

The Divided Kingdom

Part 2

"You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors," Hosea 10:13 (ESV)

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THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Prophets

These were men of God who prophesied during the last half of the DIVIDED KINGDOM. God talked to the people of Israel through the prophets. The prophets warned the people of the things that would happen to them if they disobeyed God. The prophets preached these messages to the people (Remember these things as you study all the prophets):

- *REPENT* -- God wanted his people to repent of their unfaithfulness and turn back to Him.
- *"THE DAY OF JEHOVAH"* -- This referred to a day of judgment for those who disobeyed God, and a day of deliverance for those who did obey God.
- *MESSIANIC*-- These were messages from the prophets that foretold of a day when Jesus Christ would come to save the righteous and destroy the wicked. A "MESSIANIC" message foretold of things that would happen in New Testament days.

JONAH -- Prophesied to Ninevah

AMOS -- Prophesied to Israel

HOSEA-- Prophesied to Israel

ISAIAH -- Prophesied to Israel and Judah

MICAH -- Prophesied to the common people of Judah

ODED -- Prophesied to Israel

ZEPHENIAH -- Prophesied to Judah

JEREMIAH -- Prophesied to Judah

NAHUM -- Prophesied to Ninevah/ Assyria

HULDAH the PROPHETESS -- She prophesied to Judah

HABAKKUK -- Prophesied to Judah

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson One

INTRODUCTION

This quarter we will study the second half of the Divided Kingdom of Israel and then Judah Alone. Notice how God blesses His people when they obey Him and how he curses them when they disobey Him. Israel did not have any good kings in the first half of the Divided Kingdom, and Judah had only a few good kings. The same thing happens during the second half of the Divided Kingdom. God talked to the people of Israel through the prophets. The prophets warned the people of the things that would happen to them if they disobeyed God.

VOCABULARY

REPENT-- A change of mind followed by a change of behavior; to turn from one way to follow another.

PROPHET -- God raised up men to foretell future events and proclaim God's word to the people. These men spoke for God. Prophets were also called "seers".

TEMPEST -- A great storm or whirlwind

HEBREW -- This is another name for "Israelite" or "Jew".

VOW -- A solemn promise.

FAST -- To go for a period of time without eating food.

NINEVAH

An empire rose to the northeast of Israel -- the empire of Assyria. (An empire was a group of nations or people ruled by one ruler or government.) The capitol of Assyria was the city of Ninevah. This empire had been growing larger and becoming stronger for a long time. We can learn about Israel's first contact with the Assyrians when we study secular history (or history that is from man and not from the Bible). King Jehu of Israel submitted to Shalmaneser who was an Assyrian king.

While the threat to Israel was not as great, God commanded a man named Jonah to go preach to the people of Ninevah and warn them that they should repent or be destroyed by God. Jonah was not happy that God commanded him to do this.

Jonah prophesied during the days of King Jeroboam II. As we begin our study the time when the nation of Israel would come to an end is close. Keep in mind that God judged not only His people Israel, but he also judged the nations around them.

LESSON TEXT -- The book of Jonah

MAP WORK -- Ninevah, Tarshish, Joppa

God Speaks To Jonah

One day the Lord spoke to Jonah who was the son of Amittai. He said, "Go to Ninevah and speak out against it because I know how wicked the people are there."

Jonah did not want to do what the Lord said, so he fled in the opposite direction toward Tarshish. He went to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, and he paid his fare and went into the ship away from the presence of the Lord.

While Jonah was in the ship the Lord sent a great wind on the sea. There was a mighty **tempest** so violent that the ship was in danger of breaking up on the sea. The sailors on the ship were very afraid and they began to call out to their own gods. To lighten the ship they threw the cargo overboard. All the time this was happening, Jonah was down in the innermost part of the ship asleep.

The captain of the ship came to Jonah and said, "Why are you sleeping. Get up and pray to your God so that He may think of us and keep us from perishing."

All the sailors said to one another, "Come, let's cast lots so we will know who is to blame for getting us into this danger." When they cast lots, the lot fell upon Jonah. Then the men said to Jonah, "Tell us who is the cause of this evil upon us. What are you doing here? Where do you come from? What country do you come from and who are your people?"

Jonah said, " I am a **Hebrew** and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

Jonah's reply made the men very afraid and they said, "What is this you have done?" The men knew that Jonah was fleeing from the presence of the Lord because he had told them. So they said to Jonah, "What are we to do to you so that the sea will become calm?", because all this time the sea was becoming rougher and rougher.

Jonah said to the men, "Throw me into the sea and it will calm down. I know it is because of me that this great **tempest** has come upon you."

Evidently this was not something they wanted to do, so they began to row with all their might to get the ship back to shore, but they were not able to do so. All this time the sea became more and more tempestuous. So the men began to call out to the Lord and say, " O Lord, listen to our prayer and don't punish us with death for taking this man's life, because You have done what seemed good to You."

Then the men picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea calmed down at once. When the men saw this they were very afraid of the Lord and they offered a sacrifice to Him and made **vows**.

The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and he was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

While Jonah was in the belly of the fish he prayed to the Lord his God and said, "I called out to the Lord in my distress and He heard me. I cried for help and You heard me. You have put me down into the deep, into the heart of the sea, and the waters surrounded me, and the waves passed over me. I thought I was driven away from Your sight, but I will look upon your holy temple again. The waters covered me to take my life, and the weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the bottom of the

mountains, but you brought me back from the depths alive. When I thought I was dying, I remembered the Lord and my prayer came to You, into your holy temple. Those who worship false gods have given up their hope, but I will sacrifice to You with thanksgiving and pay what I have vowed to You. Salvation is of the Lord."

The Lord heard Jonah's prayer and He spoke to the fish, and the fish vomited Jonah out on dry land.

God Speaks To Jonah a Second Time

The Lord spoke to Jonah a second time and said, "Get up! Go to Ninevah, that great city, and preach the message that I have given you."

Jonah got up and went to Ninevah just as God told him to. Ninevah was a very large city, so large that it took three days to travel across it. After a day's journey into Ninevah Jonah began to cry out to the people saying, "In forty days Ninevah will be destroyed."

The people of Ninevah believed God's message, and they decided that they needed to **fast**. All the people, from the greatest to the least of them put on sackcloth and **fasted**. Even the king of Ninevah heard about this and arose from his throne, took off his royal robes, put on sackcloth, and sat down in ashes. He sent out a decree that neither man or beast, herd or flock, was to have a taste of anything to eat, or drink water. He said both man and beast was to be covered in sackcloth and cry out to God. Everyone was to turn from their evil ways and from the violence they were doing. The king said, "Perhaps God will change His mind and stop being angry so that we will not die."

God saw what all the people from Ninevah did, and how they turned from their evil ways. He changed His mind and did not punish them as He said He would.

Jonah Became Angry

When Jonah saw that God had changed His mind and was not going to destroy Ninevah, he became angry. He said to the Lord, "O Lord, isn't this what I said when I was still in my country? I fled to Tarshish because I know You are a gracious God who is merciful and slow to anger. You have great mercy and are always ready to change Your mind and not punish. Now, O Lord, please take my life because it is better for me to die than for me to live."

The Lord said to Jonah, "What right do you have to be angry?"

Jonah went out of Ninevah and traveled to the east side of the city. He made himself a shelter of branches and sat down, waiting to see what would happen to the city of Ninevah.

While Jonah was sitting there, the Lord made a gourd plant to grow up and shade over Jonah's head so that he would not be uncomfortable in the sun. Jonah was very glad because of the plant that shaded him. But when dawn came the next day, God prepared a worm that destroyed the plant, and it withered and died.

The sun rose in the sky and the Lord sent a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head and he became faint. He wished that he were dead and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "What right do you have to be angry about the plant?"

Jonah said, "I have a right to be angry! Angry enough to die."

Then the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not work, nor did you make it grow. It came into being in a night and perished in a night. Shouldn't I pity Ninevah, that great city where more than 120,000 persons do not know their right hand from their left, and they also have much cattle?"

Think About It: Jonah was happy when God decided not to destroy him, but he was not happy when God decided that He would not destroy the city of Ninevah. But, God is not willing that any people perish (or be destroyed):

II Pet. 3:9 tells us: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

We need to remember that God is our judge and we should want Him to be as merciful to others as we want Him to be to us.

The Lord told Jonah, "Shouldn't I pity Ninevah, that great city where more than 120,000 persons do not know their right hand from their left . . .?" When God said this, He was referring to all the innocent children that would be destroyed if He did not pity Ninevah and change His mind from destroying them. God was willing to give Ninevah another chance to repent and follow Him.

We also learn from the book of Jonah that God is not only the God of Israel but of ALL THE EARTH !

MEMORY WORK

We will be studying some of the prophets this quarter. Their message for Israel is also a good message for us !

Hosea 6: 6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice;
and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ Jonah tried to run away from God.
2. ___ Jonah got on a ship going to Tarshish.
3. ___ Jonah was awake and afraid during the tempest.
4. ___ The captain of the ship wanted Jonah to pray to his God to keep them from perishing.
5. ___ Jonah knew that the Lord brought the tempest because of him.
6. ___ Jonah was in the belly of a shark for three days.
7. ___ Jonah prayed to God while he was in the belly of the fish.
8. ___ The Lord would not hear Jonah's prayer.
9. ___ The people of Ninevah did not believe God's message that Jonah preached.
10. ___ Jonah was happy that God changed His mind about not destroying Ninevah.
11. ___ The Lord made a gourd plant grow up to shade Jonah's head.
12. ___ Jonah had a right to be angry when God destroyed the gourd plant.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Two

INTRODUCTION

As you study this quarter, remember that God's kingdom is divided into two sections -- ISRAEL and JUDAH. We will let you know what section we are studying by labeling each section "ISRAEL" or "JUDAH". Watch for this at the top of each new story or section.

This lesson begins with Amaziah being the king of Judah and Jeroboam II the king of Israel.

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Conspiracy: A secret plan

Coats of Mail: A breastplate or harness that protected the chest area of a man during a battle.

KINGS OF JUDAH

King Amaziah ☉

King Uzziah ☉

JUDAH

(II Kings 14: 18 - 22; II Chron. 25: 26 - 28; 26:1 - 15)

As we begin this section, Amaziah is still the King of Judah.

King Amaziah turned away from following God. When he did, men in his kingdom made a **conspiracy** against him. When he found this out he fled to Lachish, but the men against him sent to Lachish for him and killed him there. He was brought back on horses and buried with the kings in the city of David.

After Amaziah was killed, the people took Uzziah his son and made him king. He was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for 52 years. His mother's name was Jecoliah. Uzziah was a good king as long as he sought God. Zechariah the prophet instructed Uzziah in the fear of God, and as long as he served God he prospered.

During his reign he went to war against the Philistines and tore down the walls of the cities of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. He built cities in the area of Ashdod and among the Philistines. God helped him defeat the Philistines and against Arabians. The Ammonites paid tribute (or taxes) to Uzziah. He became a great man with great power whose fame was known even to the Egyptians. He also built Elath and restored it to Judah.

Uzziah built towers at the corners of the gates in Jerusalem and fortified them to make them stronger. He also built towers in the wilderness and cisterns to water the large herds that he had in the Shephelah and in the plain. He loved the soil and he had farmers and vinedressers in the hill country.

Uzziah had a large army of soldiers under the commander Hananiah. His army was a large force of 307,500 men and he made sure his men were equipped with shields, spears, **coats of mail**, bows and slings. Skillful men in his kingdom made machines to be placed on the towers of the city wall to send out arrows and large stones. The fame of his name spread far and he was greatly helped and was strong.

MAP WORK: Lachish; Gath; Jabneh; Ashdod; Jerusalem; Elath
Areas of the Philistines; Arabians; Egyptians; Shephelah
JUDAH; ISRAEL, AMMON

MEMORY WORK

Hosea 6: 6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice;
and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

USE YOUR BIBLE

1. When did Amaziah's men make a conspiracy against him? II Chron. 25:27 _____

2. Where was Amaziah buried? II Chron. 25: 28 _____

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ Uzziah was 52 when the people of Judah made him king.
2. ___ As long as Uzziah served God he prospered.
3. ___ Uzziah loved the soil and had farmers for his land.
4. ___ Uzziah did not defeat the Philistines.
5. ___ Zechariah taught Uzziah to fear God.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Three

KING OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam II ☹

KING OF JUDAH

Uzziah ☹

Introduction:

This period of time was a period of riches and prosperity for Israel and for Judah. God was blessing Judah because they had a king who was serving Him. But, Israel had a wicked king during this period of time; Jeroboam II led Israel to continue in their sin.

*During this period of time God raises up some prophets to preach to Israel and Judah. Israel's riches and prosperity had not brought about faithfulness or gratitude to God in Israel. They continued in their sin of idolatry. So God sent the prophet Amos to Israel to tell them that judgment **is** coming. At this point, judgment could not be avoided.*

What about Judah? There are still some who are serving God in Judah. God was not ready to judge them yet, but they are warned by the prophet Amos.

*It was through the nation and its relationship to God that the Jew entered into fellowship with God. Every nation was unclean to the Jew, except his own. A Jew could not worship God acceptably in a foreign nation, so to be exiled to a foreign nation was very serious, and the end of all that was dear and glorious to him. Keep these things in mind as you see God punish His people by sending them into **exile**.*

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Amos: To bear; to place a load upon. God laid on Amos the load, or task, of telling Israel their judgment.

Herdsmen: An owner or tender of sheep or cattle.

Zion: Refers to Jerusalem, or the city of David. In the New Testament it sometimes refers to the church of God and sometimes to the heavenly city (heaven).

Exile: Captivity; the state of being a prisoner or under control; servitude; slavery

Rejected: To cast away; spurn; refuse.

Woe: Grief, sorrow, to be cursed.

Ease: Secure; freedom from concern or difficulty.

Oppress: To load or burden one, compelling him to do unreasonable service; overpower.

Vision: A revelation from God. God would send the prophets an appearance or exhibition of something supernaturally to their minds and this is how they were informed by God of something that would happen in the future.

Plumb-line: A vertical line or cord with a metal weight attached to one end used to measure whether something else is truly vertical.

Sheol: The world or region of the dead; the grave.

Remnant: The remainder; those who escaped; a surviving portion.

Amos

(The book of Amos)

Amos was a man whom God chose to give a special message to His people. Before God chose him, he was a herdsman of sheep and a gatherer of sycamore fruit. He was not a rich or prosperous man.

Amos lived in Tekoa, a village 5 miles south of Bethlehem and 10 miles from Jerusalem. When God called him he was following his flocks. God wanted him to preach to Israel because of their wickedness. Amos was a prophet during the days of Jeroboam II in Israel, and during the days of King Uzziah in Judah.

Amos said to Israel, "The Lord will roar from **Zion**, and utter His voice from Jerusalem. He will punish Damascus because of their cruelty in war. The people of Syria will go into **exile**. He will punish Gaza of Philistia, Tyre, Edom, Ammon and Moab. He will also punish Judah because they have **rejected** the law of the Lord and have not kept His laws."

"He will punish Israel because of their sins against the poor, their idolatry and their unfaithfulness to God. God destroyed the Amorites and brought you out of the land of Egypt to possess the land of Canaan. He raised up prophets, but you told the prophets not to prophesy, so you will be punished. It will not matter how strong your army is because God will destroy them."

Amos continued, "God has spoken against all of Israel, but He will not punish without warning His people, so I have to cry out, 'An enemy will surround the land and bring you down. You will be punished because of the altars at Bethel.'"

Israel had become rich. They had their winter houses and summer houses that would be destroyed. Rich women of Israel had oppressed the poor, but they would not escape God's judgment. They offered sacrifices at Bethel, but their sacrifices were not what God commanded.

Amos preached, "God says, "I sent famine to you, but you didn't return to Me. I did not give you rain, but you didn't return to Me. I destroyed your gardens and vineyards with blight and mildew, but you didn't return to Me. I sent disease, enemy attacks and burning, but you didn't return to me. Therefore, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

"Hear this word -- O house of Israel! Israel is fallen and no one will raise her up. Seek Me and live, but don't seek Bethel."

"Israel hates the one who tells them the truth about their sins. I know how many sins you have and how you treat the righteous. You offer the burnt offerings, but I will not accept them. I am going to send you into **exile beyond Damascus** (*this is referring to Assyria*).

"**Woe** to you people who are at **ease** in **Zion** -- you men who are wealthy rulers. You lie down on your beds of ivory and stretch out on your couches, but you have closed your eyes to the needs of the poor. You'll be the first to go into **exile**. I am going to raise up a nation against you and they will **oppress** you."

Then God showed Amos some **visions**. In the first **vision** God showed Amos some locusts. The grass had grown up after the king's mowing, and the locusts ate all the grass of the land. Amos prayed to God, "O Lord, please forgive Your people! How can Your people survive? They are so small compared to You."

So the Lord changed His mind about this and said, "It shall not be."

Then Amos saw a second **vision** of a fire that God sent to punish the people. The fire burned up the great deep and was eating up the land. Amos said, "O Lord, please stop! How can Your people survive, they are so small and weak? So the Lord changed His mind concerning this.

Then Amos saw a third **vision**. The Lord was standing beside a wall with a **plumb-line** in His hand. The Lord said, "Amos, what do you see?"

Amos said, "A **plumb-line**."

The Lord said, "I am setting a **plumb-line** for Israel." Then God let Amos see how far Israel had drifted from God's original plan for them. The Lord told Amos, "I will never pass by anymore."

This time, there was no need for Amos to pray. He knew that God's punishment for Israel was sure. God said to him, "I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with a sword."

At this same period of time, one of the priests at Bethel named Amaziah said to King Jeroboam II, "Amos has conspired against you. The land can't bear to hear what he has to say. Amos has said that Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will go into **exile**."

Then Amaziah went to Amos and said, "O seer, go, flee to the land of Judah and prophesy there. Don't prophesy at Bethel anymore because it is the king's place of worship."

Amos said to Amaziah, "I was not a prophet, or a prophet's son. I was a **herdsman** and a gatherer of sycamore fruit. The Lord took me from what I was doing and said, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.' Now hear what the Lord says: 'You say, 'Don't prophesy against Israel or preach against the house of Isaac.', but the Lord says, 'Your families will be destroyed. Your land will be divided up and you will die in an unclean land. Israel will go into **exile** away from its land.'"

After Amaziah interrupted Amos' preaching, the Lord showed him another vision. Amos saw a basket of summer fruit. The Lord said, "What do you see?"

Amos said, "A basket of summer fruit."

Then the Lord said, "The nation is ripe for destruction. I will not pass by them again. Dead bodies will be in every place and there won't be the time or places to bury them."

(Israel had become so wicked that they could not wait for the Sabbaths and new moons to be over so that they could return back to their business of dishonest gain and cheating the poor.)

God said to Israel, "I'll turn your feast days into mourning and everyone will wear sackcloth. The days are coming when I will send a famine -- not of bread or water, but a famine of hearing God's word. Men will want to hear it, and they will seek for it, but they will not find it. Your young men and women will faint because of thirst, but not for water-- but for God's word."

In the last vision that God showed Amos, he saw the Lord standing beside the altar. God said, "None of them will escape judgment. If they dig into **Sheol**, I'll find them there. If they climb to heaven, I'll bring them down. If they hide on top of Mount Carmel, or at the bottom of the sea, I'll command the serpent to bite them. Even those who are taken into captivity will not escape the sword."

"The kingdom will be brought to an end, except, I'll not completely destroy the house of Jacob (Judah). Israel will be scattered among the nations. All sinners of My people will die by the sword."

As the book of Amos closes, God does leave His people with some hope. God tells them that He will save a **remnant**. In the future there would be a descendant of David who would restore the fortunes of His people. (*This is referring to the Messiah, or Jesus Christ.*)

LESSONS LEARNED: *At the beginning of the book of Amos, God said he would punish other nations not related to Israel. God is the God of ALL NATIONS! He cares how all nations conduct themselves -- even TODAY!*

If you have studied about Israel, and the days since God brought them out of Egyptian bondage, you know how Israel did many things to displease God. Any time that they turned back to Him, they did not serve Him very long. How sad that Israel finally had left following God completely. God decided that the judgment of Israel was certain. We learn from this that although God is a longsuffering God, there is an end to His longsuffering. He gives His people opportunity after opportunity to obey Him, but He will eventually punish and send judgment on them if they do not turn back to Him. That is something we need to think about today!

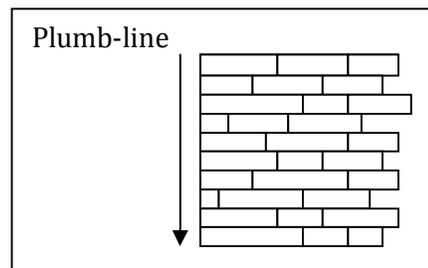
Watch Judah after Israel goes into exile. See if they take the warnings from God that Amos preached to them.

MAP WORK: Tekoa; Bethlehem; Jerusalem; Gaza; Tyre; Edom; Ammon; Moab; Syria

MEMORY WORK

Hosea 6: 6

6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice;
and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant:
there have they dealt treacherously against me.



USE YOUR BIBLE

Name the five visions that Amos had:

(1) Amos 7:1 _____

(2) Amos 7:4 _____

(3) Amos 7:7 _____

(4) Amos 8:1 _____

(5) Amos 9:1 _____

YES OR NO

1. Could Israel escape or put off this judgment by God? _____

2. Did God leave Israel without any hope for the future? _____

3. Is there an end to God's longsuffering when His people won't repent? _____

4. Would God save a remnant of His people? _____

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Four

Vocabulary Words:

Hosea: Deliverer

Justice: Giving or assigning what is just or fair.

Immorality: A practice that is wicked or evil.

Idolatry: The worship of a physical object as a god.

Whoredom: Having to do with deserting the worship of God for the worship of idols. It can also mean one who engages in the sin of fornication with others.

Ephraim: This was the largest tribe in Israel. When the prophets refer to "Ephraim" this word is referring to the nation of Israel.

Mercy: Pity, compassion, willing to forgive.

Baal: A god of the Phoenicians.

Reject: Despise, refuse, reject, cast off.

Commit Adultery: The act of a husband or wife being unfaithful to their mate by taking another.

