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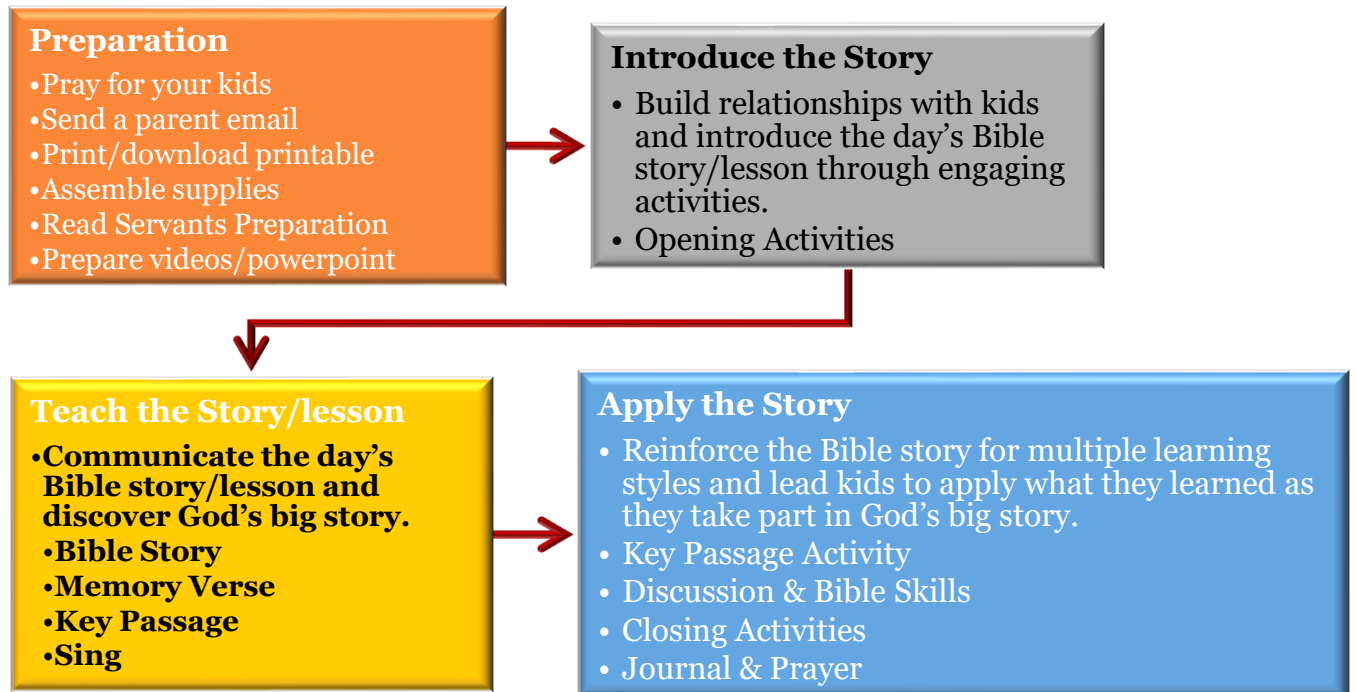
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1. <a href="https://www.christiantoday.com/article/who-is-naboth-and-what-can-we-learn-from-his-tragic-experience/127402.htm">HTTPS://WWW.CHRISTIAN TODAY.COM/ARTICLE/WHO-IS-NABOTH-AND-WHAT-CAN-WE-LEARN-FROM-HIS-TRAGIC-EXPERIENCE/127402.HTM</a> .....	64
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## PRE-LESSON PLAN:



SERVANT FOR CONSIDERATION: ([Click Here](#))

Pre-class reading and assignment (add)

Class session

**Opening hook** – (add), i.e., a question(s) opening activity.

**Short intro** (add): review application of last session, and homework.

**Chapters** in the plan, the story- by chapter,

**Learning Goals** – Application

Activities (add):(in beginning or end)- linguistic questions, verse memorization activity, true/false questions, emotional questions, fact questions,

Memory Verse (add) - ways of memorization.

[http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The United Kingdom](http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The_United_Kingdom)

[http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The Divided Kingdom](http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The_Divided_Kingdom)

Add: linguistic questions, true/ false questions, emotional questions, fact questions, Memory Verse- verse memorization activity, ways of memorization (add)

Homework – or after class maybe

<http://www.joyfulmeditations.org/resources/kids/bible-activity-sheets#1%20kings>

## UNIT #1 INTRODUCTION God is in control – God is Faithful.

Week #1: Introduction I

Week #2: Introduction II

### WEEK #1: INTRODUCTION I

#### SERVANTS PREPARATION:

video of [Read Scripture 1-2 Kings](#)

Big Picture Question: God is in Control. God is Faithful.

#### A. Summary

The Books of 1 and 2 Kings received their names because they document the reigns of the 40 monarchs of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah following David. Israel had 20 kings, and Judah had 20, including one female who usurped the throne: Athaliah.

In general, it describes the history of the kings of Israel and Judah in the light of God's covenants. The guiding thesis of the book is that the welfare of Israel and her kings depended on their submission to and reliance on Israel's covenant with God—their obedience to the Sinaitic/Mosaic covenant regulations and their faithful response to God's prophets.

1 Kings begins with the story of Solomon. Solomon was a wise king at first (1 Kings 3). Then he became rich (1 Kings 10:14-29). He built the temple (house of God) in Jerusalem (1 Kings 6). But then Solomon took many wives. When he was old, they encouraged him to serve evil gods (1 Kings 11).

After Solomon died, there was a revolution. The country called Israel became two countries. The south was called Judah. Rehoboam (Solomon's son) was the first king of Judah. The north was still called Israel. Here Jeroboam (Solomon's servant) became king (1 Kings 12).

#### B. Goal

**To know:** Even if it parades the history of Israel before and after the division, it actually parades God's dealings with us, God keeps His promises all the time although man break his commitment most of the time.

**To feel:** It reveals to us a fact that touches our depths, namely, to receive God our Savior – a King over our hearts,

**To practice:** to ordain our whole life, in his fellowship until we reach the fellowship of His glories.

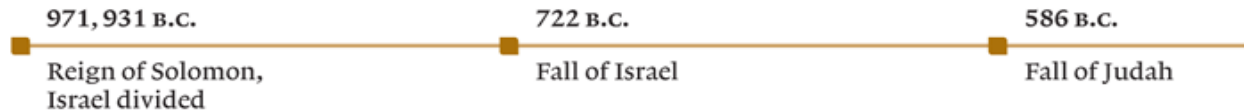
**To meditate:** While the glory of this world and kingdoms goes away like grass, the kingdom of God endures forever 2Sam 7, as the Lord Christ, the Son of David, came to reign forever, and to set His believers, kings who enjoy the fellowship of His glory. (FTM)

#### C. Title

1 and 2 Kings (like 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Chronicles) are actually one literary work, called in Hebrew tradition simply "Kings." The division of this work into two books was introduced by the translators of the Septuagint (the pre-Christian Greek translation of the OT)

## D. Timeline, 1, 2 Kings

Three stages covering four centuries, 1, 2 KINGS: From the death of David (971 B.C.) to the sixth-century exile of Judah (586).



## E. Writer:

It was **probably** written by Ezra the scribe; or, according to the Jewish tradition, it was **probably** written by the prophet Jeremiah, gathered from historic resources!

## F. History and location of its writing:

As the first temple was still there, the first and second books of the kings were written at a location within the premises, probably in Jerusalem.

### Where are we in Israel History?

First Kings opens describing the final days of King David (around 971 BC) and the conspiracies surrounding his succession. When David died ([1 Kings 2:10](#)), Solomon ascended the throne and established himself as a strong and wise leader. In the early years of Solomon's reign, Israel experienced its "glory days." Its influence, economy, and military power enjoyed little opposition; its neighbors posed no strong military threat.

Shortly after Solomon's death in 931 BC ([1 Kings 11:43](#)), the kingdom was divided into northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) entities. First Kings follows the history of this divided kingdom through the year 853 BC.

## G. The key verse of the book:

The key to the book, God saying to Solomon:

(Commandment to obey) "Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you; and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel'" (9: 4, 5).

And God saying to him,

(consequence of disobedience) "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you, and give it to your servant. Nevertheless, I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son" (11: 11, 12).

## F. History Books

Christ in the History of Israel within human soul: - table can be a **WALLPAPER**.

The book	The Topic of the Book	The Lord Christ in the Book
1 Samuel	The human choice: Saul	Christ is: Anointed a Prophet, a Priest, a King, and an Intercessor Sits on the throne of His father David, and reigns forever (Luke 1: 32)
2 Samuel,	The divine choice: David	Christ is: The covenant with David (7) a symbol of the Messianic covenant for the whole world.
1 Kings	Solomon and Israel	Christ the King of peace and glory The Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1: 30) The Builder of the house of God (Ephesians 2: 20-22) The King of kings (Revelation 19: 16)
2 Kings	Kings of Israel	Christ the Controller of history who proclaims His plan and goal concerning His people
1 Chronicles	Solomon and the temple	Christ the king is greater than David
2 Chronicles	The kings and the temple	Who cares to purify His temple to reform and to heal every weakness

**WEEK #2: INTRODUCTION II - CHAPRTS, CHARACTERS, FACTS**

**A. Kings:**

40 Monarchs of the Kingdom of Israel and Judah see the table below

Israel had 20 kings, and Judah had 20, including one female who usurped the throne: On a period of ~480 years.

In 1Kings: here are the names of kings after Solomon- green highlight good kings – no highlights evil kings

**Key: kings in 1Kings**, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Ahab and Jezeble

Clolor Code

Good Kings Memorize all	Bad King Memorize some	Mixed	Kings during first Captivity
----------------------------	---------------------------	-------	---------------------------------

1Kings	2Kings	After the Assyrian Captivity of Israel all Judah's kings
1. Jeroboam I of Israel (12:25—14:20);	1. Jehoram of Judah (8:16–24);	1. Hezekiah (18–20);
2. Rehoboam of Judah (14:21–31);	2. Ahaziah of Judah (8:25–29);	2. Manasseh (21:1–18);
3. Abijah of Judah (15:1–8);	3. Jehu's reign in Israel (9–10);	3. Amon (21:19–26);
4. Asa of Judah (15:9–24);	4. Athaliah and Joash of Judah; Repair of the Temple (11–12);	4. Josiah (22:1—23:30);
5. Nadab of Israel (15:25–32);	5. Jehoahaz of Israel (13:1–9);	5. Jehoahaz Exiled to Egypt (23:31–35);
6. Baasha of Israel (15:33—16:7);	6. Jehoash of Israel;	6. Jehoiakim: First Babylonian Deportation (23:36—24:7);
7. Elah of Israel (16:8–14);	8. Amaziah of Judah (14:1–22);	7. Jehoiachin: Second Babylonian Deportation (24:8–17);
8. Zimri of Israel (16:15–20);	9. Jeroboam II of Israel (14:23–29);	8. Zedekiah: Third Babylonian Deportation (24:18—25:21);
9. Omri of Israel (16:21–28);	10. Azariah of Judah (15:1–7);	9. Removal of the Remnant to Egypt (25:22–26); (Jeremiah)
10. Ahab of Israel (16:29–34)	11. Zechariah of Israel (15:8–12);	10. Elevation of Jehoiachin in Babylon (25:27–30)
11. Jehoshaphat of Judah (22:41-50)	12. Shallum of Israel (15:13–16);	Babylon Captivity
12. Ahaziah of Israel (22:51-53)	13. Menahem of Israel (15:17–22);	
	14. Pekahiah of Israel (15:23–26);	
	15. Pekah of Israel (15:27–31);	
	16. Jotham of Judah (15:32–38);	
	17. Ahaz of Judah (16);	
	18. Hoshea of Israel (17:1–6) Assyrian Captivity	
	Assyrian Captivity	

The Kings of Israel			
Saul			
David			
Solomon			
Divided Kingdom			
Northern: Kingdom of Israel		Southern: Kingdom of Judah	
1. Jeroboam	11. Jehu	1. Rehoboam	11. Jotham
2. Nadab	12. Jehoahaz	2. Abijam	12. Ahaz
3. Baasha	13. Jehoash	3. Asa	13. Hezekiah
4. Elah	14. Jeroboam	4. Jehoshaphat	14. Manasseh
5. Zimri	15. Zechariah	5. Jehoram	15. Amon
6. Tibni	16. Shallum	6. Ahaziah	16. Josiah
7. Omri	17. Menahem	7. (D) Athaliah	17. Jehoahaz
8. Ahab	18. Pekahiah	8. Joash	18. Jehoiakim
9. Ahaziah	19. Pekah	9. Amaziah	19. Jehoiachin
10. Joram	20. Hoshea	10. Azariah	20. Zedekiah

#### KINGS FACTS:

- All Isreal Kings were evil in the sight of the Lord
- 30% of Judah's kings are good, while 0% of Israel's kings was good
- The average number of years the bad king rieg is 5 years,
- The average number of years the good king righn is 30 years
- Assyrian Captivity to Israel occurred 150 years before Babylon Captivity to Judah
- Judah's Captivity was on three stages

## B. Prophets:

Nourishers and seers, men of God, who deliver the message of God to kings and people including warning, blessing as well as cursing Who Are the Prophets?

