

Divided Timeline Unit



Outline of Lessons

<i>WEEK #1–The Kingdom of Israel is Divided</i>	
Sunday	God's Plan to Divide the Kingdom Rehoboam's Unwise Decision Jeroboam's Unwise Decision
Wednesday	Overview– Israel: The Northern Kingdom Judah: The Southern Kingdom
<i>WEEK #2–Elijah and Elisha–God's Prophets</i>	
Sunday	Elijah and Ahab Elijah's Victory on Mount Carmel Ahab's Dynasty Ended
Wednesday	Elisha's Ministry Foreshadowing Christ's Ministry
<i>WEEK #3–More Prophets for God's Kingdom</i>	
Sunday	What is a Prophet? The Last Days of Israel
Wednesday	Isaiah; Kings Hezekiah and Manasseh
<i>WEEK #4–Judah's Last Days</i>	
Sunday	Prophets Nahum and Zephaniah King Josiah
Wednesday	Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet The Last Kings of Judah

"DIVIDED" Essential Knowledge and Skills



Essential Knowledge—Students will know that...

Lesson 1a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Solomon's sin was the reason for the division of the kingdom. Students will know facts concerning the beginnings of the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah.
Lesson 1b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to follow God's ways completely. God keeps His promises, for reward and for punishment
Lesson 2a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> God cares for His faithful prophet. SW see God's attempt, through Elijah, to show the people of Israel that there was only One, True God.
Lesson 2b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> God's prophets used His power to show the people the One, True God, whom they should faithfully serve. God is always able to accomplish His purpose Elisha was Elijah's Successor; Elisha's work pictures the work of the coming Messiah.
Lesson 3a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The role of a prophet was to speak God's messages to His people. The prophets fit into the history of the Divided Kingdom. SW know the importance of wise counselors. SW know that God rewards faithfulness and punishes evil ways.
Lesson 3b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SW know how prophets fit into history of the Divided Kingdom. God answers prayer. Pride in the life of King Hezekiah became a problem
Lesson 4a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> God sent prophets in the last days of Judah to warn of coming destruction. God uses other nations to accomplish His purposes. God is just, and He punishes sin
Lesson 4b	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> God sent prophets in the last days of Judah to warn of coming destruction. God uses other nations to accomplish His purposes. Sometimes when we proclaim God's word to others we may be persecuted, like Jeremiah.

SKILL OBJECTIVES IN "DIVIDED" Students Can...

1. List the kings of Judah.	<i>Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoikim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah</i>
2. Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.	<i>MAJOR—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel MINOR—Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi</i>
3. Define these words: <i>Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah</i>	<i>See Vocabulary pages in Booklet</i>



DIVIDED LESSON 1A—Division of the Kingdom of Israel

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will know that Solomon's sin was the reason for the division of the kingdom.
2. Students will know facts concerning the beginnings of the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS:

1. List the kings of Judah
2. Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah
3. Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.

STORIES TO BE HIGHLIGHTED:

Reason for Division of Kingdom; Ahijah's Prophecy to Jeroboam

Solomon's Death; Rehoboam's Unwise Decision

Sin of Jeroboam

Sin in Judah; Evaluation of Rehoboam

INTRODUCTION:

- ☑ Who were the Israelites? (God's chosen people)
- ☑ How did they come to have a nation called Israel? (God promised it, first to Abraham, and then He led the chosen people to defeat the inhabitants of Canaan and take the land)
- ☑ *Today, we want to find out why God would allow the kingdom of His chosen people to be divided!*

LESSON: PART 1—GOD'S PLAN TO DIVIDE THE KINGDOM

1. 1 Kings 11:1-8 tells us why the kingdom was divided. Why?
 - *Solomon's sin: His wives turned his heart after other gods*
 - *His heart was not loyal to the LORD*
 - *He went after the Ammonite and Sidonian gods*
 - *He did evil and did not fully follow the LORD as did his father David*
 - *He built high places to worship god of the Moabites and Ammonites and built places of worship for all his foreign wives*

