

## *Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Seven: The Divided Monarchy - 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 10-25*

King Jeroboam of Israel and King Rehoboam of Judah: 1 Kings 12-14; 2 Chronicles 10-12

- 1) After glancing at 1 Kings 11:26-43 for context, read 1 Kings 12-14 and 2 Chronicles 10-12. Summarize the events that occurred in Israel after Solomon's death by answering the following:
  - a) Who was Ahijah and what did he prophesy in 1 Kings 11:29-39 and 1 King 14:1-16? Ahijah was a prophet of the Lord from Shiloh. In 1 Kings 11, he prophesied that Israel would be divided with ten tribes being ruled by Jeroboam and the one tribe of Judah (in which the tribe of Simeon had been assimilated) ruled by David's descendants. Ahijah said this would occur because Solomon had led Israel into idolatry (11:33). In 1 Kings 14, Ahijah prophesied that disaster would fall on Jeroboam's household: every male in his household would die tragically. Of all the males, only Ahijah's youngest son would be buried; he was the only one in whom the Lord "found anything good." In chapter 14, Ahijah also prophesied that the Lord would uproot Israel and scatter her beyond the Euphrates River.
  - b) Who were Jeroboam and Rehoboam and how were their reigns characterized? Jeroboam was an Ephraimite, a son of Nebat. Solomon's had put him in charge of the labor force of the tribes of Joseph. Jeroboam received word from the prophet Ahijah that God planned to give him ten tribes of Israel to rule during the time of Solomon's son. When Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, he fled to King Shishak in Egypt. As a king of the north, Jeroboam did more evil in God's sight than any of the kings before him, promoting idolatry and establishing his own "brand" of Yahweh-ism (1 Kings 14:9-11). Ahijah prophesied that every last male descendant of Jeroboam would be cut off and die without burial. However, 1 Kings 14:13 says the Lord found good in one son of Jeroboam. Although he died young, he was the only son who received burial. Jeroboam reigned 22 years. Rehoboam was Solomon's son and successor (11:43, 12:1). By foolishly ignoring the advice of older counselors, he made an enemy of the ten northern tribes (who made Jeroboam their king [12:20]). Rehoboam fortified Judah's defenses. The priests, Levites, and God-fearing people of Israel supported him. However, he abandoned the Law of the Lord after three years (2 Chronicles 11:17) and worshipped idols (1 Kings 14:22-24). Five years into his reign (1 Ki 14:25), the Lord disciplined him by sending Shishak, king of Egypt, to attack him (2 Chronicles 12:5). After this, Rehoboam and his leaders humbled themselves before the Lord (2 Chronicles 12:6). While the summary of Rehoboam's reign in 2 Chronicles 12:12-16 says that there was some good in Judah in Rehoboam's day, it also says that Rehoboam did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the Lord. He reigned 17 years.
  - c) Who was Shishak and what did he do? Shishak was the king of Egypt who harbored Jeroboam during Solomon's lifetime (11:40), attacked Rehoboam, and carried off all the treasures of the Temple in Jerusalem to Egypt.
- 2) Read 1 Kings 12:25-13:34 with 2 Chronicles 11:13-17. What sins did Jeroboam commit and how did the godly people in Israel respond? Jeroboam feared that if the Israelites continued to worship in Jerusalem (inside Judah), his control over Israel would be weakened. Under the guise of making worship more convenient, he established two new centers of worship outside Jerusalem. He placed golden calves in Dan (far north) and Bethel (southern end of the Northern Kingdom), appointed non-Levite priests from "all sorts of people," and instituted his own festival, on a date of his own choosing, in substitute for one held in Jerusalem. Since the Lord had appointed Jerusalem as the Israelites' exclusive worship center (1 Kings 14:21), many of the priests and Levites who lived in the Northern Kingdom moved to Judah, and those from every tribe of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the Lord also continued to worship there. In so doing, they strengthened Rehoboam's kingdom (2 Chronicles 11).