**Key Prophets in 1Kings**, Elijah, Elishah, Micaiha

Prophet Name	Chapter	Kingdom
Nathan	1,2	United
Shemaiah	12	Judah
Jeho ben Hanien	16	Israel
Elijah	1, 2 kings	Both
Elisha	1, 2 kings	Both
Micaiah ben Imlah	22	Both
Other prophets with no name	13	Israel
100 Prophets	18	Israel

## C. Main Outline:

Use Flash Cards

### *1 KINGS*

#### *I. CHAPTER 1- 11: The Reign of Solomon -United Kingdom*

Solomon

**Enthroned**

**Wisdom**

**The temple**

**Fruit of rain fall and death.**

#### *II. CHAPTER 12-22: The Divided Kingdom*

- The first period of antagonism 12:1—16:28
- The period of alliance 1 Kings 16:29—2 Kings 9:29
  - Elijah – Ahab
  - Elijah and Elisha

#### *III. CHAPTER 1- 11: The Reign of Solomon -United Kingdom*

Solomon

**Enthroned**

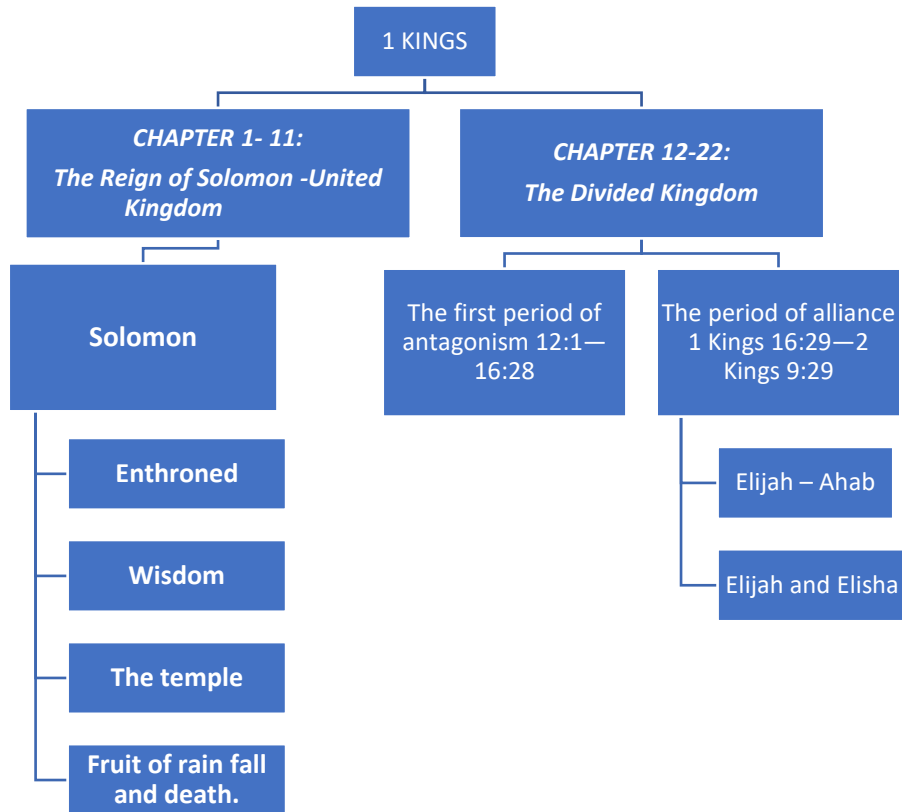
**Wisdom**

**The temple**

**Fruit of rain fall and death.**

#### *IV. CHAPTER 12-22: The Divided Kingdom*

- The first period of antagonism 12:1—16:28
- The period of alliance 1 Kings 16:29—2 Kings 9:29
  - Elijah – Ahab
  - Elijah and Elisha



## 2KINGS

- Cont. of divided Kingdom
- Evil reign in Israel 1 Kings 22:51—2 Kings 8:15 (continued)
- Evil reign in Judah 8:16-9:29
- The second period of antagonism 9:30—17:41
- 1. Evil reign in Israel 9:30—10:36
- 2. Evil reign in Judah 11:1-20
- 3. Jehoash's good reign in Judah 11:21—12:21
- 4. Jehoahaz's evil reign in Israel 13:19-25
- 6. Amaziah's good reign in Judah 14:1-22 with some sins
- 7. Jeroboam II's evil reign in Israel 14:23-29
- 8. Azariah's good reign in Judah 15:1-7
- 9. Evil reign in Israel 15:8-31
- 13. Pekah's evil reign in Israel 15:27-31
- 14. Jotham's good reign in Judah 15:32-38
- 15. Ahaz's evil reign in Judah ch. 16
- 16. Hoshea's evil reign in Israel 17:1-6
- 17. The captivity of the Northern Kingdom 17:7-41
- The surviving kingdom Judah chs. 18—25
- 1. Hezekiah's good reign chs. 18—20
- 2. Manasseh's evil reign 21:1-18
- 3. Amon's evil reign 21:19-26
- 4. Josiah's good reign 22:1—23:30
- 5. Jehoahaz's evil reign 23:31-35

6. Jehoiakim's evil reign 23:36—24:7
7. Jehoiachin's evil reign 24:8-17
8. Zedekiah's evil reign 24:18—25:7
9. The captivity of the Southern Kingdom 25:8-30

#### D. Glossary, Keywords

- **Kings**, male ruler of an independent state, especially one who inherits the position by right of birth.
- **Covenant**, agreement between two parties based upon promises.
- **Prophet**, a person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God.
- **Wisdom: σοφία, sofía**
  - the ability to use your knowledge and experience to make good decisions and judgments
- **Enemies**, person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.
- **Allies**, state formally cooperating with another for a military or other purpose.
- **Temple**, a building devoted to the worship, or regarded as the dwelling place of god/gods.
- **Good king/bad king**, Kings who obey/disobey God through the Mosaic Law
- **Assyria**, Enemy from the north captured the State of Israel.
- **Babylon**, Enemy from the north captured the State of Juda.

## E. Maps

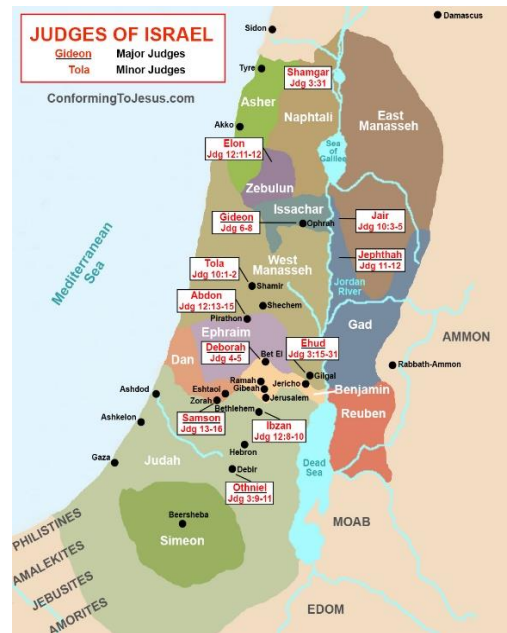
### Israel in the time of Joshua



### Israel at the time of David/Solomon



### Israel at the time of Judges



### Divided Israel (north) Judah (south)



**F. Detailed Book Outlines 1KINGS:**

1Kings – Kingdom of God within People and within Human Hear, Wallpaper

<p><b>UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 1-11</b>  <b>Week 1,2 Introduction, I, II</b></p>	<p><b>UNIT 3: The Divided Kingdom 1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17</b></p>
<p><b>UNIT 2: The Reign of Solomon chs. 1—11 United Kingdom</b>  <b>Week#3: Solomon's succession to David's throne 1:1—2:12</b>          1- David's declining health 1:1-4          2- Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne 1:5-53.          3- David's charge to Solomon 2:1-9  <b>4- David's death 2:10-12</b></p>	<p><b>Week#7-8: The first period of antagonism 12:1—16:28</b>           The division of the kingdom 12:1-24          Jeroboam's evil reign in Israel 12:25—14:20          Rehoboam's evil reign in Judah 14:21-31          Abijam's evil reign in Judah 15:1-8          Asa's good reign in Judah 15:9-24          Nadab's, Baasha's evil reign in Israel 15          Elah's, Zimri's. and Omri's evil reign in Israel 16</p>
<p><b>Week #4: The foundation of Solomon's reign 2:13—4:34</b>          1. Solomon's purges 2:13-46          2. Solomon's wisdom from God ch. 3          3. Solomon's political strength ch. 4</p>	<p><b>Week#9-10: The second period of alliance 1 Kings 16:29—2 Kings 9:29</b>          Ahab's evil reign in Israel 16:29—22:40          1. Elijah and the drought (17).          2. Elijah on Mount Carmel (18).          3. Elijah's flight to Horeb (19).          4. An unnamed prophet condemns Ahab for sparing Ben-hadad (20);          5. Elijah condemns Ahab for seizing Naboth's vineyard (21).          6. Micaiah prophesies Ahab's death and its fulfillment (22:1—40)          2. Jehoshaphat's good reign in Judah 22:41-50          3. Ahaziah's evil reign in Israel 1 Kings 22:51—2 Kings 1:18</p>
<p><b>Week#5: Solomon's temple chs. 5—8</b>          1. Preparations for building ch. 5          2. Temple construction ch. 6          3. Solomon's palace 7:1-12          4. The temple furnishings 7:13-51          5. The temple dedication ch. 8</p>	
<p><b>Week#6: The fruits of Solomon's reign chs. 9—11</b>          1. God's covenant with Solomon 9:1-9          2. Further evidence of God's blessing 9:10-28          3. Solomon's greatness ch. 10          4. Solomon's apostasy ch. 11</p>	

## UNIT #2: THE REIGN OF SOLOMON CHS 1-11 UNITED KINGDOM

Week 3: Chapter 1,2 Solomon's succession to David's throne

Week 4: Chapter 3,4 The Foundation of Solomon's Reign, 2:13—4:34

Week 5: Chapter 5-8 Solomon's greatest contribution the Temple

Week 6: Chapter 9-11 The fruits of Solomon's reign Solomon's death

### WEEK #3: CHAPTER 1-2 SOLOMON'S SUCCESSION TO DAVID'S THRONE

#### Servant Preparation

**Opening hook**—ask students:

Q: Do you need a reminder of commitment?

#### SOLOMON'S KINGDOM ESTABLISHED

[Fr Tadros Malaty Commentary page 55 -89](#)

In these two chapters, we see Solomon the son of David, born from Bathsheba, whom David had no right to marry; and who was not the firstborn who has the right to succeed his father on the throne. Yet he was chosen to be the king by his father according to a divine call; having been told: "*Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever*" (1 Chronicles 22: 9, 10).

It so seemed that 'Adonijah' was expected to sit on the throne, being the fourth son of David (1 Kings 2: 15, 22), after the death of the three older sons: Amnon, Absalom, (2 Samuel 3: 2-5), and Caleb.

When David grew very old, 'Adonijah' planned to replace him, but the prophet Nathan intervened, spoiled his plan, and gave the kingdom to Solomon. Solomon was noble in dealing with his brother, Yet, with the later persistence on his plan, Solomon had to kill him.

- From this lesson the students will learn that God is the one in control, God keeps His promises – do you need a reminder 1Kings1:17-21?
- The formula to prosper and be strong (1Kings 2:3)

## Chapter 1: Adonijah! David Crowns Solomon As King

### Chapter outline:

1. David's declining health 1:1-4
2. Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne 1:5-53
3. David's charge to Solomon

#### 1. David's declining health 1:1-4

As 1st Kings begins, David has gotten very old. They got him a young woman to marry "Abishag."

#### 2. Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne 1:5-14

Adonijah, one of David's sons, gets an idea: With his dad so old and decrepit, this would be the perfect time to seize the throne from the rightful heir, Solomon.

So Adonijah starts to gather supporters, including Abiathar the high priest, and Joab the commander of the military.

However, not everyone jumps on board, including Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Shimei (a frenemy of David's), and David's mightiest warriors, including Benaiah.

Undeterred, Adonijah heads to the stone of Zoholeth and invites his brothers (minus Solomon, of course), his father's servants, and all the men of Judah to come watch him crown himself king.

Nathan visits Bathsheba to let her know about Adonijah's scheme before things get out of hand.

They know that if Adonijah succeeds in becoming king, he will probably see both Bath-Sheba and Solomon as threats and kill them.

Bath-Sheba and Nathan go to David's chamber to tell him that Adonijah's trying to steal the crown. "Reminder of Commitment"

### *BUT GOD IS IN CONTROL*

Two parties:

Supporters for Adonijah	Supporters for Solomon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abiathar -High Priest</li><li>• Joab- Commander of Military</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• King David - Father</li><li>• Beth-Sheba - Mother</li><li>• Zadok – Priest</li><li>• Nathan – Prophet</li><li>• Shemei - Frenemy</li><li>• Benaiah – Mighty worrier</li></ul>

#### 3. David's charge to Solomon 1:15-53

David hears them out and tells Bath-Sheba that Solomon will be king, just like he promised her. He commands Nathan, Benaiah, and Zadok to make it happen.

They put Solomon on David's mule, have him ride to Gihon, anoint him with oil, blow a trumpet, and he's king. And there is much rejoicing.

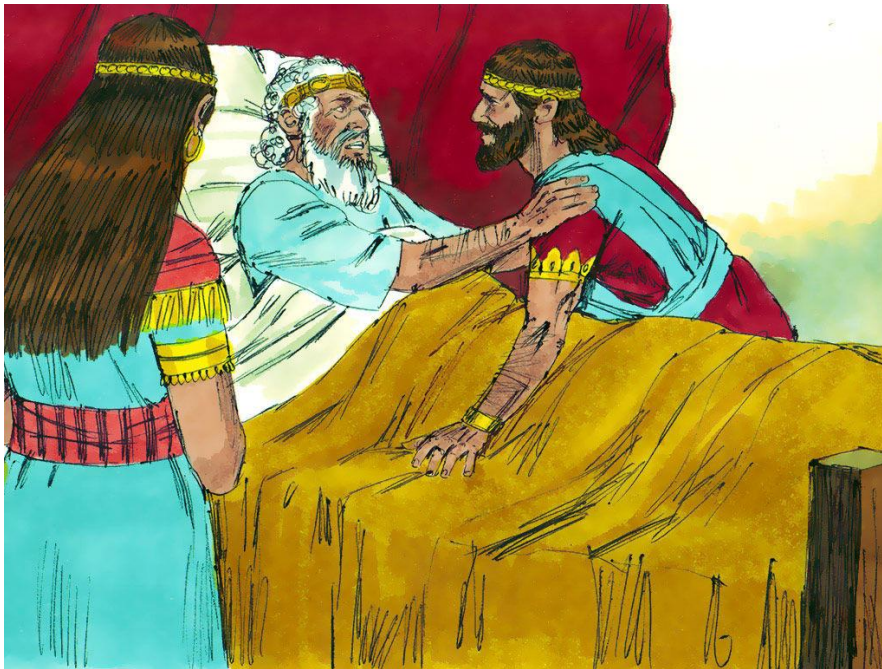
Meanwhile, Adonijah's just finishing what's supposed to be his coronation feast when he and his guests hear Solomon and the gang celebrating good times.

Adonijah's supporters quickly realize they've picked the wrong horse in this race, and they get outta there before there's trouble. (chief priest and military commander)

David's move has totally turned the tables, and now it's Adonijah that's in danger of being killed as an obvious threat to Solomon.

Desperate, Adonijah rushes to an altar in the tabernacle and grabs ahold of its horns. This is totally like reaching home base in tag, and nobody can kill you as long as you're there. Adonijah refuses to let go of the horns until Solomon promises not to kill him. Solomon's like, "Look man, if you stay in line, I'll leave you alone. But if not, you're dead." That's good enough for Adonijah. He bows before Solomon's throne, then goes home.

**Learning Goal:** Sometimes the Lord uses other people to remind us of his word to us. David acknowledged that God had kept him safe and that he had promised Solomon would be king. David honored this promise. Let's be reminded of how important it is to keep our commitments.



## Chapter 2: David Dies of Natural Causes; Solomon's Enemies Die of Benaiah

### Chapter outline:

1. David's Instructions for Solomon.1-9
2. David died. Solomon reigns as king in Israel.
3. Solomon executed Adonijah, Joab and Shimei

### 1. David's Instructions for Solomon. They got him a young woman.2:1-9

Before he dies, David's final advice to Solomon is as follows:

- How to "Be strong. Show that you're a man so you keep the Lord's commandments/judgments/testimonies/laws.
- If you do, you'll always prosper, and our sons will always sit on the throne of Israel.
- Remember when **Joab murdered Abner** and **Amasa**? He's gotta die. Take care of that. While you're at it, deal with Shimei, too. I promised I personally wouldn't kill him, even though he cursed me, so you do the honors.
- Oh—and make sure to watch after my friend Barzillai and his family. He helped me out when I needed him."

