him.

Then the prophet found another man and said, "Strike me, please."

So the man struck him and wounded him.

Afterwards, the prophet went and stood by the side of the road, waiting for king Ahab to come by. He disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes.

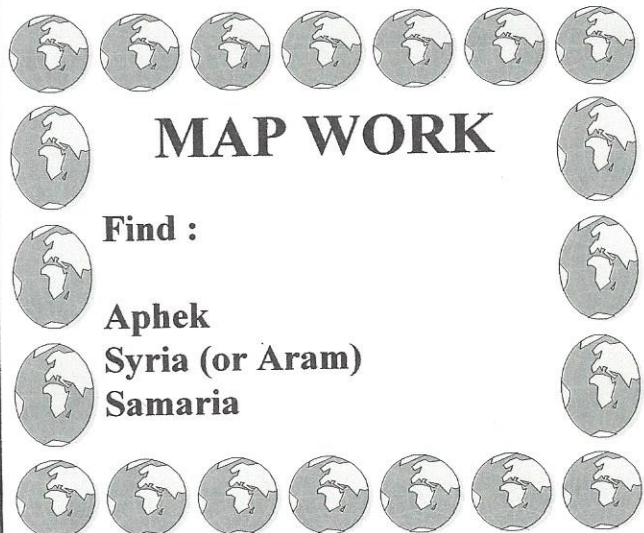
As the king passed by, the prophet called out to him saying, "Your servant went into the midst of the battle and then someone brought a captive to me saying, 'Guard this man. If he is missing, it will be your life for his life, or you must pay with a talent of silver.' So it happened that while your servant was busy here and there, the man disappeared."

Ahab replied, "That is your sentence. You have pronounced it upon yourself."

Then the prophet quickly removed the bandage over his eyes, and the king recognized that he was one of the prophets.

The prophet said to Ahab, "The Lord has said that you set free a man that He was determined should die. Therefore, it is your life for his life, your people for his people."

This made Ahab very angry and sullen, and he went back to his palace in Samaria in that manner.





## Keep this in mind...

Ahab was an evil king. He worshipped the golden calves of Jeroboam, and the gods of his wife Jezebel. The Bible tells us that he did more to provoke God to anger than all the kings who had been before him.

Why did God help Ahab in the battle against Syria and Ben-hadad? It was certainly a surprise to Ahab that God was going to help him, because he asked God, “Who will do this?” and , “Who will start the battle?” Ahab had not had a good relationship with God or His prophets.

So why did God help him? I Kings 20: 13 tells us that God helped so that they would know that, "*I Am the Lord*". "*The Lord*" in this verse means that God is Jehovah, the existing God, the eternal God. Oh how Ahab, as well as Israel, needed to learn this lesson. Syria also learned this same lesson.

## Memory Work

**Ps 119:97 - 101**

**97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**

**100 I understand more than the ancients,  
because I keep Your precepts.**

**101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.**

## Who Said It?

**“Your gold and silver are mine, and the best of your wives and children.”**  
**“Just as you say, my lord the king, I am yours, and all I have is yours.”**

**"Observe how this man is looking for trouble."**

**"Don't listen to Ben-hadad, or agree to his commands."**

**"If enough dust remains in Samaria when I am through, to give each of my men a handful, then I hope the gods will deal severely with me."**

**“One who puts on his armor should not boast like one who takes it off.”**

**“Do you see this vast army? I will give it into your hands today, and then you will see that I Am the Lord.”**

**"Who will start the battle?"**

**"If Ahab's army is coming out in peace, take them alive. If they have come for war, take them alive."**

**"Israel was too strong for us because their gods are gods of the hills."**

**“Your servant Ben-hadad says, ‘Please let me live.’”**

**"Is he alive? He is my brother."**

**"I will set you free with this treaty."**

**“The Lord has said that you set free a man that He was determined should die.”**

**Use the names below to fill in the blanks. They may be used more than once.**

## AHAB , BEN-HADAD, THE PROPHET, BEN-HADAD'S MEN , THE LORD, THE ELDERS



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 10

### VOCABULARY

**Herbs :** *Green vegetables.*

**Forbid :** *Let it not be.*

**"Inheritance of my fathers" :** *Under the law of Moses, the land that each family inherited was to be passed down to the next son in that family. The land was not to be sold permanently, because it belonged to the Lord and the family that lived there were pilgrims or temporary tenants of the Lord's land. (Lev. 25:23)*

**Seal :** *A seal was a ring or cylinder engraved with the owner's name or design and was usually hung around one's neck or worn on one's finger. Wax or moist clay would be used on a letter or document and the seal would be pressed into it to certify that the document was from the person to whom the seal belonged.*

*Remember that while Ahab is reigning in Israel, Jehoshaphat is still reigning in Judah.*

*The capitol of Israel is Samaria, but it seems that Ahab had his palace in Jezreel. (I Kings 21:1)*

### LESSON TEXT: I Kings 21

#### ISRAEL

Now there was a man living in Jezreel named Naboth. Naboth had a vineyard and it was near to the palace of king Ahab.

One day Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard so that I may use it for a garden of **herbs**, since it is so close to my palace. In exchange, I will give you a better vineyard, or I will pay you whatever it is worth."

Naboth replied, "The Lord **forbid** that I should give you the **inheritance of my fathers**."

Ahab did not like Naboth's decision, and he went home sullen and angry at Naboth. When Ahab returned home he went to bed and turning his face refused to eat.

Jezebel, his wife, came to him and said, "Why are you so sad that you will not eat?"

Ahab said, "Because I went to Naboth and asked

him to sell me his vineyard, or in exchange I would give him another vineyard in its place. But Naboth told me that he would not give me his vineyard."

At this, Jezebel said, "Aren't you the one who governs Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up, for I will get you the vineyard of Naboth."

So Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with Ahab's **seal**, sending them to the elders and nobles who lived in the city with Naboth. In the letters she wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. Seat two worthless men opposite him and have them testify that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take Naboth out and stone him to death."

The elders and nobles did as Jezebel directed in the letters. They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place. Two worthless men sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth saying, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king." Then they took Naboth outside the city and stoned him to death.

The nobles sent word to Jezebel saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

As soon as Jezebel learned that Naboth was dead, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take the vineyard of Naboth that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead."

When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he went to take possession of Naboth's vineyard.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the prophet saying, "Go meet Ahab, the king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is in Naboth's vineyard and is taking possession of it. This is what you are to say to Ahab: 'Haven't you murdered a man and taken his property? The Lord has said that in this place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, the dogs will lick up your blood!'"

When Elijah approached Ahab, Ahab said to him, "So you have found me, my enemy!"

Elijah said, "I have found you because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. I am going to bring evil upon you. Your descendants will be destroyed and every male, slave or free, will be cut off from you. Your house will be like the house of Jeroboam because you provoked me to anger and



caused Israel to sin.”

“Also, concerning Jezebel, the Lord says that the dogs will eat her within the walls of Jezreel. Dogs will eat those who belong to Ahab and die in the city, and birds will eat those who die in the country.”

*(There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged by his wife Jezebel who influenced him. He behaved in an abominable manner by going after idols, like the Amorites whom the Lord had driven out of the land before Israel.)*

When Ahab heard these words he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah saying, “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring evil during his life, but during the life of his son.”

## Memory Work

**Ps 119:97 - 101**

**97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**

**100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.**

**101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.**



## MAP WORK



**Find :**



**Jezreel**



## TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_ Elijah had a vineyard in Jezreel.
2. \_\_\_\_ Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard to use for a garden of herbs.
3. \_\_\_\_ Ahab was pleased with Naboth's decision.
4. \_\_\_\_ Jezebel asked Ahab, "Why are you so sad that you will not eat?"
5. \_\_\_\_ Elijah told Ahab that he would get him the vineyard of Naboth.
6. \_\_\_\_ Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal.
7. \_\_\_\_ Two worthless men brought false charges against Naboth, and then he was stoned to death.
8. \_\_\_\_ Ahab did not want Naboth's vineyard after he learned that he was dead.
9. \_\_\_\_ God told Elijah that the dogs would lick up the blood of Ahab.
10. \_\_\_\_ As Elijah approached Ahab, he greeted him like a friend.
11. \_\_\_\_ God said that Ahab's house would be like the house of Jeroboam.
12. \_\_\_\_ Ahab liked the words that Elijah spoke to him.
13. \_\_\_\_ God had mercy on Ahab because he humbled himself before God.

## THOUGHT QUESTIONS

Ahab was a terrible, wicked man. Yet, God had mercy on him when he humbled himself before God. Why do you think God did this? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think He does the same thing for us? \_\_\_\_\_



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 11

### VOCABULARY

**Heed:** *To hear with attention to; to understand and obey.*

### ISRAEL AND JUDAH

#### LESSON TEXT: I Kings 22 & II Chron. 18

*Israel had been at peace with Syria for three years, following Ahab's treaty with Syria's king, Ben-hadad (I Kings 20). After three years, Syria took one of Israel's cities of refuge, Ramoth-Gilead (Deut. 4: 41 - 43). Ramoth-Gilead was an important city — not only because it was a city of refuge, but because it was on a major trade route in that day.*

*In this lesson, we will see Ahab form an alliance with Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. Later, we will see that a marriage between their children sealed this alliance. As we continue to study about this strange friendship of Ahab and Jehoshaphat, watch, in other lessons, how Ahab's and Israel's influence causes Judah to turn from God.*

Three years had passed, and there had been no war between Israel and Syria. Ahab had been discussing with his own officials the fact that Syria had taken Ramoth-Gilead. He said to them, "Don't you know that Ramoth-Gilead is ours, and we are keeping quiet and are not taking it from Syria?"

In the third year, Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, came to see Ahab. While he was there, Ahab said to him, "Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-Gilead?"

Jehoshaphat replied, "I am as you are. My people are your people and my horses as your horses. But first, seek the word of the Lord about this."

So, Ahab brought together four hundred prophets and asked them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-Gilead, or shall I refrain?"

"Go", the prophets answered, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand."

Jehoshaphat evidently was not pleased with what Ahab had done, so he said, "Isn't there a prophet of

the Lord that we can ask about this matter?"

Ahab said, "There is still one prophet, Micaiah, whom we can ask, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad."

"Do not say such things," Jehoshaphat replied.

Then Ahab summoned one of his officials and said, "Bring Micaiah at once."

As they waited for Micaiah, Ahab and Jehoshaphat were sitting on their thrones in their royal robes by the gate of Samaria. All the prophets of Ahab were prophesying before them. As they were waiting, Zedekiah the prophet had made some horns of iron and said to Ahab and Jehoshaphat, "The Lord has said that with these horns you will gore the Syrians until they are destroyed."

All of the other prophets began saying, "Go up to Ramoth-Gilead and be victorious, for the Lord will give it into your hands!"

At that time the official, who had been summoned to get Micaiah, had returned with him. The official said to Micaiah, "Listen, all the other prophets are predicting success for the king. Let your words agree with theirs and speak what is good."

But Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, I can only say what the Lord tells me to say."

Micaiah approached the king, and the king asked him, "Shall we go to war against Ramoth-Gilead or not?"

Micaiah replied, "Attack and be victorious for the Lord will give it into the king's hand."

Ahab said, "How many times must I make you swear that you are telling me the truth in the name of the Lord?"

Micaiah said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountain, like sheep without a shepherd. The Lord said, 'These people have no master. Let each one go to his home in peace.'"

Then Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies good about me, only bad?"

Micaiah said, "Now hear God's word! I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside Him on His right and His left. The Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go and be killed at Ramoth-Gilead?'"

"One spirit said one thing, and one another.



Finally a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord saying, 'I will persuade him.'"

" 'In what way?' asked the Lord"

"The spirit said, 'I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets'"

"The Lord said, 'You will succeed. Go and do it!'"

"So now, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all your prophets, and the Lord has declared disaster for you."

At this, Zedekiah came near to Micaiah and slapped him on the cheek saying, "How did the spirit from the Lord go from me to speak to you?"

Micaiah replied, " You will find out on the day that you have to hide yourself in an inner room."