Hosea

The Book of Hosea

INTRODUCTION:

*In the last lesson we studied the book of Amos. Amos told Israel that judgment was coming. He also told Israel that they were receiving judgment from God because of their many sins. We see God's **justice** in the book of Amos.*

*This lesson is in the book of Hosea. Hosea and Amos prophesied close to the same period of time to Israel. The book of Hosea shows us that judgment is coming to Israel, and is necessary, but Hosea also lets us see into God's heart and how He is brokenhearted over Israel's **immorality** and **idolatry**. He lets us see how ugly sin looks to God, how it grieves Him, and how God wants His people to return to Him.*

*In the book of Hosea we see that God takes a real man, Hosea, and rearranges his family life to give a picture of how God and Israel's relationship was. God told Hosea to take a "wife of **whoredom**". This would be a woman who had grown up practicing idolatry and was already unfaithful to God. She would also become unfaithful to Hosea and take other lovers. Hosea's life with his wife Gomer, and her unfaithfulness to Hosea, is compared to God loving Israel as a husband loves a wife, and then Israel loving other gods.*

Remember: God wanted Israel to love and obey only Him ! Israel had made a covenant with God that they would serve only Him ! When Israel worshipped their idol gods they were breaking their covenant with God.

*Hosea prophesied in the days of **King Jeroboam II of Israel**, and in the days of **Kings Uzziah, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah**.*

The Lord spoke to Hosea and said, "I want you to take yourself a wife of **whoredom** and have children by her. The land of Israel commits great **whoredom** by forsaking the Lord."

So, Hosea married Gomer. Gomer had a son and the Lord told Hosea to name their son Jezreel. (*Jezreel means "Jehovah scatters" -- so this name foretold that God would scatter His people.*) God said, "It will not be long before I will punish the house of Jehu because of the blood that he shed at Jezreel, and I am also going to put an end to the kingdom of Israel."

Later on, Gomer had another child -- a daughter. After she was born, God said to Hosea, "Call her Loruhamah (*meaning "no mercy"*) because I will not have **mercy** on Israel, but I will show **mercy** to Judah. I will not save Israel."

Loruhamah grew, and later Gomer had another child, a son. The Lord said, " Call this child Loammi (*Loammi means "you are not my people"*), because you are not My people and I am not your God. Yet, there will be one day when it shall be said that they are "children of the living God" (*When God said this He was looking forward to the future when spiritual Israel would be His people in the days of Christ.*).

(As God talked to Hosea He pictured Himself as the husband of Israel and of Israel as the unfaithful wife. Try to remember this as God talks to Hosea.)

God told Hosea, "Tell Israel that she is not my wife and I am not her husband. Tell her to put away her **whoredoms** and adultery, and return to her husband. If she doesn't return I will have no **mercy** on her children because they are not my children, and their mother who has had them has acted shamefully."

"Israel has said that she will look for new lovers who will give her the things she needs, but I will put thorns in her path and build a wall to keep her in. Maybe then she will come back to Me. Israel did not realize that I am the source of her blessings. I will put an end to all her joy -- all her feast days, new moons and Sabbaths. Israel has not kept My feast days as I wanted her to keep them, but has forgotten Me and has given worship to **Baal**."

"I will try to bring Israel back to Me" says the Lord. "I will bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. She will answer me just as she did in the days of her youth when she came out of the land of Egypt. In that day she will call me "My husband" and not "My **Baal**". I will remove the **Baals** and I will make a new covenant with Israel. I will have mercy on "No Mercy" and I will say to "Not My People" -- "You are My people", and Israel will say, "You are my God."

(God talked to Hosea again. He told him to go love a woman who was loved by another man. Evidently this woman that the Lord was talking about was Hosea's own wife, Gomer. Hosea loved Gomer, even though she was a woman who committed adultery with other men. Evidently Gomer had been sold into some kind of servitude because God told him to buy her back.)

(In the same manner, God loved Israel, even though Israel committed spiritual adultery with other gods.)

The Lord told Hosea to buy Gomer back to himself and he bought her for 15 shekels of silver. Hosea told Gomer, "You must dwell here as my wife and you must not **commit adultery**."

God told Hosea that just as Gomer must live with Hosea and not **commit adultery**, Israel must live and not worship their idols. The Kingdom of Israel would be destroyed and scattered. They would be without **mercy** and they would not be God's people anymore. They would seek God, but God would not

be found. One day they would seek God and find Him, but that would be in the days of the Messiah (Jesus Christ).

God wanted Israel to hear what their sins were, and Hosea told them. God said that there was no knowledge of God in the land. The people would swear, lie, murder, steal and commit adultery. Because they didn't know God's word, they were destroyed. Because the people didn't want to know God's word, God said, "I will reject you, and I will forget your children."

The people of Israel were so involved in idolatry and sin that they did not think clearly anymore. Even their priests -- men who were to teach God's Law to the people -- were involved in sin. Just as Gomer had children who were not Hosea's children, God said that Israel had children who were not His.

God wanted Judah to think about their sins as well, and told them they would be judged for their sins too.

God wanted Israel to know that they went to the wrong sources for help. Instead of turning to God for help, they turned to the nations of Egypt and Assyria. They made men kings, but not with God's approval. These kings set up idols to their own destruction.

God said, "They are already ruined. They have asked Assyria to help them. I will punish their sins and they will return into bondage because they have forgotten their Maker. Don't rejoice Israel! You have forsaken your God. You will not remain in the land and you will go into captivity. You have trusted in your own way, but it is time to seek the Lord."

"When Israel was like a little child I loved him. But the more I called to him, the more they went away from Me. I tried to draw them to Me, but they didn't even know that I helped them. How can I give you up Israel? How can I hand you over to the Assyrians? My heart is turned within Me and pities you."

"I will not punish you in My anger, for I am God and not a man. I am the Holy One in your midst. After you are destroyed a remnant of you will walk after Me."

God also warned Judah. Judah was not innocent, and although there were still people there who served God, there were also people engaged in the same sins that Israel was doing.

As the book of Hosea ends, God pleads with Israel to return to Him. God told them that if they would return to Him he would love them and restore their blessings.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Hosea was a prophet who saw clearly the love that God had for His nation Israel. Hosea had loved his own wife Gomer, but because of the influences of idolatry in her life she became unfaithful to Hosea. She had three children, but Hosea did not know whether they were his own, or the children of other men. (Look at the meanings of their names.) Gomer was bought back to Hosea for the price of a slave, but she could no longer be a real wife to Hosea.

As God used Hosea to preach His message to Israel, Hosea could see the love that God had for Israel in her unfaithfulness, and he could compare that love to the love he had for Gomer and her unfaithfulness.

God had brought Israel out of bondage and into a land of "milk and honey", but Israel did not appreciate all that God had done for them and they began to serve other gods, becoming as an unfaithful wife to God. In spite of all Israel did, God never quit loving her. God, with great love and anguish, was ready to give His nation up because of her sins.

However, God gave His nation some hope for the future. It would be during the days of Christ the Messiah that God would buy His people back to Himself. This people would not be in the physical kingdom of Israel, but in a spiritual kingdom.

MEMORY WORK

Hosea 6: 6

6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice;
and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant:
there have they dealt treacherously against me.

QUESTIONS

1. What were the names of Gomer's three children, and the meaning of their names?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. Was Gomer a good woman? _____

3. Why did God want Hosea to marry her? _____

4. What kinds of sins did Israel do? _____

5. Was God sad that He had to destroy the nation of Israel? _____

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Five

Vocabulary Words:

Conspire - To secretly plan an unlawful act.

Proud - To be haughty; lifted up because of one's own talents and accomplishments; rude treatment of others.

Valor - To be strong; powerful; brave.

Leper - One who has the disease leprosy.

REMEMBER ! We have just studied about God's messages to Israel by the prophets Amos and Hosea. God has said through them that Israel will be destroyed, and there is no turning back for them. See this come true.

*While King Uzziah is reigning in Judah, Jeroboam II is reigning at the same time in Israel. Pay attention as we study this part of the Divided Kingdom. **We will label each section either "ISRAEL" or "JUDAH" so you will know which kingdom we are discussing. Some sections will have both ISRAEL and JUDAH over them because what is discussed affects both kingdoms.***

As we study about the end of Jeroboam II's life remember that he was the third descendant of Jehu to reign on the throne to fulfill the promise that God made to Jehu in II Kings 10:30.

Israel is prosperous, but their prosperity is about to end, as we learned from the prophets Amos and Hosea.

ISRAEL

The Death of Jeroboam II -- II Kings 14: 28 - 29

Jeroboam II died and his son Zechariah reigned in his place. This was in the 15th year that Uzziah was the king of Judah.

There was a 22 year gap between the reign of Jeroboam II and the reign of Zechariah (II Kings 14:23; 15: 1, 2).

Zechariah Reigns -- II Kings 15: 8 - 12

(Zechariah was the last descendant of Jehu to sit on the throne of Israel. His reign fulfills the promise God made to Jehu.)

Zechariah was an evil king. He didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, so Israel continued in the sin of idolatry. Zechariah only reigned over Israel for 6 months. Shallum, the son of Jabesh, **conspired** against him and killed him at Ibleam. Then Shallum reigned in his place.

Shallum and Manahem -- II Kings 15: 3 - 18

Shallum reigned one month in Samaria. While he was king, Manahem came to Samaria from Tirzah and killed Shallum. Then Manahem reigned as king in Shallum's place.

Manahem was an evil king. As he was on his way from Tirzah to Samaria he completely destroyed the city of Tiphshah because they did not surrender to him. He even ripped open all the women who were expecting children, killing their unborn children.

JUDAH

Uzziah -- II Kings 15:5; II Chron. 26: 16 - 21

(Remember -- Uzziah has been a good king over Judah so far, but that is about to end.)

Uzziah's fame had spread far because of the things he had done, but when he became strong he grew **proud** and his pride was to his own destruction. Uzziah began to be unfaithful to the Lord. He went into the temple to burn incense on the altar of incense -- something that only the Levitical priests were to do.

Seeing what Uzziah did, the priest Azariah went into the temple after him, along with 80 other priests who were men of **valor**. They resisted what Uzziah was doing and Azariah said to him, "It is not a job for you to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests who are sons of Aaron. Go out of the holy place because you have done wrong, and what you have done will bring you no honor from God."

When Azariah said this to him, Uzziah already had a censor in his hand to burn incense. He became angry at what Azariah said, and at the other priests. When he became angry, leprosy broke out on his forehead and the priests could see this. Seeing that he was leprous, they rushed him out of the temple quickly. Uzziah, realizing that the Lord had struck him with leprosy, had already turned to rush out of the temple.

Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died, and he had to live in a servant's house. No more could he go into the temple. During this time his son Jotham was over the king's household and governed the people of Judah. *(During this period of time a powerful king arose to power in Assyria named Tiglath-pileser III (or Pul). Notice how this king affects the nation of Israel.)*

ISRAEL

Israel is invaded by Tiglath-Pileser III (or Pul) -- II Kings 15: 19 - 20; I Chron. 5:26

Pul, the king of Assyria, invaded Israel. Pul was a mighty king, and King Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver. Menahem got the silver by having all the wealthy men in Israel give 50 shekels each to Pul, king of Assyria.

After Pul received the silver, he pulled back and did not stay there.

Pekahiah and Pekah -- II Kings 15: 22 - 31; 16: 1 - 5; II Chron. 28: 5 - 15

When Menahem died, his son Pekahiah reigned in his place over Israel. Pekahiah was evil in the sight of God, and he did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat. He reigned in Samaria for two years.

Pekah, the son of Remaliah, began to **conspire** against Pekahiah. Pekah and 50 men from Gilead killed Pekahiah in the palace of the king. Then Pekah reigned in his place.

Pekah was an evil king and he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat.

JUDAH

Uzziah dies -- II Kings 15:6 - 7; II Chron. 26: 22 - 23

Uzziah died and was buried in a field that belonged to the kings. They buried him there and not in the burial place for the rest of the kings because he was a **leper**.

Jotham, Uzziah's son, reigned in his place.

KINGS OF JUDAH

Uzziah☉

Jotham☉

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam II☉

Zechariah☉

Shallum☉

Menahem☉

Pekahiah☉

Pekah☉

MEMORY WORK

Isaiah 2:2

And it shall come to pass in the last days,
that the mountain of the LORD'S house
shall be established in the top of the mountains,
and shall be exalted above the hills;
and all nations shall flow unto it.

MAP WORK: Samaria; Tirzah; Ibleam; Assyria

MATCH

Zechariah	Uzziah's son who reigned in his place.
Shallum	He and 50 men from Gilead killed Pekahiah.
Menahem	The last descendant of Jehu to sit on the throne of Israel.
Uzziah	He went into the temple to burn incense.
Azariah	Tiglath-Pileser III, king of Assyria.
Pul	The son of Menahem who reigned in Samaria two years.
Pekahiah	He gave Pul a thousand talents of silver.
Pekah	Menahem came to Samaria and killed him, reigning in his place.
Jotham	He told Uzziah to leave the holy place because he had done wrong.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Six

Vocabulary Words:

Isaiah - Jehovah has saved.

Train - The bottom edge or hem of a robe.

Seraphim - Celestial or heavenly winged beings, probably angels. *"They seem to have borne a general resemblance to the human figure. [Isa 6:6](#). Their occupation was two-fold; to celebrate the praises of Jehovah's holiness and power, [Isa 6:3](#), and to act as the medium of communication between heaven and earth. [Isa 6:6](#)." [Smith's Bible Dictionary](#)*

Desolate - Laid waste; uninhabited; deserted of God.

ISAIAH

KING OF JUDAH

Uzziah ☹

INTRODUCTION:

*In this lesson we will be studying about another prophet -- the prophet **Isaiah**. **Isaiah** was a prophet who prophesied to Israel and to Judah. He began to prophesy in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and prophesied until the reign of King Hezekiah after Samaria's fall.*

*Isaiah preached to God's people and told them about their wickedness. Israel worshipped idols and were involved in all kinds of other sins. **Isaiah's** name means "salvation of the Lord" or "Jehovah has saved". God gave **Isaiah** a mission -that of turning the people back to Jehovah, their only source of salvation! He told Israel and Judah that God would punish them by allowing them to be taken into captivity by other nations. **Isaiah** also preached God's message to other nations and told them that God would punish them for their sins -- the nations of Babylon, Philistia, Moab, Syria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Arabia and Tyre.*

We know from Isaiah 8:3 that he was married and had two sons. Isaiah met with the kings of his day, and did not fear to tell them of their wrongs and tell them what God expected of them. During his day, Assyria was rising to power. He preached to Israel and tried to get the people to turn back to God so that they could avoid captivity by the Assyrians. But he also knew that God would use the Assyrians to save a remnant of Israel.

Isaiah also prophesied about the future -- a future that would give the people hope, and a day when God would restore glory to Israel. Through the inspiration of God he saw the future of Judah, the destruction of other nations, and he also saw the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and His kingdom that would never be destroyed -- Christ's church!

*The book of Isaiah is a very long book. We will not have time to study it this quarter, but we will study a chapter where **Isaiah** is called to prophesy for God.*

Isaiah 6: 1 - 13

In the year that king Uzziah died, Isaiah the prophet saw a vision. In his vision the Lord was sitting high on a throne, and the **train** of his robe filled the temple. Above the Lord was two **seraphim**, each with six wings -- two covered his face, two covered his feet, and with two he flew. As they flew they called out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

And the sound of their voice made the foundation of the temple shake, and the temple was filled with smoke. When Isaiah saw this he began to say, "Woe is me! I am lost because I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips, for I have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!"

Then one of the **seraphim** flew to Isaiah with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with tongs, and he touched Isaiah's mouth with the burning coal. The **seraphim** said, "Look, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sins are forgiven."

Then Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord who said, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

Isaiah said, "Here am I, send me."

The Lord said, "Go and give this message to the people, 'You will keep hearing, but you will not understand. You will keep seeing, but without getting wiser.' Make the heart of the people dull and their ears heavy and blind their eyes, or they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and turn and be made well."

(God knew that Israel would not listen to the preaching of Isaiah because of their rebellious attitude. They did not really want to do God's will.)

Isaiah said to the Lord, "How long, O Lord, am I to preach to these people?"

The Lord said, "Until the cities lie waste and no one lives there, until the land is a **desolate** waste, and the Lord removes the people far away. If even one person out of ten remains in the land, he too will be destroyed; he will be like an oak tree that has been cut down with only the stump remaining." *(God wanted Isaiah to keep preaching to the people until there was no one else to preach to in the land.)*

MEMORY WORK

Isaiah 2:2

**And it shall come to pass in the last days,
that the mountain of the LORD'S house
shall be established in the top of the mountains,
and shall be exalted above the hills;
and all nations shall flow unto it.**

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ Isaiah saw a vision in the year that King Uzziah died.
2. ___ The Lord was sitting on a train in Isaiah's vision.
3. ___ Two seraphim called out to one another, " Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"
4. ___ The foundation of the temple began to shake and the temple was filled with smoke.
5. ___ One of the seraphim touched Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal.
6. ___ The Lord asked, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
7. ___ Isaiah answered, "Send someone else."
8. ___ The Lord said that Israel would listen to Isaiah because they wanted to do God's will.
9. ___ Isaiah asked the Lord, "How long, O Lord, am I to preach to these people?"
10. ___ The Lord told Isaiah to preach to the people until the cities lie waste and no one lives there.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Seven

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Micah - Who is like Jehovah?

High Places - A place that was elevated, such as a hill, and an idol was placed upon it to be worshiped. Israel had been forbidden by God to worship on these high places (Deut. 12: 11 - 14) but Israel persisted in doing so anyway. The altars that Jeroboam set up at Dan and Bethel were on high places.

Ammonites - Descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. They worshiped the false god Molech and were enemies of God's people.

Wail - To tear the hair and beat the breast in grief.

Lament - To yell or howl.

Oppress - To overpower or overburden; to force someone to perform unreasonable service.

Established - Something that is fixed and certain; perfect or made ready.

JUDAH

KING OF JUDAH

Jotham ☺

Jotham -- II Kings 15: 5, 32 - 38; II Chron. 26:21; 27: 1 - 9

After Uzziah died, his son Jotham began to reign over Judah. Jotham was 25 years old when he began to reign, and his reign lasted 16 years. His mother was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok.

Jotham did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and he did not do as his father by entering into the temple in a way that was not pleasing to God. However, the **high places** in Judah were not removed. The people of Judah continued sacrificing and offering to idols.

While Jotham was king, he built the upper gate of the temple of the Lord. He built cities in the mountains of Judah and castles and towers in the forests of Judah.

Jotham also fought against the **Ammonites** and conquered them. He forced the **Ammonites** to give him an hundred talents of silver (*about 4 tons*), 10,000 measures of wheat (*about 50,000 bushels*), and 10,000 measures of barley (*about 50,000 bushels*) for three years.

Jotham was a strong, mighty king, and the reason he was so mighty was because he prepared his ways before God.

MICAH -- The book of Micah

During the days that Jotham was king (and later when Ahaz and Hezekiah were kings), a prophet of God named Micah prophesied to the kingdom of Judah.

Micah and Isaiah were prophets who prophesied at the same period of time. While Isaiah was telling the leaders of Judah what to do, Micah was prophesying to the common people in the cities and villages of Judah. Micah's message to Judah was very much the same as the message that the prophets Amos and Hosea prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel. Judah had become a wicked and sinful people, just as Israel had. God wanted Micah to warn Judah.

The Lord told Micah, "Hear and pay attention! Judgment is coming on Jerusalem and Samaria, and the Lord will come from His holy temple (*heaven*). Nothing will stop Him!"

As Micah prophesied he went through the streets **wailing** and **lamenting** because he saw no hope for Samaria, and Samaria's destruction would come all the way to the gate of Jerusalem. Micah pronounced "woe" to the rich people who **oppressed** the poor, and told them that they would not escape God's punishment.

The people didn't want to hear the message that Micah preached, and they said to him, "Do not preach!". They chose to listen to false prophets instead of hearing God's message.

Micah told the rulers that they were people who hated what was good and loved what was evil. He told them that when they decided to cry out to the Lord, the Lord would not hear them. The false prophets told the people "Peace.", but Micah told them that they would see no visions. He said, "Your prophets will be disgraced because they won't receive an answer from God."

The rulers, priests and prophets taught and prophesied for the money they would receive from doing so. They were not doing their duties for the Lord, so the Lord said that Zion would be plowed like a field and Jerusalem would be a heap of ruins.

Although Micah's message was a terrible one for Judah, he gave the people some hope for the future. He told them that in the days of the Messiah the mountain of the Lord's house would be **established** and all people could come into it. In that day, the Lord's kingdom wouldn't be defended with earthly weapons, but with spiritual weapons, and the Lord would reign over them. Micah also told the people that when the Messiah came He would be born in Bethlehem.

As Micah preached God's word to the people he told them of the things God had done for them. He reminded them how the Lord had brought them out of Egypt and slavery; how God sent Moses, Aaron and Miriam before them; how He kept Balaam from cursing them when Balak wanted him to. He reminded them about how they crossed over the Jordan River and God saved them. He told them that God required them to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Micah said to Judah, "Listen to the voice of the Lord cry to the city. Can He forget your wickedness? You've kept all the wicked ways of Omri and Ahab, but I will make you a laughingstock. I wish that you would return to being righteous, but all are wicked."

Before Micah finished his message to Judah he reminded them that God would allow a remnant of His people to return to Him. In that day, God would pardon their sins and keep the covenant he made to Abraham and Jacob.

(Note: Omri and Ahab were wicked kings that Israel had previously. Remember that Samaria is the capital city of Israel).

(After about 100 years passed, Judah was still standing. Jeremiah was the prophet that prophesied then, and he also cried out against Judah's sins. You will study about Jeremiah and Judah next quarter.)

MEMORY WORK

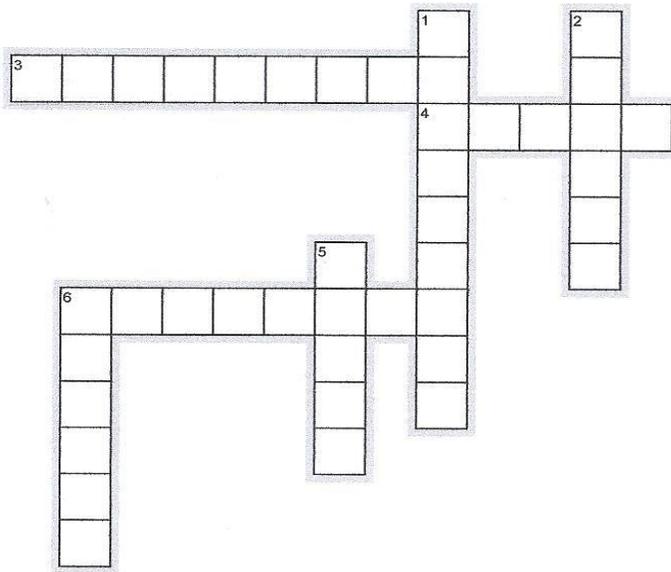
Isaiah 2:2 - 3

**2 And it shall come to pass in the last days,
that the mountain of the LORD'S house
shall be established in the top of the mountains,
and shall be exalted above the hills;
and all nations shall flow unto it.**

**3 And many people shall go and say,
Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
and he will teach us of his ways,
and we will walk in his paths:
for out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**

Micah

ATW



EclipseCrossword.com

Word bank

AMMONITES BETHLEHEM ISAIAH JOTHAM JUDGMENT MICAH PEACE

Across

3. Micah prophesied the Messiah would be born in _____.
4. Means "Who is like Jehovah?"
6. The Lord told Micah that _____ is coming.