### 2. David dies and is buried, ending a glorious 40-year reign. 2:10-12

Solomon has hardly begun his own tenure as king when Adonijah visits Bath-Sheba with a shady proposal: He wants to marry the newly widowed Abishag, and he wants Bath-Sheba to convince Solomon that it's a good idea. She agrees to try, for some reason. Solomon doesn't go for it. He said: No— You know what? That's it.

### 3. Solomon executed Adonijah, Joab and Shimei.2:13-46

Adonijah is going to die today.

- An over-reaction? Maybe not! See, when a king dies, all his possessions (including his wives) belong to his heir. So, for Adonijah to try to marry Abishag was kind of like **trying to become king all over again**.
- At least, that's the way Solomon sees it, and he goes on all of his enemies.
- He sends his right-hand man Benaiah to kill Adonijah, because that's what Benaiah does best. Adios, Adonijah.
- Solomon also seems to suspect that Abiathar and Joab were involved in Adonijah's little machinations, so he decides to take care of them, too.
- First, he banishes Abiathar to his home in Anathoth and strips him of his role as a priest.
- Joab hears about Adonijah and Abiathar, and he starts to sweat. He runs to the tabernacle to grab the horns of the altar for protection. Hey, it worked for Adonijah that one time, right?
- But Solomon sends Benaiah to the tabernacle. He's like, "Are you going to come quietly, or?" And Joab's like, "I ain't goin' nowheres! I'll stay here 'til I die!"
- Benaiah reports this to Solomon, who says, "That's the best idea Joab's ever had: Kill the murdering person."
- So Benaiah kills Joab inside the tabernacle.
- With that, Benaiah becomes the senior commander of Solomon's military.
- Continuing to fulfill David's last wishes, Solomon puts Shimei on house arrest in Jerusalem as punishment for **doing his father wrong** years previously.
- If he crosses the brook Kidron, Solomon tells him, he's dead. Shimei swears he won't. Three years later, two of Shimei's servants run away across the brook Kidron, and he crosses it to go after them. Solomon hears about it, and Benaiah killed Shimei.

## POST LESSON

### Activities

#### Learning Goal:

**To think:** What is your source of strength?

Is it different from that of society's formula?

David gave his son Solomon a wise formula for success in life – be strong brave and obey God's Word.

It is important that we follow God's Word and allow him to help us become the people he wants us to be, instead of following the crowd and the ways of the world.

Being strong and faithful to God requires dedication as well as devotion. Give examples

**To Practice:** Ask God to give you the will and the determination to obey his Word and become stronger and braver every day. God's love is your source of strength, be sure that God is in control

Q: What is your source of strength? Give each kid a paper and pencil to write down on source of strength they think they have, collect the papers in a box, no names needed and read out loud some of them to the kids, ignite a discussion with what, why, how, when. Obedience to Gods' word and God's love are the source of our strength.

#### **Lesson delivery ideas:**

A great illustration for how God is the source of our strength: [fun for kids to try in class]

<https://youtu.be/W2y646OFIw>

Or use ideas from this:

<http://armagh.anglican.org/News/SSProject2017/Be%20Brave%20Lesson%20Plans.pdf>

#### MEMORY VERSE

1 KINGS 1:37 "As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon."

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**WEEK #4: CHAPTER 3-4 THE FOUNDATION OF SOLOMON'S REIGN, 2:13—4:34 WISDOM**

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**Servants Preparations:**

**Pre-class reading and assignment.**

Class session:

**Opening the Hook (7 minutes)**– Ask students to write down on a slip of paper the ONE THING they would ask for if they were given one wish with the assurance that it would be granted. They may not ask for anything for anyone else, it must benefit them. They cannot wish for more wishes.

Next, ask them to repeat this exercise and write the ONE THING they would ask for if they were given one wish with the assurance that it would be granted, but this time they may not ask for anything for themselves—it must be a wish that would benefit others. Again, they may not wish for more wishes.

Collect their papers and without mentioning names, read some of the answers to the group.

**Discuss 5 minutes:**

- Why do you think people asked for the things I read off just now? (*It was important to them, they desired it, they saw value in it, etc.*)
- Was it easier to think of a wish for yourself or a wish for someone else? (Allow students to share.)
- Did you wish for something “more valuable” for yourself than you did for others? (*Allow students to share.*)
- Is it possible, by wishing just one wish, that you could benefit both others and you? How so? (*Allow students to share.*)

Today, we’re going to study the life of King Solomon. He was asked by God to name one thing he wanted and was guaranteed to get it. However, there is more to Solomon’s life than just this one interesting situation. Let’s study his life together. Open to 1 Kings.

## Chapter# 3 Foundation of Solomon's Kingdom -wisdom and peace

Solomon, here, appears as a symbol of the Lord Christ, in whom hide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, for our edification; as according to the apostle Paul: "He came to be wisdom for us".

### Chapter outline:

1. Solomon allied with Egypt, married Pharaoh's daughter.
2. Solomon's Request for Wisdom.
3. Given and Tested by judging between two women & their babies.

#### 1. Solomon allied with Egypt, married Pharaoh's daughter. 3:1-5

- His enemies all safely dead, Solomon makes an alliance with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, by marrying his daughter. They live in the city of David while Solomon's palace in Jerusalem is being built.
- In those days, the Israelites made their animal sacrifices to God in "high places" (3:2) because they didn't have a permanent temple in which to worship—yet (more on that later).
- Now, Solomon obeys all of God's commandments, and worships him like he should.
- He goes to Gibeon, the "great high place" (3:4), to offer 1,000 sacrifices to God.

#### 2. Solomon's Request For wisdom from God 3:6-15

- One night, the Lord appears to him in a dream, and invites him to "Ask what I should give you" (3:4).
- Solomon says, "Give your servant [...] an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil" (3:9).
- The Lord likes that, and gives Solomon "a wise and discerning mind" (or, as the KJV says, "a wise and understanding heart") like nobody's before or after him (3:12).
- He also throws in riches, honor, and long life—so long as Solomon obeys his commandments. Why not?
- Solomon wakes up a whole lot smarter after that and returns home to Jerusalem.

*Solomon had big shoes to fill. His father, David, had been a loyal servant of God. Now, Solomon was faced with taking his father's place.*

*When the Lord appeared to Solomon, offering him anything he wanted, Solomon showed great character. He asked for wisdom. God praised Solomon for this request and gave him much more than he asked for.*

#### 3. Given and Tested by judging between two women & their babies. 3:16-28

- As he holds a feast for his servants, two prostitutes come before him seeking his judgment.
- One of them (woman #1) explains that they live together in the same house—just the two of them—and both have recently had babies.
- Unfortunately (says woman #1), woman #2 accidentally smothered her baby in bed one night. Then she came over while woman #1 was sleeping with her baby, and she switched her dead baby for woman #1's living baby.
- When woman #1 woke up, she realized that it was the wrong baby.
- But woman #2 insists that it's a lie, and that the live baby is hers.

- They argue in front of Solomon until he observes that it's just one woman's word against the others. Then he says, "Anybody got a sword? I guess we should just cut the baby in two and give each of you half."
- One of the women (we're not sure which) is like, "Hmm... Yeah, seems fair."
- But the other one says, "Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly, do not kill him" (3:26).
- This lady is obviously going to be a better mom, whether she gave birth to the kid or not, so Solomon declares her the mother and gives her the baby.
- This story goes viral in Israel, and everyone in Israel marvels at how royally sagacious Solomon is.
- God Makes Solomon A Super-Genius

## Chapter# 4: Solomon's Political Strength

### Chapter outline:

1. Solomon wisdom in Administration.
2. Judah & Israel had peace & prosperity.
3. People of all nations came to hear his wisdom.

### *Lifestyles of The Rich and Brilliant*

#### **1. Solomon wisdom in Administration. 4:1-21**

- Like any obscenely rich man, Solomon's got a great posse: Princes, priests, soldiers, scribes, officers, and friends. They all get shout-outs in 4:2-19.
- At this time, Israel is living large. Its territory is huge (stretching from the Euphrates river across Philistine country and all the way to Egypt), it's politically strong, and its people are numerous, wealthy, and secure. Life is good.
- All the little kingdoms under Solomon's rule give him tribute, continually increasing his wealth for as long as he lives. Use map ([here](#))

#### **2. Judah & Israel had peace & prosperity. 4:22-28**

- And that's good, because being the king of the world ain't cheap. He's got a lot of mouths to feed, and they consume prodigious amounts of food.
- In addition to his servants, officers, family, soldiers, and so on, he's also got a huge number of animals to take care of.
- He makes sure nobody in his household ever wants for anything.
- Yet even with all his riches, he doesn't neglect his education. God gives Solomon "very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding [...] so that [...] he was wiser than anyone else" in the known world (4:29-31).
- He wrote a ton of proverbs and songs, and his fame spread across oceans and continents.

#### **3. People of all nations came to hear his wisdom. 4:29-34**

- People from all nations, even kings and rulers, came to Israel to learn from good Professor Solomon.

## POST-LESSON

### linguistic questions

#### Learning Goal:

Solomon had big shoes to fill. His father, David, had been a loyal servant of God. Now, Solomon was faced with taking his father's place.

When the Lord appeared to Solomon, offering him anything he wanted, Solomon showed great character. He asked for wisdom. God praised Solomon for this request and gave him much more than he asked for.

If you are called to do something new, here is a model for your first act: Ask God for the wisdom to carry out what he is calling you to do. There is a promise connected to asking for the gift of wisdom - the gift will be given (see James 1.5-8). God will provide us with what we need, as long as we put him first in our lives

**To Practice:** If you are called to do something new, to perform a great job, here is a model for your first act:

To Practice Ask God for the wisdom to carry out what he is calling you to do. There is a promise connected to asking for the gift of wisdom - the gift will be given (see James 1.5-8). God will provide us with what we need, if we put him first in our lives

Click here: [Look up in the glossary for king, wisdom!](#)

#### Activities:

Write a skit for the two women arguing over one baby and have the kids play it.

End of lesson true/ false questions:

Select a couple of facts in the lesson that you explained and ask true and false questions!

To feel: how did Solomon feel when he became king?

#### Memory Verse- verse memorization activity, ways of memorization (add)

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/OT/unitedkingdom/SolomonKing.htm>

[http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The United Kingdom](http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The_United_Kingdom) →

David's last days, Solomons build temple, Solomon's end

#### MEMORY VERSE

1 KINGS 3:3a

"And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David."

1 KINGS 4:30

"Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt."

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## ***WEEK #5: CHAPTER 5-7 SOLOMON'S GREATEST CONTRIBUTION***

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### **SERVANT'S PREPARATION**

Pre-class reading and assignment.

**Short intro:** review application of last session, and homework (add)

Class session:

**Opening hook –**

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A large sheet of butcher paper, red construction paper, scissors, glue and markers.

As many copies of the "I am the Temple of the Spirit" templates as the number of children in your class, various colors of construction paper, brads or paper fasteners, glue stick and markers.

Hook:

Graham crackers, ready made frosting, craft sticks, paper plates, and paper towels.

Temple "Brick" Banner

The object of this activity is to make a large banner with bricks to represent each child in your class. Have someone in your class (or you can) look up Ephesians 2:19-22.

Explain to the class that we will be learning about the time when Solomon built the temple and how that each one of us is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

To help us to see how that we are each a part of "God's building," we will make a banner with several bricks. You will need a large piece of butcher paper. Using half-sheets (cut width-wise) of red construction paper make enough bricks for each child in the class. Have the children decorate each brick. Instruct the children to leave enough space for a name to be written on the "brick."

Next, have the children pair up. Instruct the children to write down the name of their partner. Instruct the children to find one good thing about their partner to write down on their brick. Then, glue the brick onto the banner. See if you have enough bricks to build a building or temple. Your class can also draw on the banner to enhance the picture. On the top of the banner, write: "We are the temple of the Holy Spirit."

**i.e., a question(s) kits of the temple and materials.**

**Structure and material**

**Art**

## Chapter# 5 Solomon & Hiram Temple Construction Co., Ltd.



### Chapter outline:

1. King Hiram provides building materials.
2. Solomon planned to build the temple.
3. Solomon's labor force.

#### 1. King Hiram provides building materials. 5:1-4

Hiram, the king of Tyre and a good friend of David's, sends his servants to congratulate Solomon on his new gig as king.

#### 2. Solomon planned to build the temple. 5:5-14

Solomon responds with a big idea: "My dad wasn't able to build a temple to God because he was busy fighting enemies on all sides his whole life. But the Lord told him that I would build it, and since Israel's at peace, I think I'll get started. Since you are the best lumberjacks, what say you provide the cedar lumber we need?"

#### 3. Hiram thinks that's a great idea, 5:15-18

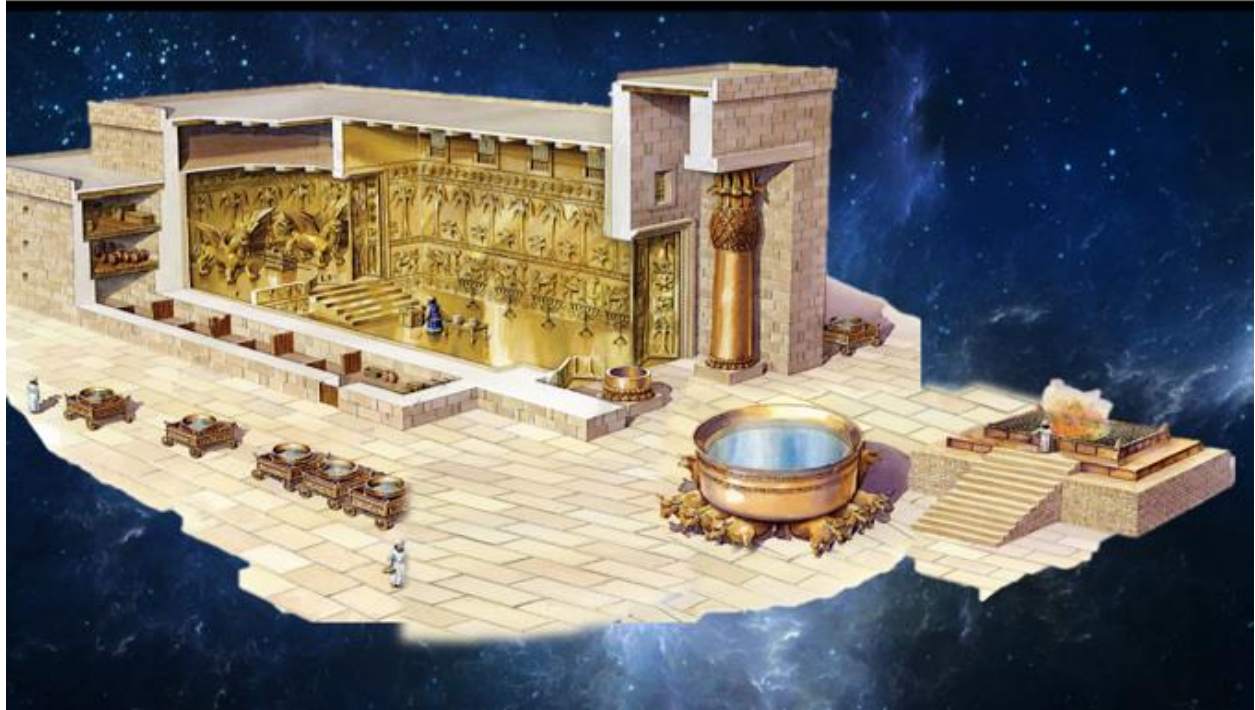
so, he provides cedar and fir lumber in exchange for tons of wheat and oil. Thus, a great timber partnership is born. And there is much rejoicing.