- 3) Merely two generations after David reigned as king, Israel had changed drastically.
- To what event(s) would you trace this decline (think back to the previous lesson)? **Solomon's idolatry (1 Kings 11:33), resulting from his choice to take many foreign wives who led him astray (1 Kings 11:1-4)**
  - Sin always costs more and carries us further than we expect. What departure from God's ways do you need to confess and turn from before it forces some kind of unforeseen division in your life (you will not be asked to share about this in class unless you choose to do so)? **Personal sharing**

Kings Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, and Omri of Israel and Kings Abijah and Asa of Judah: 1 Kings 15-16; 2 Chronicles 13-16

- Read the chapters listed above. Starting on the last page of this lesson, begin a chart that tracks the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah by filling in the blanks. The first mention of each king's name is highlighted in this lesson: yellow = kings of Israel; green = kings of Judah. List 1) the number of years each one reigned next to their name, 2) whether the king received a favorable ☺, unfavorable ☹, or mixed ☺☹ evaluation from the Lord, and 3) whether they succeeded a family member (same house/dynasty), designated by "same ☐," or were from a different family (new house/dynasty), designated by "new ☐." As you work your way through the remainder of the lesson, continue to add the kings. You may want to include other notes and continue the list of kings on your own in subsequent lessons.
- Reread 1 Kings 15:3-5. David sinned, yet the Lord commended his life overall as a worthy example. What do you think was different about his life than that of some of his descendants who sinned and received a negative evaluation by the Lord? **1 Kings 15:3 says that Abijah's heart was not fully devoted to the Lord. A person can be fully devoted to the Lord and still sin. However, when that person sins, they confess and truly repent (change their thinking and their ways). Many of David's descendants (and most all the kings of Israel) did not show that kind of humility. Either they did not have hearts that remained tender toward God's conviction or they were not remain faithful to the Lord at end of their lives, or both.**
- Imagine the spiritual climate in Israel and Judah based on what you have read.
  - Contrast Asa's approach to trouble with a foreign king in 2 Chronicles 14:9-11 with his approach to trouble that was much closer to home at another period in his life, recorded in 2 Chronicles 16:7-9. **When one vast foreign army came against Asa, he relied on the Lord. Yet later, when Israel came against him, he paid the king of Aram for his support, rather than relying on the Lord.**
  - Have you ever found it easier to rely on the Lord for help with the trouble that occurs outside your home than with trouble inside the home? For what family issue will you choose to rely on the Lord today? **Personal sharing**
  - Look back at 1 Kings 12:15; 13:26, 32; 14:17, 18; 15:29, 16:12, and 16:34. Who really had the final word in all that would take place? **These verses show that dynasties ended and men were put to death according to the word of the Lord. The people thought they could get away with their sin but the Lord always has the final word.**
  - How does this truth impact your feelings about relying on the Lord for today's needs? **Personal sharing**

Kings **Ahab** and **Ahaziah** of Israel and King **Jehoshaphat** of Judah: 1 Kings 16:29-34, 1 Kings 20 – 2 Kings 2; Chronicles 17:1-21:3

*(Note: Most of 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 9 will be covered in the next lesson on the ministries of Elijah and Elisha. In this lesson, our goal is to continue chronologically tracing the line of kings who served Israel and Judah.)*