Down

1. Jotham fought against these people.
2. Micah and this prophet prophesied at the same time.
5. The false prophets told the people _____.
6. The son of Uzziah.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Eight

VOCABULARY WORDS

Multitude - A great number.

Prevail - Overcome.

Conduit - A trench that water flowed in.

Breach - To divide something.

Ephraim - The largest tribe of Israel. Many times when Ephraim is referred to during this section of history it is referring to the whole nation of Israel, not just the tribe of Ephraim.

Sign - A miracle.

Immanuel - God with us.

Spoil - Plunder; booty. Things of value that soldiers took home from their battles.

Introduction: *In this lesson Jotham continues to reign as king in Judah, and Pekah is the king in Israel. However, in Israel the beginning of their captivity begins. The prophets said that judgment was coming, and sure enough it did. How sad for this people. If only they had served God throughout their history with a true heart this would not have happened. Notice what happens to Israel, and also what happens to Judah because of their sins.*

KINGS OF JUDAH	KINGS OF ISRAEL
Jotham☺	Pekah☺
Ahaz☺	

ISRAEL

Israel's captivity begins -- I Chron. 5: 25 - 26

The people of Israel continued to do evil and worship the false gods that belonged to the people of the land -- people that God had destroyed when His people entered the land. So God stirred up the spirit of Tiglath-pileser who was king of Assyria. Tiglath-pileser (*also known as Pul*) took the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh on the east side of the Jordan River into captivity and put those people in the cities of Halah, Habor, Hara and at the river Gozan.

JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Judah is at war with Syria and Israel -- II Kings 15:37

In the days that Jotham was king of Judah, God began to send Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the king of Israel against the nation of Judah.

JUDAH

Ahaz, king of Judah -- II Kings 16: 1 - 6; II Chron. 28: 1 - 27; Isaiah 7: 1

Jotham, king of Judah died and was buried in the city of David. His son Ahaz reigned in his place. Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign as king over Judah. He was not a good king though. He did not do right in the sight of the Lord and did the same sins that the kings of Israel did. He also practiced some of the sins of the nations that the Lord had driven out of the land. He burned incense to false gods in the valley of Hinnom, and burnt his own children in the fire to the false gods.

JUDAH AND ISRAEL

God gives Ahaz over to Pekah and Rezin -- II Chron. 28: 5 - 15; Isa. 7: 1 - 17; II Kings 16: 5 - 6

Rezin, king of Syria and Pekah, king of Israel, went to war against Jerusalem, but could not **prevail** against it. Ahaz learned that Syria had joined with Israel in their fight against Judah. Then Ahaz and the people of Judah became very afraid.

The Lord told Isaiah the prophet, "Go meet Ahaz at the end of the **conduit** of the upper pool of water in the highway of the washerman's field. Tell Ahaz, "Take heed and be quiet. Don't be afraid of Rezin and Pekah. They have both planned evil against you and they have said, 'Let's go up against Judah and trouble her, make a **breach** there, and set up a new king there.' -- But God has said, "It shall not stand and it shall not come to pass. The head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin the king. In 65 years **Ephraim** will no longer be a people. The head of **Ephraim** is Pekah. If you do not have faith your kingdom will be destroyed."

Then the Lord spoke to Ahaz again through Isaiah. He said, "Ask the Lord your God for a **sign**."

Ahaz said, "I will not ask for a **sign**, neither will I tempt Jehovah."

Then the Lord said, "Hear you now, you house of David. Is it not enough that you disgust men but that you want to disgust God too? The Lord Himself will give you a **sign**: a virgin will conceive and have a son and shall call his name **Immanuel**. *(This is referring to the days of the Messiah.)* Before the child is old enough to choose between good and evil, the land that belongs to the kings you are afraid of will be deserted. The Lord is going to bring on you and on your people days of trouble that will be worse than any days that have come since Israel separated from Judah. He is going to bring the king of Assyria."

Because Ahaz the king of Judah was so wicked, God gave him into the hand of Rezin king of Syria and Pekah king of Israel. Rezin defeated Ahaz and took a great **multitude** of the people captive and took them to Damascus. Pekah also fought against Ahaz and killed 120,000 men in Judah in one day, all of them strong fighting men. God allowed this to happen because they had forsaken Jehovah.

A mighty man of Israel named Zichri killed Ahaz' son. The children of Israel took captive 200,000 women, sons and daughters of Judah. They also took much **spoil** and took the **spoil** to Samaria.

As the children of Israel returned to Samaria, a prophet named Oded met the returning army. Oded said to them, "The Lord God of your fathers was angry with Judah, and He delivered them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. Now you intend to make their women and children your slaves, but don't you have your own sins against the Lord? Now hear me! Send back these captives who are your brothers and sisters because the wrath of God is upon you."

Then four leading men of Israel stood up against those who were coming back from their war with Judah. They said, "You will not bring captives here. You are just adding to the sins and guilt we already have. There is great wrath against Israel."

So the fighting men of Israel left the captives and **spoil** with the princes and assembly of people. The four leading men took clothing from the **spoil** and clothed the captives who were naked. They put shoes on their feet and gave them food to eat. The feeble captives were put on donkeys and brought into Jericho, back to their brethren in Judah. Then the four men returned to Samaria.

MEMORY WORK

Isaiah 2:2 - 3

**2 And it shall come to pass in the last days,
that the mountain of the LORD'S house
shall be established in the top of the mountains,
and shall be exalted above the hills;
and all nations shall flow unto it.**

**3 And many people shall go and say,
Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
and he will teach us of his ways,
and we will walk in his paths:
for out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**

Match

Tiglath-pileser	The largest tribe of Israel -- refers to all of Israel.
Rezin	The king of Israel.
Pekah	The king of Syria.
Oded	The prophet who met Ahaz at the conduit.
Ahaz	Means: "God with us".
Zichri	The king of Assyria.
Isaiah	The prophet who met the men returning to Israel with spoil and captives.
Immanuel	The king of Judah.
Ephraim	He killed the son of Ahaz.

MAP WORK: Assyria; Samaria; Syria, Judah; Jericho; Valley of Hinnom

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Nine

VOCABULARY WORDS

Captives - Prisoners; those who are in exile.

Shephelah - Low country or a valley.

Negeb - The south.

INTRODUCTION: *As our lesson begins, Ahaz is still the king of Judah and Pekah the king of Israel. Rezin is still the ruler in Syria.*

Tiglath-pileser of Assyria is in place to take more people from Israel into captivity. Watch him as he destroys the nation of Israel.

KINGS OF JUDAH

Ahaz☹

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Pekah☹

Hoshea☹

JUDAH

Edom and Philistia invade Judah -- II Chron. 28: 17 - 19

The Edomites invaded Judah and defeated them. They carried away **captives**.

The Philistines also invaded the cities of the **Shephelah** and the **Negeb** in Judah and lived there. The Lord humbled Judah because of king Ahaz of Judah. He had caused Judah to act sinfully and be unfaithful to the Lord.

King Ahaz sends to the king of Assyria for help -- II Chron. 28: 16, 20 - 21; II Kings 16:7 - 10

King Ahaz of Judah asked the king of Assyria for help instead of turning to Jehovah. Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, and said, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and rescue me from the king of Syria and the king of Israel.

Then Ahaz took the silver and gold from the temple, the king's palace and the princes of Israel and sent it as a present to Tiglath-pileser.

Tiglath-pileser went up to the city of Damascus and took the people there captive. He also killed their king Rezin. However, Tiglath-pileser did not strengthen Ahaz but afflicted him instead. The silver and gold that Ahaz had given to him did not help him at all.

ISRAEL

We learn the following, not from the Bible, but from secular (or worldly) history: In 734, 733 and 732 B.C. Tiglath-pileser raided Canaan. He conquered the Philistines.

I Kings 15:29 tells us that he took the cities of Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kadesh, Hazor, Gilead and Galilee -- the whole northern portion of Israel. They burned the cities, taking the people captive. Only the area around Samaria was left to Israel.

JUDAH

Ahaz closes the doors of the temple -- II Kings 16: 10 - 20; II Chron. 28: 22 - 27

King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet with Tiglath-pileser. While he was in Damascus he saw an altar there that he liked. Ahaz sent word to Urijah the priest and told him about the altar and how it was built. Urijah built an altar for Ahaz according to the pattern of the altar in Damascus.

When Ahaz left Damascus to go home he saw the altar that Urijah had made and he went to it to offer sacrifice on it. He offered his burnt offering, meat offering, and peace offering on the new altar, and sprinkled blood of the peace offering on it.

Ahaz also brought the bronze altar from the temple of God and put the bronze altar on the north side of the new altar. Ahaz commanded Urijah, "Upon the great altar burn the morning and evening offerings and sprinkle all the blood from the sacrifice on it, but the bronze altar from the temple will be for me to inquire of God by.

Urijah did all that Ahaz asked him to do.

Ahaz also cut off the stands for the bronze lavers at the temple and took the bronze sea off the bronze oxen. Eventually, Ahaz turned away from worshipping God in the Temple. He became less faithful to God and he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus. He said, "The gods of the kings of Syria helped them, so I will sacrifice to them so that they will help me too."

But, these false gods were the ruin of Ahaz and all Israel. Ahaz took the vessels of the temple and cut them in pieces. He shut the doors of the temple and made altars in every corner of Jerusalem. In every city of Judah he made high places so that the people could worship other gods. All these things provoked God to anger.

Ahaz died and was buried in Jerusalem, but not where the tombs of the kings of Israel were buried.

ISRAEL

Hoshea takes the throne in Israel -- II Kings 15:30

A man named Hoshea made a conspiracy against the Pekah the king of Israel. He struck him down and killed him and then reigned in his place. Hoshea reigned nine years in Samaria over Israel and he was an evil king, but not as evil as the kings who reigned before him.

Think about it: *How sad that Ahaz did not turn to God during his time of trouble. We can be like Ahaz too, when we don't look to God for help, and instead turn to other sources. God wants us to turn to Him in times of trouble.*

MAP WORK: Shephelah, Negeb, Judah, Damascus

MEMORY WORK

Isaiah 2:2 - 3

2 And it shall come to pass in the last days,
that the mountain of the LORD'S house
shall be established in the top of the mountains,
and shall be exalted above the hills;
and all nations shall flow unto it.

3 And many people shall go and say,
Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
and he will teach us of his ways,
and we will walk in his paths:
for out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ The Lord humbled Judah because of King Ahaz.
2. ___ King Ahaz caused Judah to be faithful to God.
3. ___ King Ahaz took gold and silver from the temple to give to Tiglath-pileser.
4. ___ Tiglath-pileser shut the doors of the temple.
5. ___ Hoshea killed Pekah the king of Israel and reigned in his place.
6. ___ Hoshea was a good king over Israel.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Ten

Vocabulary Words:

Hezekiah - Strength of Jehovah.

Asherah - This was the name of the Canaanite goddess. She was made by carving her image in the trunk of a tree. You may find that some versions of the Bible call the Asherah a "grove" -- because the images were carved on a high place in a grove of trees. The Asherah was borrowed by the Canaanites from the Assyrian people. Unfortunately, God's people began to worship these false gods.

Nehushtan - A piece of brass.

Sanctify - To make clean; to dedicate or hallow; to make holy.

Forsaken - To leave.

Covenant - A promise or agreement between God and man.

Consecrate - To set apart for worship to God; devoted to God.

Introduction: *As this lesson begins Ahaz, king of Judah, has died and his son **Hezekiah** takes the throne. Rezin, king of Syria has been killed by the king of Assyria, Tiglath-pileser. Pekah, the king of Israel, has been killed by Hoshea who took the throne.*

JUDAH

KINGS OF JUDAH

Hezekiah☺

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Hoshea☺

Hezekiah, a good king who turned the people back to God -- II Kings 18: 3 - 7; II Chron. 29: 2 - 36

In the third year that Hoshea was the king of Israel, **Hezekiah** became the king of Judah. **Hezekiah** was a good king and did all that was right in the sight of God, just as David had done. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign.

Hezekiah began to restore the worship of God to Judah. He did this by removing the high places and cutting down the **Asherah**. He also broke into pieces the bronze serpent that Moses made when the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. He broke it because the people began to make offerings to it. Hezekiah called it **Nehushtan**. (You can read about this bronze serpent in Num. 21: 4 - 9.)

Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, and Judah never had another king like him. He was faithful and did not disobey God. The Lord was with him and prospered him wherever he went. He also would not serve the king of Assyria. He killed the Philistines as far as Gaza.

In the first year that he was king, Hezekiah opened the doors of the temple that his father Ahaz had closed. He repaired the doors and brought the priests and Levites together and said, "Hear what I have to say. **Sanctify** yourselves, **sanctify** the house of your Lord and carry away everything unclean from the holy place. Our fathers were unfaithful to the Lord and did things that were evil in His sight. They have **forsaken** the Lord and turned their faces away from where He dwells. They also shut the doors of the temple, put out the lights and have not offered incense or burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel. Because of this the Lord has been angry with Judah and Jerusalem and delivered trouble to them as you have seen with your own eyes. Look -- our fathers were killed by the sword, and our sons and daughters are in captivity because of this."

"Now, it is in my heart to make a **covenant** with the Lord God of Israel so that He will turn His anger away from us. Now take care, because the Lord has chosen you to serve Him and to be His servants in worship to him."

After Hezekiah said these things to the Levites, they gathered together and **sanctified** themselves. Then they began to cleanse the temple on the first day of the first month. They went inside the temple and brought out everything that would make it unclean before God and they carried those things to the brook at Kidron. On the sixteenth day of the month they finished doing the work to make the temple clean.

After they finished they went to King Hezekiah and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the Lord, the altar of burnt offering, the table of shewbread and all its vessels. We brought back all the vessels that King Ahaz had taken away when he was king. Everything is ready and **sanctified** and before the altar of the Lord."

Then Hezekiah got up early in the morning and gathered all the princes of the city and they went to the temple of the Lord. They took animals with them and offered a sin offering for the kingdom, for the temple and for Judah. Hezekiah told the priests to offer the sacrifices on the altar of the Lord. The priests took the animals and killed them, sprinkling their blood upon the altar as sin offerings and burnt offerings on behalf of all Israel.

Then Hezekiah, following the commandments that the Lord had given king David, put the Levites in their places in the temple with instruments of music. The Levites had instruments of music and the priests had trumpets. Hezekiah commanded that a burnt offering be made, and when it had begun the people sang praise to the Lord accompanied by the instruments of music and trumpets. Everyone who was there worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpets sounded and it continued until the burnt offering was burned up. Then Hezekiah and everyone with him bowed themselves down and worshipped God. Hezekiah commanded the Levites to sing and they sang songs of gladness and bowed down and worshipped.

When they had all done this, Hezekiah said, "Now you have **consecrated** yourselves unto God. Come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the Lord. The people obeyed, and some of them willingly brought burnt offerings, as well as animals that were **consecrated** for the service. Hundreds of animals were offered, but all the priests had not **sanctified** themselves, and the Levites had to help kill all the animals until more priests had made themselves **sanctified**. The people also offered peace offerings and drink offerings. The service of God's house was once again set in order, and this made Hezekiah and all the people rejoice! God had prepared the people and this was all done quickly!

THINK ABOUT IT: What a happy day this must have been for Judah and for God! Watch them to see how long they remain faithful

MEMORY WORK

Jeremiah 9:23

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

MATCH

Match these words with the following statements:

Asherah	Nehushtan	Hezekiah	Covenant	Sanctified
Levites	Vessels	Temple	Judah	Captivity

1. _____ was a good king who did right in the sight of the Lord.
2. King Ahaz took all the _____ out of the temple when he was king.
3. _____ never had another king like Hezekiah who was faithful and did right in the sight of God.
4. The Levites began to clean the _____ on the first day of the first month.
5. The Levites had to make sure that the vessels, the temple and themselves were _____.
6. Hezekiah cut down the high places and _____ in the land.
7. The people had begun to worship the bronze serpent that Moses had made, and Hezekiah called it _____.
8. Hezekiah said it was in his heart to make a _____ with the Lord God of Israel.
9. The _____ sang and played instruments of music according to the commandments of the Lord given to king David.
10. Israel's sons and daughters were carried into _____ because of their unfaithfulness to the Lord.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Eleven

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Passover Feast - This was a feast celebrated by Israel on the 14th day of the first month to remember when the death angel passed over their firstborn while they were in Egypt, but killed the firstborn of the Egyptians. They also remembered their departure from Egypt to travel to the land God promised Abraham. (Lev. 23:5)

Feast of Unleavened Bread - The Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15th day of the first month and lasted until the 21st day. All that week they were to eat unleavened bread, and no leaven was to be in their houses. This feast was to remind Israel of when they left Egypt and did not have time to leaven their bread before they left. (Lev. 23:6)

Stiffnecked - Stubborn; stiff with pride.

Remnant - What is left; the rest of something. God had a remnant in Israel who wanted to serve Him.

Gracious - To look on with kindness and favor.

Pardon - To forgive.

Asherah - The name of the Canaanite goddess. These female idols would be carved into the trunk of a tree.

***INTRODUCTION:** As this lesson begins, Hoshea is still the wicked king of Israel. Hezekiah is a good king of Judah who continues to try to reform the people and lead them back to God. He opened up the doors of the temple and had it sanctified, as well as the Levites and priests (although as we see in this lesson, all of them had not sanctified themselves). He also decided to renew Israel's covenant with the Lord.*

***Remember** -- the Levites began to clean the temple on the first day of the first month. The **Passover Feast** was always celebrated on the 14th day of the first month, however, they did not finish cleaning the temple and sanctifying themselves until the 16th day of the month. Pay attention to what Israel did because they missed the **Passover Feast**.*

KINGS OF JUDAH

Hezekiah☉

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Hoshea☉

JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Keeping the Passover Feast and Destroying Idols in the Land -- II Chron. 30: 1 - 27; 31:1; II Kings 18:4

Israel could not keep the Passover Feast at the time God wanted them to, so king Hezekiah, the princes of Israel, and all the assembly of Israel made a decision to keep the Passover in the second month. The plan to do this was pleasing to all Israel, so word was sent out throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come to Jerusalem to keep the Passover unto the Lord God. It had been a long time since Israel had kept this feast as God wanted them to.

Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and wrote letters to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh to come. Messengers took the invitation which said, "You people of Israel, turn to Jehovah so that He will return to the **remnant** of you who have escaped from the kings of Assyria. Don't be like your fathers and brethren who were unfaithful to the Lord. He punished them severely as you see. Don't be **stiffnecked** like your fathers were, but come unto the Lord and enter his temple which He has made holy forever, and worship Him so that He will not be angry with you. If you come back to the Lord, those who took your brethren and children captive will have pity on them and let them come back home. The Lord your God is **gracious** and merciful and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him."

So the messengers went to the tribes in Israel of Ephraim and Manasseh, even as far as Zebulun, but the people laughed at them and made fun of them. However, there were some men in Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun who put away their pride and came to Jerusalem.

In Judah the hand of God gave them all one heart to do the commandment of the king that was commanded by Jehovah. So, in the second month many people came to Jerusalem to keep the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**. The people worked, removing all the altars in Jerusalem. All the altars that were used for burning incense were carried to the brook Kidron and thrown in.

On the fourteenth day of the second month the people kept the **Passover** by killing a Passover lamb. All the priests and Levites who had not sanctified themselves became ashamed and they did sanctify themselves and brought burnt offerings to the Temple. They also did the things that the law of Moses prescribed that they do. Many were there who had not sanctified themselves so the priests sprinkled the blood from the animals that they received from the Levites.

A great number of people from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not sanctified themselves before eating the **Passover** lamb, but they ate it anyway. King Hezekiah prayed for these people and asked the Lord to **pardon** all those who had prepared their hearts to seek God, even though they had not kept God's rules for sanctifying themselves.

The Lord heard Hezekiah's prayer and healed the people. All of the children of Israel who were at Jerusalem kept the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** with joy and gladness. The priests and Levites praised Jehovah with singing. Hezekiah spoke to the Levites and encouraged them in their service to God. They ate the feast for seven days and sacrificed peace offerings and gave thanks to God. So happy were the people that they all agreed together to keep the feast for seven more days.

Hezekiah and the princes of Israel gave many animals to be offered. The priests sanctified themselves. Everyone in Judah, and everyone who had come to the feast from Israel rejoiced. Not since the days of King Solomon had anything like this been done in Jerusalem.

The priests and Levites blessed the people and their prayers came up to God who heard them.

After the feast ended the people went throughout Judah and broke idols in pieces. They cut down the **Asherah** along with the altars and high places throughout Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh until they had destroyed them all. Then everyone returned to their own cities and homes.

THINK ABOUT IT: *How happy all the people seem to be to be able to worship God again. Did you notice that there were still some people in Israel who wanted to do right and came to Jerusalem to keep the feast? All though the majority of Israel had become wicked, there was still a **remnant** of people who wanted to serve God. Watch God protect this **remnant** as we continue to study the Divided Kingdom and then the return from captivity.*

MEMORY WORK

Jeremiah 9:23

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

Multiple Choice

1. Since Israel could not keep the Passover Feast at the time God wanted them to, they kept the Passover in the (second, first) month.
2. Hezekiah wrote letters to (Beersheba and Dan ; Ephraim and Manasseh) to come.
3. The people of Judah (obeyed, did not obey) the commandment of Hezekiah and God with one heart.
4. King Hezekiah prayed to the Lord to (kill ; pardon) all those who had not kept God's laws in sanctifying themselves.
5. The Lord (heard ; did not hear) Hezekiah's prayer.
6. Everyone who came to the feast (was sad ; rejoiced).

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Twelve

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Tithe - Under the Law of Moses, a certain portion of an Israelite's possessions were to be devoted for religious purposes and given to the priests and Levites. A **tithe** was to be given to God even before the Old Law was enacted. Abraham gave **tithes** of his possessions to God (Gen 14:20; Heb. 7:2). Under the Old Law a tenth of what a person produced in the field, and of his flocks and cattle belonged to God (Num. 18: 21 - 28; Lev. 27:30 - 33; Deut. 14: 22 - 27).

Vassal - A servant.

Besiege - When a city was **besieged** it was surrounded by an enemy army for the purpose of causing them to surrender. Many times famine (or lack of food) would cause the city to surrender. Terrible things would happen to the people during a siege because they could not leave the city and supplies could not get into the city.