#### 4. Solomon's labor force.

As temple construction ramps up, Solomon **conscripts** thousands of forced laborers to harvest and cut timber and quarry and cut stone. He's not messin' around.

## Chapter# 6 How to Build A Temple- Interior and Furnishings.

Hop on over to "[The Temple Video \(5 minutes\)](#)"



### Chapter outline:

1. Solomon started Temple.
2. Description of temple dimensions, Video!

### How to Build A Temple? 6:1-138

- In the fourth year of his reign, in the month of Ziv (a.k.a. May), ground is broken on the temple 6:2-10 and
- 15-36 give the specs "[The Temple Video](#)" for more on this.
- During construction, "the word of the Lord came to Solomon" (6:11), promising him that so long as he keeps **God's statutes and obeys his commandments, God will dwell with Israel (in the temple) and won't forsake them.** Sounds great!!
- After 7 years, the temple is finally built.
- **God keeps His promises all the time.**

## Chapter# 7 How to Build A Palace (3 minutes)

### Chapter outline:

1. Solomon built his own palace.
2. Furniture of copper and gold. – look at pictures

#### 1. Solomon built his own palace. 7:1-16

- Solomon's palace and other royal furniture take 13 years to build. They're super fancy, and a lot bigger than the temple. (7:1-12).
- But the temple is not quite finished yet. It still needs some finishing touches, so Solomon brings Hiram from Tyre.
- No, not the king. This is a different Hiram, who's a really great bronze worker.

#### 2. Furniture of copper and gold. – look at pictures 7:17-51

- Hiram makes about a million bronze things for the temple: two big "pillars [with] nets of chequer-work with wreaths of chain-work [and] lattice-work" (7:15-20); 400 bronze pomegranates (7:42); a huge, ten-cubit-in-diameter "cast sea", or big basin of water, which rested on 12 bronze oxen facing outward (7:23-25); 10 "stands" of bronze carved with lions, oxen, and **cherubim** (7:27-29); 10 smaller basins (7:38); and some pots and shovels (7:40). See the video.
- Woah. That's a lot of bronze stuff.
- Solomon doesn't stop with the bronze, though. He also has tons of gold stuff made: an altar, a table for ceremonial bread, lampstands, flowers, lamps, tongs, cups, candlesnuffers, basins, incense dishes, and the doors to the most holy place in the temple (7:48-50).
- Finally, everything's done, and the temple is ready. Solomon puts a bunch of treasure that David collected inside it. Treasure, treasure everywhere.

## POST-LESSON

### Learning Goal:

God promised Solomon that if he obeyed, the Lord would live among the people of Israel in the temple Solomon was building.

God also promised he would never leave the Israelites. Does this mean that God lives only in an ancient temple? certainly not!

God has promised us that he will never leave us either. He has also told us to think of our bodies as temples where the Spirit of the Lord lives.

In 1 Corinthians 6.12-20, we are reminded that we should honor God with our bodies.

Remembering that God's Spirit dwells within us helps us realize what an awesome privilege this is.

What promises of God we believe?

- That He cares for you more than the sparrows (Matt. 6:26) and will turn all things to your good (Rom. 8:28)?
- That He will not abandon you (Heb. 13:5)?
- That He will one day come again in glory to claim His own (1 Thess. 4:13-18)?

Take a hard, honest look at your own heart today to see where you might not be trusting in God's word of promise. Ask Him for forgiveness and for the grace to start living with trust in His faithfulness.

### MEMORY VERSE

1 KINGS 6:13

"And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

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## **WEEK # 6: CHAPTER 8 THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE**

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### **Hop to the Temple**

The entire nation of Israel was invited to the temple dedication.

For a fun game to help the children get their “wiggles” out, let’s play Hop to the Temple. Have children form two teams. With masking tape, make a starting line. Blow up two balloons and explain to the children that they will need to keep the balloon between their knees and hop to the “temple” (the other end of the room) and back. You can possibly draw a “temple” on the chalk/dry erase board and have that as the side of the room that they will hop towards.

Make sure that the teams are evenly distributed; have the first child go a second time if the teams are not even. See which team can get to the temple and back first. Reward that team with the privilege of serving the snack later to the whole class during the Day of Celebration feast.

### **Chapter# 8 – Opening Ceremony (10 minutes)**

#### **Chapter outline:**

1. The Ark brought into the temple. The Lord entered the temple. Sacrifices and dedication festival.
2. Solomon gives a short speech, saying:
3. Solomon then goes and kneels at the altar of the temple, spreads his hands to heaven, and offers a prayer:
4. When Solomon's done, he gets up, turns around and gives another speech to Israel.

#### **1. The Ark brought into the temple. The Lord entered the temple. Sacrifices and dedication festival. 8:1-11**

The Hottest Ticket in Town: Temple Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony,  
The Dedication Day With everything in place at the temple, it's ready to become the home of the Ark of the Covenant, which holds the two stone tablets upon which the **Ten Commandments** are written.

- Solomon holds a feast for all the Israelites at the temple in celebration of its completion. There are so many people there, they don't even try to count them.
- The festival lasts seven days, and people from far and wide—from Lebo-hamath to Egypt— participate.
- To kick off the dedication ceremony, the elders and priests carry the Ark into the most holy place of the temple.
- When they come back out, "a cloud filled the house of the Lord [...] for the glory of the Lord filled [his] house" (8:10-11).
- Solomon speaks to God, presenting the temple to him: "I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever" (8:13).
- He turns to face the gathered Israelites, who all stands.

#### **2. Solomon gives a short speech, saying: 8:12-21**

*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has kept the promise he made to my father David (8:15). He wanted to build a house for God, but God told him, 'Although that's a good desire, it won't be you that builds me a house, but rather your son' (8:17-19). And the Lord has kept that promise today. Now that I sit on the throne of Israel, I built this house in God's name as a place for the Ark, which contains the covenant that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of Egypt" (8:20-21).*

### **3. Solomon then goes and kneels at the altar of the temple, spreads his hands to heaven, and offers a prayer: 8:22-53**

- *"O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath" (8:23).*
- *He goes on to praise God's faithfulness, and to ask him to keep his promise that David's successors will always be king as long as they mind their Ps and Qs (8:23-26).*
- *Then Solomon asks, "But will God indeed dwell on earth? Even the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!" (8:27).*
- *He continues, "Please hear our prayers concerning this house, and forgive our sins, but condemn any who come to this altar unworthily (8:28-32)"*
- *"When we're defeated in battle because we've turned away from you, but then we pray to you again in this place, please forgive us and help us defend our land" (8:33-34).*
- *"When we cause you to stop the rain because of our sins, but then pray to you in this place once again, please forgive us and send rain again" (8:35-36).*
- *"If a famine, blight, mildew, locusts, or caterpillars destroy our crops; or if we're suffering from sickness or plagues; or if our enemies attack our cities; or if anything bad happens to us, please hear the prayers that we send from this temple" (8:37-38).*
- *"You know every human heart, so you know when to forgive, and when to help. And may we and our children always fear and honor you" (8:39-40).*
- *"And when those who aren't part of Israel, but who hear about your power and come from a distant land to this place to pray to you, please answer their prayer, too, so the whole world can know that this is your house" (8:41-43).*
- *"And help us when we go to war against our enemies, if we pray towards this house" (8:44).*
- *"And if we sin against you—because we know everyone sins—and we're taken away captive to a faraway land, but then pray toward this temple for forgiveness, please cause our captives to treat us kindly" (8:46-50).*
- *"Please open your eyes and ears to our pleas, because we are your chosen people" (8:51-53).*

And that's the end of the prayer.

### **4. When Solomon's done, he gets up, turns around and gives another speech to Israel. 8:54-61**

He praises God and prays again that Israel will follow his rules so he will always help them to prosper, and so that all the peoples of the earth will know that *"the Lord is God; there is no other" (8:55-60).*

- Finally, he concludes: "Therefore, devote yourselves completely to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments" (8:61).
- To finish things off, Solomon sacrifices 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep to the Lord.

- After all's said and done, they've dedicated the temple, and the court where it stood, and the surrounding altars and stuff, too.
- Everyone goes home on the 8th day, "joyful and in good spirits because of the goodness that the Lord had shown to his servant David and to his people Israel" (8:66).

**LEARNING GOAL:** God is much bigger than the tiny "boxes: in which we try to contain him. Some people try to squeeze God into their set of rules. Others try to make God conform with their own pre-concerned notions of what he is like. Still, others try to make God fit into their chosen lifestyles. But God cannot - and will not - be contained by our restricted ideas. He is much bigger than that! Instead of trying to fit God into our ideas of what he should, let's consider how great God really is.

### **POST-LESSON**

**Activities:** Build a model temple from a shoebox. Use gold paper and have students draw windows for the sides, columns and a doorway for the front, etc. Have a diagram for them to go by.

1. Draw a sketch of the temple.
2. Act out a priest's job in the temple.
3. Find Jerusalem on a map.

linguistic questions, temple, verse memorization, activity, true/ false questions, Emotional questions, fact questions, (add)

Memory Verse- ways of memorization (add)

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The United Kingdom>

Homework – take home sheet (add)

Application questions

Does God need a physical home?

Is it important for us to follow God's blueprint?

What must we do for God to live with us?

Look for the themes, Jesus Christ, Politics Religion, Power, Spirituality, Wisdom

### MEMORY VERSE

1 KINGS 8:56

"There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses."

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## WEEK #7: CHAPTER 9-11 THE FRUITS OF SOLOMON'S REIGN

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### SERVANTS PREPARATION

Pre-class reading and assignment.

Class session:

Opening hook – (add), i.e., a question(s)

Short intro: review application of last session, and homework (add)

### Chapter# 9 God Accepts Solomon's Temple (With Conditions)

#### Chapter outline:

- 1.The Lord appeared to Solomon... again.
- 2.Additional Labor of Solomon

#### 1. The Lord appeared to Solomon... again.9:1-9

Lord promised that “If you walk in my ways, I will establish your throne.” Sometime after the temple dedication, the Lord appears to Solomon again, like he had before at Gibeon.

- He says, *“I have heard your prayer [... and] I have consecrated this house that you have built and put my name therefore ever” (9:3).*
- He tells Solomon that **if he'll be as faithful as David was, God will make sure that Solomon's descendants keep the throne. But if he—or his children—step out of line, Israel and the temple will both fall.**
- It will be so bad, he says, that people passing by the ruined temple will be like, why would the Lord let this happen to his temple and his chosen people? Oh, probably because Israel didn't worship him" (9:8-9).
- And that was that.

#### 2. Additional Labor of Solomon 9:10-28

- When things finally settle down after the festival, Solomon gives King Hiram of Tyre twenty cities in Galilee as payment for supplying all the gold and cedar and cypress.
- But Hiram wasn't crazy about the cities, and he's like, "Whoa, my brother. What's with these cities? Can't you do any better than that?"
- But then he lets it go, apparently, and actually gives Solomon a bunch more gold.
- While Solomon has all of these conscripted laborers, he also builds other stuff, like the wall of Jerusalem, and fortifies lots of other cities, like Gezer, which Pharaoh had captured and given to his daughter, Solomon's wife, as a present. Thanks, Daddy.
- This is a pretty rough time to be a Canaanite in Israel. Whereas the Israelites get to be soldiers, government officials, etc., the Canaanites get to be slaves.
- Solomon, meanwhile, just keeps doing his righteous king thing. He offers burnt sacrifices and burns incense at the temple, builds up a navy with some help from Hiram's experienced sailors, and keeps raking in boatloads of gold from tributaries.

## POST-LESSON

Learning Goal: From a Dream to a Nightmare-1 Kings 9.1-9

This is the second time God appeared to Solomon in a dream. The first encounter took place when Solomon first became king. When God visited Solomon the second time, the king was the richest and wisest man in the world. The temple had been built and the land was at peace.

In this dream, there was both a promise and a warning. God assured Solomon that his prayer would be answered - God's presence would remain in his temple. But there is also a warning here. God told Solomon that if he or his sons worshiped foreign gods, the Lord would rip the kingdom out of their hands and take away the many blessings he had given them.

This promise and warning to Solomon apply to us, as well. God wants to be with us, but if we chase after false gods, such as money and material possessions, we will ultimately suffer great losses.



### Chapter# 10 The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon, And Yes—She's Impressed

Chapter outline:

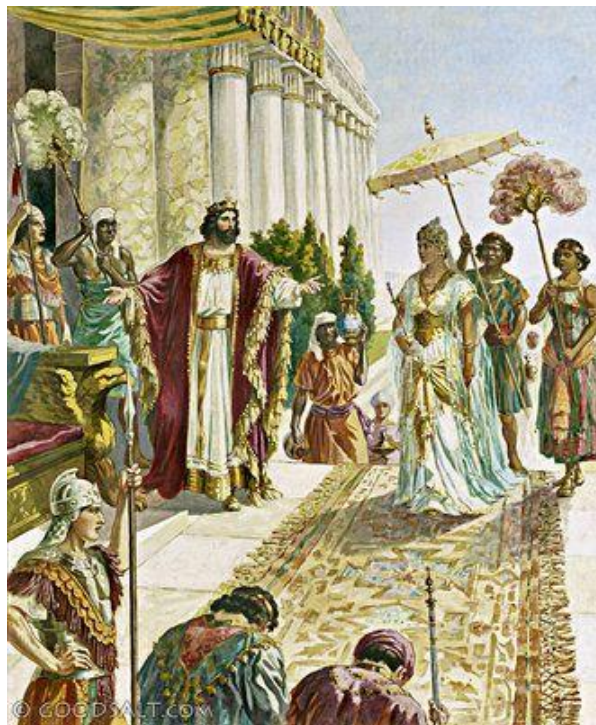
Queen of Sheba visited Solomon. Tested him. Exchange of gifts.