➡ *Can you see now why God had forbidden His people to intermarry with foreign people? Even Solomon, the wisest man on earth was lured away from the true God by his wives!*
2. **Read 1 Kings 11:9 - 13.** God became angry with Solomon and told him that he would tear the kingdom away from him and give it to his servant. But because of God's regard for his father David, He would not do it in Solomon's lifetime, but in the lifetime of his son. God also told Solomon that He would save one tribe for his son. I wonder what that tribe might be? (*Judah*)
3. **Jeroboam—the Servant becomes a King.**
 - **Read 1 Kings 11:26-32, 36**—Jeroboam was a good servant of King Solomon. God sent the prophet **Ahijah** to tell him something interesting! The prophet was wearing a new garment. He tore in into **twelve pieces**. He told Jeroboam to take **ten of the**

pieces because God was going to tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give ten pieces to Jeroboam!

4. I Kings 11:37-38 tells about an offer God made to **Jeroboam**. What was that offer?
 - *If Jeroboam listened to all of God's commandments and walked in His statutes, did what was right, then God would be with him and build for him an enduring house (his dynasty would always reign—just like David).*
 - ➔ *Would you want to obey the conditions to receive that reward?*
5. Read 1 Kings 11:40—Solomon found out about Jeroboam and wanted to kill him! But Jeroboam fled to Egypt until the death of Solomon.
6. I Kings 11:42-43 records the death of Solomon.

LESSON: PART 2—KINGDOM IS DIVIDED IN REHOBOAM'S TIME

1. 1 Kings 12:1 - 2. **Rehoboam** was the son of Solomon, so he was to be the next king. The people came to him with some questions about how he would rule over them. By this time, **Jeroboam**, who had been hiding in Egypt, heard of the death of Solomon and returned to Israel. He came to Rehoboam with the whole congregation of Israel to find the answers to many questions:
 - *They wanted to know if Rehoboam would make their lives easier by lessening their burdens. Remember, Solomon had many building projects that went on during his whole reign (what were some of the things Solomon built?). This required much labor on the part of his people and high taxes.*
 - *The people wanted to know if things would be easier now that Solomon was dead.*
 2. **Rehoboam's Unwise Decision.** I Kings 12:1-5.
 - The writer records the exchange that took place between the people and Rehoboam. (Also found in II Chronicles 10) I Kings 12:13-15 tells us that Rehoboam followed the advice of the young men, and would not listen to the people.
 - ➔ Look at 12:15 - Note: *"for it was a turn of events from the Lord,"*
- 📖 *What was the result of Rehoboam's decision? Look at verse 12:20--*
 - 📖 *The congregation of Israel sent for Jeroboam and made him their king!*
 - 📖 *If you needed wise advice would you go to your young friends or your older, wiser friends? Sometimes we have to think about who we are going to listen to!*
 - 📖 *Read 12:24—Rehoboam's first impulse was to rise up and fight the Israelites. But God came to him through a man of God and told him that *"This thing is from Me."* Rehoboam obeyed and did not fight.*

LESSON: PART 3—Jeroboam's Unwise Decision as King of Israel.

1. Do you remember the promise made to Jeroboam by Ahijah? Let's see what Jeroboam did. Read I Kings 12:26-33; 13:33-34. What things did Jeroboam do that displeased God?

- *He made two calves of gold for the people to worship so that the people would not travel to Jerusalem to worship and get homesick for the old kingdom.*
- *He put the two calves in Dan and Bethel for the people to worship.*
- *He made shrines on the high places for worshipping.*
- *He made priests from any of the tribes, not just Levi.*
- *He created new feast days separate from the ones God had instituted in His laws.*
- *There were priests for each of the high places of worship.*

📌 *Who were the spiritual leaders in Israel? (Priests and Levites)*

📌 *Look at II Chronicles 11:14-16. Where did these people go? (Jerusalem)*

➡ *Thank goodness there were people in Israel who refused to go along with changing God's laws as Jeroboam had done! But those who remained in Israel were led into many great sins because of Jeroboam's bad decisions. The people of Israel were never again wholly faithful to God because of Jeroboam's sin.*