INTRODUCTION:

In this lesson Hezekiah is still the king over Judah, and he continues his work to bring the people back to God. Hoshea is still the wicked king of Israel. Tiglath-pileser dies and his son Shalmanezer V. becomes king over Assyria.

As our lesson begins, Hezekiah, the people of Judah, and some of the people from the nation of Israel had renewed their covenant with God and had begun to remove the idols out of the land. They were ready to begin serving God in earnest.

We will see the end of Israel as a nation in this lesson.

KINGS OF JUDAH Hezekiah☺	KINGS OF ISRAEL Hoshea☹
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JUDAH

Hezekiah Continues to Reform the People -- II Chron. 31: 2 - 21

When the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread had ended, Hezekiah continued to return the worship of God to what it should be. He appointed the priests and Levites to serve in various duties in

the temple of God. It was their job to offer the burnt offerings and peace offerings. They were to give thanks and praise God.

Hezekiah contributed from his own possessions so that they could begin offering burnt offerings at all the times that the Law of Moses commanded. Hezekiah also commanded the people in Jerusalem to begin giving offerings themselves so the priests and Levites could have their portions and so the Levites could give themselves to doing things the Law of the Lord commanded. As soon as he commanded this, the people began to give in abundance offerings of grain, wine, oil, honey and produce from the fields. They brought a **tithe** of everything. They also brought a **tithe** of their cattle and sheep. The people brought so many things to the Lord from the third to the seventh month of the year that they began to pile everything in heaps.

When Hezekiah and the princes of Israel saw the heaps of offerings that the people had given they blessed the Lord and Israel. Hezekiah questioned the priests and Levites about the heaps of offering and Azariah the high priest said, "Since the people began to bring offerings to the temple, we have eaten and had plenty left over. The Lord has blessed His people so that we have a large amount left over."

Because there was so much, Hezekiah commanded the Levites to prepare storerooms in the temple to put all the offerings in. He put Conaniah the Levite in charge of overseeing other men who assisted him in taking care of the contributions and distributing them.

Hezekiah did all that was good and right and faithful before God. In every work he did in the service of God, he sought God with his whole heart and God prospered him.

ISRAEL

The End of the Divided Kingdom -- II Kings 17: 3 - 41

Shalmaneser the king of Assyria made war against Hoshea the king of Israel. Hoshea became Shalmaneser's **vassal** and paid taxes to him. However, later Hoshea decided that it would be better to have an alliance with the king of Egypt, so he quit paying taxes to Shalmaneser. Shalmaneser did not like this, so he put Hoshea in prison, then he invaded the land of Israel. When he came to Samaria he **besieged** it for three years.

(Historical records tell us that Shalmaneser died before Samaria fell. After he died, Sargon II became king of Assyria {Isa. 20:1}).

After Hoshea had been king of Israel for nine years, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried people from Israel away to Assyria. He placed them in Assyrian cities of Halah, Habor, and cities of the Medes.

God allowed this to happen to Israel because they sinned against God with idolatry. They did things secretly that were not right. They built high places and set up Asherim on every high hill and every green tree, making offerings to them and doing wicked things to make God angry. The Lord had told them, "You shall not do this." He warned Israel and Judah by every prophet of God that he sent and said, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments." But, they wouldn't listen and were stubborn. They despised God's laws and followed the nations around them. Israel had abandoned God's laws when they made and worshipped the two calves at Dan and Bethel, when they made the Asherah and served Baal, and when they burned their own children as offerings to their idols. The Lord became so

angry at all of these things that He removed Israel out of His sight! None remained to serve God, except the nation of Judah.

END OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and placed them in Samaria to replace the people of Israel that he sent to Assyrian cities. These foreign people took possession of Samaria and lived there. They didn't fear God, so the Lord sent lions in among them and the lions killed some of them.

The king of Assyria was told, "The nations you have placed in Samaria don't know the manner of the God of the land, so he sent lions among them to kill them."

When the king was told this he commanded, "Send one of the priests whom you carried away back to the land and let him teach the people about the God of the land."

However, when they brought back a priest it was a priest who had served at Bethel where one of the golden calves was. This priest taught the people how to serve the Lord.

The people from the different nations still continued to worship their own gods. They burned their children to their gods. They tried to worship their gods and the Lord as well.

(The people who were brought to Samaria from other nations intermarried with the poor Israelites who had been left in the land. These people became known as "Samaritans". Samaritans were hated by God's people, even in Jesus' day.)

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Look at the differences in the nations of Israel and Judah. At this point in time, Judah is trying to turn back to God with the leadership of Hezekiah. God's leaders are important. They can lead a people in a right or a wrong direction. This puts a lot of responsibility on people who lead to do the right things. This is true even today.

By the same token, people have a responsibility too, to do what they know is right. It is good to see Judah being led in the right direction and doing what they know is right in their service to God. We have the same responsibility.

Israel, however, is a different story. The Lord became so angry at them that He "removed them out of His sight" (II Kings 17:18). How sad, and fearful for a people who had once served God and had been His holy nation. Think of how God had led them and cared for them all through the years from the time they left Egypt. God forgave them and took them back time and time again, but they continued in their sins anyway.

The lesson for us is that, yes, God is longsuffering and gives us time to come back to Him. But, if we want to continue in sin there will come a day when God will not be longsuffering any longer. This is what happened to Israel. A scary thought indeed -- to think that God would no longer be longsuffering with us! Let's learn some lessons from Israel and Judah!

MEMORY WORK

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,
Jer 9:24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

MAP WORK: Find Samaria, Assyria, Babylon

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ____ Hezekiah tried to return Judah's worship to God to what it ought to be.
2. ____ Hezekiah commanded the people to give offerings to God.
3. ____ The people of Judah did not want to tithe their possessions.
4. ____ The people brought so many offerings they piled them in heaps.
5. ____ Shalmaneser made war against Hoshea.
6. ____ Shalmaneser became Hoshea's vassal.
7. ____ Shalmaneser besieged Israel for 10 years.
8. ____ God allowed Israel to go into Assyrian captivity because they despised God's laws and followed the nations around them.
9. ____ The Lord became so angry that He removed Judah out of His sight.
10. ____ The Assyrian king brought people from Judah and placed them in Samaria.
11. ____ The people didn't fear the Lord so He sent in tigers to kill them.
12. ____ A priest was brought back to Samaria from Bethel to teach the people how to serve God.
13. ____ It does not matter what kind of leaders God's people have.
14. ____ There is an end to God's longsuffering.
15. ____ One can serve their gods and the Lord at the same time.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Thirteen

JUDAH ALONE

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Encamped - To lay siege against; to pitch a tent.

Pledge - A covenant or agreement between men.

Dung - Excrement; one's waste. (Rabshekeh said that Judah would eat their own dung. He was referring to them eating their own waste.)

Sackcloth - A coarse fabric used to make the rough garments worn by people in grief or distress.

JUDAH ALONE

Hezekiah ☺

INTRODUCTION:

As this lesson begins, the kingdom of Israel is no longer divided. The northern kingdom, Israel, has been carried into Assyrian captivity. The few left in the Samaria have intermarried with people from other nations that Assyria placed there. These mixed people became known as Samaritans.

The only nation of people left to serve God is Judah, which is why we call this section of Bible history "JUDAH ALONE".

Judah had a good king, Hezekiah. Hezekiah was doing his best to bring Judah back to serving God. However, as we shall see, Judah has been very much affected by the sins of Israel and the nations around them. It is this point in time when God's people became known as "Jews" (II Kings 16:6).

The Lord wanted a nation of people who would be righteous and serve only Him. He wanted them to depend on Him. Watch to see what Judah does, especially when Assyria begins to affect them.

Starting with this lesson, all of our stories will be about JUDAH. Sennacherib is the king of Assyria and Hezekiah is still the king of Judah.

Judah Prepared to be Invaded by Assyria -- II Kings 20:20; II Chron. 32: 1 - 8; Isa. 22:11

Sennacherib the king of Assyria invaded Judah and **encamped** against one of the walled cities. He thought he could win the city for himself.

Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib intended to fight Jerusalem, so he made a plan with his officers and mighty men to stop the waters of the springs that were outside the city. The people said, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?"

Hezekiah and his men strengthened the wall of the city and made many weapons and shields. He built a tunnel called the Siloam tunnel before Sennacherib arrived. This tunnel would give Jerusalem a source of water even if they were besieged.

Hezekiah spoke to the people and encouraged them. He said, "Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid of the king of Assyria and his army because there are more with us than with him. With Sennacherib is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord to help us fight our battles."

Hezekiah's words gave the people of Judah confidence.

***Do you know?** -- The tunnel that Hezekiah and his men created is still in Jerusalem today. Hezekiah's men diverted the water from the Gihon spring to flow inside the city walls instead of outside the city walls. Water still flows through it today.*

Judah is Invaded by Assyria -- II Kings 18 - 19; II Chron. 32: 1- 22; Isa. 36 - 37

NOTE: We learn in this next story that Hezekiah began to depend on Egypt. How sad! God had warned the people through the prophet Isaiah about depending on Egypt, but Hezekiah and Judah did not heed God's commands.

In the fourteenth year that Hezekiah was king, Sennacherib king of Assyria fought against the fortified cities of Judah and took them. Sennacherib sent Rabshekeh, an important official in his army, to king Hezekiah with a large army of men. He took his position by a trench of water on the highway to the washer's field. Three of Hezekiah's men came out to meet him --Eliakim, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the recorder.

Seeing the three men, Rabshekeh said to them, "This is what the king of Assyria says, "On what are you trusting in?" Do you think words are powerful for war? In whom do you trust that you rebel against me? You are trusting in Egypt who is like using a broken reed for a staff; if a man leans on it , it is not strong and will go through his hand piercing it. That is what Pharaoh is like when anyone trusts in him."

"But, if you say, "I trust in the Lord our God," wasn't it his high places and altars that Hezekiah tore down and said, "You shall worship at only one altar."? Come now, make a **pledge** with my master, the king of Assyria. I will give you two thousand horses if you are able to put riders on them. How can you turn away even one of the least captains of the king of Assyria if you are trusting in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?"

"Do you think I have attacked your land without the Lord's help? The Lord himself told me to attack it and destroy it."

Eliakim, Shebna and Joah replied to Rabshekeh and said, "Please speak to us in the Syrian language because we understand it. Don't speak to us in the Jew's language because the people who are on the wall can hear what you say and understand it."

Rabshekeh replied, " Has my master sent me to speak to you, and not the men who sit on the wall? They will be the ones who will eat their own **dung** and drink their own urine."

Then Rabshekeh stood and called out loudly, "Hear what the great King of Assyria has to say! Don't let Hezekiah deceive you because he cannot save you. Don't let him make you trust in the Lord by telling you that the Lord will deliver you and keep you from being given to the king of Assyria. Don't listen to Hezekiah! The king of Assyria says that if you make peace with him, and come out to me, then everyone will eat from his own vine and drink water from his own cistern -- until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, bread and vineyards. Beware, and don't let Hezekiah deceive you by saying the Lord will deliver you. Have the gods of any nation saved their country from the king of Assyria? Did the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Did the gods of Sepharvaim? Did they save Samaria from him? What makes you think the Lord can save Jerusalem?"

When Rabshekeh finished, the people kept quiet, just as Hezekiah had told them to. Eliakim, Shebna and Joah were so upset that they tore their clothes in grief and went to tell Hezekiah what Rabshekeh had said.

Upon hearing the words of Rabshekeh, Hezekiah tore his clothes in grief and covered himself in **sackcloth** and went to the house of Jehovah. He sent Eliakim, Shebna and the chief priests to Isaiah the prophet.

The men went to Isaiah and gave him a message from Hezekiah. The message was: "Today is a day of punishment, trouble and shame. It is as if a woman is ready to give birth to a baby, but is too weak to do so. It may be that the Lord will hear the words of Rabshekeh, whom the king of Assyria sent to mock the living God, and He will rebuke the words said about Him. So pray to God for the remnant that is left."

Isaiah received the message from Hezekiah and sent back this answer: "Tell your master, "Don't be afraid of the words that you have heard. I am going to cause him to hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will cause him to be killed by the sword in his own land."

Rabshekeh returned and he found the king of Assyria fighting Libnah. He had heard that the king had left Lachish. Word came to the king of Assyria that the king of Ethiopia was coming out to fight against him. So he sent word to Hezekiah and said, "Don't let the God you trust deceive you by promising that you won't be given over to the king of Assyria. You've heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands by destroying them. Do you think you'll escape? Have the gods of other nations saved them?"

Hezekiah received the letter and read it. Then he went to the temple and placed it before the Lord. Then he prayed, "O Jehovah, Lord of Hosts, who sits above the cherubim. You are God, and You alone. You created heaven and earth. Hear us, O Lord, and open Your eyes to see what Sennacherib is saying to defy the living God. It is true, O Lord, that Assyria has destroyed many nations and their land, and have burned up their gods, which were not gods at all, only images made by human hands. Now, O Lord, save us from his hand so that all the nations will know that you alone are Jehovah. "

Then Isaiah the prophet sent word to Hezekiah and said, "The Lord says, "Because you prayed to Him concerning Sennacherib of Assyria, the Lord says that Jerusalem laughs at him and makes fun of him. Who does he think he is defying and ridiculing? Against the Holy One of Israel! I know everything about him and I will put My hook in his nose and a bit in his lips and turn him back the way he came. Jerusalem will have a remnant that will survive, because the Lord of hosts will do this."

"The Lord says concerning the king of Assyria, "He will not come into this city, or shoot an arrow there, or cast a siege against it. He will return by the same way he came, and he will not come to this city. I will save it and defend it for the sake of my servant David."

Then the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 men. When the people arose the next morning there were dead bodies everywhere. Sennacherib left and returned to Ninevah. Later, as he was worshipping in the house of his god Nisroch his sons killed him. His son, Esarhaddon, reigned as king after him.

MAP WORK: Jerusalem, Moab, Edom, Ammon, Tyre, Galilee, Dor, Samaria, Damascus

MEMORY WORK

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

Jer 9:24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

(Underline the correct answer)

1. Hezekiah planned to (let Sennacherib have waters from the springs; stop the waters of the springs).
2. Hezekiah spoke to the people and told them ("Get ready to fight." ; "Be strong and courageous.").
3. Rabshekeh called out to the men of Judah, ("Hear"; "Don't hear") what the king of Assyria has to say!"
4. When Hezekiah heard the words that Rabshekeh had to say he was (happy ; in grief).
5. Isaiah told Hezekiah, "Jerusalem will (have a remnant who will survive; not survive).
6. (Sennacherib ; The angel of the Lord) struck down 185,000 men.
7. Sennacherib was killed in the house of his god by (the men of Judah ; his own sons).

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Fourteen

JUDAH ALONE

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Boil - This could be almost any skin disease; a tumor on the flesh with soreness and swelling.

Weep - To cry.

Sign - A miracle.

Eunuch - Men who were in charge of the bed-chambers in palaces. Some eunuchs were used to guard a king's harem (his wives). Some were used in military service. Many times they were deprived of their manhood by being mutilated. Some eunuchs were born in such a way. The Old Law excluded eunuchs from engaging in public worship (Deut. 23:1).

JUDAH ALONE

Hezekiah ☺

Manasseh ☹

INTRODUCTION:

In this lesson Hezekiah is still the king of Judah. Evidently the next story took place right after the last story in lesson 13 (Isa. 38: 6).

Hezekiah becomes sick -- II Kings 20: 1 - 11; II Chron. 32: 24; Isa. 38: 1 - 22

Hezekiah had a **boil** that made him so sick he was at the point of death. Isaiah the prophet came to see him and said to him, "The Lord has said that you need to set your house in order because you are not going to recover from this -- you are going to die."

Upon hearing this, Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and began to pray to Jehovah. He said, "Please remember, O Lord, how I have been faithful to You and have served you with a whole heart. I have tried to do what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah began to **weep** bitterly.

The Lord spoke to Isaiah again and said, "Go tell Hezekiah, ' The God of David has heard your prayer. I have seen your tears and on the third day from today you will go up to the temple and I will add fifteen years to your life. I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.'"

Hezekiah said, "What will be the **sign** that the Lord will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the Lord on the third day?"

Isaiah told Hezekiah what the Lord said, "This will be the **sign** from Jehovah that He will do what He says. Shall the Lord turn the shadow on the sundial that belonged to Ahaz forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?"

Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go forward, rather, let the shadow go back ten degrees."

Isaiah called to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow of the sundial back ten degrees. Then Isaiah said, "Bring a cake of figs and lay it on the **boil** that he may recover."

After Hezekiah recovered from his sickness he wrote a song of praise to the Lord. In his song he gave God the glory for healing him, and he thanked the Lord.

Hezekiah Receives Messengers From the King of Babylon -- II Kings 20 :12 - 19; II Chron. 32: 25 - 31; Isaiah 39: 1 - 8

Merodach-baladan was the king of Babylon. He was an enemy of the Assyrians and had rebelled against them. He wanted alliances with the nations who would support him as he opposed the Assyrians.

Merodach-baladan heard that Hezekiah had been sick and recovered, so he sent messengers with letters and presents for Hezekiah. Hezekiah welcomed the messengers gladly and showed them his wealth-- silver, gold, spices, precious oil, and armor. There was nothing in his house or kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

Isaiah went to Hezekiah and said, "What did these men say to you, and where did they come from?"

Hezekiah said, "They have come to me from a far country, from Babylon."

Isaiah replied, "What did they see in your palace?"

Hezekiah answered, "They saw everything, there is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear what Jehovah says: The days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried into Babylon. Nothing will be left. Even some of your own sons will be taken away and they will be made **eunuchs** in the palace of the king of Babylon."

Hezekiah replied, "The word of Jehovah that you have spoken to me is good." In his heart he was thinking, "There will be peace and security during the days I am king."

Hezekiah Dies -- II Kings 20: 20 - 21; II Chron. 32: 32:33

Hezekiah died and was buried in the royal tombs. All Judah and Jerusalem honored him at his death. Then his son Manasseh reigned as king of Judah in his place.

Did you notice? . . . *Up until now the Assyrians have been the nation that Israel and Judah has had to worry about. In this lesson we are introduced to a new threat -- Babylon. Pay attention to this nation that will finally take Judah into their captivity in the years that follow.*

MEMORY WORK

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,
Jer 9:24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

Map Work: Babylon

Fill - in - the - blanks

WORD BANK: die, prayed, boil, song, Isaiah, backward, Manasseh, prayer, sign, figs, nothing, Merodach-baladan, Babylon

(Some words may be used more than once.)

1. Hezekiah had a _____ that made him so sick he was at the point of death.
2. _____ the prophet came to Hezekiah and told him to set his house in order.
3. Isaiah told Hezekiah that he would not recover from his sickness, but that he would _____.
4. Hezekiah _____ to Jehovah.
5. Isaiah told Hezekiah, "The God of David has heard your _____."
6. Hezekiah wanted a _____ that the Lord would heal him.
7. The shadow on the sundial would go _____ ten degrees as a sign to Hezekiah.
8. Isaiah said, "Bring a cake of _____ and lay it on the _____ that he may recover.
9. When Hezekiah recovered he wrote a _____ of praise to the Lord.
10. _____ was the king of Babylon.
11. There was _____ in Hezekiah's house or kingdom that he did not show the messengers from Babylon.
12. _____ told Hezekiah that the days would come when all that was in his house would be carried into _____.
13. Hezekiah's son _____ became king after his death.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Fifteen

Vocabulary Words:

Hosts of Heaven - During the Old Testament days the stars of heaven, and the sun and the moon, were often used as objects of idolatry. Moses warned Israel in Deut. 4:19 that they were not to worship these.

Wizard - One who pretended to have supernatural knowledge and power. Lev. 19:31 and Lev. 20:6 warned the people against having such things in their midst. God wanted men who engaged in such to be stoned (Lev. 20:27).

Enchantments - Those who would use magical spells. These were forbidden under the Old Law (Lev. 19:26; Deut. 18: 10 - 12).

Amorites - The descendants of Canaan who settled in Palestine. When Joshua came into the land he defeated them (Joshua 10:10; 11:8). After Israel conquered them and took the land we do not read of them having any importance anymore as an enemy of God's people.

Humbled - To be free of pride and arrogance; to have lowliness of mind and to consider one's self unworthy in the sight of God; to be penitent of one's sins.

INTRODUCTION:

We learned of Hezekiah's death in lesson 14. Judah then was ruled by Manasseh, son of Hezekiah. When Manasseh began to reign as king he was only 12 years old. Notice the difference between the kind of king his father had been, and the kind of king he was.

JUDAH ALONE
Manasseh☹
Amon☹

Manasseh, a Wicked King of Judah -- II Kings 21: 1- 18; II Chron. 33: 1- 20

Manasseh was a wicked king who practiced the sins of the nations around Israel. He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed, and he put up altars for Baal. He made an Asherah and worshipped and served all the **hosts of heaven**. He built altars in the temple for all the **hosts of heaven** and he also put altars in the courts of the temple.

Manasseh even burned his own son as an offering to his false gods. He used fortune-telling, **enchantments**, and dealt with mediums and **wizards**. All of the evil that Manasseh did provoked God to anger.

Manasseh put a carved image of Asherah in the Temple of the Lord. When God had His temple built He told and promised David, and Solomon, that He would put His Name there forever. God would not make the Israelites wander anymore from the land He gave their fathers on the condition that they would keep God's commandments. But, Israel didn't listen to the Lord and Manasseh led them away

from the Lord. Under the reign of Manasseh, Israel did more evil than the nations around them had done--nations that God had already destroyed.

Because Manasseh was so wicked, God spoke to His prophets. The Lord said, "Manasseh has done more evil than even the **Amorites** did, and has caused Judah to sin with idols. Therefore, I am going to bring disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that will be so bad that everyone who hears of it will have their ears to tingle. I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I am going to wipe Jerusalem just as one would wipe a dish and turn it upside down. I will forsake my remnant and give them over to their enemies because they have done evil and provoked Me to anger."

"More than this, Manasseh has killed innocent people and has filled Jerusalem from one end to the other with his sin, which has caused Judah to sin."

Manasseh is Taken Captive and Repents -- II Chron. 33: 10 - 17

The Lord spoke to Manasseh and the people of Israel, but they wouldn't listen to Jehovah. So the Lord allowed the army of the Assyrians to come into Judah. The commanders of the army of the Assyrians captured Manasseh with hooks, and they bound him with chains of bronze. They carried him to Babylon.

When Manasseh saw the distress that he was in, he **humbled** himself greatly before God and repented. He prayed to God and God heard his prayer. The Lord had him brought back to Jerusalem. Manasseh finally realized that Jehovah was God.