- Solomon's fame spreads until the Queen of Sheba hears about him. She's so intrigued that she comes to Israel to test his wisdom with some tough questions.
- She shows up in Jerusalem with a huge entourage and camels bearing gold and spices and jewels to give to Solomon.
- They sit down for a nice long chat, and she asks him everything that's on her mind. He answers all of her questions, and "there was nothing [...] that he could not explain to her" (10:3).
- Needless to say, **her mind is blown**, and not just because he's so wise. She's also pretty impressed with his house, his food, his clothes, his servants, his officials, and his religious observance.
- She's so impressed, in fact, that "there was no more spirit in her" (10:5).
- Whoa, he kills her.
- No, no, no. Sit down. She's fine. She's totally overcome, is all, and says, "I didn't believe what they told me about your accomplishments and wisdom, but they didn't even tell the half of it" (10:6-7).
- "Your wives are so lucky! And your servants, too. And all because of your God. Bless his name" (10:8-9).
- Then she gives him a ton of gold and jewels, and more spices than anyone had ever given before or ever would give again.
- Oh, and by the way, Hiram's fleet is still bringing gold, precious stones, and super-rare **almug wood** this whole time, too.
- Anyway, Solomon is a great host to Sheba. He gives her everything she asks for from his abundant riches before she returns to her own land with her peeps.
- But let's get back to how stinkin' rich Solomon is. In one year, he received 666 (**Whaaa?**) **talents** of gold, not including taxes and stuff from traders, merchants, the kings of Arabia, and the governors of the land.
- (We calculate that **666 talents of gold** is worth about \$1,114,524,360 in 2013. That's 1.1 billion dollars. Not bad, King Solomon.)
- With all that gold, he made 500 shields and put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.
- He also made a great gold-overlaid ivory throne with two lions standing on each side of the armrests and one lion on each side of the 6 steps leading up to the throne. This thing was off the hook.
- Since he's basically surrounded by **opulence**, it comes as no surprise that all of his drinking vessels are pure gold, too. Silver? No way. That's for chumps. Any bum can afford silver during the Solomon administration.
- Every three years Solomon's fleets (along with Hiram's ships) come back from Tharshish full of gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.
- Solomon is king of the world, the top dog in both riches and wisdom. Everyone is dying to hear his thoughts all the time, and he is constantly sent gifts of gold, silver, clothes, weapons, spices, horses, mules, and much, much more.
- Solomon amasses 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, which he stations strategically throughout Israel.
- Solomon's traders do a ton of business with Egypt, trading horses and chariots for silver and turning around to sell them to the Hittites and the kings of Aram (or Syria in the KJV).

## POST-LESSON

### LEARNING GOAL : NO CONTEST -1 KINGS 10-1-13

- When the Queen of Sheba tried to challenge Solomon, she quickly learned that her little games and riddles were no match for the king. As a result, she never again doubted Solomon's wisdom, and she was awed by his wealth and intelligence. The Queen of Sheba had to admit that Solomon and his kingdom were even better than she had heard.
- Similarly, we have read and heard much about God's kingdom. But it is not until we experience it for ourselves that we truly begin to understand how great both He and His kingdom are.



### Chapter# 11 "1000 Weddings and A Funeral" –Disobedience

#### Chapter outline:

1. Solomon's Foreign Wives and Apostasy.
2. God raised up enemies. Jeroboam rebelled.
3. Death of Solomon.

#### 1. Solomon's Foreign Wives and Apostasy. 11:1-13

- But after all that wisdom and all those riches, Solomon drops the ball and breaks God's commandments. Tsk, tsk.

- See God commanded Solomon not to marry foreign women, because he knew they'd turn him to idolatry. But Solomon can't resist. He just loves those exotic Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites.
- In fact, Solomon loves them so much that he accumulates at least 700 princess-wives and 300 concubines.
- As he gets older, Solomon's wives turn his heart away from God and toward their gods, like Astarte (the goddess of the Sidonians) and Milcom (the abomination of the Ammonites).
- Solomon builds a temple for Chemosh, a Moabite god, and Molech, an Ammonite god, and for all of the other gods that his wives worship. Bad move, Solomon.
- Needless to say, God's pretty mad. He tells Solomon that he is going to lose his kingdom because of this betrayal.
- For his father David's sake though, God will wait until Solomon's dead to take the kingdom from him. He'll let his son keep one tribe. It's a pretty decent move on God's part.
- The stage needs to be set for the fall of Solomon's government, so God raises up a few enemies.
- First there's Hadad the Edomite.
- Years earlier, when Hadad was a young boy, David conquered Edom. Joab, his commander, killed every male. But Hadad escaped with some of his father's servants and hid out in Egypt. There, the Pharaoh gave him a place to live. These two became such good pals that Pharaoh gave Hadad his sister-in-law as a wife. Hadad lived with Pharaoh until he heard that David and Joab were dead. Pharaoh didn't want him to leave, but Hadad really wanted to go home, so he did and became Solomon's rival.
- Next God raises up Rezon, a former leader of a band of marauders who became king of Damascus.

## **2. God raised up enemies. Jeroboam rebelled. 11:14-39**

- And then God raises up Solomon's main adversary: Jeroboam.
- Jeroboam was the son of one of Solomon's servants. A talented and energetic worker, Solomon put Jeroboam in charge of repairing the walls of Jerusalem.
- One day Jeroboam was outside the walls and wearing some new clothes when he bumped into a prophet named Anijah out in a field. Anijah grabbed Jeroboam's garment and ripped it into twelve pieces, saying (more or less): "Take ten pieces to represent the ten tribes that God has promised to take from Solomon (or, more specifically, Solomon's son) and give to you, because Solomon forsook God and worshipped Astarte, Chemosh, and Milcom. Solomon's son will keep one tribe so David's line will continue in Jerusalem."
- Solomon hears about this whole exchange, so he wants to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam is smart and has already fled to Egypt, where he remains until Solomon dies.

## **3. Death of Solomon. 11:40-43**

- After 40 years of reign, Solomon dies and is buried in the City of David, and his son Rehoboam reigns in his place.

### **POST-LESSON**

**Learning Goal: Flirting with Disaster-1 Kings 11.4-10**

Solomon had disobeyed almost every rule that God had said kings should follow. He had increased his number of horses and chariots; he gathered great riches to himself. Worst of all, he worshiped false gods.

Solomon's father, David, was not without his faults and sins, but David never strayed to worship false gods. Solomon, however, allowed his foreign wives to lead him into worshipping all sorts of gods. He even built shrines to some of these false gods. Solomon's flirting with "spiritual infidelity" soon affected the entire nation of Israel, and his disobedience made God angry.

When the Lord spoke to Solomon the third time, God told him that the kingdom would be torn away from him. Solomon willingly went against what he knew God had said not to do. We should be cautious not to allow what God had condemned into our lives.

#### Discussion Questions:

##### **End of United Kingdom**

1. What is the most important word in 1 Kings 11:1? (*"however,"*)
2. What does this tell us about Solomon? (*He does not obey God as he was told to do.*)
3. What is his sin, specifically? (*Solomon marries women from foreign nations even though God instructed them not to marry. Solomon's heart was turned to worship other gods.*)
4. Does verse 6 say anything confusing? If so, what is it? (*It says that Solomon did not follow God completely, like David did.*)

While David was not perfect—that is, he sinned—what verse 6 seems to be indicating is that David's heart was never devoted to other gods. While he sinned, that sin was followed by repentance. It seems Solomon never repented and did not worship the God of Israel singularly.

Activities:(in the beginning or end)- linguistic questions, verse memorization activity, true/ false questions, emotional questions, fact questions, (add)

Memory Verse- ways of memorization (add) Homework – take home sheet (add)

[Look for the themes, Jesus Christ, Politics Religion, Power, Spirituality, Wisdom](#)

Pre-class reading and assignment.

Class session:

#### **Opening hook -(7 minutes)**

Play a game of *Human Checkers*. Set up a board on the floor with tape. You can decrease the number of squares, but the rules remain the same. Form two teams and move like checkers pieces across the board attempting to be "kinged." Instead of putting one person on top of another, have some hats ready to put on those that reach the king's space.

#### **Getting Started (5 minutes)**

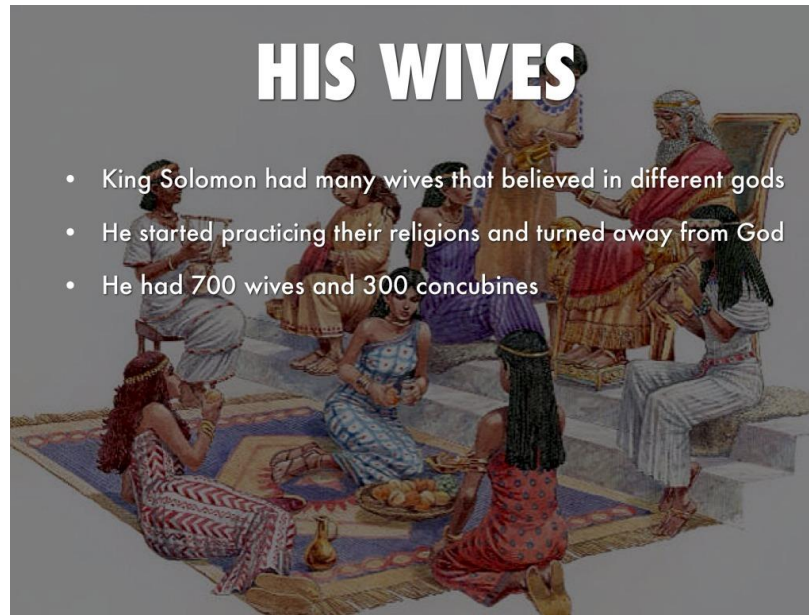
There is nothing better than saying "King Me!" in checkers! It's a little victory, even if you aren't winning the whole game.

**Lesson delivery ideas:**

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/OT/unitedkingdom/Solomonsend.htm>

or use discussion points, questions, applications and games from this link:

<http://freechildrensministrylessons.com/KidsWorld/OldTestament/06Kings/13Kings/SolomonDisobeysGod.pdf>



**MEMORY VERSE:**

**1 KINGS 10:9b**

**"Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."**

## UNIT #3 THE DIVIDED KINGDOM, THE FIRST PERIOD OF ANTAGONISM 12- 22

Week #8: CHAPTER 12 -14 THE DIVISION: REHOBOAM AND JEROBOAM

Week #9: CHAPTER 15-16:28, KINGS OF ISREAL AND JUDAH, EVIL AND GOOD

Week #10: CHAPTER 16:29-19, AHAB'S EVIL REIGN IN ISRAEL, ELIJAH

Week #11: CHAPTER 20-22, AHAB'S EVIL REIGN IN ISRAEL

WEEK # 12: CONCLUSION OF 1 KINGS

[http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The\\_Divided\\_Kingdom](http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The_Divided_Kingdom)

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### WEEK #8: CHAPTER 12 -14 THE DIVISION: REHOBOAM AND JEROBOAM

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#### Chapter# 12

##### Class Outlines:

1. Rehoboam as king.
2. Rehoboam negative reply and revolt in Israel.
3. So, all Israel except Judah made Jeroboam king.

##### Civil War

#### 1. Rehoboam as king. 12:1-11

- Rehoboam (we'll call him Ray for short) goes to Shechem to be crowned king of all Israel.
- Jeroboam (we'll call him Jerry), who's still hiding in Egypt, hears that Solomon is dead, which means it's time for him to take over ten of the tribes of Israel.
- Jerry gathers supporters and appears before Ray. He tells him, "Your father was a pretty oppressive ruler. Do us a favor: don't be like that, and we'll serve you, no problem."
- Ray says, "Let me think about it for a few days."
- He counsels with the old men who counseled his father, and they suggest that he be kind and just toward his people.
- But Ray doesn't like the sound of that. He asks some of his younger counselors what to do, and they're like, "Tell them that you're a bigger man than your dad was, and you'll oppress them even worse than he did. He afflicted them with whips. You'll use—picture this—scorpions."
- Ray thinks this sounds pretty cool, so he goes ahead and tells the people about it.
- Remember God's plan for Ray to lose most of the kingdom? Yeah—this is all part of it.

#### 2. Rehoboam negative reply and revolt in Israel. 12:12-21

- The Israelites do not like the plan one bit, so everyone but the tribe of Judah rebels against Ray.
- But Ray's thinking, "Well, you still have to pay your taxes," so he sends a servant to collect his treasure, as usual.
- The people stone him to death. That's when Ray realizes this is serious, and he flees to Jerusalem for protection.
- The other tribes hear that Jerry's back in town, and they make him their king.

- Ray isn't going to stand for this, so he gathers an army of 180,000 warriors to fight against Jerry's tribes.

### 3. So, all Israel except Judah made Jeroboam king. 12:22-33

- But there is this prophet named Shemaiah, and the Lord told Ray through him not to attack the other tribes because this is the way it's meant to be. Ray's like, "Fine."
- So now there are 2 kings and 2 kingdoms: Rehoboam over Judah and Jeroboam over Israel.
- But Jerry has a problem: Ray still controls Jerusalem, which means he controls the temple. So anytime anyone wants to worship, they must go to Jerusalem.
- With Ray in control of the people's spiritual lives, he could potentially gain their favor back, and then they'd kill Jerry. Jerry doesn't want this to happen, so he comes up with a plan.
- He makes two golden calves and puts one in Bethel and the other in Dan, both far from Jerusalem. He then makes some priests and builds some temples of his own.
- He tells the people that these were the gods that brought them out of Egypt, and they totally buy it. He institutes some feasts, makes some sacrifices, and voila: Problem-solved.



### Chapter# 13

#### Class Outlines:

1. A man of God spoke against Jeroboam.
2. The Man of God Disobeyed and Died.
3. Jeroboam Continued in His Sins.

### **1. A man of God spoke against Jeroboam. 13:1-19**

- One day Jerry is burning incense by his new altar in Bethel. A man of God who has come from Judah walks up and starts talking to the altar.
- He says, "Hey altar. A kid named Josiah's going to be born into David's house, and he'll sacrifice humans on top of you and burn their bones" (this really happens later in 2 Kings 23:16-20).
- "And," he says, "this altar's going to break, and the ashes will spill out. That's how you'll know I'm for real."
- Jerry gets mad that this person's prophesying bad stuff about his altar, and he grabs him. But when he touches him, Jerry's hand shrivels up.
- Then the altar breaks, and the ashes pour out. Uh-oh.
- Jerry's not so high-and-mighty anymore, and he asks the man of God to pray for his hand to be restored. He does, and his hand goes back to normal.
- Jerry invites the man of God to come to his house to freshen up and collect a reward, but he says no way—not even if he offered him half of his kingdom, buster.
- "The Lord told me not to eat or drink anything around here, and just to go straight home when I was done talking to your altar," he says. And that's what he does.
- But there is this old prophet living in Bethel, and his sons tell him about what the man of God had said and done. He asks his sons which way the man went, and they tell him.
- The old prophet climbs on his donkey and rides off toward Judah.
- He finds the man of God sitting under an oak tree and invites him to come eat with him at his home.