Then Ahab gave orders to take Micaiah and return him to Amon the ruler of the city and to Joash the king's son. Ahab said, " Put Micaiah in prison and feed him meager rations of bread and water until I have returned safely."

Micaiah declared to Ahab, "If you return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me. Take heed to my words, all you people."

So Ahab the king of Israel, and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-Gilead. Before they went into battle, Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself, but you wear your royal robes."

So Ahab disguised himself and went into battle.

Now, the king of Syria had commanded his captains, saying, "Fight with neither small or great, only fight with the king of Israel."

During the battle, the Syrians saw Jehoshaphat in his royal robes and said to themselves, " This is the king of Israel." So they surrounded Jehoshaphat to fight him, but Jehoshaphat cried out to them and the Lord helped him by diverting the Syrians from him. The captains of the Syrians saw that Jehoshaphat was not the king of Israel, and they stopped pursuing him.

During the battle, a man drew his bow at random and struck Ahab between the joints of his armor. Ahab said to his chariot driver, "Turn around and leave the battle, for I am wounded."

All day the battle raged and Ahab propped himself up in his chariot facing the Syrians. The blood from his wound ran down into the floor of the chariot and at sunset he died.

As the sun was setting, a cry went throughout the army saying, "Every man to his own city and country."

Ahab's body was brought to Samaria after he died, and they buried him there. They washed his

chariot in the pool at Samaria and the dogs licked up his blood, just as the Lord said they would.

## Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 102

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

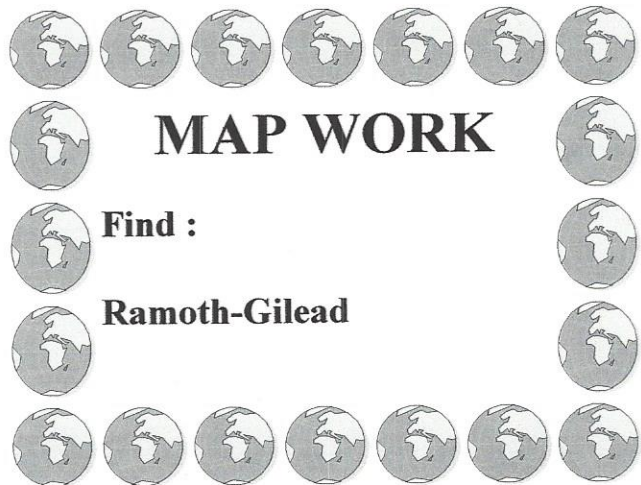
98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.  
(NKJ)



## MAP WORK

Find :

Ramoth-Gilead

## Multiple Choice

1. Syria had taken ( Jezreel , Ramoth-Gilead, Jerusalem ) from Israel.
2. Ahab asked ( Elijah , Jehoshaphat ) if he would go to battle with him at Ramoth-Gilead.
3. Jehoshaphat told Ahab to seek the word of ( his prophets , the Lord ) about going to battle at Ramoth-Gilead.
4. Ahab's four hundred prophets told him ( "Go." , "Do not go." ) to Ramoth-Gilead.
5. Jehoshaphat wanted Ahab to ask a prophet of ( Baal , the Lord ) about going to battle.
6. Ahab said that he ( loved , hated ) Micaiah the prophet.
7. All of Ahab's prophets predicted ( defeat , success ) for Israel.
8. Micaiah said, " As the Lord lives, I can only say what ( Ahab, the Lord ) tells me to say."
9. Micaiah told Ahab that the Lord had put a ( lying spirit , spirit of truth ) in the mouth of his prophets.
10. During the battle, Ahab put Micaiah in ( his palace , prison ).
11. Micaiah told Ahab, "If you return safely, the Lord ( has , has not ) spoken through me.
12. Ahab ( wore his royal robes , disguised himself ) going into battle.
13. ( Jehoshaphat , Ahab ) was wounded during the battle.
14. The dogs licked up the blood of ( Ahab , Micaiah , Jehoshaphat ) after the battle.

### Think About It...

*Micaiah told Ahab that he could only say what the Lord told him to say. When we are talking about God's will, or truth, the same thing is true for us. We can only say what God wants us to say. We are not to add to or take away from His word. Read Rev. 22: 18 -19 and answer the following questions:*

**What did God say will happen to those who add to His word? v. 18** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What did God say will happen to those who take away from His word? v.19** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you think it is a serious thing to change God's word to something we want?** \_\_\_\_\_



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 12

### VOCABULARY

**Fast :** *Going without food or drink. Sometimes fasting was done for religious purposes. It was also a sign of grief, distress, or repentance.*

**Sanctuary :** *A holy and sacred place. The sanctuary in this lesson is the temple.*

*In our previous lessons we have concentrated mainly on Ahab and Israel. Ahab, the king of Israel, was killed in the battle with Ben-hadad.*

*Remember that Jehoshaphat is still the king of Judah. In this lesson we are learn more about what has been going on in Judah.*

*Jehoshaphat was a good king of Judah. He served God and did not seek Baal. Also, in the third year of his reign he sent out his princes and the priests to teach God's word and try to draw Judah back to God.*

*Remember that although Jehoshaphat was a good king, he had made an alliance with Ahab who was very wicked.*

### JUDAH

#### LESSON TEXT: II Chron. 19 ; 20

When Jehoshaphat had returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem, Jehu the prophet went out to meet him. Jehu rebuked him saying, "Why are you helping the wicked and loving those who hate the Lord? However, there is some good in you because you have gotten rid of the Asherah poles and have set your heart on seeking God."

Jehoshaphat went out among the people in Beersheba and to the hill country of Ephraim and tried to turn the people back to God. He appointed judges to rule the people in each of Judah's fortified cities. He told the judges, "Take heed what you do because you are not judging for man, but for the Lord who is with you whenever you give a judgment. Now, let the fear of God be on you and judge carefully because God does not have respect of persons and He cannot be bribed."

Jehoshaphat also appointed Levites and priests to settle disputes. He told the priests, "You must fear God and serve Him faithfully. You are to warn the people not to sin against God, or God's wrath will be on you and your brethren. Amaziah, the chief priest, will be over you in matters concerning the law. Zebediah will be over all matters concerning the king, and the Levites will serve as officials. Have courage to do what is right and the Lord will be with you."

Sometime later, the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat.

Some men came to Jehoshaphat and said, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom and beyond the Sea. They are already in En Gedi."

Jehoshaphat became afraid when he heard this and he sought the Lord. He also proclaimed a **fast** for all of Judah.

Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord. As they were gathered, Jehoshaphat stood before them at the temple in front of the new court. Jehoshaphat prayed, "O Lord God of our fathers, aren't You the God who is in heaven? You rule over all kingdoms and all power and might is in Your hands so that no one can come against You. O God, didn't you drive out the other nations from this land and give it to Your people Israel and to the descendants of Abraham? Your people are living in this land and have built you a **sanctuary** in Your name saying, 'If disaster comes upon us we will stand in Your presence before this temple that bears Your name and will cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear us and save us.'"

"But now, men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir are coming to take from us the land that You have give us for an inheritance. These are people whose land You would not allow us to invade. O God, judge them, for we do not have the power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We don't know what to do and our eyes are upon You."

After this prayer, all the men, women and children of Judah stood before the Lord. Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel. Jahaziel said to the people, "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all you who live in Judah and Jerusalem. The Lord has said



that you are not to be afraid or dismayed by this large army because the battle is not yours, it is the Lord's."

"Tomorrow, go down against them. They will be coming up by the cliff of Ziz and you will find them at the end of the brook in the wilderness of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Stand still and see the Lord deliver you. Don't be afraid or discouraged. Face them tomorrow and the Lord will be with you."

When Jehoshaphat heard this he bowed with his face to the ground and all of Judah fell down in worship to the Lord.

Then some of the Levites stood up praising the Lord with a loud voice.

The next morning, Judah left for the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were starting out, Jehoshaphat stood before them and said, "Listen to me! Have faith in God and He will uphold you. Have faith in His prophets and you will be successful."

Then Jehoshaphat asked the people about appointing some men to sing to the Lord. These men went before Judah's army saying, "Praise the Lord for His mercy endures forever."

As the men began to sing, the Lord caused the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to be defeated. The men of Ammon and Moab turned on the men from Mount Seir and they began kill them. Then the men from Ammon and Moab began to fight and kill each other.

As Judah's army came to the place that overlooked the wilderness of Tekoa, they looked out and instead of seeing an army to fight they saw dead bodies lying on the ground. No one had escaped.

Jehoshaphat's army went down and took the spoil from the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir. They found and took many valuables off the dead bodies — more than they could carry back home. There was so much that it took them three days to gather it.

On the fourth day, Judah assembled in the valley of Berachah to praise the Lord. Then Jehoshaphat led them joyfully back to Jerusalem, for the Lord made them rejoice over their enemies. They entered Jerusalem with stringed instruments, harps and trumpets going to the temple.

When the nations around them heard how the Lord had fought the enemies of Israel, they became afraid. And God gave Jehoshaphat and his kingdom rest and peace.

### *Did You Notice?...*

*In Judah's prayer to God, they said that God had not given them permission to take Ammon, Moab, and Edom's land. Yet, Ammon, Moab and Edom were coming to fight against them.*

*Ammon and Moab were sons of Lot, Abraham's nephew. God had told Israel many years before that He would not give them Ammon or Moab's land because He had given it to Ammon and Moab to possess. (Deut. 2: 9, 19)*

*The people of Edom were descendants of Esau. Remember that Esau was the brother to Jacob (later called Israel). God had given Mount Seir to Esau (Deut. 2:4-5). He had told Israel that they could not have Esau's land.*

*When Israel invaded Canaan, they left the land of Ammon, Moab, and Edom alone because of God's commandments. The people, or nations, of Ammon, Moab and Edom were distant relatives of Israel. Unfortunately, these nations had become wicked and did not do God's will. In this lesson, God allowed these nations to be defeated.*

### **Memory Work**

**Ps 119:97 - 102**

**97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

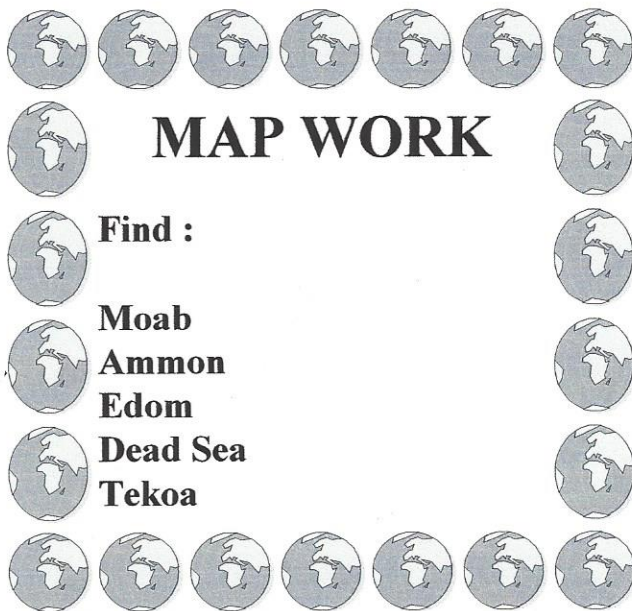
**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**

**100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.**

**101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.**

**102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.  
(NKJ)**





### True or False

1. \_\_\_\_ God has respect of persons.
2. \_\_\_\_ Jehoshaphat tried to turn the people away from God.
3. \_\_\_\_ Jehoshaphat told the judges that they were to warn the people not to sin against God.
4. \_\_\_\_ Jehoshaphat was not afraid when he heard about the vast army coming toward him.
5. \_\_\_\_ Jahaziel told Jehoshaphat that the battle would be his.
6. \_\_\_\_ When Judah saw the vast army, they were all dead men lying on the ground.