After Manasseh returned to Jerusalem, he fortified the wall of the city. He put commanders of his army in all the cities of Judah. He took away the foreign gods and idols from the temple, as well as all the altars, and threw them outside the city. He repaired the altar of the Lord and offered sacrifices on it to serve God. He also commanded Judah to serve God. The people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to Jehovah.

Manasseh died and his son Amon reigned in his place.

Think about it:

Manasseh started out being a very wicked king. His sins were so bad that God lost patience with Manasseh and allowed him to be taken captive. Manasseh repented and turned back to God during his own captivity, but his sins were far-reaching in Judah. Much later, after Manasseh's death, we see that his evil influence was still having its affect on Judah (II Kings 24:3). Manasseh received God's grace, mercy and pardon when he repented and humbled himself before God, but the consequences of his sins would go on even past his death.

Manasseh commanded Judah to serve God, and the people began to sacrifice only to Jehovah on their high places. But, at this point, Judah has been used to serving many gods, so it would not have been hard to change the name of their god. As we will see later, many times when Judah served God it was not with a whole heart.

MEMORY WORK

Jeremiah 10: 23

O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself:
it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

True or False

1. ___ Manasseh was a good king.
2. ___ Manasseh rebuilt the high places that his father had destroyed.
3. ___ Manasseh offered his own son to his idol gods.
4. ___ Under the reign of Manasseh, Israel was a better nation than all the nations around them.
5. ___ God said he would destroy Jerusalem and wipe them just as one would wipe a dish and turn it upside down.
6. ___ The Babylonian captured Manasseh.
7. ___ When Manasseh saw the distress he was in, he humbled himself before God.
8. ___ Manasseh never realized that Jehovah was God.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Sixteen

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Conspire - To agree to commit a crime or treason.

Purge - To make clean and purify taking away whatever is impure.

Baal; Baalim - Idol gods of the Phoenicians and Canaanites. The word "Baal" means "lord". "Baalim" is a plural form of the word "Baal". The name "Baal" many times came before the name of the god, such as: Baal-Zebub (II Kings 1: 2 - 3) which means "lord of the fly".

Doom - To judge; to condemn to punishment; ruin and destruction.

The day of the Lord - A day when the Lord would bring judgment.

JUDAH ALONE

Amon ☹

Josiah ☺

Amon Replaces Manasseh as King of Judah -- II Kings 21: 19 - 26; II Chron. 33: 21 - 25

Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign over Judah. He reigned two years and he practiced evil just as his father Manasseh had, serving and worshipping idols. He did not humble himself before God as his father had though.

The servants of Amon **conspired** against him and put him to death. When the people of the land found out about the conspiracy they killed all who had been involved in it and put Josiah, Amon's son, in his place as king. Amon was buried in a tomb in the garden of Uzza.

Josiah King of Judah -- II Kings 22: 1 - 3; II Chron. 34: 1 - 8

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign as king over Judah. He was a king who did right in God's eyes. In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still a boy of 16, he began to seek the God of David. He began to **purge** Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim and of the carved and molten idols. They chopped down the altars of the **Baals** and the incense altars that stood above them. He broke the Asherim and idols into pieces and made dust of them, scattering the dust over the graves of the people who had sacrificed to them. He even destroyed altars and Asherim in the northern territories of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, and Naphtali, and then returned to Jerusalem.

Zephaniah the Prophet Prophecies -- The book of Zephaniah

*In the days of Josiah, God called upon another prophet to pronounce **doom** on Judah. God had warned Judah during the days of Manasseh that He would bring judgment on Judah because of all the evil that Manasseh had done. God warned them that judgment would be so bad that all who heard it would have their ears tingle (II Kings 21: 10 - 15).*

The word of the Lord came to the prophet Zephaniah. God wanted Zephaniah to warn the people that God's judgment would be so severe that God would sweep everything from the face of the earth. God said He would remove the idols from the land. The **day of the Lord** was near when God would punish Judah.

God would punish Judah because of their idolatry. It would not matter who the person in Judah was, whether a king's son, a thief, a trader of goods, or a wealthy person -- all would be judged. This judgment would be terrible and nothing, not even their money could save them from it. They could build houses, but they would not live in them. They could plant vineyards, but they would not drink wine from them.

God told Zephaniah that before this day of judgment came He wanted His people to repent and seek God. If they would repent, then perhaps God would hide them because He was going to bring judgment on the nations around them -- of Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, Assyria and Ninevah. No nation would escape God's judgment.

Philistia would be destroyed until there would be no one living there. One day the remnant of Judah would live in their houses and their animals would graze on their fields when God restored them.

Because Moab and Ammon had insulted God's people, and in their pride made boasts that they would take their land, God said their land would become like the land He had destroyed of Sodom and Gomorrah. It would be a place of salt pits and a wasteland.

God said, "The people of Ethiopia will be killed by my sword."

Assyria and Ninevah would be destroyed by God's power. They would be deserted and dry like a wilderness where only the animals would live. This is because they thought they were secure and said in their heart, "I am, and there is no one else." "Everyone who passes by this land will hiss and shake their fist." God said,

God said, "Woe to Jerusalem who does not listen to Me, or trust in Me, or draw near to Me. I have called you, but you have refused to listen to Me, your prophets and priests profane what is holy, so you will be punished."

God did not leave Judah without hope though. He said, "After My judgment, God will have a remnant of people who will serve Him. They will be a sanctified people and have honor."

God's people didn't want to listen to Him so He scattered them to other nations. But the day would come when He would bring them back to Himself. This gave those who wanted to serve Him some hope!

Did you notice? God told Zephaniah that He would punish other nations besides Judah. God held those nations accountable for the wicked things they did, just as He held Judah accountable for their wickedness. Even though the other nations were not God's chosen people, He held them accountable. Many times God allowed wicked nations to do things to His people to teach His people lessons, but He did not allow the wicked nations to get by with their wickedness. He punished them too.

Does God hold people accountable to Him today who are not His people? Absolutely! That is one lesson we learn from this. GOD DOES NOT CHANGE!

MEMORY WORK

Jeremiah 10: 23

**O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself:
it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**

Multiple Choice

1. Amon was a (good, evil) king.
2. The servants of Amon (worshipped idols, conspired to put him to death).
3. Josiah was (10 , 16, 8) years old when he began to reign.
4. Josiah destroyed the (temple, Asherim) in the northern territories.
5. Zephaniah pronounced (blessings, doom) on Judah.
6. God wanted His people to repent and seek God before He brought (animals, judgment) to them.
7. God left Judah (without, with) hope for the future.
8. When God's people didn't listen to Him, He scattered them (in Jerusalem, to the other nations).

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Seventeen

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Chaldeans - This term and "Babylonians" are used interchangeably to refer to the same group of people.

Submit - To give one's self up to; to be obedient to; to do service for or be a servant for

Peace - To live in harmony with; freedom from being disturbed; a state of quiet, order and security.

Traitor - One who betrays his country; one who aids an enemy in conquering his country.

Girdle - A band or belt drawn around the waist of a person. Many times a sword or dagger was suspended from a girdle. This is where the term to "gird up the loins" for battle comes from.

Cleft - An opening or hole.

Pride - To be puffed up and take on airs; to exalt one's self; to look down on others and treat them with contempt.

Drought - A time of no rain.

INTRODUCTION: *In our last lesson we learned about the death of Amon and of his son Josiah becoming king of Judah. We also studied about the prophet Zephaniah whom God sent to warn Judah of judgment. In this lesson we are going to study another prophet -- the prophet Jeremiah.*

Jeremiah began to prophesy in the days of King Josiah, a good king of Judah. He continued to prophesy until, and after, Judah was taken into Babylonian captivity. Jeremiah was the son of the priest Hilkiyah. His home was in Anathoth, northeast of Jerusalem.

The nation of Israel had already fallen and had been taken into Assyrian captivity. Judah was about to fall as well. Jeremiah, as well as Zephaniah, warned Judah of this.

Judah had a good king, Josiah, who wanted to turn the nation back to God, but sadly Judah had become so wicked that even the things that Josiah did to turn back to God did not change the people's hearts. Jeremiah urged Judah to repent and turn back to God just as the other prophets had done.

Jeremiah was a good man with much courage. He wanted to serve God, and he wanted Judah to also. Jeremiah tells us that God chose him to preach to Judah before he was even born (Jer. 1: 4 - 5). He was a young man when he began to prophesy, and when he began he told the Lord, "I am only a youth." God told him, "Do not say, 'I am a youth', because I am sending you and whatever I command you I want you to

Speak it. Don't be afraid of the people because I am going to save you, and I will put My words in your mouth. It will be your job to pluck up, to break down, to destroy, to overthrow, to build and to plant." (This shows us that even young people can do the work that God wants done.)

*God's message to Jeremiah and Judah was that another nation from the north would come against Judah. This nation would be the Babylonian nation. It was Jeremiah's job to tell Judah that they should **submit** to the **Chaldeans** because they could not win against them. This was a hard task for Jeremiah because God warned him that the people of Judah would not want to hear this message and would oppose him. Judah did not want to hear that they should **submit** to a foreign nation. There could be nothing worse in the mind of a Jew than being taken by a foreign nation, so Jeremiah's message seemed to them as the message of a **traitor**. However, God said that **submitting** to the Babylonians was the only way they could survive. God told Jeremiah that He would be with him as he preached this message to Judah.*

*God told Jeremiah that Judah had forsaken Him and that they had turned to idols. For this reason God would bring the nation of Judah into judgment. Judah had become so wicked that when God told Jeremiah to look throughout the streets of Jerusalem for a man who served God, he could not find even one man. Terrible things had happened to Judah -- the prophets prophesied false things and the priests ruled by these false things. The leaders of God's people were corrupt, doing evil things. The people of Judah didn't take pleasure in the word of the Lord anymore and they would say, "**Peace, peace**" when there was no **peace**.*

God told Jeremiah over and over, "Don't pray for these people because I will not hear you." God did not want to hear the prayers for a nation who would not hear or worship Him, or turn back to Him. The things that God told Jeremiah made him want to cry day and night for Judah. Jeremiah said, "I know that man cannot direct his own steps. When You correct me, please don't correct me in Your anger, or I'll be brought to nothing. Pour Your anger on the nations who do not know You and on the people who don't call on Your name."

God warned Jeremiah that Judah would call out to their idol gods to save them, but they would find out that their idols could not save. He warned that the nation from the north would ruin the land and make it a waste. A day was coming when Judah would have no joy. Things would become so bad that they would prefer death to the other things that could happen to them. God told Jeremiah not to marry because of the terrible things that would happen in the land. God told him that there would be so much death that even the people would not have time to mourn for their dead.

So, Jeremiah preached to them.

The book of Jeremiah is a long book and we do not have the time to study all of it in this quarter. So, we are going to study just a few stories that will tell us the messages that God wanted Judah to have.

JEREMIAH

The Ruined Linen Girdle -- Jeremiah 13: 1 - 11

The Lord said to Jeremiah, "Go buy you a linen **girdle** and put it around your waist. Do not get it wet with water."

So, Jeremiah bought a **girdle** and put it around his waist. Then the Lord spoke to Jeremiah again. He said, "Take the **girdle** that is around your waist and go to the Euphrates River. Hide the **girdle** in a **cleft** of the rock."

So, Jeremiah went to the Euphrates and did what the Lord said. After many days the Lord came to Jeremiah again and said, "Go to the Euphrates and take the **girdle** that I commanded you to hide there."

Jeremiah went and found the **girdle** from its hiding place, but when he did he noticed that it was spoiled and good for nothing. The Lord spoke to him again and said, "In the same way this **girdle** was spoiled, I will spoil the **pride** of Judah and the great **pride** of Jerusalem. This evil people refuse to hear Me. They follow their own heart and walk after other gods to serve and worship them, so they will be like this **girdle** and be good for nothing."

"I wanted Israel and Judah to cling to me as a girdle clings to the waist of a man-- to be My people who would praise and give Me glory, but they would not listen."

The Drought in Judah -- Jeremiah 14 - 15: 1- 6

There was a **drought** in Judah and God spoke to Jeremiah about it. He said, "Judah mourns and Jerusalem cries about this **drought**. They send their little ones to get water from the cisterns, but they find no water and come back home with their jars empty. They are ashamed and cover their heads. Even the animals forsake their young because there is no water to drink. The people are crying out to Me. But, this people has been glad to wander away from the right way and they have not controlled themselves. I am not pleased with them, and I will remember their sins and punish them."

The Lord told Jeremiah, "Don't pray for this people. I will not hear them even when they offer their burnt offerings and grain offerings. I will put an end to them by the sword, by starvation and by disease."

Then Jeremiah said, "Ah, Lord God, the prophets are telling the people that they will not see the sword or starvation and that they will have peace in the land."

The Lord replied, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I did not send them or command them to speak. This is what will happen to the prophets I did not send-- I will kill them with war and starvation. The people they prophesied to will be killed in the same way. Because so many will die by the sword and by starvation there will not be anyone to bury them."

Jeremiah asked God to give Judah mercy. He said, "Don't turn from us. Don't break the covenant You made with us. Can a false god send rain? Aren't you our God? We set our hope on You and wait for You because You have made all things."

Then Jehovah said to Jeremiah, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood here before Me, My heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of My sight and let them go! And if they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' tell them that some will die by war, some by starvation and others

will be taken into captivity. I will make them fear all the nations of the earth because of what Manasseh, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem. Who will have pity on you, or mourn for you? You have rejected Me, so I will destroy you. I am tired of changing My mind concerning you."

"I will make you serve your enemies in a land you don't know because My anger is a fire that burns against you."

MEMORY WORK

Jeremiah 10: 23 - 24

23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is not in himself:*

it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

**24 O LORD, correct me, but with judgment;
not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.**

True or False

1. ___ Jeremiah prophesied in the days of king Josiah.
2. ___ Jeremiah was an old man when he began to prophesy to Judah.
3. ___ The prophets and priests in Judah led the people away from serving God.
4. ___ God asked Jeremiah to pray for Judah.
5. ___ Judah would call out to the true God to save them.
6. ___ God told Jeremiah to buy a linen ephod.
7. ___ When Jeremiah went back to get the girdle from the cleft of the rock, it was ruined.
8. ___ God said he would destroy Judah with war, starvation and disease.
9. ___ Jeremiah wanted God to give Judah mercy.
10. ___ God said His heart would not turn toward this people even if Moses and Samuel were with them.
11. ___ God was tired of changing His mind toward Judah.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Eighteen

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Potter - A person whose occupation is one of making earthen vessels. The shaping of the vessel would be done on a potter's wheel, and then the vessel would be dried in an oven or kiln. The vessels would be used to hold water, wine, fruit, grains or other materials.

Stocks - To place the body in a bent position and use something to confine the neck, arms and legs. *"An instrument of punishment, consisting of two beams, the upper one being movable, with two small openings between them, large enough for the ankles of the prisoner."* Smith's Dictionary

Jeremiah is Sent To the Potter -- Jeremiah 18 - 20

The word of Jehovah spoke to Jeremiah again and said, "Get up and go to the **potter's** house and I will give you My message."

So Jeremiah went to the **potter's** house, and the **potter** was working at his wheel. Whenever a piece of pottery did not turn out like the **potter** wanted it he would rework it into another vessel. As Jeremiah watched the **potter**, Jehovah spoke to him and said, "O Israel. Can't I do with you as this **potter** has done with his clay? You are just like the clay that is in the **potter's** hand. When I say anything about destroying a nation, if they turn from their evil I can change My mind about what I would do to them. If I say I am going to plant or build up a nation, and they decide to do evil and not listen to Me, then I can change My mind about the good that I was going to do for them."

"Now, go to Judah and Jerusalem and tell them I am ready to punish them. Tell them to return from their evil ways. They will say, 'There is no hope. We'll do what we want to do.' Because My people have forgotten Me, I will destroy their land. Everyone who sees it will be astonished. I will scatter them before their enemies."

Then the people of Judah said, "Let us do something about Jeremiah! There will always be priests to tell us about God's law. Let's stop listening to what he says."

Jeremiah began to pray, "Lord please hear me and listen to what my enemies say about me. Remember how I spoke to You on their behalf, yet they have dug a pit for my life. Now, Lord, let their children be without food and let them be killed in war. Let their wives become childless and their men be killed in battle. Let them cry for help when an army comes suddenly upon them. You know their plots to kill me. Don't forgive their sin and deal with them in your anger."

Then the Lord told Jeremiah, "Go to the **potter** and buy a clay jar. Take some elders of the people and priests and go to the valley of Hinnom and give the message I give you. Tell them that I will bring such disaster upon them that those who hear about it will have their ears tingle. The people have forsaken Me and profaned this place by offering to other gods and killed innocent people who have done no wrong. They have sacrificed their own children unto Baal, a thing I did not command. So, the time will come when this place will be called the valley of Slaughter. Judah and Jerusalem's people will be killed by the sword and I will give their bodies to the birds and beasts of the field for food. They will be besieged and eat their own children and neighbors."

God said to Jeremiah, "I want you to break the clay jar and tell the people, 'The Lord says that He will break this people and city just as one breaks a **potter's** vessel and it cannot be mended again. The people will bury their dead in Tophet until there is no other place to bury them. The houses of the kings of Judah will be defiled like Tophet."

After Jeremiah said these things he went to the court of the Temple and said, "The Lord is going to bring disaster on this city because they refuse to hear Him."

Punishment from Pashhur the priest -- Jeremiah 20

When Pashhur, who was the son of the priest, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, he beat Jeremiah and put him in **stocks** that were at the Benjamin gate of the temple. The next day, Pashhur released him from his **stocks** and Jeremiah said to him, "The Lord does not call your name Pashhur, but "Terror on Every Side". The Lord says He will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They will be killed by the sword of your enemies while you watch, and He will give all of Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon. The king of Babylon will carry them captive into Babylon and kill them. And more than this, I will give all the riches of this city, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their enemies who will carry them into Babylon with them. And you, Pashhur, and everyone who lives in your house, will go into captivity in Babylon. You, and all your friends to whom you have lied, will die in Babylon."

After this, Jeremiah was very down and sad. He felt like everyone was laughing at him and mocking him. Everywhere he went he had to preach a message of violence and destruction, and because of the message he preached he was made fun of and scorned by the people of Judah.

*But, even as Jeremiah was sad about the message he had to preach, he knew it had to be preached to the people of Judah. He said the word of God was like "a burning fire shut up in his bones", and although he wanted to hold it in he could not. Jeremiah said, "But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause." *ESV (Jeremiah 20: 11 - 12)**

Jeremiah was a man who faithfully preached God's message to Judah in spite of all the hard things he went through.

THINK ABOUT IT: Jeremiah preached a message that the people didn't want to hear, and it caused him to be made fun of and to become an object of ridicule. Yet, he continued to preach. Why? Because God's word HAD TO BE PREACHED! God wanted it so.

Men who preach God's message today may face the same thing that Jeremiah did. People might not want to hear it, or they might make fun of the preacher who is preaching. Does this mean he should stop preaching? NO! God's word MUST BE PREACHED TODAY also! A Preacher who truly loves God and His word will be like Jeremiah. God's word will be like "*a burning fire shut up in his bones*" and he will have to preach it. Why? Because people's souls are at stake! People need to be saved! More importantly, GOD WANTS IT!

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." KJV II Tim. 2:4

Some History of Assyria

Assyria was an empire that was about to crumble. Egypt wanted to have power at that time, and in the east the Medes were becoming powerful. The land of Palestine and Syria had goods stolen by tribes from Arabia. Assyria's king, Ashurbanipal, died while Josiah was still a child in Judah.

During the time that Josiah was reforming Judah, and the prophets Zephaniah and Jeremiah were preaching their messages, the Babylonians were coming to power and independence. Later, the Babylonians joined with the Medes and they besieged the city of Nineveh in Assyria, causing it to fall.

There is a powerful lesson in this for us. God may allow powerful nations, like Assyria, to teach His people some lessons, but those powerful nations will not get by with the evil they do. God will cause powerful nations who do evil to be punished as well. God is the God of all nations.

WORK

Jeremiah 10: 23 - 24

23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself:

it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

24 O LORD, correct me, but with judgment;

not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

Use the correct word or phrase to answer the questions:

**punish, hear, burning fire, nations, listening,
birds and beasts, Pashhur, die, ears, Potter's house**

1. God told Jeremiah, "Go to the _____ and I will give you my message.
2. God said, "Go to Judah and Jerusalem and tell them I am ready to _____ them.
3. The people of Judah said, "Let's stop _____ to what Jeremiah says."
4. God said to Jeremiah, "Tell them that I will bring such disaster upon them that those who hear about it will have their _____ tingle.
5. God said, "Judah and Jerusalem's people will be killed by the sword and I will give their bodies to the _____ of the field for food.
6. Jeremiah went to the temple and said, "The Lord is going to bring disaster on this city because they refuse to _____ Him.
7. _____ beat Jeremiah and put him in stocks.

8. Jeremiah told _____ that everyone who lived in his house would go into captivity in Babylon and all the friends he lied to would _____ in Babylon.
9. Jeremiah knew he had to preach God's word because it was like a _____
_____ shut up in his bones.
10. God is the God of all _____.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Nineteen

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Nahum - Comfort, compassion, consolation.

Vengeance - Inflicting pain and punishment because of offense; to avenge. God takes vengeance from a love of justice. Only God has the right to take vengeance (Rom. 12:19).

Adversary - An enemy.

Vile - Mean, worthless, despicable; morally impure, wicked.

Witchcraft - Witchcraft was an appeal to a power other than God, and counted as rebellion against God. I Samuel 15:23 says that " *rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft*", in other words, rebellion against God is as bad as the sin of witchcraft. Exodus 22:18 tells us that under the Old Law a person who practiced such was not to live. Isaiah 8: 19 - 20 tells the people to seek God, not to seek those who do such things, and Leviticus 20:6 says that God will set His face against people who practice such, and cut them off from His people.

Quenched -- to put out or extenquish.

Prophetess -- A woman inspired by God; an interpreter or spokesman for God; one who speaks for another.

The Prophet Nahum

*The book of Nahum is about the overthrow of Ninevah, the capitol of Assyria. When we studied the book of Jonah we learned that God forgave Ninevah because they repented. Time had passed, and God had been longsuffering, but Ninevah had become a violent, wicked city. Nahum the prophet pronounced doom on this city. The book of Nahum tells us that it was time for God's judgment to come on the wicked nation of Assyria. **Vengeance** belongs to God, and nations that defy God and oppress His people are punished. A nation that wants to survive must be founded on God's righteousness and faith. (This is true even today.)*

The destruction of Ninevah was good news and a relief to those who lived in Judah(Nah. 1: 12,13, 15; 2:2). They had suffered much from Assyria's cruelty. Assyria was a nation who were known for the violent and aggressive way they fought to win over other nations. As we have studied Israel and Judah we have also

seen how God used the wicked nation of Assyria to try to bring His people back to Him. Tiglath-pileser III was the king of Assyria who removed some of the people in northern Israel to lands north of Ninevah.