### **2. The Man of God Disobeyed and Died. 13:14-32**

- The man of God's like, "No can do. The Lord said so."
- "But I'm a prophet," says the prophet. "It's cool." So, the man of God goes with him to his house for some food and drink.
- But while they're eating, the word of God comes to the man of God (say that five times fast), who says, "You disobeyed God by coming here, and now you're going to die before you return home."
- Sure enough, the man of God leaves and gets killed by a lion, who stands guard by his body.
- The prophet hears about this and goes to collect the body. He buries him in his own grave and mourns over him and the sad prophesy that he uttered to Jerry.

### **3. Jeroboam Continued in His Sins. 13:33:34**

- Despite this little episode, though, Jerry still does evil in God's eyes by setting up false priests and worshipping idols.



## Chapter 14

### Class Outlines:

1. Jeroboam's evil reign in Juda,
2. Jeroboam's wife visits Anijah.
3. Death of Jeroboam.

#### 1. Jeroboam's evil reign in Juda, 14:1-16

- Jerry has a son named Abijah (not to be confused with Anijah) who gets really sick.

- Jerry says to his wife, "Disguise yourself and go to Anijah the prophet and give him some gifts and find out what's going to happen to our son, only don't let him know you're my wife."
- So, she goes in disguise to visit Abijah. It turns out he's old and blind, but the Lord tells him that Jerry's wife's going to come ask about her son, so he knows it's her when she shows up.
- He tells her that because Jerry worshipped idols after God gave him the kingdom, he will take away all of Jerry's descendants. Dogs will eat those of his family who die in the city, and birds will eat those who die in the field.
- Their son will die as soon as Jerry's wife's feet enter into the city, because God will take away everything good in his house and raise up a new king instead.
- Oh—and God will also smite and scatter Israel because of Jerry's wickedness and that of Israel.

## 2. Jeroboam's wife visits Anijah. 14:17-30

- Jerry's wife goes home, and as soon as her foot touches the threshold of her house, Abijah dies. That's a bummer.
- All told, Jeroboam reigns for twenty-two years, and then he dies, and his son Nadab becomes king.
- Meanwhile, back in Judah, Ray is made king when he's forty-one years old, and he presides over seventeen years of wickedness in Jerusalem.
- The people are worshipping idols and building pagan temples, and there are all these ritualistic temple prostitutes running around everywhere. God is not happy.
- And during the fifth year of Ray's reign, King Shishak of Egypt comes and plunders Jerusalem's treasures. He sacks the temple and Ray's palace, and steals all of the gold shields Solomon has made. Now Ray has to use bronze shields.
- And despite what God said back in chapter 12 about not fighting, Jerry and Ray fight constantly throughout their reigns.

## 3. Death of Jeroboam. 14:31

- Finally, Ray dies and is buried, and his son Abijah (not to be confused with Abijah) rules in his place.

### POST-LESSON:

#### LEARNING GOAL 11: God Sees Through Our Disguises-1 Kings 14.1-18

When death threatened Jeroboam's son, Abijah, the king wanted to turn to the Lord's prophet, Anijah, for help. Why didn't Jeroboam pray to the idols he had been worshipping? Perhaps he realized that they were powerless and could not help his son. Jeroboam was afraid to approach the Lord's prophet himself, so he sent his wife in disguise.

Even though the prophet was blind, God told Anijah who his visitor was and what to say. And the resulting word from God was not a word of healing, but of death - death to Jeroboam's son, to Jeroboam and his family, and to Jeroboam's kingdom.

When we try to disguise our true motives, we may be able to fool our family members or friends by our actions, but God knows our hearts. He knows and judges our motives behind our actions.

Activities:(in beginning or end)- linguistic questions, verse memorization activity, true/ false questions, emotional questions, fact questions, (add)

Memory Verse- ways of memorization (add)

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The United Kingdom>

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The Divided Kingdom>

Homework – take home sheet (add)

Look for the themes, [Jesus Christ](#), [Politics Religion](#), [Power](#), [Spirituality](#), [Wisdom](#)

### **Lesson delivery ideas:**

#### **Creative Application – More Than Meets the Eye**

We already have talked about how God knows us better than anyone. Sometimes we can hide things from people, but we can never hide from God. He knows exactly what is in our hearts and minds.

Give each child a coffee filter and have them draw a stick figure about one inch tall near the bottom edge of the large side of their coffee filter with a black felt-tipped marker (not a perma-marker). Point out to children that the figure represents them and how others may see them.

Ask the children what color their figures are? Are they sure they are black? Tell them that next we are going to pretend that putting our stick figures into the water is like God looking at us to see what we're like.

Give each child a small cup half-filled with water and tell them to gently dip the end of their filters (where their figure is drawn) into the water slightly. What do you notice about your black stick figure? What colors do you see now? (The water will move up the filter and begin to separate the black ink into other colors. What looks like one color is really a combination of many colors together.) Point out to children that we can only see what is on the outside (just the black ink) but God can see what is in our hearts (the blue or other colors that appear).

Prayer: Lead children in a time of prayer acknowledging that God knows everything about them and still loves them. Encourage children to confess any hidden sin in their hearts and bring any other requests before Him.

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

1 KINGS 13:30

"Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan."

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## **WEEK #9: CHAPTER 15-16:28, KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH, EVIL AND GOOD**

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### Pre-class reading and assignment.

Opening hook – (add), i.e., a question(s)

Short intro: review application

### Chapter# 15

#### Abijam To Jehoshaphat (Gesundheit)

1. Abijam & Asa reign over Judah.
2. Asa follows God; Nadab & Baasha reign over Israel.
3. Israel fights against Judah

#### **1. Abijam & Asa reign over Judah. 15:1-8**

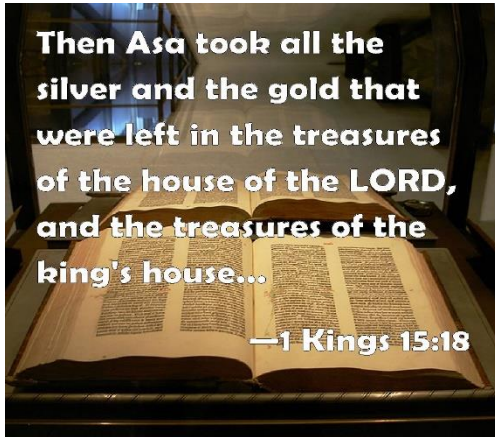
- Abijam is a sinful king just like his dad. Still, because his great-grandpa David was so righteous (except for that whole **Uriah the Hittite thing**), the Lord preserves his lineage.
- The war between Israel and Judah continues throughout Abijam's life, and then he dies.

#### **2. Asa follows God; Nadab & Baasha reign over Israel. 15:9-24**

- His son Asa becomes king, and he is actually a good person. He takes away all of the idols and temple prostitutes, and even takes away his mom's (or grandma's?) crown because she is an idol-worshipper. Way to clean house, Asa.
- He doesn't go so far as to tear down the pagan temples, but he still manages to remain pure of heart for all his days and fills the temple with lots of gold and silver and other treasures.
- (Note: For some reason, verses 16-24 occur chronologically after verses 25-33. We'll go ahead and tell them in order.)

#### **3. Israel fights against Judah. 15:25-34**

- When Jerry's son Nadab becomes king, he's evil just like his dad.
- He goes to war against a city called Gibbethon, and during the siege a person named Baasha—who's a son of Anijah—kills Nadab.
- So now Baasha is king, and he kills the whole house of Jeroboam, just like Anijah prophesied would happen (back in chapter 14) because of Jerry's wickedness.
- Now Baasha and Asa are at war. Baasha takes over a city called Ramah and builds a fortification there to block the road into Jerusalem.
- So, Asa sends all of the treasures in his house to Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, and asks him to assist in the war against Israel. Ben-hadad agrees and sends his armies against the cities of Israel.
- Baasha withdraws from Ramah and Asa dismantles it stone-by-stone and timber-by-timber. He uses these materials to build new cities.
- Asa gets old, and his feet get diseased. Then he dies, and his son Jehoshaphat assumes the throne.



## POST LESSON

### LEARNING GOAL 12: Like Father, Like Son- 1 KINGS 15:18

Rehoboam ruled over Judah for seventeen years, during his reign, he and the people worshiped false gods, and things quickly went downhill.

Abijam, Rehoboam's son, followed a similar pattern. He did not truly obey the Lord, and he constantly fought with Israel, trusting his own strength rather than God's. Nevertheless, the Lord allowed him to rule because of his promise to David that someone from his family would always rule in Jerusalem.

We may not realize how much our behavior affects our younger family members. Like it or not, children do grow up to be much like their parents. Let's be aware of our behavior.

## Chapter# 16

### Chapter outlines:

1. Baasha died, Elah ruled over Israel.
2. Zimri killed Elah. Omri ruled, did evil, dies;
3. Ahab ruled, did evil, Kings Behaving Badly

#### 1. Baasha died, Elah ruled over Israel 16:1-9

A person named Jehu prophesies that because Baasha's being just as bad as his dad was, his **posterity** is going to die and get eaten by dogs and birds. Sure enough, after Baasha dies and his son Elah takes over,

#### 2. Zimri killed Elah. Omri ruled, did evil, dies; 16:10- 28

One of Elah's captains, Zimri, kills him when he's drunk in a city called Tirzah. Then Zimri kills all of the males in Elah's family. He even kills all of his friends. **Harsh!!** Zimri acts as king for seven days in Tirzah, but when word of what he's done reaches the people, they make Omri, the captain of the host, their king. Omri leads his armies against Zimri in Tirzah, and when Zimri sees that he's lost the battle, he sets the palace on fire and burns himself to death inside. But not everyone wants Omri to be king, and a division arises, with half of the people following Omri and half following a person named Tibni. But Tibni loses, so Omri's king after all. During his reign, Omri buys a hill and builds a city there called **Samaria**.

#### 3. Ahab ruled, did evil, Kings Behaving Badly 16:29-34

Omri is eviler than anyone that came before him, and when he dies his son Ahab becomes king. And Ahab is even worse than his dad. Uh-oh. Ahab marries Jezebel, an idolatrous Sidonian princess, and he worships Baal, building altars and monuments dedicated to him.

[Look for the themes, Jesus Christ, Politics Religion, Power, Spirituality, Wisdom](#)

### Lesson delivery ideas:

Bad parents [kings] influenced their kids to act badly like them, just like bad friends might be a bad influence on us if we are not careful.

You can use the peer pressure theme as an application, as well as find ideas and illustrations to deliver the message at this site.

<https://www.meetpenny.com/2018/09/peer-pressure-object-lesson-for-kids/>

### MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 74:12a. For God is my King

**Chapter# 17**

**Pre-class reading and assignment.**

**Class session:**

**Opening hook – (add), i.e., a question(s)**

**Short intro: review application**

1. The Prophet Elijah Arises, declared three-year drought to Ahab.
2. Elijah stayed with a widow in Zarephath.
3. The widow's son died, but God revived him.

**1. The Prophet Elijah Arises and declared three-year drought to Ahab. 17:1-7**

**Enter Elijah!**

- There's this Tishbi named Elijah. He says to Ahab, "In the name of God, it's not going to rain 'til I tell it to."
- The Lord tells Elijah to go hide by a stream, and ravens will feed him.
- He does, and they do. He gets bread and meat morning and evening from the ravens, and drinks water from the stream.

**2. Elijah stayed with a widow in Zarephath. 17:8-16**

- But then it dries up (because it's not raining anymore), so the Lord tells him to go live in Zarephath. A widow there will take care of him.
- Elijah goes, and sure enough when he gets there, there's a widow gathering sticks for a fire.
- He asks her to get him a drink of water and some bread, but she tells him that she's about to use the last of her meal and oil to make one final meal for her and her son before they starve to death.
- But Elijah tells her, "Don't worry. Feed me first, and God won't let your food run out until the rains come again."
- She believes Elijah, feeds him first, and—as promised—their food doesn't run out.

**3. The widow's son died, but God revived him. 17:17-24**

- Despite this, though, the widow's son gets really sick and dies.
- The woman wonders if God sent Elijah to kill her son as punishment for some sin she's committed.
- But Elijah takes the son and carries him upstairs and prays for God to restore the boy's soul to him.
- God does, and now the woman knows that Elijah is a man of God who speaks the truth.

## POST LESSON

### LEARNING GOAL 13: When the Brook Dries Up- 1 Kings 17.1-16

After Elijah boldly confronted King Ahab with the coming drought, the Lord led him to a creek and supplied the prophet's needs. But a time came when the brook dried up, and God led his man to the widow in Zarephath. There, the Lord took care of not only his needs but also the needs of a widow and her son.

When the brook dries up in our lives, we should listen carefully to God's directions for what he wants us to do next. It is dangerous for us to stay where God supplied our needs yesterday when he instructs us to move on to some new provision for today. It is a bit frightening to leave the place of our past comfort and security, but the same God who took care of us yesterday will take care of us today.



### Chapter# 18

1. Elijah meets Obadiah and Ahab.
2. Elijah went to Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal.
3. Both sacrificed on Mount Carmel, but **fire** consumes Elijah's sacrifice.
4. Rain fell on Israel

### My God Can Beat Up Your God

#### 1. Elijah meets Obadiah and Ahab.18:1-16

- After three years of drought, the Lord tells Elijah it's time to confront Ahab and make it rain.
- Meanwhile, Ahab's getting desperate to find some water. He calls a person named Obadiah, the governor of his house.
- Obadiah's a really good person. He hid one hundred prophets in a cave when Jezebel was hunting down and killing all the prophets.
- Ahab sends Obadiah to look for a place with some living grass for their horses and mules.
- To Obadiah's surprise, he bumps into Elijah while looking.
- Elijah tells Obadiah to go tell Ahab he's there, but Obadiah's like, "Are you kidding me? He's been looking all over for you, and as soon as I tell him where you are, the Lord's Spirit will carry you away somewhere, and he'll kill me."
- But Elijah promises to stay put, so Obadiah tells Ahab, and he comes running.
- "Are you the one giving us all this trouble?" he asks.