- 7) Read 1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:4; 20:1-8, 13, 29-30, 34, 42-43; 21:4-8, 15-16, 20; and 22:30, 32-34, with as much of the context as you can, noting 1 Kings 22:51-53 and 2 Kings 1:17 for your chart-keeping. Describe Ahab, as a king and as a person, and then tell what the spiritual climate was like in Israel during his reign. Ahab “did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him” (1 Kings 16:30). He married the daughter of a foreign king (who was also a high priest of Baal [1 Kings 16:31]). 1 Kings 21:25 summarizes: “Never was there a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil...urged on by Jezebel his wife.” He promoted Baal worship in Israel (1 Kings 16:32), “did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than did all the kings of Israel before him” (1 Kings 16:33), and allowed his wife to kill off the prophets of Yahweh (1 Kings 18:4). Ahab was willing to give up his own family and wealth rather than fight Ben-Hadad, king of Aram (29:7-8) -- seemingly out of pure cowardice. After the Lord gave Ahab victory over Aram, he refused to kill Ben-Hadad (again, seemingly out of cowardice) and foolishly made a treaty with him instead (20:34). When the Lord confronted him, Ahab became “angry and sullen” (20:43). He proved his cowardice on yet another occasion by urging king Jehoshaphat of Judah to wear his royal robes into battle, while Ahab went into battle disguised (presumably, he knew that their mutual enemy was seeking to kill only him [20:31]). On another occasion, when he wanted a piece of property but was refused, he became “angry and sullen... sulking and refusing to eat” (21:4). Although late in his life, he humbled himself (at least for a period of time [21:29]), Ahab was a cowardly man who was dominated by his wife and committed great evils. He led his people (who seem braver than he [20:8]) into idolatry (21:22). To Ahab’s credit, even though he did not consult the Lord, he did consult his elders and his people. Not unlike the spiritual climate in our world today, under Ahab’s leadership, Israel was overwhelmingly immoral, despite some godly influence. Amazingly, God was so gracious that he gave Ahab and his people repeated opportunity to know Him by rescuing them from their enemies (20:13, 28).
- 8) Read 1 Kings 22:41-47 and 2 Chronicles 17:1-10, 20:1-30. As evidenced by these passages, Jehoshaphat was a good king who did many things right.
- a) According to 1 Kings 22:4 and 2 Chronicles 18:1-3, 19:1-2, 20:35, what error did he make? Jehoshaphat made an alliance with Ahab to fight side by side against Aram. Later, he “made an alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel, who was guilty of wickedness” (to join with him in building a fleet of ships).
  - b) How can a person who walks closely with the Lord easily fall into the trap in which Jehoshaphat fell (see 2 Corinthians 6:14)? It takes spiritual maturity and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit to distinguish between loving sinners (as Jesus did) and making alliances with them. The Bible warns believers against entering binding agreements with nonbelievers. Often, it is the careless believer (one who is immature and does not take his or her faith seriously) who falls into this trap. However, even those who are mature must guard against slipping beyond the line of friendship into a dangerous bond with a nonbeliever. Our hearts are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9) and we can easily convince ourselves that such alliances won’t hinder our walk with Christ.
- 9) Reread 2 Chronicles 20:6, 12, 15, 21-22. What battle will you entrust to the Lord? Which words in these verses might you use to pray about it? **Personal sharing**

Kings Jehoram (also known as Joram) and Jehu of Israel and Kings Jehoram and Ahaziah and Queen Athaliah of Judah: 2 Kings 3, 8:16-11:21; 2 Chronicles 21:4-23:21.

10) Consult 2 Kings 8:16-18, 25-28 with 1 Kings 16:29 and 2 Kings 11 to answer the following:

- a) How were Kings Joram of Israel and Jehoram of Judah related? Jehoshaphat of Judah had unwisely made alliances with Ahab. Presumably as a result, his son Jehoram of Judah married one of Ahab's daughters, Athaliah. Among wicked King Ahab's many sons (more than 70 [2 Kings 10:1]), two sat on Israel's throne: Ahaziah (who had no sons) and Joram (also known as Jehoram [the same name as the reigning king in Judah]). Ahaziah and Joram were brothers to Athaliah. Therefore, Joram of Israel and Jehoram of Judah were brothers-in-law.
- b) Explain the relationship between these three rulers of Judah: Ahaziah, Athaliah, and Joash. Ahaziah and Joash were half-brothers, sons of King Jehoram of Judah. Both reigned as kings over Judah. Athaliah was Ahaziah's mother (she was also the daughter of the wicked king Ahab and the sister of Joram, king of Israel). When Ahaziah was killed early in his reign, his mother Athaliah murdered the entire royal family (except Joash, who was hidden from her) and reigned as queen in Judah for a time. After she was killed, Joash succeeded her. What a mess the otherwise godly Jehoshaphat made by entering an alliance with his wicked neighbor Ahab!

11) For what is Jehu remembered (skim 2 Kings 9 and 10)? Killing the entire household of Ahab, at the Lord's command, including Ahab's reigning grandson Joram, Joram's brother-in-law Jehoram (king of Judah), Ahab's wicked wife Jezebel, Ahab's 70 remaining sons and extended family members. He also put to the sword all the priests of Baal in Israel.

12) In 2 Kings 10:16, Jehu said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord."