## Use Your Bible

1. Jehoshaphat prepared his heart to seek whom? II Chron. 19:3 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of fear were the judges to have as they taught and judged God's people? II Chron. 19:7, 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When Jehoshaphat heard that a vast army was coming toward him, what did he do? II Chron. 20:3  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who did the people in Judah seek help from? II Chron. 20 : 4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jahaziel told Judah that the battle was not theirs, but whose? II Chron. 20:15 \_\_\_\_\_
6. When other kingdoms and nations heard how the Lord fought the enemies of Israel, who did they fear? II Chron. 20: 29 \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many of the enemy escaped? II Chron. 20: 24 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did God give to the kingdom of Jehoshaphat? II Chron. 20: 30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 13

### VOCABULARY

**Lattice :** *A netting or decorative framework.*

**II Kings 22: 48 - 53; II Chron. 20: 35 - 37;  
II Kings 1**

### ISRAEL

In the seventeenth year that Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, began to reign over Israel.

Ahaziah only reigned for two years. He was a very wicked king who did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He walked in the ways of his wicked father and mother and in the ways of Jeroboam. Ahaziah worshipped Baal and provoked the Lord to anger.

### JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Jehoshaphat made an alliance with Ahaziah to build a fleet of trading ships. Jehoshaphat was going to use these ships to go to Ophir for gold.

Ahaziah said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my men sail with your men." But Jehoshaphat refused. Jehoshaphat's ships never set sail. They were wrecked at Ezion-Geber.

Eliezar prophesied against Jehoshaphat saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the Lord has destroyed your works."

### ISRAEL

One day Ahaziah fell through a **lattice** in his upper room in Samaria and injured himself. So he sent messengers saying to them, "Go ask Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, if I will recover from this injury."

At this same time the word of the Lord came to Elijah and said, "Go meet the messengers of the king and ask them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to ask Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? The Lord has said that you will not leave the bed that you are lying on. You will surely die.'"

So Elijah departed and delivered the Lord's message. The messengers returned to Ahaziah and he asked them, "Why have you returned so soon?"

"A man came to meet us," they replied. "The man told us, 'Go back to the king who sent you and tell him, 'This is what the Lord says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending messengers to ask Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Because of this you will not leave the bed that you are lying on. You will surely die!'"

Ahaziah asked, "What kind of man met you and told you this?"

They said, "He was a hairy man with a leather belt around his waist."

Ahaziah said, "He was Elijah the Tishbite."

The king then sent a company of fifty men to Elijah. The captain of these men went up to Elijah, who was sitting on a hill, and said, "Man of God! The king has said for you to come down!"

Elijah said, "If I am a man of God, then let fire from heaven come down and consume your fifty men!"

Then fire came down from heaven and consumed the fifty men.

Ahaziah then sent fifty more men to Elijah. The captain of these men went to Elijah and said, "Man of God, the king of Israel has said for you to come down quickly!"

Elijah answered, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men."

Then fire came down from heaven and consumed the fifty men.

Again, Ahaziah sent fifty more men to Elijah. But the captain of these men went to Elijah, fell on his knees and pleaded with him saying, "O man of God, please let my life and the life of my men be precious in your sight. Fire has burned up the first two captains of fifty and their men. Please let my life be precious to you."

Then the angel of the Lord spoke to Elijah and said, "Go down with him and do not be afraid of him."

So Elijah got up and went with him to see the king.



When he came before king Ahaziah he said, "This is what the Lord has said, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you have consulted Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Because you have done this, you will never leave your bed and you will surely die.'"

So Ahaziah died, just as the word of the Lord that Elijah spoke had said would happen.

When Ahaziah died, his brother Jehoram began to reign over Israel, because Ahaziah did not have a son.

## Use Your Bible

1. Why did the Lord destroy the ships that Jehoshaphat made at Ezion-Geber? II Chron. 20:37

2. What kind of king was Ahaziah? I Kings 22: 52

3. What mistake did Ahaziah make after he was injured? II Kings 1:2

4. Did the first two captains that Ahaziah sent show Elijah, the man of God, the proper respect? II Kings 1:9, 11

## Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 103

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!  
(NKJ)

## Match

**Ahaziah**

The god of Ekron that Ahaziah wanted to inquire of.

**Jehoshaphat**

This came down from heaven and consumed the first two groups of men sent to Elijah.

**Elijah**

He was the man of God who delivered the Lord's message to Ahaziah's messengers.

**Ezion-Geber**

The wicked son of Ahab who reigned two years over Israel.

**Baal-Zebub**

He made an alliance with Ahaziah to make sailing ships.

**Fire**

The Lord destroyed Jehoshaphat's sailing ships here.

## Kings of the Divided Kingdom

**REVIEW  
THESE!!**

### **JUDAH**

**Rehoboam ☹**

**Abijah ☹**

**Asa ☺**

**Jehoshaphat ☺**

### **ISRAEL**

**Jeroboam ☹**

**Nadab ☹**

**Baasha ☹**

**Elah ☹**

**Zimri ☹**

**Omri ☹**

**Ahab ☹**

**Ahaziah ☹**

**Jehoram ☹**

*See if you can remember these!*



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 14

### VOCABULARY

**Whirlwind:** *A storm, tempest, or hurricane.*

**The sons of the Prophets:** *Bible scholars think that there were schools where younger men were trained by the older prophets in the work of the prophets of keeping the Law.*

**Mantle:** *An outer garment such as a coat or cloak. A Jew would use his mantle as a covering to keep himself warm and protected from the weather. The mantle would be used as a covering when he slept on the floor at night. Under the old law, a person could not take another's mantle as payment for a loan, unless they returned it back to them at night, as it could be the only covering he had to keep warm with. (Ex. 22: 25-27)*

**Youth:** *A young person.*

### LESSON TEXT: II Kings 2

#### ISRAEL

It was close to the time that the Lord was going to take Elijah up in a **whirlwind** that he and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel."

But Elisha replied, "As sure as the Lord lives, and your soul lives, I will not leave you."

So Elijah and Elisha went together to Bethel.

When they arrived at Bethel **the sons of the prophets** came to Elisha and said, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from being over you today?"

"Yes," replied Elisha, "but be silent about it."

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, Elisha, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho."

Elisha replied, "As sure as the Lord lives and you live, I will not leave you."

So Elijah and Elisha journeyed on the Jericho.

**The sons of the prophets** who were at Jericho came to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes," he replied, "but keep silent about it."

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan."

Elisha replied, "As sure as the Lord lives and you live, I will not leave you!"

So Elijah and Elisha walked on.

Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan River. Fifty men of **the sons of the prophets** were there also, but they were standing at a distance to see what would happen.

Elijah took his **mantle**, and rolled it up. Then he struck the water with it. The water of the Jordan divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them walked across the Jordan on dry ground. After they were across the river, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken away from you."

Elisha replied, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing, however, if you see me when I am taken from you, you will receive what you have asked for, but if you do not see me, you will not."

Now as they continued to walk together and talk, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and it separated the two of them. And Elijah went up into heaven in a **whirlwind**. Elisha saw this and he cried out, "My father! My father! The chariot of Israel and its horsemen."

Then Elisha took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. He also took up the **mantle**, that had fallen from Elijah, and went back to stand by the bank of the Jordan River. He took the **mantle** and struck the waters of the river with it, saying, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"

When he had struck the waters, they parted to the right and to the left, and Elisha crossed over.

Now when the **sons of the prophets** from Jericho saw Elisha, they said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet Elisha, bowing themselves down to the ground before him.

**The sons of the prophets** said to Elisha, "Look, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go search for your master Elijah. Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has taken him up and set him down



on some mountain, or into a valley.”

But Elisha replied, “No. You shall not send anyone.”

However, they continued to urge him to do so till he was ashamed to refuse. So he said, “Send them!”

They sent fifty men who searched for Elijah three days, but they did not find him. When the men came back to Elisha in the city of Jericho, he said to them, “Didn’t I tell you not to go?”

The men of the city came to Elisha and said, “Please notice that our city is in a good place, but the water is bad and the land does not produce well.”

Elisha replied, “Bring me a new bowl and put salt in it.”

So they brought it to him. Then Elisha went to the spring where they got their water and threw the salt into it saying, “This is what the Lord says: ‘I have healed this water and it will not cause death or make the land unproductive again.’”

And according to what Elisha said, the waters there remained good.

From there, Elisha went to Bethel. As he was walking along the road some youths came out of the city and began to mock him saying, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!”

At that, Elisha turned around, looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

Elisha traveled from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

### *Think About It...*

In this lesson we came to the close of Elijah’s work on earth. The Lord took him to heaven without dying. Only one other man was done in this manner: Enoch (Gen. 5: 21-24). God must have been pleased with the things that Elijah did to have given him this privilege.

Have you noticed that there are certain characteristics of men of faith? They are willing to stand up for God’s word, even when it might mean the disapproval of men or certain death for them. This can be an inspiration to us to do God’s will — to know that God is with us even when others are against us.

## Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 103

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!  
(NKJ)



## MAP WORK



Find :



Gilgal



Jericho



Bethel



Mt. Carmel

Samaria





## Use Your Bible

1. What did the Lord plan to take Elijah up into heaven in? II Kings 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did the Lord send Elijah to first? II Kings 2: 2 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did the Lord send Elijah to next? II Kings 2: 4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did the Lord send Elijah to last? II Kings 2: 6 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who followed and watched to see what would happen to Elijah? II Kings 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Would Elisha leave Elijah in any of those places? II Kings 2: 2, 4, 6 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Elijah use to hit the water with? II Kings 2: 8 \_\_\_\_\_
8. In II Kings 2: 9 - 10 Elijah told Elisha under what condition he would receive a double portion of his spirit. Did Elisha receive a double portion of Elijah's spirit? II Kings 2:12, 15  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who healed the bad waters of the city? II Kings 2 : 21 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who caused the bears to come out of the woods and maul the 42 youths? II Kings 2: 24  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Thought Questions

1. In all the miracles that Elijah and Elisha did, did they use their own power? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Could Elijah and Elisha have done these miracles on their own? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did the youths show the proper respect for Elisha, a man of God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When we are around Christians who try to follow God's Word, what should be our attitude and manner toward them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think God is pleased when we treat those who teach God's word in a disrespectful manner? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 15

*The next few chapters we will study are somewhat confusing because there were kings in Judah and in Israel with the same names. Jehoshaphat in Judah had a son named Jehoram. (Jehoram reigned for a couple of years, at the same time that his father was reigning — they had a co-regency.)*

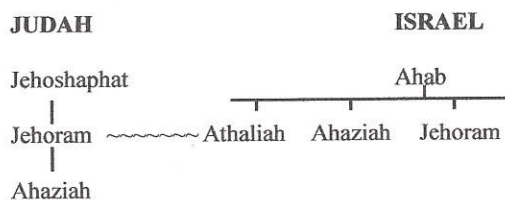
*Jehoram in Judah was married to Athaliah, who was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel in Israel. So you see that both kingdoms are linked together in this way.*

*Ahab and Jezebel in Israel had a son named Ahaziah. He was the one who fell through the lattice and died. Since Ahaziah did not have a son, another son of Ahab came to the throne and his name was Jehoram. This Jehoram was Ahaziah's and Athaliah's brother.*

*At the time of this lesson, Athaliah's brother Jehoram is the king of Israel. He and the king of Judah, Jehoshaphat, joined to fight against Moab.*

*Notice the family tree:*

**Family Tree**



**LESSON TEXT:** II Kings 3; I Kings 22: 50 ; II Chron. 20: 33 - 34

### ISRAEL

Jehoram was an evil king in the eyes of God, but not in the same way as his parents Ahab and Jezebel. He put away the image of Baal that his parents had made, however he continued in the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them.

### ISRAEL AND JUDAH

The king of Moab had been accustomed to paying king Ahab with 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. But after king Ahab of Israel died, he rebelled and would not pay this any longer. So King Jehoram of Israel got his army together and sent a message to Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight the king of Moab?"

Jehoshaphat said, "I will go with you, for I am as you are. My people are as your people, and my horses as your horses. But which way will we go up and attack Moab?"

Jehoram replied, "Through the wilderness of Edom."

So King Jehoram, along with King Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went to fight Moab. After seven days journey through the wilderness the army had no more water for themselves or their animals.