## **2. Elijah went to Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal. 18: 17-19**

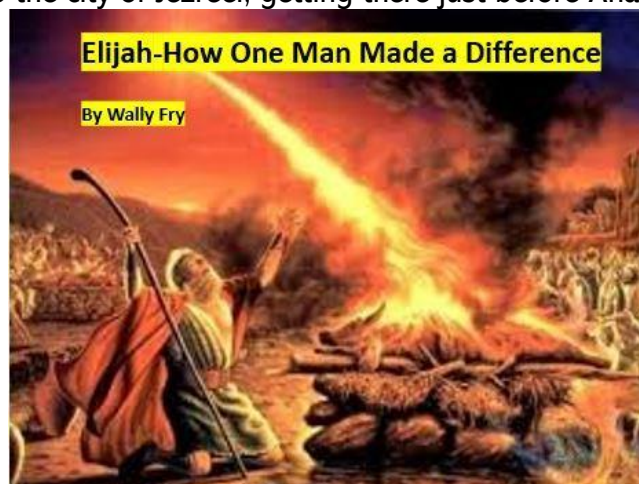
- Elijah answers, "You're the one who brought trouble when you forsook God's commandments and worshipped Baal, fool. So, here's what we're going to do: Gather all of Israel to mount Carmel, and make sure those 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 that eat at Jezebel's table come, too."
- Everyone gathers on mount Carmel, and Elijah says, "Why don't you people make up your minds? If the Lord is God, follow him. If it's Baal, follow him."
- The people say nothing.
- So, then Elijah says, "Look, there are 450 prophets for Baal, and there's just me for the Lord. Let's have a little contest. You take a bull and put it on a pile of wood. I'll do the same. We both pray to our gods, and whichever god sends fire to burn the bull is the real deal."
- This sounds good to the people, so they set to it.\

### 3. Both sacrificed on Mount Carmel, but fire consumes Elijah's sacrifice. 18: 20-40

- The priests of Baal call to their god from morning until noon, but nothing happens.
- Elijah's all like, "Louder, boys! He's probably just meditating, or he's out of the office, or maybe he's asleep, that's all."
- The priests go totally nuts, screaming super loudly and cutting themselves, as was customary. They get super bloody and gross, but still nothing happens.
- Finally, the priests give up and Elijah says, "All right everybody, check this out."
- He takes twelve stones (one for each tribe of Israel) and fixes up the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. He puts wood on top of it, cuts up the bull and lays it on top of the wood, and digs a trench around the altar.
- Then he tells the people to dump four barrels of water all over the altar not once, not twice, but three times.
- The meat and wood are soaked, and the trench is filled with water when they're through.
- When evening comes, Elijah prays to God and says, "Let everyone know today that you are God in Israel, and that I'm your servant."
- And the fire of God falls down and eats up the bull, the wood, the stones, and all the water in the trench.
- The people fall down to the ground saying "The Lord is God. The Lord is God."
- Elijah's like, "Yup. Seize the prophets of Baal."
- And he brings them down by the brook Kishon and kills all 850 of them.

### 4. Rain fell on Israel. 18:41-46

- Elijah tells Ahab to head home and eat and drink up, because it looks like rain.
- So, Ahab heads toward his house, and Elijah goes to the top of mount Carmel and prays.
- He tells his servant who's with him to go look toward the sea. He does but doesn't see anything.
- Elijah tells him to look seven more times, and finally on the seventh time the servant sees a little cloud rising out over the sea as small as a man's hand.
- The sky turns black with clouds, and a huge rainstorm bursts over the land.
- Elijah hightails it to the city of Jezreel, getting there just before Ahab does.



## POST-LESSON

### LEARNING GOAL 14: Make Up Your Mind! 1 Kings 18:17-40

Elijah had absolute confidence that the Lord was the one true God. That's why the prophet challenged Ahab and his false prophets to a contest atop Mount Carmel. Elijah wanted the king to stop causing the confusion over who was to be worshiped - Baal or God.

The prophet told the people it was time to make up their minds. They could not claim to be God's people and continue to worship idols. Elijah made fun of the 400 prophets of Baal to show the people how foolish it was to put their faith in lifeless idols, rather than in the living God.

No false god can do for us what God can do. He forgives our sins, meets our physical needs, and satisfies the spiritual longings in our hearts. God is the only one worth worshipping.

### Chapter 19

1. Elijah flees Jezebel's wrath.
2. Elijah's Encounter with The Lord.
3. Elisha anointed as his successor.

#### 1. Elijah flees Jezebel's wrath. 19:1-8

##### Earth, Wind, And Fire

- When Ahab tells Jezebel about Elijah killing all of her prophets, she's not happy.
- She sends a message to Elijah: "Let the gods kill me if I fail to do to you what you did to my prophets by this time tomorrow."
- So, Elijah goes into hiding in the wilderness.
- He sits down under a tree and tells the Lord that he thinks it's about time he died.
- He falls asleep, but an angel wakes him up and tells him to eat. Elijah finds a cake and some water next to him, and he eats and drinks before he falls asleep again.
- The angel comes to wake him a second time, and tells him, "You'd better eat up, or you won't have the energy to make the journey you're about to go on."
- Elijah wakes up and eats again. He then heads off to Horeb, a.k.a. Sinai, the mountain of God.
- He doesn't eat anything for forty days and forty nights during his journey.

#### 2. Elijah's Encounter with The Lord. 19:9-18

- Finally, he arrives at Horeb. He finds a cave and sleeps.
- In the cave, the Lord's voice comes to him and asks, "Whatcha doin', Elijah?"
- Elijah explains, "Well, I've been really loyal to you, Lord. But the Israelites are breaking your covenants and tearing down your altars and killing your prophets. I'm the only one left and now they're trying to kill me, so I'm hiding out here."
- The Lord tells Elijah to go stand on the mountain, because the Lord is going to be there.
- Before he has the chance to go out, a furious wind passes by the cave and tears up the rocks on the mountain—but the Lord's not in the wind.
- Then an earthquake comes and shakes the cave—but the Lord's not in that either. Then a fire comes, but still no Lord.
- Finally, Elijah hears "a sound of sheer silence" (NRSV 19:12—or in the KJV, "a still small voice"). He wraps his face in his cloak and walks to the mouth of the cave.

### 3. Elisha anointed as his successor. 19:19-21

- Again, he hears a voice ask, "Whatcha doin'?"
- Again, he answers, using the exact same words as before.
- The Lord tells him to go back to the wilderness of Damascus. On his way, he should anoint Hazael as king of Syria, Jehu as king of Israel, and Elisha as the prophet that will take Elijah's place when he's gone.
- The Lord says that whoever escapes from Hazael's sword will be killed by Jehu, and whomever escapes from Jehu's sword will be killed by Elisha.
- He says there are still 7,000 people left in Israel that don't worship Baal.
- So, Elijah goes back, and on his way, he passes by Elisha's farm.
- Elisha's out plowing a field with twelve oxen, and Elijah puts his cloak on Elisha as he's walking by. Elisha understands this as a symbolic call to go away with Elijah and serve God.
- Elisha gets permission to have a little going away party, then follows Elijah from that day forward.



#### POST-LESSON

Learning Goal 15: God in the Unexpected -1 Kings 19.10-13

God wanted to challenge and encourage Elijah. the prophet was allowed to experience the Lord's presence in a special way. Surprisingly, God's presence was not in the strong wind, not the earthquake, not the fire. Elijah sensed God's presence in the gentle breeze.

God does not always speak loudly to us. Nor does he always perform stunning miracles to prove his presence. Many times, he speaks to us through the small, unexpected events of life such as the cry of a baby, the bloom of a flower, or the beauty of a sunset. No matter how God chooses to reveal himself to you, he is always nearby.

Activities:(in beginning or end)- linguistic questions, verse memorization activity, true/ false questions, emotional questions, fact questions, (add)

Memory Verse- ways of memorization (add)

[http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The United Kingdom](http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The_United_Kingdom)

[http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The Divided Kingdom](http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/ottoc.htm#The_Divided_Kingdom)

Homework – take home sheet (add) themes, Jesus Christ, Politics Religion, Power, Spirituality, Wisdom

### **Lesson delivery ideas**

<https://ministry-to-children.com/story-of-elijah-for-kids/>

<https://ministryark.com/lesson/elijah-ahab-rain-2/>

1 KINGS 17:6

"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook."

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## ***WEEK #11: CHAPTER 20-22, AHAB'S EVIL REIGN IN ISRAEL***

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An unnamed prophet condemns Ahab for sparing Ben-hadad (20);  
Elijah condemns Ahab for seizing Naboth's vineyard (21).  
Micaiah prophesies Ahab's death and its fulfillment (22:1–40)  
Jehoshaphat's good reign in Judah 22:41-50  
Ahaziah's evil reign in Israel 1 Kings 22:51—2 Kings 1:18

Pre-class reading and assignment.

Short intro: review application

### **Chapter# 20- Ahab War and Prophecy of His Death**

#### **Chapter outline:**

1. Ahab Defeats Ben-hadad, Then Gets Palsy.
2. Israel won the battle against Syria twice.
3. Ahab made a treaty with Benhadad.
4. A prophet predicted Ahab's death

#### **1. Ahab Defeats Ben-hadad, Then Gets Palsy 20:1-12**

- Despite the Lord's command that Elijah anoint Hazael to be king of Syria, for whatever reason Ben-hadad is still king for the time being. He's at war with Ahab.
- During a siege of Ahab's capital of Samaria, Ben-hadad sends a messenger to tell Ahab, "Here's what's up: All your silver and gold, and your prettiest wives and children are all mine now."
- Ahab, who's obviously losing, says, "Okay, you win." He probably expects Ben-hadad to make Ahab his **vassal**, but let him keep his family and treasure with the understanding that it all really belongs to Ben-hadad.
- But Ben-hadad's like, "No, I'm going to send my people in there so they can take anything nice they see."
- So now Ahab gathers his elders, and says, "What's with Ben-hadad? I agreed to surrender, but now he literally wants all my stuff. What do I do?"
- His advisors are like, "Don't do it."
- So, Ahab tells Ben-hadad he won't settle for worse than political subjugation.
- Ben-hadad is mad. He swears to take Ahab down.
- Ahab's like, "I'll believe it when I see it."
- So, Ben-hadad commands his huge army to go against the city.
- An unknown prophet comes to Ahab and tells him that the Lord is going to help him win the battle, so he'll know that he's God.
- How? The young nobles of Israel will follow Ahab into battle and defeat Ben-hadad.

#### **2. Israel won the battle against Syria twice. 20:13-21**

- Ahab gathers 232 young men at the head of his army of 7,000 Israelites and attacks Ben-hadad and his generals as they're **inebriating themselves** under the war tents they've set up in the hills around Samaria.

- Ahab's army leaves no prisoners, and Ben-hadad barely escapes on horseback.
- The prophet warns Ahab that Ben-hadad will return next spring to attack once again, so he'd better strengthen his defenses.
- Ben-hadad's servants tell him that Israel must worship a hill god, and that's why they were so much stronger when they fought in the hills.
- They suggest that Ben-hadad fight Israel in the plains, where their god (they suppose) won't be able to help them.
- So that's what they do. That spring, a huge Syrian army goes out to meet the Israelite army in the plains.
- Once again, a man of God tells Ahab that the Lord will give him victory to prove that he is God—and not just of the hills.
- The Israelites kill 100,000 soldiers in a single day, and the Syrians flee to a city called Aphek.
- There, a wall falls down on 27,000 soldiers. Big wall.
- While Ben-hadad hides in the city, his advisors suggest that he surrender. They've heard that Israelite kings are merciful.
- So, the advisors go and ask Ahab to spare Ben-hadad's life. Ahab says, "Of course! He's my bro. Bring him on over."

### **3. Ahab made a treaty with Benhadad. 20:22-34**

- So, Ahab and Ben-hadad settle their differences, make some treaties, and part ways.
- The Lord wanted Ahab to kill Ben-hadad, though, so he sets up a little Learning Goal for Ahab.
- A prophet disguises himself as a wounded soldier (he even gets someone to actually wound him, after some persuasion involving a killer lion) and covers his face with a bandage over his eyes.
- When Ahab comes, he tells him, "King, I was fighting in the battle, but then someone told me to guard a prisoner, and that if he got away, I'd have to pay a talent of silver or die. But I got distracted during the battle, and he got away. Can you help me out here?"

### **4. A prophet predicted Ahab's death. 20:35-43**

- But Ahab's like, "No way. You have to pay the price."
- And the prophet's like, "Ah-hah!" He takes the bandage off his eyes, and Ahab recognizes him. "You let Ben-hadad get away instead of taking care of him like the Lord wanted. Now the Lord will take your life in place of his."
- Ahab feels like a real fool and goes home.

[Look for the themes, Jesus Christ, Politics Religion, Power, Spirituality, Wisdom](#)

## **Chapter# 21, Ahab, Naboth, and Elijah**

### **Chapter outline:**

1. The Vineyard of Naboth The Jezreelite.
2. Elijah said to Ahab, "Dogs will lick up your blood and eat Jezebel.
3. Ahab repented.

### **1. The Vineyard of Naboth The Jezreelite. 21:1-16**

### How to Steal A Vineyard?

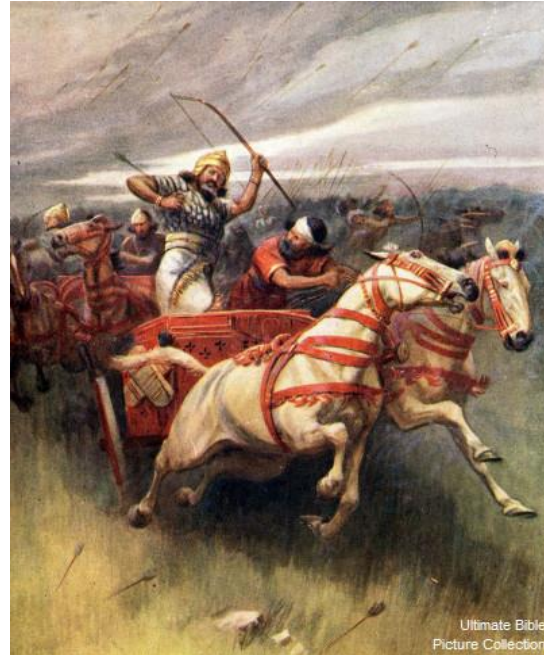
- A while later, there's a person named Naboth. He has a really nice vineyard in Jezreel right next door to Ahab's palace.
- Ahab really wants to buy it from Naboth, but Naboth refuses, saying the Lord commanded him not to sell his property to Ahab.
- So, Ahab's bummed, and he sort of throws a tantrum, flopping face down on his bed and refusing to eat.
- Jezebel, like a good wife, knows how to cheer him up. She'll just kill Naboth.
- She falsely accuses him of blasphemy and arranges for witnesses to testify against him. Next thing you know the people carry Naboth outside the city and stone him to death. **Slow clap for Jezebel.**
- Ahab obtains ownership of the vineyard, and now everybody's happy. Everybody except for God, that is.
- He sends Elijah to tell Ahab as he's relaxing in his new vineyard that dogs will lick up Ahab's blood in the same place, they licked up Naboth's.
- Ahab's like, "Elijah, my old enemy, how'd you find me?"