The nation of Assyria began to fail. The Babylonians, Medes and Scythians completed the destruction of Assyria.

Not much is known about the prophet Nahum. We know that he introduced himself in the book as "Nahum the Elkoshite". We know nothing about what he did for a living. He says nothing in his book about Judah's and Jerusalem's sins. We do know that he preached to Ninevah during the same period of time that Jeremiah preached to Judah.

ASSYRIA -- Nahum 1 - 3

Nahum preached that God is a jealous God and will take **vengeance** on his **adversaries**. God is slow to anger, but He doesn't let the guilty go unpunished. No one can stand before His anger and wrath. The Lord is good, and He knows those who trust in Him.

Nahum said, "From you, Ninevah, came wicked plans against the Lord. The Lord says that even though you are strong and there are many of you, you will be destroyed and disappear. No more will you have descendants to carry on your name. I will destroy the idols in the temples of your gods, and I will make your grave because you are **vile**."

"Behold, Judah, there is one who brings good news and sources of peace! He announces peace! Celebrate your feasts and keep your vows, for the wicked Assyria will never pass through you again; he is completely cut off!"

"Ninevah, be prepared for battle and watch the road. God is going to restore the glory of Jacob and the majesty of Israel to what they were before they were made waste. Enemy soldiers will come in clothed in red, their chariots will be fast like lightning. Mighty men will prepare their defenses, but they will stumble in their march. Ninevah will be stripped and carried captive and her maids will beat upon their breasts in sorrow. 'Stop! Stop' they will cry, but no one will turn back."

"The gold and silver will be taken into their spoil. Ninevah will be destroyed and hearts will melt and knees will tremble."

"I am against you," said the Lord of hosts. I will burn your chariots and your young soldiers will be killed by the sword. I will take all that you took from others, and the voice of your messengers will not be heard anymore."

The Lord called Ninevah a bloody city full of lies and robbery. He told them that they would hear the sounds of battle -- the rattle of chariot wheels and the gallop of horses coming. So many would be killed that their dead bodies would be piled high and horsemen carrying their swords would stumble over them.

The Lord said, "Ninevah is destroyed because of her whoredoms. She was attractive and full of **witchcraft**, but the Lord of hosts said, "I am against you. I will let the nations see your shame. I will throw filth at you and make you a spectacle. Everyone who passes by you will say, 'Ninevah is laid waste; who will grieve for her? Who will comfort her?'"

"Are you better than Thebes in Egypt? She ruled Ethiopia and there was no limit to her power, yet she was carried away into captivity. Her young were killed in the streets and honorable men were led off bound in chains."

"You will be looking for a place to escape from your enemies, but fire will devour you and you will be killed by the sword. You will be scattered, and there will be no one to bring you home. There is no remedy for your hurt because everyone who hears about you will clap their hands in joy."

JUDAH

JUDAH ALONE
Josiah ☺

King Josiah takes Steps to Repair the Temple and the Book of the Law is Found --

II Kings 22: 3 -20 ; II Chron. 34: 8-28

When Josiah had been king of Judah for eighteen years, he sent Shaphan the grandson of Meshallum the scribe, Maaseiah the governor and Joah the recorder to repair the house of the Lord. He said to them, "Go to Hilkiah the high priest and have him count out the money that has been brought into the house of the Lord by the people. Let the money be given to workmen who have oversight of the Lord's house so that they can pay the workers who repair the temple and buy the supplies." The men who handled this were honest to do the work given to them.

Now while they were taking the money out of the temple that had been brought in, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses. Hilkiah said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.", and he gave the Book to Shaphan.

Shaphan carried the Book to King Josiah and gave him a report of all that had been done. He said, "We have done everything that you commanded us to do. We have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the Lord and have delivered it to the overseers and workmen." Then Shaphan said, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." and he began to read it to King Josiah.

When Josiah heard the words of the Law he became very upset and began to tear his clothes, then he commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam Shaphan's son, Abdon, Shaphan, and Asaiah the king's servant , "Go, inquire of the Lord for me about the words in this book that has been found. Great is God's anger that is poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord and done all the things that are written in this book."

At Josiah's command, Hilkiah and the other men went to see Huldah the **prophetess** and told her what had happened. Huldah said, "This is what the Lord God of Israel says, 'Tell the man who sent you to me that I am going to bring disaster on this place and on the people who live there. I'll bring all the curses that are written in the book that was read to the king of Judah. I will do this because they have forsaken Me and have made offerings to other gods. This has stirred up My anger, and it will not be **quenched**. As for the king who sent you to inquire, tell him that because his heart was tender, and he humbled himself before God when he heard His words, I have heard his prayer. I will let him die in peace and he will not see all the evil I will bring upon this place and its people.'"

The men returned to Josiah and told him what God had said through the **prophetess** Huldah.

Think About It: *How sad that Judah had lost God's word. One can only imagine how many of God's laws had not been done because the people had forgotten them. It is no wonder that King Josiah was upset. Can the same thing happen to us? Yes! When we neglect to study and learn about God's Laws, and we are more concerned with worldly things than spiritual things, it is the same as if we had lost His Word. Let's not let the same thing happen to us that happened to Judah.*

MEMORY WORK

Habakkuk 2:19 (ESV)

**Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;
to a silent stone, Arise!
Can this teach?**

Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

QUESTIONS

(Underline the correct answer)

1. Nahum prophesied to (Judah ; Israel; Assyria).
2. Nahum warned Ninevah to be prepared for (battle ; good news).
3. The Lord told Ninevah, (I am for you; I am against you).
4. Ninevah would look for a place (of rest ; to escape to).
5. King Josiah sent Shaphan to repair (his palace ; the house of God).
6. (Shaphan ; Hilkiah) found the Book of the Law when they were taking the money out of the temple.
7. (Shaphan; Hilkiah) read the Book of the Law to King Josiah.
8. Josiah was (upset; happy) when he heard God's law.
9. Josiah commanded Hilkiah to see (Isaiah; Huldah) the prophetess.
10. God said that Josiah (would; would not) see all the evil He would bring upon Judah.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Twenty

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Abomination -- Something disgusting morally; a detestable thing or idol; things that offend the religious sense of a people; to become putrid, to stink.

Sodomites -- Wicked men who practiced abominations in the temple.

Sepulchers-- burying place; grave

Kid -- A she goat

Ambassador -- A messenger.

Ass - A donkey or burro; a beast of burden.

Seed - Child; children, offspring; descendants.

IN OUR LAST LESSON: *We studied about the message of the prophet Nahum. God sent a message through him that Assyria was going to fail as a nation. Pay attention in other lessons to another nation that God uses to teach Judah some lessons because of their sins--the nation of Babylon.*

Josiah was a good king of Judah and he tried to bring the people back to God. As his men cleaned out the temple they found the Law of God that had been lost. Shaphan carried the Law to Josiah and read it to him, but as Shaphan read it Josiah became very upset because he realized that Judah had not been keeping God's laws. Josiah sent Hilkiah the high priest and others to see Huldah the prophetess and have her inquire of God. God told her that He would send the curses in the Law on Judah, but not in Josiah's lifetime.

Pay attention to the ark of the covenant in this lesson. This is the last time it is mentioned as to being in existence in the scriptures.

JUDAH ALONE

Josiah ☺

Jehoahaz ☹

Eliakim (Jehoikim) ☹

God's Covenant is Renewed and Josiah Tries to Cleanse the Land -- II Kings 23: 1- 20;

II Chron. 34: 29 - 32

After Josiah's men told him what the Lord was going to do, he gathered all the elders of Judah and went up to the temple. Then Josiah read the Book of the Law to all the men of Judah, the priests and

Levites, and all the people small and great. When he finished he made a covenant before Jehovah to walk in His ways and keep His commandments with all his heart and with all his soul. Then he made all the people who were in Jerusalem and Benjamin to give their word to keep it. The people did the things in the covenant.

Josiah took all the **abominations** out of the land. He commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the rest of the priests to take all the vessels out of the temple that were being used for Baal, Asherah and worship of the hosts of heaven. He burned them in the Kidron Valley and had the ashes carried to Bethel. He put an end to the false priests. He brought the Asherah out of the temple and burned it at the brook Kidron, beat it to dust and then put the dust on the graves of the common people. He destroyed the places where the **Sodomites** lived in the temple, and where the women wove hangings used in the worship of the Asherah. He had the priests destroy all the high places from Geba to Beersheba. He defiled Topheth in the valley of Hinnom so that no one could burn their children to the false god Molech again. He took away horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the worship of the sun, and burned the chariots used in this worship.

Josiah also removed and destroyed altars that King Ahaz had put over his chamber in the palace, and altars Manasseh had made in the court of the temple. He ground these to dust and put them in the brook Kidron. He also destroyed high places that King Solomon had built for other nations. He broke images in pieces and cut down Asherim, filling those places with dead men's bones.

He broke down the altar at Bethel that King Jeroboam had made, beating it to dust. As Josiah looked around he saw some tombs on the mountain. He took the bones out of the **sepulchers** and burned them on the altar which fulfilled a prophecy made many years before (1 Kings 13:2). As Josiah looked around he also saw another tomb and he asked, "Whose tomb is that?"

The men of the city said, "It is the tomb of the prophet from Judah who predicted these things you have done against this altar at Bethel."

Josiah said, "Let him be; no man is to remove his bones." So no man moved his bones or the bones of the prophet from Samaria (1 Kings 13: 29 - 32).

Josiah took down all the high places in the cities of Samaria. He killed the false priests on the altars where they served and burned the bones of the dead on them before returning to Jerusalem.

Josiah Commands that the Passover Be Kept -- II Kings 23: 21 - 23; II Chron. 35 : 1 - 19

King Josiah commanded the people to keep the Passover of the Lord as it was written in the covenant. There had not been such a Passover since the days of the Judges. Josiah kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month and he encouraged the priests to do their duties in the house of the Lord. He told the Levites, the teachers of Israel, "Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon, the son of David, built. You are to carry it on your shoulders no more. Now serve Jehovah your God and His people. Prepare yourself and stand in the holy place according to the way God has divided you. Kill the Passover, sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren to do the word of the Lord."

Josiah gave 30,000 lambs and **kids** to offer for the Passover and 30,000 bulls. Josiah's officials gave offerings too. Everything was made ready, and they put the Passover lambs to death and sacrificed them just as God's law was written in the Law of Moses.

The song leaders of Israel, sons of Asaph, were in their places and gatekeepers were at every gate. The Levites prepared the people to do all these things. All the service to God was done on the Passover just as Josiah commanded. No Passover had been kept like it since the days of Samuel the prophet.

The Death of Josiah -- II Kings 23: 29 - 30; II Chron. 35: 20 -27

After Josiah had put the house of God in order, Necho the king of Egypt led an army to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates River. Josiah went out to fight against him. He sent **ambassadors** to Josiah with the message: "What I am doing does not concern you. I have not come out to fight you, but against the ones who make war against me. God has commanded me to hurry. Stop opposing God who is with me, or He will destroy you."

However, Josiah would not go back. He disguised himself so that he could fight with him and did not listen to Neco's words that came from God. He went to fight in the plain of Megiddo.

Some archers shot their arrows at King Josiah and struck him. Josiah said, "Take me away because I am badly wounded."

Josiah's servants took him out of his chariot and carried him to a second chariot that carried him to Jerusalem. Josiah died, and was buried in the sepulchers of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him. Jeremiah the prophet made a song of grief for him, and the men and women who sang spoke of Josiah in a song of grief and lamentation.

2 Kings 23:25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him. (KJV)

Jehoahaz (or Shallum) becomes King of Judah -- II Kings 23: 30 - 34; II Chron. 36: 1 - 4;

Jeremiah 22: 10 - 12

After Josiah died, the people of the land took his son Jehoahaz and made him king over Judah. Jehoahaz was twenty-three when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. Then the king of Egypt, Pharaoh Necho, removed him from the throne and taxed the land 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold. He made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king, and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoikim. King Necho carried Jehoahaz to Egypt.

Jehoahaz had been a wicked king, and Jeremiah the prophet prophesied about him. He said, "People of Judah, don't weep for Josiah and mourn for him, instead weep for Jehoahaz his son. The Lord says that the son of Josiah will not return anymore to Jerusalem. He will die in the place where he has been taken captive, and he will never see this land again. His eyes and his heart are for covetousness and he has killed innocent blood and oppressed his people. Therefore, when he dies the people will not mourn for him. He will have the burial of an **ass**. His body will be dragged and dumped beyond the gates of Jerusalem. O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord! This man will be childless and will not prosper. No man of his **seed** will sit on the throne of David and reign in Judah."

MEMORY WORK

Habakkuk 2:19 (ESV)

Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;
to a silent stone, Arise!
Can this teach?

Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

MATCH

Josiah read this to the people of Judah.

Josiah made this before Jehovah, and made the people keep it.

Josiah took all the ____ out of the land.

Burning bones out of the sepulchers on the altar fulfilled a ____.

Josiah burned them on the altars where they served.

Josiah commanded that the ____ Feast be kept.

Josiah commanded the Levites to put the ____ in the temple.

Josiah went out to fight against ____ King of Egypt.

Josiah was struck down in the ____.

He made a song of grief for Josiah.

Judah made him king after Josiah died.

Prophecy

False priests

Book of the Law

Abominations

Covenant

Jeremiah

Plain of Megiddo

Passover

Necho

Holy Ark

Jehoahaz

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Twenty-One

Vocabulary Words:

Chaldeans - The Chaldeans were a tribe from Southern Babylonia who freed themselves from the Assyrians in 625 B.C.. They became rulers of the Neo-Babylonian empire and joined with the Medes and Scythians to destroy Ninevah in Assyria. King Josiah of Judah died at Megiddo trying to block Pharaoh Necho from aiding Assyria. The rest of Assyria and Egypt were defeated by Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon dominated Judah. The terms "Chaldeans" and "Babylonians" are used to talk of the same group of people.

Habakkuk - Embraced one of God. Habakkuk embraces, or comforts and lifts up God's people in his prophecy.

Plunder - To take spoil from another nation.

Eunuch - Men who were in charge of the bedchambers in the palace. Some eunuchs were used to guard a king's harem (his wives). Some were used in military service. Many times they were deprived of their manhood by being mutilated. Some eunuchs were born in such a way. The Old Law excluded eunuchs from engaging in public worship (Deut. 23:1).

JUDAH ALONE

Jehoikim ☹

The Prophet Habakkuk -- Habakkuk 1 - 3

*The book of Habakkuk was written before the **Chaldeans** invaded Judah. God shows the suffering of Judah in the book of Habakkuk. He used the wicked **Chaldeans** to punish wicked Judah. Later, the **Chaldeans** were punished for their own wickedness. We learn that God can use a wicked nation like Babylon to accomplish His divine purpose for a people.*

Habakkuk was worried over the problems that Judah faced, and it seemed to Habakkuk that God was allowing the evil to go on in Judah without punishment. However, God let Habakkuk know that just because we cannot see Him at work does not mean He is not working in the earth. The message of Habakkuk lets us see that God is working, even when we think He is not, and that although His people may suffer, they will survive if they have faith in God. His message was one of comfort for the people in Judah, and it should be a comfort to us as well should we suffer at the hands of unrighteous people.

Habakkuk cried out to the Lord, "O Lord, how long will I cry for help and you will not hear?" Habakkuk could see the sin, wickedness and destruction all around him in Judah and it seemed to him that God was not doing anything about it. How long would God allow wicked and lawless men of Judah to continue and go unpunished?

God answered Habakkuk and told him that He was not an idle God. He told him to look beyond Judah and he would see the **Chaldeans** that He was raising up. The **Chaldeans** were a nation who were dreaded and feared by the people of Judah. They were a fierce, violent people and they had gathered so many captives that the number of them could not be counted.

When God told Habakkuk that the **Chaldeans** were going to be used by God to punish Judah, he was upset. He asked, "How could righteous God use such an unrighteous nation to punish Judah?" Habakkuk asked God to defend His actions (1:13).

Habakkuk learned that it was only when he took his place on the watchtower and waited for God to reveal His answers that he learned of God's solution. The man who was not righteous would fall, but the righteous man would live by his faith. Even though the **Chaldeans** might prosper for a time, and seem to triumph over a more righteous people, their end would be ruin.

Habakkuk pronounced five woes on the **Chaldean** people. He said, "Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own. The **Chaldeans plundered** many nations but they will be **plundered** as well. Woe to him who gets evil gain. The Chaldeans think they live in safety, but their lives shall be taken. Woe to him who mistreats other nations and exerts power over them to bring them to shame. The same violence done to them will be done to you. Woe to him who builds a town with blood and a city on sin. The same things done to those cities will be done to you. Woe to him who worships idols. You call on them to speak, but they cannot. There is no breath of life in them. But, God is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Habakkuk prayed to God and said, "O Lord, I have heard the report of You and I fear Your work."

Habakkuk finally understood that Judah must be punished for their sins, but he asked God that in His wrath He would remember mercy as He used the **Chaldeans** to work out His purpose in history, and to save His people. Although Habakkuk dreaded the invasion of the **Chaldeans**, he said, "I will wait quietly for the day of trouble to come upon the people who have invaded us."

Habakkuk knew that God would punish the **Chaldeans** for the wicked things they would do to Judah, and he no longer feared what would happen. He said: "*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.*" (3: 18 - 19)

THE BEGINNING OF CAPTIVITY; The First Invasion-- II Chron. 36: 4 - 8; II Kings 24: 1 - 6; Jer. 26

We have already learned that Jehoahaz was taken by Pharaoh Necho to Egypt and Jehoahaz' brother, Jehoikim, was made king of Judah. Jehoikim was a wicked king. God commanded Jeremiah to go preach to Judah at the beginning of his reign.

At the beginning of Jehoikim's reign the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet. The Lord said, "Go stand in the temple, and when the people of Judah come to worship, I want you to tell them the words that I tell you to speak. Don't hold back one word from them. Perhaps they will listen and turn from their wicked ways and I can change my mind about the destruction I plan to bring upon them."

So Jeremiah told Judah everything the Lord said, and all the prophets and priests heard what he had to say. They didn't like what he had to say though. They took hold of him and said, "You will die. Why have you prophesied that this house and city will be destroyed?" and they all gathered around Jeremiah in the temple.

Officials in Judah heard about the things Jeremiah said, and they took their places at the gate of the Temple. The priests and prophets told the officials, "This man deserves to die because he has spoken against this city."

Jeremiah spoke up and said, "The Lord sent me to prophesy everything I said against this house and city. Now, change the way you are living and obey the Lord and He will change His mind about the destruction He plans to bring upon you. As for me, do whatever you think is good and right. But, know for certain that if you put me to death you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves."

The officials in Judah said, "This man does not deserve to die because he has spoken to us in God's name."

Some of the elders of Judah spoke up and said, "Micah prophesied in the days of King Hezekiah that Zion would be plowed like a field and Jerusalem would become a heap of ruins. Did Hezekiah and Judah put Micah to death? Didn't Hezekiah fear the Lord and the Lord changed His mind about the disaster He said He was going to bring on them? By this act we are going to bring great disaster upon ourselves. And there was another prophet Uriah who prophesied against Jerusalem in words like Jeremiah has said. When Jehoikim heard Uriah's words he wanted to put him to death, but Uriah heard and escaped to Egypt. Jehoikim sent men to Egypt to get him. They brought him back and killed him."

A man named Ahikam helped Jeremiah so that he was not handed over to the people to be killed.

Jehoikim became more and more wicked and while he was still serving as king. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came and made Jehoikim his servant for three years.

Jehoikim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and the Lord sent bands of **Chaldeans**, Syrians, Moabites and Ammonites against Judah to destroy it. This fulfilled the words that God had spoken by His prophets.

THE BEGINNING OF A PROPHECY FULFILLED:

In the days of Hezekiah, after he showed the Babylonians his wealth, Isaiah the prophet made a prophecy:

"II Kings 20:17 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. 18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." (KJV)

Everything has not been taken into Babylon yet--but this process has begun. In this lesson we will study about Babylon taking some of the best and most intelligent young men of Judah captive. Daniel was one of these captives. (You will study more about Daniel and the other captives during the period of the Captivity and Return from Captivity.)

The First Group of Captives -- Daniel 1: 1- 7

In the third year that Jehoikim was the king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar came from Babylon and besieged the city of Jerusalem. The Lord gave Jehoikim into Nebuchadnezzar's control. Nebuchadnezzar also took some of the vessels from the Temple and took them to Babylon to put in the house of his god.

Then Nebuchadnezzar commanded his chief **eunuch** Ashpenaz to bring certain people into Babylon from Jerusalem. He was to bring some of the royal family and of the princes in Jerusalem. These young men were to be handsome, free of physical defects and skillful in all wisdom, having much knowledge and education. These young men were to stand in the king's palace and be taught the writing and language of the Chaldeans.

Among the young men chosen from Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The Babylonians gave them names. They called Daniel Belteshazzar, Hananiah they called Shadrack, Mishael they called Meshach, and Azariah they called Abednego.

MEMORY WORK

Habakkuk 2:19 (ESV)

**Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;
to a silent stone, Arise!**

Can this teach?

Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

Multiple Choice (underline the correct answer)

- 1. The book of Habakkuk was written (before, after) the Chaldeans invaded Judah.*
- 2. God used the (prophets , Chaldeans) to punish wicked Judah.*
- 3. Habakkuk understood that Judah (must, must not) be punished for their sins.*
- 4. The people of Judah (liked , did not like) the message that Jeremiah had for them.*
- 5. King Nebuchadnezzar commanded his eunuch Ashpenaz to bring certain people to (Jerusalem, Babylon).*
- 6. (Old, Young) men of Judah were chosen as captives.*

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Twenty-Two

Vocabulary Words:

Hearken -- To hear carefully with the intention of obeying.

Mirth -- Cheerfulness

Scroll -- A roll of paper or parchment that was written upon. Scrolls were the books of ancient times -- they did not have books that are bound as we have them today.

Fast -- A period of time when the people would not eat anything. Sometimes fasts were proclaimed when the people were grieving, vexed, anxious or in sorrow about something, or the nation needed to express that they needed divine favor.

Fetters - Chains used to confine a prisoner. They were similar to our handcuffs. Sometimes they were also attached to the ankles.