King Jehoram said, "Alas! Has the Lord called us three kings together only to hand us over to Moab?"

Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord whom we can get to inquire of the Lord for us?" Then one of the servants of King Jehoram said, "Elisha is here. He poured water on the hands of Elijah."

Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the Lord is with him."

So Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, and the king of Edom went down to see Elisha. When they arrived, Elisha said, "What do I have to do with you? Go to the prophets of your mother and father."

"No," replied the king Jehoram, "for the Lord has called together these three kings to hand us over to Moab."

Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I wouldn't even look at you or notice you. Now, bring me a musician."

While the musician was playing music, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha. Then Elisha said, "The Lord has said that this valley is full of ditches. You



will not see wind or rain, yet this valley is going to be filled with water, then you and your animals can drink. This is an easy thing in the sight of the Lord, and He will also hand over Moab to you."

"You will attack every fortified city and town. You will cut down every good tree and stop up all the springs of water, and you will ruin every field with stones."

The next morning water came from the direction of Edom and it filled the land. The Moabites had heard that the kings were coming to fight them, so every man, young and old, who was able to fight, stood waiting at the border. They got up early in the morning, and when they saw the sun shining on the water, the water looked red like blood. The Moabites said, "This is blood! The kings must have killed one another. Let's go get the spoil!"

But when the Moabites came to Israel's camp, the Israelites rose up and fought against them. The Moabites fled, and Israel invaded the land of Moab, killing them. They destroyed the cities, and threw stones on the fields. They stopped up all the streams of water and cut down all the good trees.

When the king of Moab saw that he was being defeated, he took 700 of his men and tried to get through to the king of Edom. But he failed to do this. Then the king of Moab took his firstborn son, who would have succeeded him as king, and offered him as a sacrifice on the city wall.

The wrath was great against Israel, so they departed and returned to their own land.

## JUDAH

After Jehoshaphat reigned for twenty-five years, he died. The people buried him in the city of David. During his reign he tried to draw the people back to God, but they did not remove the high places and they did not set their hearts on God.

Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram reigned as king after he died. Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Judah. However, he was not a good king as his father had been. He was evil and walked in the same ways that Ahab the king of Israel walked, for he was married to Ahab's daughter.

Jehoram had six brothers who were sons of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat had given them valuable gifts of gold, silver, and cities. But when Jehoram was firmly established as the king of Judah he killed all of

his brothers.

After Jehoram became king, the nation of Edom and the city Libnah revolted against him. Libnah revolted because Jehoram had forsaken God.

Because of Jehoram's wickedness, Elijah sent him a letter. The letter said, "You have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa. Instead, you have walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and have caused Judah to leave God, just as Ahab has. You even killed your own brothers, who were better men than you are. Because of this, the Lord is going to strike your people and possessions with a great calamity; and you will have a disease of the intestines which will cause your intestines to come out of your body."

The Lord also allowed the Philistines and Arabs to invade Judah and carry away all the valuable possessions in the king's house, along with his sons and wives. Only Jehoahaz, his youngest son, was left.

## Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 104

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

## Think About It...

At the end of our lesson it seemed that the lineage of David was hanging by a thread, for only one son of Jehoram remained after the invasion of the Philistines and Arabs. God promised David that He would establish his throne forever. ( II Sam. 7) At times, it seemed like the lineage of David would be ended, but God always saw to it that one heir remained to fulfill His promise to David. This happened more than once in Judah's history. Can you see that God keeps His promises?

He has promised us eternal life if we will live faithful to Him. If He kept His promises to David and Israel, don't you think He'll keep His promises to us?

## Kings of the Divided Kingdom

### JUDAH

Rehoboam ☹

Abijah ☹

Asa ☺

Jehoshaphat ☺

Jehoram ☹

### ISRAEL

Jeroboam ☹

Nadab ☹

Baasha ☹

Elah ☹

Zimri ☹

Omri ☹

Ahab ☹

Ahaziah ☹

Jehoram ☹

## Who Am I?

**Jehoram, king of Israel**  
**Jehoahaz**  
**Jehoshaphat**

**Elijah**  
**Libnah**  
**Jehoram, king of Judah**

**Elisha**  
**Moabites**

1. He put away the Baal of his parents, but continued in the sins of Jeroboam. \_\_\_\_\_
2. As soon as he was established as king, he killed all of his brothers. \_\_\_\_\_
3. They saw the sun shining on the water and thought that it was red with blood. \_\_\_\_\_
4. He tried to draw Judah back to God. \_\_\_\_\_
5. He sent Jehoram of Judah a letter because of his wickedness. \_\_\_\_\_
6. He told Jehoram of Israel that filling the valley with water was an easy thing in the sight of the Lord, and that the Lord would hand Moab over to him. \_\_\_\_\_
7. This city revolted against Jehoram of Judah because he had forsaken God. \_\_\_\_\_
8. He was the only son of Jehoram of Judah left, after the Philistines and Arabs invaded Judah. \_\_\_\_\_



# The Divided Kingdom

## Lesson 16

### VOCABULARY

**Obadiah :** *Servant of Jehovah.*

**Edom :** *Red.*

**Vision :** *A dream, revelation, or prophecy.*

**The day of the Lord:** *A day of judgment from the Lord; the day that the Lord manifests Himself.*

**Mt. Zion :** *This represents God's place of protection and worship; where the seat of God's authority is among His people.*

**LESSON TEXT:** Obadiah 1; II Chron. 21: 18 - 20; II Kings 4

### OBADIAH

*In this lesson, we will study the book of **Obadiah**. **Obadiah** was a prophet of God who wrote God's prophecy against the nation of **Edom**.*

***Edom** was a nation of people who descended from Esau, the brother of Jacob. **Edom** is another name for Esau, (Gen. 25:30). Esau was given this name after he sold his birthright for a meal of red stew.*

*The nation of **Edom** was located in the region north of the Zered river and south to the Gulf of Aqabah.*

*The message of **Obadiah** is to **Edom** because of their pride and cruelty against Israel. **Obadiah** predicts the fall of the nation of **Edom**.*

*In the book of **Obadiah**, Israel stands for God's people, and **Edom** stands for those in rebellion to God.*

The vision of **Obadiah**. This is what the Lord says about **Edom**, " A message has been sent from the Lord for the nations to rise up in battle against **Edom**."

"**Edom** has much pride and has deceived themselves. They live high in the clefts of the rocks and they think no one can bring them down. But the Lord says that even if **Edom** soars like an eagle and makes their nest in the stars, He will bring them down!"

"If thieves came at night, they would not steal

everything from you. If someone came and picked your grapes, they would leave a few on the vines. But, everything **Edom** has will be taken. Destruction will be complete. Even your friends and allies will deceive you."

"**Edom** is going to be destroyed because of their violence toward their brother Jacob (or Israel). When other nations carried off Israel's wealth, **Edom** stood by and was as one of them, rejoicing over their misfortune."

"**Edom** shouldn't rejoice in the misfortune of Judah, look down on them, or seize their wealth. They shouldn't have turned people from Judah over to other nations."

"**The day of the Lord** is near. The deeds that you have done to others will be done to you. Just as you were violent against Judah, the other nations will do the same to you until you are completely gone; it will be as if you had never been."

"But on **Mt. Zion** will be those who escape, and the house of Jacob will possess their inheritance. There will be no survivors in the house of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's."

### JUDAH

*Remember, **Jehoram** is the king of Judah at this time. The Philistines and Arabs invaded Judah and carried away all Judah's valuables, including **Jehoram**'s sons and wives. Only one son was left—**Jehoahaz**.*

After the invasion of the Philistines and Arabs, the Lord smote **Jehoram** with a disease of the bowels that could not be cured. After two years, he died of this disease in great pain.

No fire was burned in his honor, like had been done for the kings before him. He was buried in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings. **Jehoram** died to no one's regret.

### ISRAEL

***Elisha** worked during the time of the kings **Jehoram**, **Jehu**, **Jehoahaz**, and **Joash**. We don't know exactly what king was reigning when the stories*



*recorded about him occurred.*

There was a woman whose husband was one of the sons of the prophets. This woman came to Elisha one day and said, "Your servant, my husband, is dead, and you know how he feared the Lord. But, his creditor is coming to take my two children to be his slaves."

Elisha replied, "How can I help you? Tell me what you have in your house."

She said, "Your handmaid has nothing at all except a little oil."

So Elisha told her, "Go to all your neighbors and ask for empty jars. Do not get just a few. Then go inside your house and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, setting aside the ones that are full."

The woman did what she was told to do, and she kept pouring oil into the jars that were brought to her. When all of the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another jar." But he replied, "There is not another jar left." And the oil stopped.