### **2. Elijah said to Ahab, "Dogs will lick up your blood and eat Jezebel. 21: 17-26**

- Elijah tells him, "You can't hide from the Lord, man. He's going to bring evil to your life and take away your posterity, just like he did to Jeroboam and Baasha, because you've sinned and made Israel sin. There hasn't been anyone as wicked as you've been. Jezebel tempted you to worship idols, and now you're going to be sorry. Oh—and by the way—dogs are also going to eat your wife by the wall of the city."

### **3. Ahab repented. 21:27-29**

- This scares Ahab so badly that he actually straightens up a bit. He lives in mourning and fasting and humbles himself before God.
- Because of this, God decides that he won't destroy his household until after he's dead. God's really into the **posthumous** family destruction in 1st Kings



## Chapter 22

1. Jehoshaphat Of Judah Allies with Ahab Of Israel.
  1. False prophets predict victory.
  2. Ahab killed at Ramoth Gilead and Jehoshaphat died.
  3. Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Jehoram reigned.

### 1. Jehoshaphat Of Judah Allies with Ahab Of Israel. 22:1-4

#### Ahab Wants Yes-Men

- Israel enjoys three brief years of peace before Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, comes to visit Ahab.
- While he's there, Ahab makes him a proposition: "Syria has conquered a city called Ramoth-Gilead that rightly belongs to Israel. How about helping us take it back?"
- Jehoshaphat agrees, saying, "My horses are your horses, amigo. But let's ask the Lord what he thinks first."
- So, Ahab gathers about 400 prophets together and asks, "Should we battle against Syria?"
- They say, "For sure! The Lord will give you success."
- But Jehoshaphat's like, "Are these all of the prophets you've got?" Ahab admits that there's this one other person, Micaiah, but Ahab hates him because he only ever prophesies bad stuff about him. But Jehoshaphat's like, "Oh, come on. Let's see what he says," so Ahab sends a messenger to get him.

### 2. False prophets predict victory. 22:5-28

- Meanwhile, all the other prophets are saying that Ahab and Jehoshaphat are just going to pummel Syria at Ramoth-Gilead.

- The messenger arrives at Micaiah's house and tells him, "Look, all the other prophets are giving the green light, so it'd be great if you could just go along with things this time."
- But Micaiah says he'll be saying whatever the Lord tells him to say, thank you very much, no matter what.
- Still, when Micaiah gets to the palace and Ahab asks for his opinion, he sarcastically says, "Hey, why not? Go for it. You've got it in the bag."
- Ahab angrily demands that he give him a serious answer, and Micaiah says, "I saw a vision of your armies scattered like sheep with no shepherd."
- But Ahab just says, "See, Jehoshaphat? I told you he only ever prophesies bad stuff about me. Forget him."
- Micaiah continues, "The Lord wants you to go to battle. He's put a lying spirit in all of those other prophets, so they'd convince you."
- But one of the prophets, Zedekiah, smacks Micaiah in the face and says, "You're the one with the lying spirit."
- Ahab condemns Micaiah to prison until he returns victorious from battle.
- Micaiah tells him, "If you come back from this battle, then I'm not a prophet." (Which was sort of a nifty way to prophesy, since no matter what happened, he was right.)
- But Ahab and Jehoshaphat don't listen, and they head off to battle in Ramoth-Gilead.
- Ahab decides to disguise himself as a normal soldier.
- Unbeknownst to him, the king of Syria has commanded his thirty-two chariot captains not to waste their time with regular soldiers, and to only go against the king of Israel himself.
- So, they see Jehoshaphat in his kingly armor and start to chase him, thinking he's Ahab. Luckily, they figure out that they're after the wrong person and leave him alone.

### **3. Ahab killed at Ramoth Gilead and Jehoshaphat died. 22:29-40**

- But Ahab gets hit by an arrow as he's driving his chariot during the battle.
- He tells his servant to carry him from the field, but the battle is too hectic, and he's not able to make it to safety.
- He bleeds to death all over his chariot, and the campaign is called off.
- He's brought back to Samaria, where dogs lick up his blood as they wash it from his chariot and his armor, and prostitutes wash in the same water.
- So, Ahab's son Ahaziah becomes king.

### **4. Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Jehoram reigned. 22:41-53**

- During Jehoshaphat's reign in Judah, the people continue worshipping idols, though not as much as before. Despite this, Jehoshaphat himself is a pretty good person.
- He makes peace with Israel and gets rid of the temple prostitutes, which is great.
- He dies, and his son Jehoram takes his place.
- Ahaziah is evil, like his parents, and worships Baal.

### **POST-LESSON**

#### **Promises for Us.**

**In the classic Christmas movie, it's a Wonderful Life, George Bailey is allowed to glimpse the way his quint hometown of Bedford Falls would have been if he had never lived. Instead of a**

decent community in which goodness held its own against greedy Mr. Potter, Bedford Falls had become a sleazy town where all wealth went into Mr. Potter's pockets.

In 1 Kings, the Bible tells the story of Israel as it changes from a decent nation to a greedy one. Under Solomon's rule, Israel reached world renown and general prosperity. But near the end of his life, Solomon changed and as a result, Israel fell apart. After a civil war split the country, many of the kings in the north were like Mr. Potter. In the south, some were like George Bailey, but many were like Mr. Potter. Both nations were in big trouble. It was almost as if Solomon had never lived.

Lasting success in life depends on remembering what's important to the very end. Those who forget about God and begin to think they made themselves successful will fade away.

**ADD: Activities:(in beginning or end)- any of the following: linguistic questions, verse memorization activity, true/ false questions, emotional questions, fact questions, (add)**

**Memory Verse-**

**Lesson delivery ideas**

1. [HTTPS://WWW.CHRISTIAN TODAY.COM/ARTICLE/WHO-IS-NABOTH-AND-WHAT-CAN-WE-LEARN-FROM-HIS-TRAGIC-EXPERIENCE/127402.HTM](https://www.christiantoday.com/article/who-is-naboth-and-what-can-we-learn-from-his-tragic-experience/127402.htm)
2. <https://ministry-to-children.com/northern-kings-part-2-lesson/>

**FOR CONSIDERATION – GENERAL REFLECTION:**

- What Successes have you had, or do you want to achieve?
- What things do you think could tempt you to turn your back on God and take sole credit for your success?
- What happens in the lives, families, and careers of people who forget about what made them successful in the first place?

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## ***WEEK # 12: CONCLUSION OF 1 KINGS -MAY BE FOR HIGH SCHOOL- OPTIONAL***

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**It's important to finish well.**

Solomon started out great – but he did not finish well. Elijah started out great but then grew discouraged – but he did not give up. Elijah finished well. Solomon in all of his wisdom, who built the extravagant temple for the Lord and had two appearances from God himself – married foreign women and turned into a fool – worshipping pagan gods. Watching the fall of this great man is painful. Sin brought ruin to his kingdom and family dynasty. Sin ruins the honor of great men and ruins their families.

We assume that we will be wiser as we age, but Solomon was wiser in his youth than in his old age. Age does not automatically bring wisdom but rather it's an issue of our hearts and our obedience to God that brings wisdom.

Just like Elijah, when we take our eyes off of God and his power and we focus on our fears and troubles of life, we will face discouragement. Elijah struggled just like we do yet, he continued on in trusting God and he continued to be used mightily by God.

**Let's be like Elijah... Continued on! Do not give up!**

Let's finish well!

**To the Teacher / Conclusion: High School**

Use the following theme guides every week so the students do some deductive studies for discussion.

Theme (main topics): Christ, Politics, Religion, Power, Spirituality, Wisdom

Reflection of Christ:

He is the mighty king, "The placing of Solomon on the throne signals the beginning of the Davidic dynasty, a royal lineage that will eventually produce Jesus Christ. God has begun to keep the promises made to David in 2 Sam 7:7-17."<sup>4</sup>

Solomon =peace. Jesus is Prince of Peace

His reign is a type or picture of that reign of peace by Jesus Christ, who is greater than Solomon, Luke 1:32; Mat 12:42.

Elijah: In many ways Elijah, Israel's savior, prefigured Jesus Christ, and His ministry. The Scriptures point to me! in John 5:39

Find Jesus Christ in Kings –

Beginning of Dynasty, King Solomon, Prophets, Temple,

\* The Lord Christ is seen as “the King of kings” and “the Lord of lords”.

\* Solomon was the ‘Sage’ or ‘the wise man’ (3: 16-28); the author of proverbs, praises, and poems. The Lord Christ, on the other hand, is ‘Wisdom of God’ (Luke 11: 31; 1 Corinthians 1: 30). According to St. Cyril the Great: [That woman – the queen of Sheba – although a barbarian, yet she vehemently sought the wisdom of Solomon; ... As for you, although the Wisdom Himself is present among you; He who came to talk to you about the unseen heavenly

issues, confirming His talk by wonders and miracles; yet you carelessly forsake the Word, and the amazing nature of His teachings].

\* Solomon built the temple, the house of God, instead of the tabernacle of the meeting; as a symbol of the body of Christ (John 2: 19-22); and of the church, the body of Christ and His temple (1 Corinthians 3: 16, 17; 6: 19, 20).

\* Solomon enjoyed an exalted glory: In building and furnishing the temple, estimated by some, according to the year 1980 standard, to cost around 240 billion dollars. In building his own palace (7: 1-12; John 14: 1-3). In establishing his kingdom (2: 12; Colossians 1: 13; 2 Peter 1: 11). In his wisdom (3: 12; 4: 29-34; 1 Corinthians 1: 30).

Yet, despite all that glory, the Lord Christ says, while holding a lily from the field: "Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 6: 29); by which He intends for us to perceive that: "No flesh should glory in His presence" (1 Corinthians 1: 29).

### *Politics*

Assassinations? (see 2:24-25 for starters).

Shifting alliances? (see 15:18-20).

Rebellion? (check out 12:13-19).

Sordid love affairs?

Adonijah wishes (see 2:17), but sort of (see 11:1).

The visit of the Queen of Sheba (chapter 10).

Questions About Politics

How does Solomon personify both the benefits and the downsides of an absolute monarchy?

Does politics make the politicians in 1st King's evil, or do they bring their evil into politics?

Can you find any political white knights in 1st Kings who have a high moral code and never compromise it?

Can you find examples of prophets or men of God getting involved in politics? How does it turn out?

### *Worship/Religion*

When we talk about religion in 1st Kings, we have to talk specifically about ritual. Much of the religious activity here is directly connected to the customs, traditions, rites, and ceremonies of worship—whether of God or of some other gods (deity). Nowhere is this more obvious than in the chapters focused on Solomon's Temple. In order for Solomon and his people to achieve the ultimate communion with the Lord, they have to build a place where special rituals can be performed. It's a classic "[if you build it, he will come](#)" situation.

And of course, anytime God has a bone to pick with Israel and its kings, he usually focuses not on their mental, emotional, or spiritual infidelities, but on their symbolic infidelity through ritualistic devotion to other gods—although the two are, admittedly, probably not too easy to separate (see 11:7-9). In 1st Kings, sacramental actions speak louder than pious words.

Questions About Religion

What is the most powerful force in 1st Kings: religion, money, or physical might?

1st Kings gives a lot of attention to religious places and structures. How many can you name?

How many instances can you find in which religion is used as a political tool in 1st Kings?

Do you think the Lord is more upset when he gets supplanted by many idol gods, or by just one? Or is it all the same to him?

### *Power*

There are lots of sources of power in 1st Kings. Most of them can be found in either.

Solomon (wealth, wisdom, status, etc.) or

Elijah (virtue, honor, spirituality, etc.),

No matter what sort of power it is, God gave it, and he'll take it away if you don't keep in obedience (for an example see 9:6-7).

1st Kings drives home to the reader that the ultimate source of power is God. If a character possesses any power, it's really only as a conduit through which God is channeling his power. Thus, Solomon remains truly on top of the world only as long as he's faithful to God, and Elijah's titanic power only grows as he obeys God (check out 2nd Kings 1:9-12).

Questions About Power

Does it seem like power comes too easily in 1st Kings? Does that affect how people use it?

Does it seem like Elijah's power is dependent upon his geographic location? Give examples.

Finish this sentence: In the Power Olympics of 1st Kings, gold goes to Elijah; silver to Solomon, and bronze to \_\_\_\_\_.

Compare the power of the main women in 1st Kings: Bathsheba, Abishag, the Widow of Zarephath, and Jezebel.

### *Spirituality*

Spirituality is strongly tied to personal contact with God, a.k.a. "[theophany](#)", in 1st Kings.

The Lord manifests himself in a dream (3:5; 9:2), in a rush of smoke (8:10-12), as a voice (19:13), through ravens (17:6), through angels (19:5-7), through Elijah (17:10-24), through Solomon (10:1-9), in fire (18:38), and in silence (19:12).

With the exception of the whole fire battle with Baal thing, he only comes to those who have proven their devotion to him. Often, he only comes when they're in the right place, like the temple (8:10-11), the wilderness (19:4-8), or a mountain (19:8-13). Location, location, location.

Building the temple - 1 Corinthians 3:16, tells Christians that they are God's \*temple. The Spirit of God lives in them. In Ephesians 2:19-22, Paul says that the church is the \*temple of God. Jesus is the foundation (the strong base). Christians are like the stones of the \*temple in which the \*Holy Spirit lives. Today, we do not pray towards a place but towards a person, the \*Lord Jesus Christ.

God in the temple -glory cloud, the shekinah, came down and filled it. This was the visible manifestation of the presence of God in the midst of His people.

Questions About Spirituality

What are the ten most spiritually significant moments for the characters in 1st Kings?

Compare and contrast the spiritual events that occur on mountains vs. in the wilderness vs. in/around the temple. Notice anything interesting?

Can you find any other ways God manifests himself to people in 1st Kings?

What evidence could you use to make the argument that Jezebel is more spiritual than Bathsheba?

### *Wisdom*

Paul says this (in Colossians 2:3). 'All the valuable things of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ.' Jesus said about himself that 'someone greater than Solomon is here' (Matthew 12:42).

**Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Proverbs 12:15** The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise. Solomon's wisdom is, of course, legendary. And yet it would be a mistake to see Solomon as a straightforward embodiment of pure, godly wisdom. The fact that he falls from grace in the end aside, there are still a few problems with Solomon's wisdom. For starters, is it okay for Solomon to pray for wisdom in the first place? Wasn't it [Faust's](#) quest for knowledge that

doomed him? Could Solomon have fallen into a similar trap at some point? What good is all that wisdom if you ultimately lose your soul and hamstring your kingdom? Sounds more like [wisdumb](#) to us.

### *Questions About Wisdom*

What are some synonyms for "wise" that you think apply to Solomon? Any examples from the text that back up your ideas?

What, if anything, is the difference between the wisdom that God gives Solomon and the wisdom exhibited by Nathan, David, Elijah, and other conventionally wise characters?

Must wisdom always be linked with religiosity or morality? Can one be wise, yet immoral—even villainous?

Can you think of any character—in the Bible, in film, in literature—that could go toe-to-toe with Solomon in a battle of wits (besides [this person](#))?