Signet Ring - A signet was important in sealing important documents. The owner of the signet would use a lump of clay or wax to impress his seal that was engraved on the ring, and attach it to a document. This meant that the document was authorized by his authority.

JUDAH ALONE

Jehoikim☹

Jehoichin (*Coniah, Jeconiah*)☹

Jeremiah Tells Judah How Long They'll Be Captives -- Jeremiah 25: 1 - 14

In the fourth year that Jehoikim was king of Judah, the prophet Jeremiah received a message from the Lord. This message concerned all the people of Judah.

Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and said, "For twenty-three years the Lord has spoken to me and told me what to tell you. I have risen up early and told you what the Lord has said, but you have not **hearkened**. The Lord sent you all of his prophets, but you have not **hearkened** or been open to hear what they said. The prophets told you to turn from your wicked ways so that you could go on living in the land that the Lord has given you. They told you not to go after other gods and worship them, but you did not **hearken** and have made the Lord angry with the works of your hands."

"Now, this is what the Lord says to you: 'Because you have not obeyed My words I am bringing Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon against this land and the people who live here, and against the nations that surround you, and will utterly destroy them making them an astonishment and a waste

place forever. I will take away your joy and **mirth** and the happy sounds of wedding feasts. The whole land will become a ruin and a waste and they shall serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. Then after the seventy years are complete, I will punish the king of Babylon and the Chaldeans for their sins and make their land a waste forever."

Jehoikim Burns the Scroll with the Words of the Lord -- Jeremiah 36: 1 - 32

During the fourth year that Jehoikim was King of Judah, Jeremiah received words from the Lord. The Lord said, "Take a **scroll** and write on it all the words I have spoken against Israel, Judah, and all the nations from the days of Josiah until today. Perhaps when the people hear about the disaster that I intend to do to them, they will turn from their evil ways and then I will forgive their sin."

Jeremiah called Baruch, and Baruch wrote down all the words that Jeremiah told him to write -- words that the Lord spoke to Jeremiah. Then Jeremiah commanded Baruch, "I am not allowed to go to the Temple so I want you to go read the words of the Lord from the **scroll** that you have written. Read them in the hearing of all the men of Judah. Perhaps they will pray for mercy and their prayer will come before the Lord and they will turn from their evil ways. The anger and wrath of the Lord is great against this people."

Baruch did what Jeremiah ordered him to do, and read the **scroll** in the house of the Lord.

In the fifth year that Jehoikim was king, and the ninth month of that year, all the people in Jerusalem and Judah announced that they were going to have a **fast** before the Lord. Baruch read the words of the Lord before all the people at the temple. He was in the chamber of Gemariah at the temple. When Micaiah, Gemariah's son, heard the words of the Lord from the **scroll** he went to the king's house to the scribe's chamber. Seated there were the officials of Judah, the scribe and all the princes. Micaiah told the men seated there all the words of the Lord that he had heard Baruch read. Then the princes sent Jehudi to Baruch and said, "Take the **scroll** that you read to the people and come here."

Baruch came to them with the **scroll** and they said, "Sit down and read it to us." So Baruch read it to them. After Baruch finished reading the **scroll**, they all looked at one another in fear and said, "We will tell the king all of these words. Tell us, how did you write down all these words?"

Baruch answered them, "Jeremiah told these words to me and I wrote them down in ink in the book."

Then the princes said to Baruch, "You and Jeremiah must hide, and let no man know where you are."

The princes then went to king Jehoikim and put the scroll in the chamber of the scribe. They told Jehoikim about the words on the **scroll** and Jehoikim sent Jehudi to get the **scroll**. Jehudi read it to the king while all the king's officials stood beside the king.

Jehoikim was sitting in his winter house and a fire was burning on the hearth before him. As Jehudi read three or four columns the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire, until finally all the **scroll** had been consumed by the fire.

The king, nor his servants, were afraid as they heard God's words read. Three men urged the king not to burn the **scroll**, but Jehoikim wouldn't listen to them. The king commanded that three men take Baruch and Jeremiah, but the Lord hid them.

After the king burned the **scroll**, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah and said, "Take another **scroll** and write all the words that were on the first scroll. You are to say to Jehoikim, 'You burned the **scroll** and have asked Jeremiah why he had written that the king of Babylon would come and destroy this land. Tell

Jehoikim that none of his descendants will sit on the throne of David and his dead body will be cast out in the heat of the day and the frost by night. I will punish him, his descendants and his servants for their sin and I will bring upon them and Judah all the disaster I have told them, but they would not **hearken**."

Then Jeremiah took another **scroll** and told Baruch the words to write on it that Jehoikim had burned, and there were added other words also.

The End of Jehoikim's Reign and the Reign of Jehoichin (or Coniah, Jeconiah) -- II Kings 24: 1 - 15; 25: 27 - 30; II Chron. 36: 6, 9 - 10; Jer. 22: 18 - 24

Jehoikim became the servant of Nebuchadnezzar for three years, but after that time he rebelled against him. While Jehoikim was king the Lord sent armies of the Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites against Judah to destroy it. This fulfilled the prophecies that the prophets had made against Judah.

Nebuchadnezzar came up against Jehoikim and bound him in **fetters** and carried him to Babylon along with vessels that he took from the Temple. Nebuchadnezzar conquered all the land from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates.

Jehoikim died and his son Jehoichin reigned as king in his place. Jeremiah prophesied that Judah would not mourn for Jehoikim but that he would be buried with the burial of a donkey. His body was dragged and dumped beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

The new king Jehoichin was wicked and followed the example of his father. God was ready to destroy Jerusalem, and through the prophet Jeremiah He said, "Even if Jehoichin (Coniah) were a **signet ring** on my right hand I would still tear you off and give you into the hand of those who seek your life and of whom you are afraid. I will hurl you and your mother into another country where you were not born and you shall die there. Jehoichin will remain childless and none of his children will sit on the throne or rule in Judah."

So, during his reign Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city of Jerusalem. Jehoichin, his mother, servants and officials of his kingdom were taken prisoner into Babylon in the eighth year of his reign. Nebuchadnezzar carried all the treasures in the temple and palace. He cut the vessels of gold that king Solomon had made into pieces. He carried away all the leading men and princes of Judah, the craftsmen and skilled workers -- 10,000 in all. Only the poorest people of the land were left in Judah.

After thirty-seven years of the captivity were passed another man became king of Babylon named Evil-merodach. He freed Jehoichin from prison, spoke kindly to him and gave him a position of honor in Babylon. Jehoichin dined at the king's table the rest of his life.

MEMORY WORK

Habakkuk 2: 19 - 20

19 Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

20 But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

THINK ABOUT IT . . .

What if you knew someone who thought so little of God's word that they would decide to burn it? What Jehoiakim did was just as serious. He found out that even though he burned the scroll that he could not destroy God's word. He also found out that it was a sin to treat God's word in a disrespectful way.

God wants us to treat His word with respect today. Obedience is the best way to respect His word. Disobedience to His word will bring a curse on us -- the curse of losing our soul in a devil's hell.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ____ Jehoiakim was the king of Babylon.
2. ____ Jeremiah said that the people would be in captivity in Babylon for twenty-three years.
3. ____ Jeremiah wrote the words from the Lord on a scroll.
4. ____ Baruch read the scroll in the temple.
5. ____ The princes told Baruch that he and Jeremiah must hide.
6. ____ Jehoiakim was sitting in his summer house when Jehudi read the scroll to him.
7. ____ Jehoiakim burned the scroll as it was read to him.
8. ____ Burning the scroll got rid of God's word.
9. ____ Jehoiakim became Nebuchadnezzar's servant for 10 years.
10. ____ Jeremiah prophesied that Jehoiakim would receive the burial of a donkey.
11. ____ Jehoichin would have many children.
12. ____ Nebuchadnezzar carried away all the treasures of the temple and palace.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Twenty-Three

Vocabulary Words:

Reproach - Shame or disgrace.

Yoke - A yoke was a device fitted to the neck of two oxen so they could plough together; a curved piece or bar of wood. (The figurative use of the word means "servitude"; "service to God".)

Amen - So be it; truth.

Rebellion - To openly rebel, or go against authority.

JUDAH ALONE
Jehoichin (Jeconiah)☹
Zedekiah☹

Nebuchadnezzar Appoints Zedekiah (or Mattaniah) to the Throne of Judah--I Kings 24:15 - 20

Nebuchadnezzar appointed the uncle of Jehoichin to the throne in Judah. His name was Mattaniah, but Nebuchadnezzar changed his name to Zedekiah.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king. He was an evil king and reigned eleven years.

God Sends a Vision to Jeremiah--Jer. 24: 1 - 10

After Nebuchadnezzar carried Jeconiah (or Jehoichin) and his officials into Babylon, the Lord showed the prophet Jeremiah a vision of two baskets of figs set before the Temple of the Lord. One basket had very good figs, but the other basket had very bad figs that could not be eaten.

The Lord said, "What do you see Jeremiah?"

Jeremiah said, "Figs. The good figs are very good, but the bad figs are very bad and cannot be eaten."

The Lord said, "The good figs are like the people who have gone into captivity in Babylon. I will treat these people with kindness and set My eyes on them for good. I will bring them back to this land and will build them up and not tear them down. I will plant them and not pluck them up. I will give them a heart to know that I am Jehovah, and they shall be My people and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with a whole heart."

"But", said the Lord, "Just as the bad figs are so bad that they cannot be eaten, Zedekiah the king of Judah, his officials, and all who remain in this land, will be a cause of trouble and **reproach** in all the places I scatter them. I will bring the sword, famine and disease on them until not one is left in the land that I gave to them and their fathers."

(In this vision God is telling Jeremiah that He sent the best of the people into captivity so that he could save them and bring them back. This was His remnant He saved to Himself. The other people left in the land would be destroyed by God. They were the people that Jeremiah needed to grieve about.)

Jeremiah's Letter to the Captives in Babylon -- Jeremiah 29: 1 - 32

After Jehoichin, his mother and the other captives were taken to Babylon, Jeremiah sent a letter to them. This is what the letter said:

"The Lord God of Israel says this to all the captives whom I caused to be carried into Babylon: Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat the produce from them. Continue to marry and have children so that your number will increase. Work for the good of the cities where you have been carried captive, and pray to the Lord for them because if it is peaceful you will have peace. Don't let your prophets who are with you deceive you. They prophesy falsely, and I have not sent them. When seventy years of captivity are completed I will bring you back to this place. I know the plans I have for you, not for evil, but to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and pray to Me and I will hear your prayers. I will restore your land and gather you from all the nations I scattered you to. Those left in the land will be persecuted with the sword, famine and disease because they did not listen to My words."

A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

As the reality of their captivity sunk in to the minds of those people in Babylon, God spoke to Jeremiah and gave the people hope for the future. He told them that there was no hope or medicine for the things they had to suffer because of their sins. But, there would be a day when God would restore them to Himself and renew His covenant with them (Jer. 30: 17 - 22). They would be His people and He would be their God. God told them to keep from weeping and sorrow because He would bring them back (Jer. 31: 16 - 18). They had broken their old covenant, but God would make a new covenant with them and this covenant would be in their hearts, not on tables of stone (Jer. 31: 33 - 34). Notice these words from the New Testament: **10** *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: **11** And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. **12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. **Heb 8:10-12 (KJV)***

A Conflict Between a Prophet of God and a False Prophet -- Jer. 27: 1 - 28; 28:17

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah and said, "Make yourself a **yoke** out of straps and wooden bars and put them upon your neck. Send word to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of Tyre and the king of Sidon by their messengers who have come to see Zedekiah and say: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says, 'I have made the earth, men and animals on the earth by My great power, and I give it to whomever I choose. I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, my servant, and I have given the beasts of the field to serve him. All the nations shall serve Nebuchadnezzar, and his son and his grandson until the time for his own nation to fall. Then many

nations will make him their slave. But, if any nation will not serve Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and put their neck under his **yoke**, I will punish that nations with the sword, famine and disease until I have completely destroyed it by his hand. Don't listen to your prophets or those who claim they can predict the future because they will tell you not to serve the king of Babylon. They will prophesy a lie to you and cause you to be taken far from your land. I will drive you out and you will be destroyed."

"But, the nation that brings their neck under the **yoke** of Nebuchadnezzar and serve him, I will leave on its own land to work and live there. I have also spoken to Zedekiah in the same manner."

"Don't listen to the prophets who tell you not to serve the king of Babylon because they are telling you lies. I have not sent them."

Then Jeremiah spoke to the priests and the people, "Don't listen to the words of your prophets who say that the vessels of the temple will be brought back to from Babylon in a short while. They prophesy a lie to you. Don't listen to them, but serve the king of Babylon and live. If they are prophets, and if the word of the Lord is with them, let them ask the Lord that the vessels left in the temple not go to Babylon. The Lord has said that the vessels that Nebuchadnezzar did not take away when carried captives to Babylon will be carried to Babylon, and remain until the day that He brings them back to this place."

That same year, during the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, a prophet named Hananiah from Gibeon spoke to Jeremiah in the temple. Priests and the people were there, and heard what Hananiah said. He said, "The Lord God of Israel says that He has broken the **yoke** of the king of Babylon. Within two years He will bring back all the vessels of the temple that Nebuchadnezzar took to Babylon. The Lord will also bring back Jeconiah king of Judah and all the captives from Babylon."

When Jeremiah heard Hananiah say these things he said, "**Amen!** May the Lord do this and make the words that you have prophesied come true. But, listen to what I have to say to you and the people: "The prophets, who spoke long before you and me, prophesied war, famine and disease would come to many nations. The prophet who prophesies peace will be considered a true prophet of God when his prophecies come true."

Then Hananiah took the **yoke** off of Jeremiah's neck and broke it. Hananiah said, "The Lord says He will break the **yoke** of Nebuchadnezzar from the neck of all nations in two years."

Jeremiah went on his way. Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah and said, "Go tell Hananiah, "The Lord says, 'You have broken wooden bars, but you have made in their place bars of iron. I will put a **yoke** of iron on the neck of all these nations to serve Nebuchadnezzar and they shall serve him. I have even given him the beasts of the field.'"

Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah and said, "Listen, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. Therefore, the Lord says He will remove you from the face of the earth because you have spoken **rebellion** against Jehovah."

Hananiah died the same year in the seventh month.

Jerusalem Falls -- II Kings 24: 20 - 25:21; II Chron. 36: 13 - 21; Jeremiah 37;38

The Lord was so angry with Judah that He cast them out of His sight. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. He hardened his heart and did not turn to God. The chief priests and the people were also very unfaithful and defiled the temple. God sent His prophets because He had compassion on His

people, but all they did was mock the prophets and despise God's words until God's anger rose against His people until there was no remedy.

Babylon besieged Jerusalem. During this time, Pharaoh's army came out of Egypt to fight them. When the Chaldeans heard that the Egyptians were coming they left Jerusalem for a time.

Zedekiah the king didn't listen to the Lord's words spoken by Jeremiah. But one day he sent word to Jeremiah by Jehucal and Zephaniah the priest and said, "Please pray to the Lord for us."

Jeremiah had not been put in prison and could still move freely among the people. The Lord said to him, "Tell Zedekiah that Pharaoh's army that came to help you is about to return to their own land. The Chaldeans will come again, and take the city and burn it with fire. Don't deceive yourselves by thinking the Babylonians will not come back, because they will come back. Even if you defeated the whole Chaldean army, and only a few wounded men remained, they would rise up and burn this city with fire.

During the time that the Babylonians had withdrawn from Jerusalem, because of the news that the Egyptians were coming, Jeremiah set out to go see the land of Benjamin. When he arrived at the gate of Benjamin, a captain seized him and said, "You are deserting to the Chaldeans."

Jeremiah said, "It is a lie! I am not deserting to the Chaldeans."

But Irijah the captain wouldn't listen to him and took Jeremiah to the officials of the city. They were angry at Jeremiah and they put him in a dungeon for many days. Finally, Zedekiah sent for him and brought him secretly to the king's palace. He said, "Is there any word from the Lord?"

Jeremiah said, "There is. You will be handed over to the king of Babylon." Then Jeremiah asked, "What crime have I committed against you or the people that I have been put in prison? Where are your prophets who told you that the king of Babylon would not come against you and this land? I beg you to listen to me and not send me back to the house of Jonathan the scribe or I will die there."

Then Zedekiah ordered that Jeremiah be imprisoned, but given a loaf of bread daily until there was no more bread in the city.

Now Shephatiah and Gedaliah, Jucal and Pashur had heard what Jeremiah had said about what would happen to those who remained in the city. They went to Zedekiah and said, "Let Jeremiah be put to death because the things he says are weakening our soldiers. He's not seeking the welfare of our people but our harm."

Zedekiah said, "Behold, he is in your hands for the king can do nothing against you."

So they took Jeremiah and put him in a dungeon. They let him down in the dungeon with cords and there was no water in the dungeon but mud. Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

Ebed-melech the Ethiopian eunuch heard what had been done to Jeremiah so he went to the king's house and said, "My lord the king, these men have done evil to Jeremiah and cast him into a dungeon where he will probably die from hunger because there is no bread left in the city."

When Zedekiah heard this he commanded Ebed-melech to take thirty men and lift Jeremiah out of the dungeon before he died there. Ebed-melech took thirty men and they took old rags and worn out clothes and let them down to Jeremiah by ropes. Then Ebed-melech said, "Put the rags and worn out clothes under your arms", and Jeremiah did so. They drew him up out of the dungeon and after this was kept in the court of the prison.

Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah again and said to him, "I will ask you a question, but hide nothing from me."

Jeremiah said, "If I tell you, won't you put me to death? If I give you advice you won't pay attention."

But Zedekiah swore secretly to Jeremiah, "As the Lord lives, I will not put you to death, or give you into the hands of the men who want to kill you."

So Jeremiah said, "The Lord God says that if you will surrender to the king of Babylon your life will be spared and this city will not be burned by fire, but if you do not surrender this city will be given to the Chaldeans and they will burn it and you will not escape from them."

Zedekiah said, "I'm afraid of our people who have gone over to the Chaldeans. I fear they will give me up to them and deal cruelly with me."

Jeremiah said, "You will not be given to them. Obey what the Lord says and it will be well with you and your life will be spared. But if you refuse, this is what Jehovah has shown me: All the women of the king's house will be brought to the princes of Babylon, and the women will say, 'Your trusted friends have deceived you and overruled you, your feet are sunk in the mire and are turned back.' All your wives and children will be led out by the Chaldeans and you'll not escape from their hand, and this city will be burned with fire."

Zedekiah said, "Let no one know of these words and you shall not die. But if the officials hear that I have talked to you, and they want to know what you said to me, say, 'I made a plea that the king not send me back to the house of Jonathan.'"

The officials of the kingdom questioned Jeremiah, but he answered as the king told him to. Jeremiah lived in the court of the prison until Jerusalem was taken.

The Lord brought the king of the Chaldeans who killed the young men of Judah. There was no mercy on the young, the old, man or woman. All were given into the hand of the Chaldeans. All the vessels of the Lord were taken to Babylon, the temple burned and the walls of the city broken down. Anyone who escaped being killed was taken to Babylon to be a servant.

All of these things fulfilled what the Lord said by His prophet Jeremiah.

A Governor is Appointed in Judah -- II Kings 25: 22 - 26; Jer. 40 - 44

Nebuchadnezzar made Gedeliah governor over the people who were left in the land of Judah. When the captains of the armies and their men heard that Nebuchadnezzar had made Gedeliah governor they came with their men to Mizpah. Gedeliah swore to the men, "Don't be afraid of the Chaldeans. Live in the land, serve the king of Babylon, and it will be well with you."

But in the seventh month of that year Ishmael of the royal family took ten men with him and killed Gedeliah. He also killed Jews and Chaldeans at Mizpah. Then all the people, went to Egypt because they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

Jeremiah the prophet warned the people about going to Egypt. He said, "The Lord says that if you go to Egypt the sword you fear will overtake you in the land of Egypt, you will have famine, and you will die. There will be no remnant and none shall escape from the disaster I will bring up them. O remnant of Judah, don't go to Egypt."

*Leaders of the people compelled Jeremiah and his scribe Baruch to go with them to Egypt. We don't know what happened to Jeremiah, but most likely he died in Egypt. How sad for God's prophet! How sad for God's people! The mighty nation of God's people is gone. Jeremiah grieved: **Lam. 1:16 For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water; Because the comforter that should refresh my soul is far from me: My children are desolate, because the enemy hath prevailed.***

MEMORY WORK

Habakkuk 2: 19 - 20

19 Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

20 But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

MATCH

Fetters	Nebuchadnezzar appointed him to the throne in Judah.
Nebuchadnezzar	God sent him a vision of two baskets of figs.
God	Nebuchadnezzar bound him in these and carried him to Babylon.
Jeremiah	He said that even if Jehoichin were a signet ring on his right hand he would tear them off.
Zedekiah	Only these people were left in Judah.
The Poor	He carried away 10,000 leading men and princes of Judah to Babylon.

WHO SAID IT?

JEREMIAH, ZEDEKIAH, HANANIAH, EBED-MELECH, GOD, GEDELIAH

1. "Make yourself a **yoke** out of straps and wooden bars and put them upon your neck." _____
2. "I have made the earth, men and animals on the earth by My great power, and I give it to whomever I choose. I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, my servant, and I have given the beasts of the field to serve him." _____
3. " The prophet who prophesies peace will be considered a true prophet of God when his prophecies come true." _____
4. " The Lord God of Israel says that He has broken the **yoke** of the king of Babylon. Within two years He will bring back all the vessels of the temple that Nebuchadnezzar took to Babylon." _____
5. "My lord the king, these men have done evil to Jeremiah and cast him into a dungeon where he will probably die from hunger because there is no bread left in the city." _____
6. "Don't be afraid of the Chaldeans. Live in the land, serve the king of Babylon, and it will be well with you." _____
7. "Don't listen to the words of your prophets who say that the vessels of the temple will be brought back to from Babylon in a short while." _____
8. "Is there any word from the Lord?" _____
9. "What crime have I committed against you or the people that I have been put in prison?" _____
10. "The Lord says that if you go to Egypt the sword you fear will overtake you in the land of Egypt, you will have famine, and you will die." _____
11. "I'm afraid of our people who have gone over to the Chaldeans. I fear they will give me up to them and deal cruelly with me." _____

JUDAH	ISRAEL
Rehoboam – 17 yrs – Evil Abijah – 3 yrs – Evil Asa – 41 yrs – Good	Jeroboam – 22 yrs - Evil
Jehoshaphat – 25 yrs – Good	Nadab – 2 yrs – Evil Baasha – 24 yrs – Evil Elah – 2 yrs – Evil Zimri – 1 wk – Evil Omri – 12 yrs – Evil Ahab – 22 yrs - Evil
Jehoram – 8 yrs – Evil Ahaziah – 1 yr – Evil	Ahaziah – 2 yrs – Evil Jehoram – 12 yrs – Evil
Athaliah – 6 yrs – Evil Joash – 40 yrs – Evil	Jehu – 28 yrs – Evil
Amaziah – 29 yrs - Good Uzziah (<i>Azariah</i>) – 52 yrs –Good	Jehoahaz – 17 yrs – Evil Jehoash – 16 yrs – Evil Jeroboam II - 41 yrs - Evil
Jotham – 16 yrs – Good Ahaz – 16 yrs – Evil	Zechariah – 6 Months – Evil Shallum – 1 Month – Evil Menahem – 10 yrs – Evil Pekahiah – 2 yrs – Evil Pekah – 20 yrs – Evil
Hezekiah – 29 yrs – Good	Hoshea – 9 yrs – Evil
Manasseh – 55 yrs – Evil Amon – 2 yrs – Evil Josiah – 31 yrs – Good Jehoahaz (Shallum) – 3 months – Evil Jehoiakim – 11 yrs – Evil Jehoiachin – 3 months – Evil Zedekiah (<i>Mattaniah</i>) – 11 yrs – Evil	Fall of Samaria – 721 B.C.
Fall of Jerusalem – 586 B.C.	