Then the woman went to Elisha and told him what was done. He said, "Go, sell the oil and pay the debts. Then you and your sons can live on the money that is left."

~~~~~  
One day as Elisha went to Shunem, a wealthy woman there urged him to stay and eat a meal. And so it was that whenever he passed by her house he would stop there to eat.

One day the woman said to her husband, "I know that this is a holy man of God that passes by our house. Let's make a small room for him with a bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick. Then whenever he comes to us he can stay there."

One day when Elisha was there, in the room that the woman had prepared for him, he lay down to rest. Then he said to Gehazi, his servant, "Call the Shunammite woman."

Gehazi called to her, and she came and stood before Elisha. Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us; what can we do for you? Would you have us speak on your behalf to the king, or to the commander of the army?'"

The woman replied, "I have a home among my own people."

So Elisha said to Gehazi, "What can be done for

her?"

Gehazi said, "Well, she has no son and her husband is old."

Then Elisha said, "Call her."

So Gehazi called her back, and she stood in the doorway. Then he said, "About this time next year, you will hold a son."

"No, my lord," she said, "Don't lie to your handmaid, O man of God!"

But the next year, she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had said. The child grew and one day he went out with his father to the reapers. "My head! My head!" he said to his father.

His father told a servant, "Take the boy to his mother."

The boy sat on his mother's lap until noon, and then he died. She laid her son on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door to the room and went out. Then she called to her husband and said, "Please send me a servant and a donkey so that I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

Her husband said, "Why are you going today? It is not a new moon or the Sabbath."

"It will be well," she said.

Then she saddled the donkey and said to the servant, "Go forward and do not slow down unless I tell you to."

She came to the man of God at Mt. Carmel. When Elisha saw her he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There is the Shunammite. Run to meet her and ask if she and her husband and the child are well."

Gehazi did, and she said, "All is well."

When she reached Elisha at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came to push her away, but Elisha said, "Leave her alone! She is troubled and the Lord has hid it from me and has not told me why."

The woman said, "Did I ask you for a son? Didn't I say, 'Don't deceive me'?"

Elisha said to Gehazi, "Put your coat into your belt and take my staff. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and do not answer anyone who greets you. When you get there, lay my staff on the boy's face."

But the child's mother said to Elisha, "As the Lord lives, I am not going to leave you."

So Elisha got up and followed the woman back to her house. Gehazi went ahead of them and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response from the boy. So Gehazi went back to Elisha and said, "The boy has not awakened."

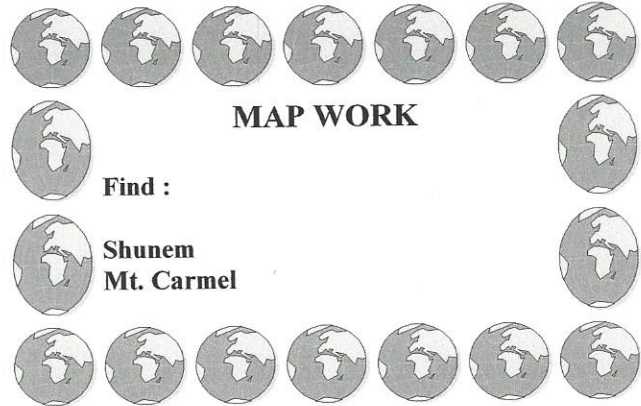
When Elisha reached the house the boy was lying

dead on his bed. Elisha went in and shut the door behind them both and prayed to the Lord. Then he lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on the boy, the boy's body became warm. Then Elisha walked back and forth in the house. Elisha then got back on the bed and stretched himself back on the boy once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

Elisha called for Gehazi and told him, "Call the Shunammite."

He did, and when the woman came Elisha said, "Take up your son."

The woman came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took up her son and went out.



MAP WORK

Find :

Shunem
Mt. Carmel

MATCH

Match the following names with the sentences below.

OBADIAH EDOM ESAU
JEHORAM ELISHA GEHAZI

WIFE OF ONE OF THE SONS OF THE PROPHETS

SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

SHUNAMMITE'S SON

1. She said to her husband, "I know that this is a holy man of God that passes by our house. Let's make a small room for him with a bed, a table, a stool, and a candlestick."

2. God gave him a vision about Edom. _____

3. He said to the Shunammite, "About this time next year, you will hold a son." _____

4. The nation of Edom descended from him. _____

5. She said, "Your handmaid has nothing at all except a little oil." _____

6. He was a servant of Elisha. _____

7. He died to no one's regret. _____

8. God told Obadiah that their destruction would be complete. _____

9. He said, "My head! My head!" _____

Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 104

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.
(NKJ)

The Divided Kingdom

Lesson 17

VOCABULARY

Firstfruits: *The first of the crops and fruit that ripens.*

Leper: *A person who had the disease of Leprosy.*

Leprosy: *A contagious skin disease. This disease would destroy the skin, turning it white. Under the Old Law people in Israel with leprosy were separated from others and cried, "Unclean, Unclean!" when anyone came close. Evidently, the Syrians did not do this because nothing is said of Naaman being separated from his family.*

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 4: 38 - 41; II Kings 5; II Kings 6:1-7

When Elisha returned to Gilgal there was a famine in the land. As the sons of the prophets were sitting before Elisha, he said to his servant, "Put on a large pot and cook some stew for the sons of the prophets."

One went out into the field to gather herbs for the stew, and he found a wild vine. He gathered some of the gourds from the vine into his coat and sliced them into the pot of stew. No one knew what kind of gourds these were.

They poured out the stew for the men to eat, but as they began to eat it they began to cry out, "O man of God! There is death in the pot!" And the men could not eat the stew.

Elisha said, "Bring some meal."

Elisha threw the meal into the pot and said, "Serve the stew to the people."

They did, and the pot of stew was not harmful to them anymore.

One day a man came to Elisha from Baal-shalishah and brought him his **firstfruits**. He brought twenty loaves of barley bread, and fresh ears of corn.

Elisha said to the man, "Give this food to the people to eat."

But his servant asked, "How can I set this food before one hundred men?"

Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat, for the Lord says that they will eat it and have food left over."

So he set the food before the men and they had food left over, just as the Lord had said they would.

Naaman was a man who was a captain in the Syrian army. He was a great and honored man in the eyes of his master, and a valiant soldier, but he was a **leper**.

During one of the raids that Syria had on Israel, they took captive a young girl. This young girl served Naaman's wife.

One day the young girl said to her mistress, "I wish that my master could see the prophet in Samaria. He would cure him of his **leprosy**."

Naaman went to his master and told him what the servant girl had said. The king of Syria said, "Go now and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of clothes. The letter that he took to the king of Israel said, "With this letter I am sending to you my servant Naaman so that you may cure him of his **leprosy**."

The king of Israel read the letter and became so upset that he began to tear his clothes. He said, "Am I God that I can kill and bring someone back to life? Why does this man send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? Consider how he is trying to seek a quarrel with me."

Now Elisha heard about the king becoming upset and tearing his clothes. So he sent the king a message saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let this man come to me so that he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman went to the house of Elisha with his horses and chariot. He stood at Elisha's door, but Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman who said, "Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed of the leprosy."

But this made Naaman angry. He went away and

said, "I thought that surely Elisha would come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place of leprosy and cure me. Aren't the Abana and Pharpar rivers in Damascus better than any of the waters in Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be clean?"

And Naaman went away in a rage.

Naaman's servants came to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you some great thing to do, wouldn't you have done it? How much more then, when he tells you to wash and be clean?"

So Naaman went to the Jordan River. He went down and dipped himself seven times, just as the man of God had told him to, and his flesh became restored, just like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Then Naaman, and all the people attending him, went back to see Elisha. He stood before Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world, except in Israel. Now, please accept a gift from your servant."

But Elisha said, "As sure as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a gift from you."

Naaman urged him to take the gift, but Elisha refused.

Naaman said, "If you will not take my gift, then will you please let me take as much earth as two mules can carry? For from now on I will never make any burnt offerings and sacrifices to any god, but to the Lord. Yet, I hope the Lord will pardon me when I do this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to worship, he leans on my arm and I bow also, but may the Lord forgive me of this."

"Go in peace," Elisha said.

After Naaman had been gone from them a little while, Gehazi, Elisha's servant said to himself, "My master spared this Naaman by not taking the gift that he brought. As the Lord lives, I am going to run after him and get something from him."

So Gehazi followed after Naaman. When Naaman saw Gehazi coming, he got down off his chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?"

Gehazi answered, "All is well. My master sent me to say that two men who are of the sons of the prophets have come from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garment."

"By all means, take two talents," said Naaman. And he urged Gehazi to take two talents of silver and two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants to carry ahead of Gehazi.

When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the gifts from Naaman's servants and put them away in his house. Then he sent the servants away.

Gehazi went in and stood before his master Elisha, and Elisha said, "Where did you go, Gehazi?"

"I didn't go anywhere," said Gehazi.

But Elisha said, "Didn't my heart go with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this a time to receive money, garments, vineyards, sheep, oxen, men servants, and maid servants? The leprosy of Naaman will now cling to you and your descendants forever."

And Gehazi left Elisha's presence leprous and was white as snow.

One day the sons of the prophets came to Elisha and said, "Look, the place where we are living is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan River where each one of us can get a pole and build a place there to live."

Elisha said, "Go."

Then one of the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Won't you please go with your servants?"

Elisha said, "I will."

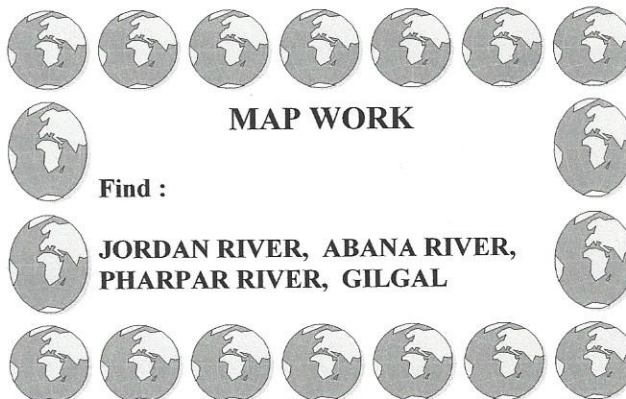
So they all went down to the Jordan and began to cut trees for their new dwelling. As one of the men was cutting a tree, the iron axe head fell into the water. "Oh, my lord," he cried, "the axe head was borrowed!"

Elisha asked, "Where did it fall?"

When the man showed Elisha the place, Elisha cut off a stick and threw it into the water, and the iron axe head floated up to the top of the water.

"Lift it out," said Elisha.

So the man reached out his hand and took it out of the water.



Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 105

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
(NKJ)

Think About It...

Elisha sent word to Naaman that he would have to wash 7 times in the Jordan River. Do you think he would have been cleansed if he had only dipped 3 times? _____ 5 times? _____ 6 times? _____
Why? _____

Would he have been cleansed if he had gone to the rivers in Syria to wash himself? _____

Will God save us when we only do PART of what He asks us to, or do something *different* from what He asks us to do? _____

Questions

1. When Elisha came to Gilgal, there was a _____ in the land.

2. What did Elisha tell his servants to cook for the sons of the prophets? _____

3. What did one of the men put into the stew? _____

4. Who made the stew good to eat again? _____

5. Was the man's firstfruits from Baal-sahlisah enough for one hundred men to eat? _____

6. Who made the firstfruits be enough for the 100 men? _____

7. What disease did Naaman have? _____

8. Who wanted the prophet in Samaria to cure Naaman? _____

9. How did the king of Israel feel when he got the letter from the king of Syria, who wanted him to cure Naaman?

10. Did Elisha tell Naaman what to do to be cured himself? _____

11. What did Naaman think that Elisha should have done to cure him? _____

12. What Naaman cured after dipping 6 times in the Jordan River? _____

13. What did Naaman say that he knew after he was cured of the leprosy? _____

14. Would Elisha accept Naaman's gift? _____

15. Did Elisha send Gehazi back to Naaman for the gift? _____

16. What happened to Gehazi because he asked Naaman for the gift and lied to Elisha? _____

The Divided Kingdom

Lesson 18

VOCABULARY

Sackcloth: *A coarse, loose cloth or sacking that was worn when one was in mourning.*

Cab : *A measurement of about a quart or liter.*

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 6: 8 - 33; II Kings 7

ISRAEL

Now Syria was at war with Israel. One day the king of Syria conferred with his officers and said, "I will set up my camp in this certain place."

The man of God, Elisha, sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Do not pass by this certain place, because the Syrians are coming down there."

So the king of Israel, seeing that what Elisha said was true, was warned. Time and again the man of God warned the king of Israel of where the Syrian army was camped, and he was on his guard about such places.

The king of Syria became enraged that time and time again this happened, so he called his officers to himself and asked, "Will you show me which one of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