- a) What do you learn about zeal from Romans 10:1-2 and 12:11? Paul wrote that zeal is of no value if it is not based on accurate and personal knowledge of the Lord that is consistent with His written word. Since Romans 12:11 exhorts us to be zealous for the Lord, we must examine the basis of our zeal to be sure it is not misdirected, driven by emotions alone or based on false understanding.
- b) Contrast Phinehas' zeal in Number 25:6-13 with Saul's zeal in 2 Samuel 21:1-2. Saul's zeal in killing the Gibeonites is an example of zeal without knowledge. By contrast, Phinehas' zeal in killing two individuals was based entirely on a clear understanding of God's character and purpose.
- c) What do you conclude about the zeal shown by Jehu (see 2 Kings 9:14 – 10:36)? Jehu claimed he was zealous for the Lord, yet he was idolatrous (2 Kings 10:29, 31), indicating his knowledge of the Lord must have been very limited. While the Lord had commanded what Jehu so zealously undertook, Jehu seems to have gotten carried away and became more violent than he should have.
- d) Are you zealous for the Lord? Why or why not? Personal sharing

Kings Jehoahaz and Jehoash of Israel and Kings Joash and Amaziah of Judah: 2 Kings 11-14; 2 Chronicles 23-25

13) What do you admire about Jehoiada the Priest (see 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 23:1-24:15)? Jehoiada was married to the sister of Jehoram, the former king of Judah. Apparently, Jehoiada was also the high priest in Jerusalem. He bravely followed the Lord in the spiritually decadent period when the wicked relatives of Ahab became kings (and queen) in Judah. He was willing to harbor Joash, a royal descendant of David, when the reigning monarch (Queen Athaliah) put to death all of Joash's brothers. Jehoiada took control of the royal guard and crowned the young Joash king (at age seven), right under Athaliah's nose. Furthermore, he trained and encouraged Joash in the ways of the Lord and oversaw much needed renovations on the Temple. As an amazing tribute to his godly influence, he is the only recorded individual to have been buried with the kings of Judah. Unfortunately, when he died, Joash forgot his influence.

14) Read 2 Chronicles 25:5-10. What unhealthy influence could the Lord more than make up to you if you decided to release it? Personal sharing

15) What stands out in this lesson as most significant to you? Personal sharing

NOTE: House ◻ = Dynasty

(succession of rulers from the same family)

# KINGS OF ISRAEL

*Saul, King of Israel (42 years) ☹️*

*\*new ◻\* David, King of Israel (33 years) 😊*

↓ *\*new ◻\**

*Solomon, King of Israel (40 years) started 😊 ended ☹️*

same ◻

## KINGS OF ISRAEL

(DIVIDED KINGDOM)

## KINGS OF JUDAH

*Jeroboam (22 years) ☹️*

↓ *\*new ◻\**

↓

↓ ◻

↓

↓ ◻

*Nadab (2 years) ☹️*

*\*new ◻\* Baasha (24 years) ☹️*

↓

↓ *same ◻*

↓

↓

*Elah (2 years) ☹️*

*\*new ◻\* Zimri (7 days) ☹️*

*\*new ◻\* Omri (12 years) ☹️*

↓

↓ *same ◻*

*Ahab (22 years) ☹️*

*(among Ahab's children were sons Ahaziah and Joram and daughter Athaliah)*

↓

*same* ↓ ◻ ↓ *same* ◻

↓

↓

*Rehoboam (17 years) ☹️*

↓ *same ◻*

↓

*Abijah (3 years) ☹️*

↓ *same ◻*

*Asa (41 years) 😊*

↓

↓ *same ◻*

↓

↓

↓ *same ◻*

↓

↓

↓ *same ◻*

*Jehoshaphat (25 years) 😊*

↓

↓ *same ◻*

↓ ↓  
*Ahaziah* ↓ (2 years) ☹️  
 ↓

↓ same ☐

*Joram (aka Jehoram)* (12 years) ☹️

\* new ☐\* *Jehu* (28 years) ☹️

↓

↓ same ☐

*Jehoazah* (17 years) ☹️

↓ same ☐

*Jehoash* (16 years) ☹️

↓

↓ same ☐

*Jehoram* (8 years) ☹️

(Brother-in-law of Joram, contemporary king in Israel  
 by his marriage to Joram's sister Athalia)

↓

↓ same ☐

*Ahaziah* (1 year) ☹️ same ☐

(mother was ↓ *Athaliah*; grandfathers  
 were *Ahab*, king of Israel and *Jehoshaphat*, king of Judah)

Queen mother, ↓ *Athaliah* (6 years) ☹️

↓ same ☐

*Joash* (40 years) 😊 → ☹️

(son of *Ahaziah*)

↓ same ☐

↓

↓ same ☐

*Amaziah* (29 years) 😊 → ☹️