ALL KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

KINGS AND PROPHETS FOR THIS QUARTER:

2Chron. 36:14 - 16 *Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*

Kings

Of the Second half of the Divided Kingdom

JUDAH:

Ahaziah --evil

Uzziah --good (Hosea, Amos and Isaiah prophesied)

Jotham --good (Micah prophesied)

Ahaz --evil

Ezekiah --good

ISRAEL:

Jeroboam II --evil

Zachariah --evil

Shallum --evil

Manasseh --evil

Rehoboam --evil

Rehoboam --evil

Eshbaal --evil

(FALL OF SAMARIA)

(After the fall of Samaria, the only kingdom left is Judah)

JUDAH ALONE:

Manasseh --evil

Amon --evil

Josiah --good (Zephaniah, Jeremiah and Nahum prophesied)

Jeremiah prophesied until the end of the kingdom.

Jehoiakim (Shallum) --evil (Habakkuk prophesied)

Jehoiakim (Zababbar) --evil (Daniel prophesied)

Jehoiachin (Coniah, Jeconiah) --evil

Zedekiah (Mattaniah) --evil

Zedekiah appointed governor

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND JUDAH ALONE

Lesson Twenty-Four

TEACHER'S NOTES

The second half of the Divided Kingdom is difficult to teach to children because of all the prophets in this section, so you will have to get their messages down in the simplest terms to teach them. Even when breaking them down in the simplest terms some children will still not understand them because part of their message is figurative. Older children in 5th and 6th grades will have an easier time understanding them than 3rd and fourth graders. However, you can pick out a few key messages of the prophets that you want them to understand and concentrate on driving them home. If the student is introduced to even a few messages and concepts, he can be taught a little more in depth the next time he studies this.

LESSON ONE

History tells us that the Assyrian people were a cruel ruthless people. Ninevah was the capitol of Assyria (not to be confused with Syria).

Some lessons to learn from Jonah:

- Jonah could not run anywhere away from God because God is everywhere (Psa. 139: 7 - 10).
- When Jonah was in the belly of the fish he wanted God's mercy -- yet, he didn't want God to show mercy on Ninevah.
- Jonah had an attitude problem. He was angry because God was showing mercy to Israel's enemy and he wanted them punished. In his view Ninevah must be destroyed.
- Jonah was happy when God was good to him personally. He was happy about the vine, yet when his shade was gone he was unhappy. God wanted Jonah to see that the saving of Ninevah was more important than his personal comfort, and took priority over a plant.
- Jonah's preaching was successful, but he longed to die because he viewed it a failure. He wanted a different outcome than God did. He was reluctant to see the lesson God wanted to teach him with the gourd vine. (This tells us that men can preach the truth with the wrong motives.)

"Casting Lots" -- a way of deciding a matter. Sometimes small pebbles or small pieces of wood would be used to cast lots.

LESSON TWO

Point out that Uzziah and his men were skilled warriors and skilled craftsmen -- not a primitive people.

This is a good lesson to do map work. Point out the different cities and areas of the country where God's people lived and their enemies lived.

LESSON THREE

Explain how a plumb-line is used.

God is at the end of being longsuffering with Israel. Explain "longsuffering".

Explain that Jews had a relationship with God through the nation of Israel. Jews were born Jews, and lived in a land that God promised them. So, to be exiled to a foreign nation would be very upsetting to a Jew. This land that he would be exiled to was not the land God had given him.

Point out that the people (nations) who punish Israel will also be punished by God at some point in time. They will not get by with their evil.

Mention also that Judah's time to be punished is coming also if they don't repent.

Remind your students that Israel had been worshipping God wrongly by offering sacrifice at Dan and Bethel -- both places that God did not specify. God wanted them to worship in Jerusalem.

THE MAIN MESSAGE OF AMOS IS: Judgment is coming and cannot be avoided.

LESSON FOUR

This lesson is difficult for young children to understand, not only because of the sins Gomer and Israel were involved in, but in the fact that the lesson of Hosea and Gomer, Israel and God, is an analogy.

God says He will put an end to the kingdom of Israel because of the blood that the kingdom of Jehu shed at Jezreel. Secular history tells us that Jehu submitted himself to Shalmanezar the Assyrian King. Jehu had killed Ahab's family -- not out of love for God, but out of personal ambition.

God used Hosea to preach His message to Israel. Hosea could compare his love for unfaithful Gomer to God's love for unfaithful Israel. Even after all Israel did, God never quit loving Israel. We see God's heart in this prophet's message.

THE MAIN MESSAGE TO GET OUT OF HOSEA: Judgment is coming, and Israel is breaking God's heart.

LESSON FIVE

Point out to your students that as things happen in the kingdom of Israel, there are also things happening at the same time in the kingdom of Judah. (We can understand this -- Things happen in the city we live in at the same time things happen in other cities.) Point out to them each time the story changes from Israel to Judah. (This will happen quite often in some lessons.)

Background for this lesson: Read II Kings 10:30. God told Jehu that his descendants would sit on the throne to the 4th generation. Jehu did not obey God at the end of his lie. The promise God made to him is fulfilled in this lesson.

Point out that things look good in Israel. The people are rich. But, they do not listen to the prophets messages. People tend not to listen when things are going well in their lives.

This is a good lesson to point out being respectful and reverent in worship to God.

- Was Uzziah respectful of God's way of worship?
- Why did God not honor him when he burned the incense?
- Was the way he entered the temple respectful of God? (The Holy Place was only for the priests to enter).

- We know that Uzziah was not respectful of God's house because 80 priests of valor withstood him and told him that what he did was wrong.
- Can we do things in our worship to God that do not honor Him?
- Name some things. (Changing God's laws by doing or not doing things God commanded; being disrespectful during worship.)
- What was Uzziah's attitude when he was rebuked?
- What should be our manner when we worship God? Should we talk during worship? Should we get up to go get a drink or use the bathroom during worship (if we really don't need to)?
- Realize that disturbing people who are trying to worship is wrong.
- Look at I Cor. 11: 27.
- What about our manner during the preaching of God's word? Should we play or listen to the preaching?
- Encourage your students to take notes on the preacher's lesson during the worship hour.

LESSON SIX

Make sure your students know that the capitol of ISRAEL is SAMARIA and the capitol of JUDAH is JERUSALEM.

The prophets Amos and Hosea preached in the North. In this lesson, Isaiah preached in the South to Judah.

Point out that we should have the attitude of Isaiah -- "*Here am I, send me*".

God wanted Isaiah to preach, even though He knew the people would not listen to him. And, He wanted him to keep preaching until the land was desolate. Preachers today are to preach, even when people don't want to listen (2 Tim 4:2).

MAIN MESSAGE FROM THIS LESSON IN ISAIAH: Israel's only hope is salvation through Jehovah.

LESSON SEVEN

Isa. 2: 2 - 3 is the memory work for this lesson. These verses are long. Some students will be able to memorize, but others will not. Make sure your students are familiar with these verses (even if they don't memorize them completely) and that they realize that this is a prophecy of Christ's church.

The book of Micah may be a difficult book for your students. Point out that Isaiah is preaching to the leaders of Judah and Micah is preaching to the common people in Judah. Judah had become wicked just as Israel had and God wanted Micah to warn Judah.

Make sure your students can find Samaria and Jerusalem on their maps, and that they know they are the capitols of Israel and Judah.

The people didn't want to hear Micah's message (just as people don't want to hear God's message today). Point out the Messianic messages in Micah are similar to what Isaiah prophesied about the church.

MAIN MESSAGE FROM THIS LESSON IN MICAH: Judah and Samaria will not escape God's judgment.

LESSON EIGHT

This Lesson, and the next lesson, have a lot of characters. You will need to drill your students so they will remember and know who you are talking about in the lesson.

JUDAH -- King Jotham and King Ahaz; The capitol of Judah is Jerusalem.

ISRAEL -- King Pekah (captivity begins in this lesson for Israel) ; The capitol of Israel is Samaria.

ASSYRIA -- Tiglath Pilezer (or Pul) -- the capitol of Assyria is Ninevah.

SYRIA -- King Rezin -- the Capitol of Syria is Damascus.

Be sure to point out that ASSYRIA is the empire who wants to control everyone in that country. SYRIA is a separate small nation with the capitol of Damascus -- it is NOT Assyria.

Notice in this lesson how wicked Israel has become. They have no objections to taking the people of Judah captive. The people of Judah would have been their kin.

LESSON NINE

This lesson is short, so it is a good lesson to do map work with. Do the map work as you teach the lesson so the students can get in mind where each place is, and where each king rules:

NEGEV (NEGEB)

SHEPHELAH

JUDAH (Jerusalem)

ISRAEL (Samaria)

SYRIA (Damascus)

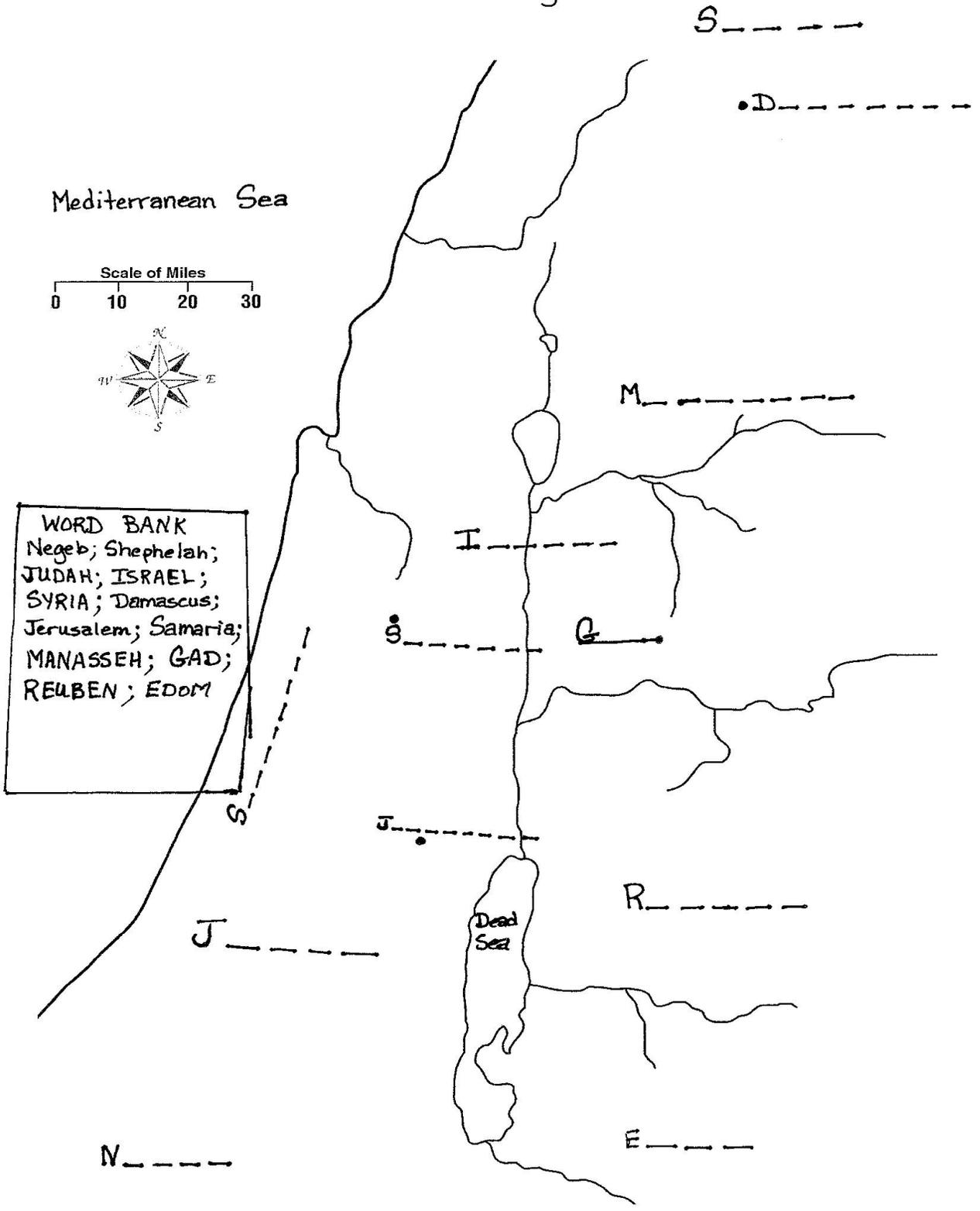
EDOM

Remind them that the tribes of REUBEN, GAD and 1/2 TRIBE MANASSEH on the East side of the JORDAN RIVER have already been taken to Assyria by Tiglath Pilezer. Theses tribes were part of Israel. (see map on next page -- places are only approximate.)

Remind your students that God will not allow Edom or the Philistines to get by with the evil they do. They will be punished by God later (Jer. 49:17; Ezek. 25:13; Jer. 25: 18 - 20; Ezek. 25: 15 - 16; Zeph. 2:5).

Point out that Urijah the priest would have knowledge that building the altar for Ahaz was against God's law (Deut. 12: 26 - 27; Num. 18:7; Deut. 12:32). He wanted to please the king rather than pleasing God.

The Divided Kingdom



LESSON TEN

Take your students back in time to Numbers 21: 4 - 9 and give a short summary of the story about the brass serpent. Sadly, Israel abused even this blessing from God and had begun to worship this.

Remind your students that while Hezekiah was talking to the priests and Levites in this lesson, some of the people standing there had seen their own family members taken captive. Think -- if you had been there and your family members had been taken captive, would you find what Hezekiah said important?

Remind your students of what God's basic covenant has been with His people -- That if they would make Him their God, God would make them His people. This is the basic covenant the Hezekiah wants them to renew with God.

Point out that the things Hezekiah and the people did to restore the worship of God were done quickly -- they did not delay to do God's will. Application: God's will is important and something NOT to be delayed in doing.

LESSON ELEVEN

Remind your students that Hezekiah opened doors of the temple that his father Ahaz had closed. Sixteen days were needed to clean the temple, so the Passover that was to take place in the first month and 14th day was missed.

The Passover was celebrated in the second month instead. This was not without scriptural precedence.

In Numbers 9: 6 – 12 there were some men who had been defiled by a dead body and could not keep the Passover in the first month when God commanded it. The Lord told Moses that if any of them should be unclean or on a journey during the first month, they were to keep it in the second month.

Num 9:6 And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day:

Num 9:7 And those men said unto him, We are defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season among the children of Israel?

Num 9:8 And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.

Num 9:9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 9:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD.

Num 9:11 The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Num 9:12 They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.

Notice that Hezekiah is doing all he can to bring the people back into a good relationship with God.

LESSON TWELVE

The END OF ISRAEL AS A NATION occurs in this lesson. Point this out to your students. This is the END OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM -- from now on only one nation will be left -- **JUDAH ALONE.**

This is a good lesson to point out that secular history and the Bible are intertwined. Historical records tell us about who the king of Assyria was. Shalmanezar died before Samaria according to historical records, and Sargon II became king after him.

Be sure to point out to your students how sad this lesson is. God was so angry that he "removed them out of His sight" -- this people who had once been God's holy people were holy no more! Their leaders had played a large role in leading them away from God. God was longsuffering with Israel, but God is only longsuffering for so long. Scary thought, that He might no longer be longsuffering with us if we continue to reject Him!

Look at Judah. They have problems, but their leader is trying to bring them back to God.

LESSON THIRTEEN

Point out to your students that the Hezekiah tunnel and spring is still located in Jerusalem today. Pictures of these are abundant on the internet to show your students. They need to realize that the places they study are real and actual places.

LESSON FOURTEEN

Point out to your students that God changed His mind concerning Hezekiah. God heard Hezekiah's prayer, and talked to Isaiah before he even left the court. God hears prayers of the righteous, and He will answer according to time (sometimes rapidly as in Hezekiah's case) and His good will. We're to remember that God answers in His time, not ours. Many times we want a quick answer to our prayers, but God knows best what we need and when we need it.

Point out that when the ambassadors came from Babylon, God left Hezekiah to himself (II Chron. 32:31) to test Hezekiah to know all that was in Hezekiah's heart. God allows things to happen in our lives to test us to see if we will be faithful to Him.

II Chron. 32: 25 - 26 tells us that Hezekiah had become proud. He repented but Judah suffered God's wrath because of his pride -- a consequence of his sin.

Babylon is a new threat for Judah, and would eventually take Judah into captivity in the future.

LESSON FIFTEEN

It would be good for your students to read the warnings of Moses about worshipping the hosts of heaven (Deut. 4:19) and concerning those who claimed to be wizards and use enchantments (Lev. 20: 6, 27; 19: 26, 31; Deut 18: 10 - 12). Israel had been warned by God against these things.

LESSON SIXTEEN

Point out on a map all the places God would judge: Judah, Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, Assyria and Ninevah. No one, not even the mighty nation of Assyria would escape judgment. Ezekiel 32: 18- 23 refers to this judgment on Assyria.

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Be sure to point out that the Chaldeans and Babylonians refer to the same nation of people.

Jeremiah was chosen by God before his birth, and he served God as a youth to tell Judah God's message. Young people need to realize that God can use them to teach God's message just as He used Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 1:6-10 (KJV)⁶ *Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*
⁷ *But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.* ⁸ *Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.*⁹ *Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.* ¹⁰ *See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.*

Jeremiah's message was two-thirds negative. Judah needed to hear about their sins.

In the New Testament, II Tim. 4:2 tells Timothy the same thing -- "reprove, rebuke, exhort" -- a message two-thirds negative.

God's people need to hear about their sins in order to be convicted of them and repent. When people realize their sins and repent of them, then it is the time to be positive -- "build, and to plant" Jer. 1:10 and to "exhort" II Tim. 4:2.

Point out to your students that although Manasseh turned back to God before he died (see lesson 15), the consequences of his terrible sins he committed previously are realized later (Jer. 15:4). The sins he committed affected Judah for years afterward, even beyond his death.

The lesson for us is that our sins may be repented of, but the consequences of our sins may go well beyond our life, and affect the lives of others years later. Sin never just affect us, but affects all those around us who have a relationship with us.

LESSON EIGHTEEN

Point out to the students that TOPHET or the VALLEY OF HINNOM was the place where Israel sacrificed their children to Molech the false god.

Explain, and have an illustration of what a potter is and what he does. Explain what stocks are and an illustration of stocks.

Jeremiah prophesies that the land they live in will be destroyed. Go to Moses' speech in Deuteronomy 29: 22 - 28 to see what was prophesied about the land.

Point out these places on the map and what is happening to each country/empire:

ASSYRIA -- This empire will end; their king dies.

EGYPT -- This country wanted power.

MEDES -- They are becoming powerful.

ARABIA -- They stole goods from Philistia and Syria.

BABYLONIANS -- They join with the Medes and besiege Ninevah who falls.

JUDAH -- Zephaniah and Jeremiah preach God's message to try to get them to turn back to God.

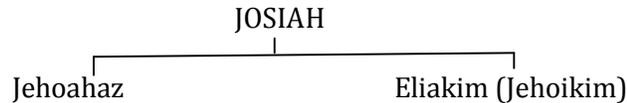
LESSON NINETEEN

Review with your students the prophet who has already preached to Ninevah -- Jonah. Point out where Ninevah is on a map. Around 100 years have passed since Jonah preached to Ninevah. Ninevah will not repent now, and the Assyrian people were famous at this time for how brutal they treated the nations around them.

Point out God's longsuffering with Ninevah (explain "longsuffering"), but now is the time for God to bring judgment upon them. Vengeance belongs to God, and He will punish nations who continue to disobey Him -- EVEN TODAY!

Very little is known about Nahum personally because the book does not reveal much to us. While Nahum was preaching to Ninevah, Jeremiah was preaching to Judah at the same time.

LESSON TWENTY



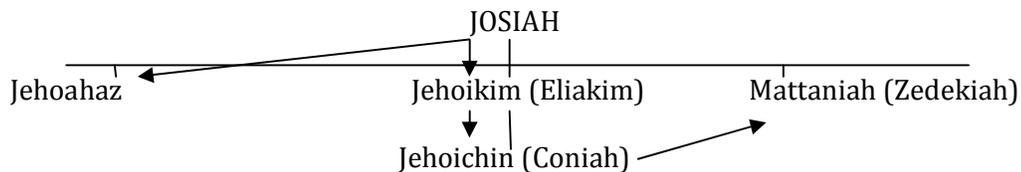
PROPHECY: I Kings 13: 2, 29 -32

Point out to your students how wicked Judah had become as you study the reforms of Josiah. After Josiah removed all the false gods and religion out of Judah and Israel, he was ready to begin worship of the true God.

LESSON TWENTY-ONE

Be sure to point out that when God sends the Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites and Ammonites in to destroy Judah that God's words are being fulfilled.

LESSON TWENTY-TWO



Point out to your students that the kingdom passes from Josiah to Jehoahaz, from Jehoahaz to Jehoikim, from Jehoikim to Jehoichin, and then back up to another son of Josiah -- to Mattaniah.

As you study the words that God gives Jeremiah to put on the scroll, point out to your students that God is still wanting His people to come back to Him.

Point out prophecies fulfilled from Habakkuk.

Explain what Fetters are.

Stress to your students that the Captivity of Judah in Babylon is to last seventy (70) years. Then God will bring His people back to Judah. Those left in Judah will suffer from sword, famine and disease. These people are left in the land of Judah because they did not listen to God.

LESSON TWENTY-THREE

This lesson is quite long -- if your quarter allows for it, you may want to teach this in two lessons.