"None of us, O lord the king," said his officers, "but Elisha the prophet tells the king of Israel the very words that you speak in your bedroom."

"Go find out where Elisha is," ordered the king of Syria, "so that I can send men to capture him."

The report came back to the king that Elisha was in Dothan. So the king of Syria gathered his army, horses, and chariots and surrounded the city of Dothan at night.

The next morning, Elisha's servant got up and went out early. He saw the city surrounded by Syria's army and he asked Elisha, "My master, what shall we do?"

The prophet answered, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see."

The Lord opened the eyes of the young servant, and he saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

As the Syrian army came down toward Elisha, he prayed, "Smite these people, I pray, with blindness."

So the Lord struck the Syrians with blindness.

Elisha went to the Syrians and said, "This is not the way and this is not the city. Follow me and I will lead you to the man you are looking for."

And Elisha led them to Samaria.

When they entered the city of Samaria, Elisha said, "Lord, open their eyes that they may see."

The Lord opened their eyes and they saw that they were inside the city of Samaria.

When the king of Israel saw the Syrian army, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

Elisha answered, "Don't kill them. Would you kill men that you captured with your sword and bow? Give them food to eat so they may return to their master."

After the king prepared a feast for them, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. After this, the bands of Syrian soldiers did not come to Israel for a time.

Some time later, Ben-hadad, king of Syrian's army, went up and besieged Samaria. The siege lasted so long that they had a great famine. Food was so scarce that a donkey's head sold for 80 pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a **cab** of dove's dung sold for 5 pieces of silver.

One day as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall of the city, a woman cried out, "Help me, my lord the king!"

The king said, "If the Lord does not help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor, or the winepress? What is troubling you?"

The woman answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son so that we may eat him today, and tomorrow we'll eat your son.' So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said, 'Give up your son so that we can eat him,' but she had hidden him."

When the king heard these words, he tore his

robe. And as he walked along the wall of the city, the people looked at him and he was wearing **sackcloth**.

The king said, "May God deal with me severely if the head of Elisha remains on his shoulders this day!"

The king sent a messenger to Elisha's house, but before he arrived, Elisha said to the elders who were with him, "Do you see how this son of a murderer is sending someone to cut off my head? When the messenger comes, shut the door and do not let him in. Isn't the sound of his master's feet behind him?"

While Elisha was still talking, the messenger came and said, "This trouble is from the Lord. Why should I wait for the Lord any longer?"

Elisha replied, "Hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says that tomorrow, about this time, a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria."

The officer, on whose arm the King was leaning, said, "Behold, if the Lord opened the floodgates of heaven, could this thing happen?"

"You will see it with your own eyes," replied Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it."

Now, at this time there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. These men said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? If we decide to go into the city where the famine is, we will die. If we sit here we will die also. Let's go to the camp of the Syrians and surrender. If they spare us we will live, but if they kill us we will die."

So, at dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Syrians. But when they arrived, no one was there because the Lord had caused the army to hear the sound of chariots and horses — like the noise of a great army approaching. The Syrians had said to one another, "The king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites and Egyptians to attack us!" So they got up at dusk and fled for their lives, abandoning their tents, horses and donkeys.

When the four men with leprosy reached the edge of the Syrian camp, they entered one of the tents. They ate and drank, and carried out silver, gold, and clothing, hiding them. They entered another tent and took things from it also, hiding them too. Then they said to each other, "What we are doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight to report this we will be punished. Let's go at once and report this to the king's house."

So they went and called out to the city's gatekeepers saying, "We went into the Syrian's camp and not a man was there, not a sound from any man, but

the horses and donkeys were still tied up and the tents were left.

The gatekeepers shouted out the news and it was reported to the king's household. The king got up in the night and said to his officers, "I will tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry and they have left their camp and have hidden in the field planning to catch us when we enter, so they can get into our city."

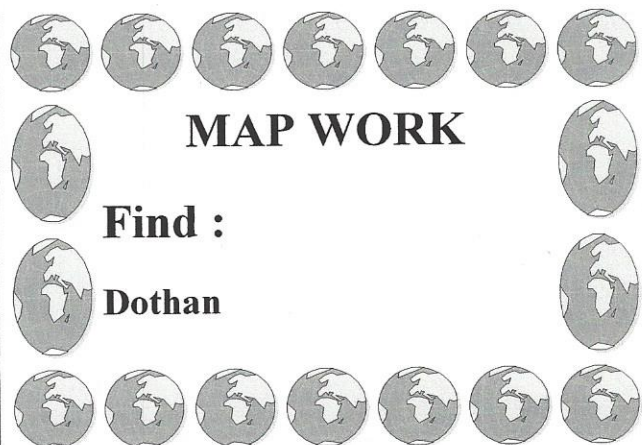
One of the king's officers said, "Let some men take five of the horses that are left. If they stay here, they will be like the rest of the Israelites who are doomed. Let us send out these men to find out what has happened."

So they took two chariots with horses, and the king sent them in the direction of the Syrian army. He said, "Find out what has happened."

The king's men followed the Syrian army as far as the Jordan, and the road was strewn with clothing and weapons that the Syrians had thrown down in their haste. The king's men returned and told the king what they had found.

Then the people of Israel went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians. A measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley were sold for a shekel, just as the Lord had said they would be.

And the officer, upon whom the king leaned, was to have charge of the gate of the city, but he was trampled to death and died. The man of God had foretold that all these things would happen and that the officer would see it, but not eat any of it, and that is exactly what happened to him.



MAP WORK

Find :

Dothan

Memory Work

Ps 119:97 - 105

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
(NKJ)

USE YOUR BIBLE

1. What was the king of Syria troubled about? II Kings 6: 11 - 12 _____

2. What did Elisha tell his servant when he saw they were surrounded by the Syrians? II Kings 6: 16 _____

3. What did Elisha's servant see after Elisha prayed to God to open his eyes? II Kings 6: 17 _____

4. What did the Lord smite the Syrians with? II Kings 6: 18 _____

5. Where were the Syrians when the Lord opened their eyes? II Kings 6: 20 _____

6. What happened in Samaria when Ben-hadad besieged it? II Kings 6: 25, 28, 29 _____

7. Who did the king of Israel blame the famine and siege on? II Kings 6: 33 _____

8. Who went into the camp of the Syrians? II Kings 7: 3 - 5 _____

9. Why had the Syrians left their camp? II Kings 7: 6 _____

10. What kind of day did the lepers say it was? II Kings 7: _____

11. Who did the lepers tell about the Syrian camp? II Kings 7: 10 _____

12. Did the king of Israel believe that the Syrians were gone from their camp for good at first? II Kings 7: 12 _____

13. What did the people of Israel do to the Syrian's camp? II Kings 7: 16 _____

14. What happened to the king's officer? II Kings 7: 17 _____

WHO DID IT?

Elisha	four lepers
Syrians	King of Israel
Ben-Hadad	Lord
Samaria	the King's officer
The woman in Samaria	gatekeepers

1. The lepers told them about the camp of the Syrians.

2. She and another woman ate her son during the siege.

3. He said, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see."

4. He besieged the city of Samaria.

5. He tore his robe and wore sackcloth during the siege.

6. They said, "Why are we sitting here until we die?"

7. He said, "Behold, if the Lord opened the floodgates of heaven, could this thing happen?"

8. He opened the eyes of the Syrians.

9. Elisha led the Syrians to this city.

10. The Lord struck their eyes with blindness.

The Divided Kingdom

Lesson 19

VOCABULARY

Avenge: *To punish; to take vengeance.*

Treachery: *To deceive; false; fraud.*

Eunuch: *A male servant of the royal household.*

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 8; II Chron. 22: 1-9; II Kings 9

ISRAEL

One day Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had brought back to life. He said, "Get up and go away with your family for a while because the Lord has said there will be a famine in the land that will last for seven years."

The woman did what Elisha said to do, and she stayed in the land of the Philistines for seven years. At the end of the seven years she came back home, but she had to go to the king to beg for her house and land to be returned to her.

Now, when she was coming to ask the king this, Gehazi, Elisha's servant, was talking to the king. Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored to life the son of this woman, and at that moment she came before the king. Gehazi saw them and said to the king, "This is the woman and the son whom Elisha restored back to life."

The king asked the woman about this, and she told him what had happened. Then the king told one of his officers to give back to her all that belonged to her, including the income from her fields from the time she had left until then.

JUDAH

Jehoram, the king of Judah, died and was buried in the city of David. Ahaziah, Jehoram's son, became the new king of Judah.

Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign. He reigned only one year. Ahaziah was a wicked king, whose mother was named Athaliah. Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab, who had ruled in Israel. His mother, Jezebel, encouraged

him to do what was wrong.

He was also the nephew of king Ahaziah, who was ruling at this time in Israel.

ISRAEL

Prophecy fulfilled: *God told Elijah at Mt. Horeb that He wanted him to anoint Hazael as king of Syria and Jehu, king of Israel. (I Kings 19: 15) This comes to pass.*

One day Elisha went to Damascus and the king of Syria, Ben-hadad, was sick. Ben-hadad was told, "The man of God has come."

Ben-hadad said to Hazael, "Take a gift, and go meet the man of God. Tell him to ask the Lord if I will recover from this sickness."

So, Hazael went to meet Elisha, and took him a gift in his hand. He also brought gifts of every good thing in Damascus; enough for forty camels to carry. Hazael stood before Elisha and said, "Your son Ben-hadad has sent me to you to ask if he will recover from this sickness."

Elisha said, "Go tell Ben-hadad that he will recover, but the Lord has shown me that he will surely die." Then Elisha stared at Hazael until he was ashamed, and Elisha was weeping.

Hazael said, "Why are you weeping?"

Elisha answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel. You will set on fire their fortresses and kill their young men, women and children."

Hazael replied, "But, what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he will do this great thing?"

Elisha answered, "The Lord has shown me that you will be the king of Syria."

Hazael left Elisha and went back to Ben-hadad, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?"

Hazael answered, "He told me that you would recover."

The next day, Hazael took the bed cloth and dipped it in water, then he spread it over Ben-hadad's face, smothering him until he died. Then Hazael became the new king of Syria.

ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Ahaziah, the king of Judah, and Jehoram, the king of Israel, joined forces to fight against Hazael, the king of Syria, at a place called Ramoth-gilead. The Syrians wounded Jehoram.

Jehoram went home to Jezreel to heal from his wounds. Ahaziah decided that he would go to Jezreel too, to see about Jehoram.

Elisha called one of the sons of the prophets to him and said, "Get yourself ready and take this flask of oil in your hand with you to Ramoth-gilead. When you get there, find Jehu, the son of Jehoshaphat. Take him to an inner room and pour a little of the oil on his head while you say, 'This is what the Lord says, 'I have anointed you king over Israel.'" Then open the door and run. Do not delay!"

So the young man went to Ramoth-gilead. When he arrived, he found the army officers sitting together. The young man said, "I have a word for you, commander."

Jehu replied, "For which one of us?"

The young man said, "For you, Commander."

Then Jehu arose and went into the house. The prophet poured the oil on Jehu's head and said, "This is what the Lord says: 'I anoint you king over the people of the Lord, over Israel. You are to destroy the house of Ahab, that I may **avenge** the blood of my servants the prophets that were killed at the hands of Jezebel. The whole house of Ahab will perish; slave or free. Ahab's house will be like the house of Jeroboam and Baasha. The dogs will eat Jezebel in Jezreel and no one will bury her.'"

After the prophet said this to Jehu, he opened the door and ran.

Jehu went out to his fellow officers and one of them asked, "Is everything all right? Why did this madman come to you?"

Jehu replied, "You know the man and his talk."

The officers said, "That is not true! Tell us now!"

So Jehu replied, "This is what he told me: 'The Lord said that He has appointed me king over Israel.'"

Then each man hurriedly took their cloaks and spread them under Jehu on the top of the stairs. They blew the trumpets and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

Jehu began to conspire against Jehoram. He said to his fellow officers, "If this is the way you feel, then no one is to leave the city and tell about this in

Jezreel."

(Meanwhile, Jehoram was in Jezreel recovering from the wounds he received while fighting King Hazael of Syria.)

Jehu got into his chariot and rode to Jezreel, because Jehoram was resting there, and King Ahaziah of Judah had gone down to see about him. The watchman on the tower in Jezreel saw Jehu's troops approaching, and called out, "I see some troops coming!"

Jehoram ordered, "Get a horseman and send him to meet them and ask, 'Do you come in peace?'"

The horseman met Jehu and asked, "The king wants to know: 'Are you coming in peace?'"

Jehu replied, "What have you to do with peace? Fall in behind me."

The watchman on the tower saw what was happening, so he reported, "The horseman went to them, but he isn't coming back."

So the king sent out a second horseman who went to Jehu and said, "The king wants to know if you have come in peace."

Jehu replied, "What do you have to do with peace? Fall in behind me."

The watchman saw this happen, and he reported again, "The horseman reached them, but he isn't coming back either; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu, for he drives furiously!"

Jehoram ordered, "Get my chariot ready."

When the chariot was ready, Jehoram and Ahaziah, the king of Judah, rode out in their own chariots to meet Jehu. They met him at the plot of ground that had belonged to Naboth.

When Jehoram saw Jehu he asked, "Have you come in peace?"

"How can there be peace," Jehu replied, "as long as the witchcraft and idolatry of your mother Jezebel abounds?"

At that, King Jehoram turned around and fled, calling out to King Ahaziah, "There is **treachery**, Ahaziah!"

Jehu drew his bow, and with his full strength he shot Jehoram between his arms. The arrow pierced his heart and he slumped down in his chariot.

Then Jehu said to Bidkar, his captain, "Pick him up and throw him in the field that belonged to Naboth. Do you remember how you and I rode together after Ahab his father, and the Lord made this prophecy about him? The Lord said, 'Yesterday I saw the blood of Naboth and his sons, and I will repay you in this

plot of ground.' Now pick up Jehoram and throw him on that plot of ground, according to the word of the Lord."

When Ahaziah, the king of Judah, saw this, he fled in the direction of Beth Haggan. Jehu pursued him shouting, "Kill him too!"

They wounded Ahaziah, and he escaped to Megiddo and died there. Ahaziah's servants carried him out of his chariot and buried him in his tomb in the city of David.

Then Jehu went to Jezreel. Jezebel heard that Jehu had come, so she painted eyes and adorned her hair, and looked through a window. As Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Have you come in peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

Jehu looked up at the window and called out, "Who is on my side? Who?"

There, looking down at him, were two or three eunuchs.

"Throw her down!" Jehu said.

So they threw her down and some of her blood splattered on the wall and on the horses. Then the horses trampled over her.

Jehu went in to eat and drink, and gave orders, "See to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter."

But, when they went out to bury her, they found nothing but her skull, her feet, and the palms of her hands. They went back to tell Jehu, and Jehu said, "The word of the Lord spoke through Elijah and said, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel shall the dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel. The body of Jezebel will be like dung on the field, so no one will be able to say, 'Here lies Jezebel.'"

Kings of the Divided Kingdom

JUDAH

Rehoboam ☹

Abijah ☹

Asa ☹

Jehoshaphat ☹

Jehoram ☹

Ahaziah ☹

ISRAEL

Jeroboam ☹

Nadab ☹

Baasha ☹

Elah ☹

Zimri ☹

Omri ☹

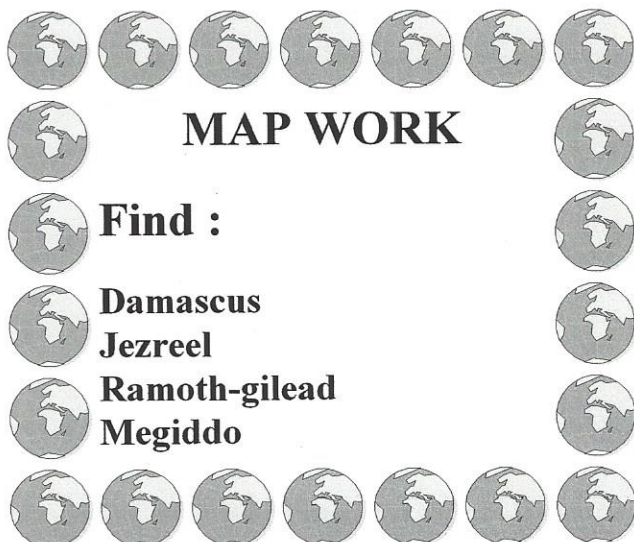
Ahab ☹

Ahaziah ☹

Jehoram ☹

Jehu ☹

See if you can remember these!



MAP WORK

Find :

Damascus

Jezreel

Ramoth-gilead

Megiddo

Did you notice?...

Israel and Judah both lost their kings in this lesson. Both men were wicked, and God did not allow them to continue their rule over Israel and Judah.

Did you also notice that God used Jehu to fulfill his prophecy to Ahab: That his descendants would be destroyed like the house of Jeroboam and Baasha.

God keeps His promises, and He does not tolerate evil and sin among His people.

Memory Work

Ps 119: 97 - 106

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

106 I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments.
(NKJ)

Thought Question

Elisha sent this message to Ben-hadad by Hazael:

II Ki 8:10 Then Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall surely recover,' but the LORD has shown me that he will certainly die." (NAS)

Explain what Elisha meant in this message.

True or False

1. ____ Elisha told the woman whose son he had brought back to life to stay in her home.
2. ____ Jehoram, king of Judah, had a son named Ahaziah who became the new king over Judah.
3. ____ Ahaziah's mother was named Athaliah.
4. ____ Ben-hadad wanted to ask Hazael if he would recover from his sickness.
5. ____ Elisha told Hazael, "Tell Ben-hadad that he will recover, but the Lord has shown me that he will surely die."
6. ____ Elisha smothered Ben-hadad with the bed cloth that had been dipped in water.
7. ____ Hazael became the new king of Syria.
8. ____ One of the sons of the prophets anointed Jehu the new king over Israel.
9. ____ Jehu killed Jehoram, king of Israel, with a bow and arrow.
10. ____ Ahaziah, king of Judah, was also killed in the battle with Jehu.
11. ____ Athaliah heard that Jehu had come, so she painted her eyes and adorned her hair.
12. ____ Elisha threw Jezebel out of the window.
13. ____ The dogs ate all of Jezebel except her skull, her feet, and the palms of her hands.
14. ____ God kept His promise to Ahab.

The Divided Kingdom

Lesson 20

VOCABULARY

Zeal: *Enthusiastic devotion; eager desire.*

INTRODUCTION:

In our last lesson, Jehu was anointed king by the man of God at Ramoth-gilead. This was agreeable to the officers in the army, for they blew the trumpets and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

Later, Jehu went to Jezreel, where Jehoram, king of Israel, and Ahaziah, king of Judah, were staying. Jehu killed Jehoram with a bow and arrow. His men pursued Ahaziah and wounded him. He eventually died and was buried.

He also called on the queen Jezebel's eunuchs to throw her out of an upstairs window. She died and was eaten by the dogs.

Do you see that Jehu is in position now to overtake the kingdom of Israel? He prepares to do just that in this lesson.

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 10; II Chron. 22: 7 - 12; II Kings 9: 11; II Kings 11: 1 - 3

ISRAEL

King Ahab had seventy sons in the city of Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters. He sent these letters to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders of Israel, and to those who were taking care of Ahab's children.

This letter said: "As soon as this letter reaches you, since your master's sons are with you, and you have chariots and horses, as well as a fortified city and weapons, select the best qualified of Ahab's sons and set him on his father's throne. Then fight for your master's house."

When they received this letter they were terrified and said, "If two kings could not resist him, how can we?"

So the man that was over the palace, the governor of the city, the elders, and those who were raising Ahab's sons sent this message to Jehu: "We

are your servants and will do anything you say, but we will not make anyone king. You do whatever you think is best."

Then Jehu wrote them a second letter, saying, "If you are on my side and will obey my voice, take the heads of Ahab's sons and meet me at Jezreel by this time tomorrow."

Now the seventy sons of Ahab were living with the leading men of the city. When the letter arrived, they took the king's sons and killed all seventy of them. They put their heads in a basket and sent them to Jehu in Jezreel.

A messenger came to Jehu and said, "They have brought the heads of the princes."

So Jehu ordered, "Put them in two piles at the entrance of the city gate until morning."

The next morning, Jehu went out. He stood before all the people and said, "You are righteous. It is I who conspired against my master and killed him, but who killed all these? Know that not a word that the Lord has spoken against the house of Ahab shall fail. The Lord has done what he promised through his servant Elijah."

Then Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained of the house of Ahab, as well as Ahab's chief men, close friends, and his priests. There were no survivors.

JUDAH

Jehu then went to Samaria. On the way, at Beth Eked of the Shepherds, he met some of the relatives of Ahaziah, king of Judah.

"Who are you?" he asked.

They answered, "We are the relatives of Ahaziah. We have come down to greet the families of the king and queen."

"Take them alive!" Jehu ordered.

So Jehu's men took them and killed them at the well at Beth Eked; forty-two of them. There were no survivors.

ISRAEL

After Jehu left Beth Eked, he came upon Jehonadab. Jehu greeted him and said, "Is your heart

right, as my heart is toward your heart?"

Jehonadab answered, "It is."

Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand."

So Jehonadab gave Jehu his hand and Jehu helped him up into his chariot. Then Jehu said, "Come with me and see my **zeal** for the Lord."

So Jehonadab rode along in the chariot with Jehu. When Jehu came to Samaria, he killed everyone there who remained in Ahab's family, according to the word of the Lord that had been spoken to Elijah.

Then Jehu brought all the people of Samaria together and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him much. Now call all the prophets of Baal, his ministers, and priest to me. See that no one is missing because I am going to hold a great sacrifice to Baal. Anyone who does not come will not live."

Jehu was doing this to deceive so that he could destroy the worshippers of Baal.

Jehu said to the worshippers of Baal, "Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal."

So they proclaimed it.

Then Jehu sent the word throughout all of Israel, and all the worshippers of Baal came, not one stayed away. They all came into the temple of Baal until it was full from one end to the other.

Then Jehu said to the keeper of the wardrobe, "Bring robes for all the worshippers of Baal."

So he brought out robes for them.

Then Jehu and Jehonadab went into the temple of Baal and said to the worshippers, "Search and make sure that there are no worshippers of the Lord here with you — only worshippers of Baal."

Everyone went into the temple to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, and Jehu appointed eighty men to stand on the outside to guard. He told the eighty men, "If anyone escapes that I have brought here, his life will be for the life of the one who escapes."

As soon as Jehu finished making the burnt offering, he ordered the guards and officers, "Go in and kill them and let no one escape."

So they went in and killed the worshippers of Baal with their swords. They threw the bodies out of the temple, and then entered the inner shrine of the temple of Baal. They brought out the sacred images of Baal and burned them. They tore down the temple and the people began to use it for a public restroom after that.

Jehu destroyed the worship of Baal in Israel. The Lord said to him, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the

house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation."

However, Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam and was not careful to keep God's laws with all his heart.

JUDAH

When Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, saw that her son was dead, she began to kill all of her grandchildren.

As Athaliah was murdering them, Jehosheba, the daughter of king Jehoram, took one of Ahaziah's sons and hid him and his nurse in a bedroom, so he was not killed. This child's name was Joash.

Joash remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the Lord for six years while his grandmother, Athaliah, ruled the land.

Memory Work

Ps 119: 97 - 106

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

106 I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments.
(NKJ)

God Keeps His Promises

God promised David that his seed would rule upon his throne forever. Several times, it seems that this promise will not be kept, because there is only one person who is a descendant to carry on this promise. It seems that way in this lesson. Athaliah tried to kill all of her grandchildren, but one was hidden from her. This one child would carry on the promise that God made to David. Can you see God's hand in this? It was no accident that this child was preserved; he was saved by God's providence.

Read II Kings 11: 2 and write his name below:

MATCH

KING AHAB

JEHU

ELIJAH

AHAZIAH BAAL

JEHONADAB

ATHALIAH

JOASH

JEHOSHEBA

Use the names above and match them to the statements below. You may use some of them more than once.

1. He had seventy sons in the city of Samaria. _____
2. He sent letters to Samaria, to the rulers in Jezreel, to the elders of Israel, and to those taking care of Ahab's children. _____
3. The leading men of the city took Ahab's sons and killed them. Then they put their heads in a basket and took them to who? _____
4. He ordered that the seventy heads be put in two piles at the entrance of the city gate until morning. _____
5. When Jehu was on the way to Samaria, he met relatives of _____ at Beth Eked.
6. Whose men killed Ahaziah's relatives at Beth Eked? _____
7. Jehu asked him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?" _____
8. Jehu said that he was going to hold a great sacrifice to what god? _____
9. Jehu said that he had done according to the word of the Lord that had been spoken to what prophet? _____
10. She killed all of her grandchildren when she learned that Ahaziah was dead. _____
11. She hid one of Ahaziah's sons and his nurse when Athaliah was killing her grandchildren. _____
12. He remained hidden at the temple of the Lord for six years while his grandmother, Athaliah, ruled the land. _____

The Divided Kingdom

Lesson 21

VOCABULARY

Testimony : *The law of God. God had commanded Moses in Deuteronomy 17: 18 - 19 that the king was to be given a copy of His law.*

Treason: *A conspiracy; an attempt to overthrow or kill the sovereign ruler and their family.*

Jehu is the king of Israel in this lesson. Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, reigned in Judah. Her grandson, Joash, was hidden in the temple of the Lord. Joash is the one who should have been the rightful king of Judah.

To the north, Hazael was reigning in Syria.

At about this same time, there was another threat looming for them all. This threat was the nation of Assyria. (Do not confuse this with Syria. This is a different nation altogether.)

Later , this nation will play a big part in the history of Israel. They will be a great enemy to Israel and Judah.

Keep this large nation, Assyria, in mind as you study the rest of the divided kingdom and see the Lord "cut Israel short".

LESSON TEXT: II Kings 10: 32 -33; II Kings 11 II Chron. 23: 16 - 21

ISRAEL

Jehu was not careful to keep God's laws, so during the days of his reign the Lord began to cut Israel short. *(In other words, to reduce the size of Israel.)*

Hazael, king of Syria, was one leader who began to cut Israel short. He overpowered them and took their land east of the Jordan River.

JUDAH

When Joash was in his seventh year of hiding, Jehoida, the high priest, made plans to restore the throne to Joash, the only living descendant of David.

He called for guards, commanders, and captains

of the army in Judah to come to the temple. When they arrived, he made a covenant with them and took and oath from them at the temple. Then he showed them the king's son, Joash.

Jehoida commanded them saying, "One third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath are to guard the royal palace. One third is to guard the temple, and another to guard the gates. When it is time for the guards to go home on the Sabbath, they are not to go home , but are to guard the temple for the king."

The commanders did just as Jehoida commanded. Jehoida gave the men spears and shields that had belonged to King David, and that were in the temple.

The guards stationed themselves around Joash the king on every side of the temple. Then Jehoida brought Joash out and put the crown on him, and presented him with a copy of the **testimony**, and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and the people clapped their hands and said, "God save the king!"

When Athaliah heard all the noise that the guard and the people were making, she went into the temple where the people were standing. She looked and there was the king, standing by the pillar, as was the custom of the king. The officers and trumpeters were by the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets.

Athaliah began to tear her robes and shout, "**Treason! Treason!**"

Then Jehoida the priest ordered the commanders of hundreds and the captains in charge of the troops saying, "Bring her outside under guard and kill anyone who follows her with a sword. Do not let her be killed in the house of the Lord."

So the men seized her as she reached the place where the horses enter the palace grounds, and she was put to death there.

Then Jehoida made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people, that they should be the Lord's people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people.

All the people of the land went down to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They broke the altars and idols to pieces, and killed the priest of Baal

before the altars.

Then Jehoida appointed guards at the temple of the Lord. He took captains over hundreds, bodyguards, and all the people of the land, and together they brought the king down from the temple of the Lord and into the palace. The king then took his place on the royal throne and all the people of the land rejoiced. The city was at peace because Athaliah had been killed with the sword at the palace.

And Joash was seven years old when he became king.



Memory Work

Ps 119: 97 - 106

- 97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
- 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.
- 100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.
- 101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.
- 102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.
- 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- 106 I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments.
- (NKJ)

Use Your Bible

1. Jehu did not serve God with all of his _____. II Kings 10:31
2. In the days of Jehu, what did the Lord begin to do? II Kings 10:32 _____
3. What did Jehoida make with the rulers and captains of the guard before he showed them the king's son? II Kings 11:4 _____
4. What did Jehoida want these rulers and captains to guard? II Kings 11: 5 - 8 _____
5. What was to be done to anyone who came close? II Kings 11: 8 _____
6. What did Jehoida present to the new king? II Kings 11: 12 _____
7. What did the people do when Joash was crowned king? II Kings 11: 12 _____
8. What did Athaliah do when she saw that Joash had been crowned king? II Kings 11: 14 _____
9. The priest did not want Athaliah killed where? II Kings 11: 15 _____
10. What kind of covenant did Jehoida make? II Kings 11:17 _____
11. What did the people do after they made the Lord's covenant? II Kings 11: 18 _____
12. How old was Joash when he began to reign? II Kings 11: 21 _____

The Divided Kingdom

Lesson 22

VOCABULARY

Locusts: *An insect like a grasshopper. The locust was a dreaded insect because it was so destructive. The locusts would eat every green plant in their path. A plague of them was almost unstoppable. Water would not kill them, because when enough had drowned, the surviving ones could use their bodies as a bridge.*

LESSON TEXT: Joel 1 - 3

In this lesson, we will study the book of Joel. Joel was a prophet who probably prophesied during the reign of Joash. His name means: Jehovah is God.

In his book, Joel calls Judah to repent and turn back to God. Repentance would mean that God would destroy the enemies of God, and deliver those who wanted to trust and follow Him.

A severe locust plague had invaded Judah when Joel begins his book...

Locusts had invaded Judah and they were devastating the land. Never had there been such an invasion as this in any of the people's memories. The invasion of locusts was so bad that Joel told the people to remember it and tell their children and grandchildren about it.

Every stage of the locust was in Judah — from the adult locust, that ate everything in sight, to the female locust, who laid her eggs, to the larva stage.

Everyone who lived in Judah was affected by the locusts, no matter what their social standing was. The drunkard had no wine because the locusts had destroyed the grapes that wine was made from. The priests had nothing to offer because the crops were ruined and the people had nothing to bring.

Joel told the priests to set the example of repentance and fasting before God. He told them that "the day of the Lord" was near, and that God was ready to judge them. He said, "Look at what has already happened to you! You have no food and even the animals are suffering. You cannot come before God with joy and gladness. You plant your seeds, but they rot in the ground. You have no grain to harvest, so your barns are falling down. This terrible locust

plague has also been followed by a drought."

Then Joel told the people to sound a trumpet. The trumpet was used to sound an alarm. The land that had once been beautiful and fruitful, like the garden of Eden, would be turned into a desolate wilderness. The locusts would come like an army and the noise of them would be like chariots. Nothing would stop them for they would climb over walls, houses, everything! They would even invade people's homes. This would be a day of calamity for God's people because these locusts were directed by God to carry out judgment on His people.

But, then Joel gave the people some encouragement. He said, "Even though judgment and destruction of the locusts are terrible, if you will repent and turn back to God with all your heart, God will be merciful on you."

God wanted true repentance from His people. Repentance that came from the heart. God said that if the people would repent He would pour out blessings on them instead of judgment.

The way the people could show that they had repented was by gathering before God in a holy assembly. If they repented, God would drive the locusts away and drown them in the sea.

Joel told the people that after they repented God would give them great blessings. God would bless them with rain and crops. They would have plenty to eat. By their blessings, they would know that God was in their midst and that "I AM THE LORD."

Some of their blessings would be spiritual. These spiritual blessings would ultimately be fulfilled many years later when Christ came to the earth and His spiritual kingdom (*the church*) began after His resurrection. (*In Acts 2 we see a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.*)

God promised that all of His enemies would be defeated, and all nations who would stand against God would be destroyed. Just as the enemies of Israel sought to destroy them, God said He would destroy those who would oppose His spiritual kingdom.

Joel 3:16 And Jehovah will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but Jehovah will be a refuge unto his people, and a stronghold to the children of Israel. ASV

Memory Work

Ps 119: 97 - 106

BE ABLE TO SAY THIS FROM MEMORY!



Kings of the Divided Kingdom

JUDAH

Rehoboam ☹

Abijah ☹

Asa ☹

Jehoshaphat ☹

Jehoram ☹

Ahaziah ☹

Athaliah ☹ *(She was not in the lineage of David.)*

Joash ☹

ISRAEL

Jeroboam ☹

Nadab ☹

Baasha ☹

Elah ☹

Zimri ☹

Omri ☹

Ahab ☹

Ahaziah ☹

Jehoram ☹

Jehu ☹

See if you can remember these!

USE YOUR BIBLE

(All answers are the book of Joel.)

1. Who spoke to Joel? 1:1 _____

2. Who did Joel want the people to tell about this plague? 1: 3 _____

3. Would the locusts leave anything? 1: 4 _____

4. What was the condition of the land after the locusts came through? 1: 10 -12 _____

5. What did Joel tell the priests to do? 1: 14 ; 2:1 _____

6. What would the earth look like when the locusts came? 2:10 _____

7. What did the Lord want His people to do? 2:12-13 _____

8. What did the Lord say He would do if they repented? 2: 19 - 20,26 _____

9. When God blessed them because of their repentance, what would they know? 2: 27 _____

10. Who dwells in Zion? 3:21 _____

The Divided Kingdom, REVIEW

Lesson 23

Memory Work

Ps 119: 97 - 106

BE ABLE TO SAY THIS FROM MEMORY!

CAN YOU REMEMBER ALL OF
THE KINGS OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL?

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ____ The kind of leaders that God has for His people is important.
2. ____ God divided the kingdom because Israel worshipped false gods and did not walk in His ways.
3. ____ Ahijah the prophet told Jeroboam, "God is going to take the kingdom away from Solomon and give 2 tribes to you."
4. ____ Rehoboam built 2 golden calves for the people to worship.
5. ____ When the man of God listened to the old prophet, a lion killed him and his body was thrown in the road while the lion stood beside it. (I Kings 13:24)
6. ____ The city of David was the city of Samaria.
7. ____ The Lord told Ahijah the prophet that because of Jeroboam's sin He would scatter Israel and give them up. (I Kings 14: 15-16)
8. ____ The priests of Levi left their homes in other territories and came to live in Israel.
9. ____ Nadab reigned as king after Jeroboam. (I Kings 15:25)
10. ____ Baasha killed everyone who remained in Jeroboam's family. (I Kings 15:29)
11. ____ Abijah was Rehoboam's son who became king.
12. ____ Asa was a bad king of Judah. (I Kings 15:11)
13. ____ Zimri was a good king of Israel who only reigned a week and killed himself by setting the palace on fire around him.
14. ____ Jerusalem was the capitol city of Israel.
15. ____ Omri was an evil king of Judah.

16. ____ Ahab was an evil king who was married to Jezebel.
17. ____ Ahab prayed fervently that it not rain.
18. ____ The robins fed Elijah by the brook Cherith.
19. ____ Elijah told the widow at Zarephath that the oil and flour would not be used up until it rained on the earth.
20. ____ Ahab told Elijah that he was a troubler of Israel.
21. ____ When the prophets of Baal called upon their god at Mt. Carmel, their god answered with fire.
22. ____ Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah after the contest on Mt. Carmel.
23. ____ God told Elijah that He still had 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed their knees to Baal and not kissed him.
24. ____ Ben-hadad was the king of Syria.
25. ____ God told Ahab that He would deliver Syria into his hands so that he would know that I AM THE LORD.
26. ____ Ahab wanted the vineyard of Elijah.
27. ____ God told Ahab that the dogs would lick up his blood in the same place that they licked up the blood of Naboth.
28. ____ Micaiah the prophet told Ahab that he could only say what the Lord told him to say.
29. ____ Jehoshaphat was a good king of Israel.
30. ____ Jehoshaphat tried to turn the people back to God.
31. ____ When Ahaziah injured himself, he asked God if he would get well. (II Kings 1:2)
32. ____ The Lord took Elisha up in a whirlwind.
33. ____ Elijah and Elisha used their own power when they did miracles.
34. ____ Jehoram walked in the same ways as his parents Ahab and Jezebel.
35. ____ Obadiah was a prophet who prophesied about the nation Edom.
36. ____ Jehoram died to no one's regret.
37. ____ The Shunammite woman built a room on her house for Elisha.
38. ____ Naaman was healed of his leprosy when he had dipped 7 times in the river Pharpar.
39. ____ When Syria surrounded Israel, Elisha told his servant, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

40. ____ The siege that Ben-hadad's army had on Samaria was so bad that women began to eat their children.
41. ____ Ahaziah was a wicked king of Judah, whose mother was Athaliah.
42. ____ Jehu killed Jehoram, king of Israel, and Ahaziah, king of Judah.
43. ____ When Jezebel died, the dogs ate her.
44. ____ Jehu killed all in the house and family of Ahab.
45. ____ Jezebel killed all of her grandchildren when she learned that Ahaziah was dead.
46. ____ Only one grandson of Athaliah survived, and he was hidden in the temple for 7 years.
47. ____ Athaliah was pleased that her grandson, Joash, became the king of Judah.
48. ____ The prophet Joel called for Judah to repent and turn back to God.
49. ____ The prophecy of Joel was fulfilled when Christ came to earth and began His church.

Thought Questions

1. God told every wicked king that there would be consequences to their sins. Do you think that there are consequences to our sins? _____
2. What kind of influence did good kings have upon Judah, and what kind of things did they cause Judah to do?

3. What kind of influence did evil kings have on Judah and Israel, and what kind of things did they cause those nations to do? _____

4. Do you think leaders can have an influence on us to do good or evil? _____
5. Even though bad leaders can have a bad influence on us, can we overcome that bad influence and do right?

6. Give some examples of people that we have studied about who did right, even when everyone around them seemed to be doing wrong. _____

7. If God destroyed nations in Old Testament days because of their evil ways, do you think He will destroy nations today when they are wicked? (*Read Romans 13: 1-2*) _____