➡ *Can you see how important it is for just one person to fully obey God? Can you see the impact that just one person can have on an entire nation? What about today? Is this true today? (Elaborate if time allows)*

LESSON: PART 4--God's Judgment on Jeroboam. 1 Kings 14

1. Jeroboam's son **Abijah** became sick and Jeroboam sent his wife to the prophet **Ahijah** to find out what would happen to him. Jeroboam told his wife to disguise herself. Here is what happened:
 - God told **Ahijah** (who was almost blind because of his age) that Jeroboam's wife would come to him and told him what to say.
 - He asked why she was pretending to be somebody else?
 - **Read vs. 7 - 10--Jeroboam** was to be told that because of all the **evil** he had done that God would bring **disaster** upon him: **every male** would be cut off (killed) and there would be **no descendants** left of Jeroboam. Dogs would eat those who died in the city and birds would eat those who died in the field. *(Remember this for a later lesson!!!)*
 - Their son **Abijah**, in whom God had found something good, would die as soon as her feet entered the city!

LESSON: PART 5--Back to Rehoboam.

1. Let's see what is happening in the Southern part of the Kingdom under **Rehoboam**:
 - **2 Chronicles 11 and 12** tell us about some **good things** that happened. **11:16-17** says that when the priests from Israel began arriving back in Judah, they set their hearts to seek the LORD. They strengthened the kingdom of Judah for three years.

- However, after this, **Rehoboam** and the people of Judah began to be unfaithful also, building high places, wooden images and sacred pillars. It also says there were *perverted* persons in the land. (Just like today, right?)
 - God sent the **king of Egypt** to come and take away all of the treasures from the king's house and temple, and golden shields that Solomon had made. Rehoboam replaced these with bronze shields.
 - However, **2 Chronicles 12:12** tells us that Rehoboam "humbled himself" and that God's wrath was turned away.
2. **Abijah Succeeds His Father, Rehoboam. 2 Chronicles 13.** After the death of **Rehoboam**, his son, **Abijah** (or Abijam), become king in Judah. **Abijah**, apparently, was faithful to God. There was a battle between Jeroboam and Abijah:
- **Abijah** addressed the **soldiers** of Israel and reminded them of the sins of Jeroboam, the **golden calves**, the **false priesthood**.
 - He also reminded them that the people of Judah had **not forsaken** their God; that the priests were the true priests of the tribe of **Levi**, and that true and pure **sacrifices** were made in the mornings and evenings on the **altar** at the temple. He told them not to fight against God.
 - **Jeroboam** ambushed him from behind and in front, creating two battle lines. But God struck the army of Israel and Judah prevailed. He also struck Jeroboam so that he died.
 - **13:18** tells us that the people of Judah prevailed because **"they relied on the LORD God of their fathers."**



LESSONS FROM TODAY'S LESSON:

- *Even though Solomon was a wise man, he became unfaithful and God tore his kingdom into two parts.*
- *We must be careful who we receive advice from. Sometimes, older, more experienced people have better advice for us than our younger friends.*
- *God expects total obedience. When He asks us to worship Him in a certain way, He expects us to do that. Changes made by man in worship that are contrary to God's laws are never acceptable.*
- *The sin of one leader can lead the whole group, nation or congregation into the kind of unfaithfulness from which they can never recover.*
- *Even if we are in a desperate situation, reliance upon God can bring us rescue and success!*



DIVIDED

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Kings of Judah

1 Dynasty

Rehoboam
Abijah (Abijam)
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Ahaziah
Athaliah (Queen)
Joash
Amaziah
Azariah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoikim
Jechoiachin
Zedekiah

Kings of Israel

9 Dynasties

Jeroboam I
Nadab
Baasha
Elah
Zimri
Omri
Ahab
Ahaziah
Jehoram
Jehu
Jehoahaz
Jehoash
Jeroboam II
Zechariah
Shallum
Menahem
Pekahiah
Pekah
Hoshea



DIVIDED Lesson 1B—Overview of the Two Kingdoms

OBJECTIVES:

1. *It is important to follow God's ways completely.*
2. *Students will observe that God keeps His promises, for reward and punishment*

ESSENTIAL SKILLS (to be worked on during entire unit):

1. **List the kings of Judah**
2. **Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah**
3. **Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.**

INTRODUCTION:

1. Review why God split the kingdom into two parts—Solomon's sin.
2. Review the names of the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah).
3. Who were the first two kings of these new nations? (Jeroboam and Rehoboam)

LESSON: PART 1—THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

1. **Read 1 Kings 11:37 - 38.** God's Promise to Jeroboam through Ahijah the prophet:

- *"You shall be king over Israel"*
- *"If you listen and obey; do what is right in My sight...to keep the statutes and commandments"...*
- *"Then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David..."*

2. **Read 1 Kings 12:26 - 33.** What did Jeroboam do when he became king over the 10 northern tribes?

- He worried (lost faith), then asked for advice...bad advice??
- Built 2 golden calves at Bethel and Dan for the people to worship instead of going to the Temple in Jerusalem.
- He "justified" it---"**It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem.**" He tried to make it seem right to his people.
- Built shrines on the high places; appointed priests from every class of people; established his own feast days—different from the ones God had commanded His people, "**...which he devised in his own heart.**"

3. **1 Kings 13:1ff.** God sent a prophet to warn Jeroboam about all these things. Jeroboam did not listen, but continued in all these sins.

4. **Read 1 Kings 14:14 - 16.** *God's judgment on Jeroboam:*

- House of Jeroboam will be cut off.
- The LORD will strike Israel; they will be uprooted from this good land that He gave them, and be scattered beyond the river.



And WHY? Because of the sins of Jeroboam, and because he made Israel sin. When we cause other people to sin, it is a very serious matter with God!

➡ Jeroboam's evil way was just the beginning of the evil ways in the Northern Kingdom. The next group of Northern kings (Show overhead of "divided Kingdom" Kings):

- **Nadab**, son of Jeroboam. **1 Kings 15:25-26**. Did evil. Walked in the ways of his father. Assassinated by the next king:
- **Baasha**. Killed the entire house of Jeroboam. **1 Kings 16:1-4**. Bad king. Angered God.
- **Elah**, son of Baasha. **1 Kings 16:8-13**. Killed by Zimri, who killed all the house of Baasha.
- **Zimri**. **1 Kings 18:15**. Reigned 7 days. Killed by Omri, commander of the army.
- **Omri**. **1 Kings 18:23 - 28**. Built the city of Samaria as his capital. Father of Ahab. Evil, evil, evil.
- **Ahab**. **1 Kings 18:29 - 33**. More evil than the rest! Served Baal, married an idol worshipper (Jezebel), and erected a wooden image.

➡ *Do you get the picture?? Out of a total of 19 kings (which spans about 200 years), there was no good king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel!*

➡ Read 2 Kings 17:22-23. Summary of the Northern Kingdom, and their sins: God sent the nation of Israel (Northern Kingdom) into captivity in **Assyria**. They were scattered in many different directions. *God never made a provision for their return*. It happened in **722 B.C.**

LESSON: PART 2—JUDAH, THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM

1. Let's look at an example of the way things went in the **Southern Kingdom of Judah—The Third king, Asa**.
 - Read **II Chron. 14:2-7** (also found in I Kings 15:9-15). Asa did what was right in God's sight. He seemed like a very good king.
 - **II Chron 14:9-15**. God-given victory over the Ethiopians.
 - **II Chron 15:1-7** Word of the prophet Azariah: "If you seek Him, He will be found by you; if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."
 - **II Chron. 15:8-19** Reforms of Asa.
 - **II Chron. 16:1-14** and **I Kings 15:16-24**. Unwise treaty with Aram (Arameans, or Syrians, whose capital was Damascus).
 - The seer Hanani came to see Asa (**II Chron 16:7-9**); Verse 9 is one of my favorite verses in the Bible:

➡ *"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him..." Do you think God is still looking for people who are loyal to Him? Yes!!*

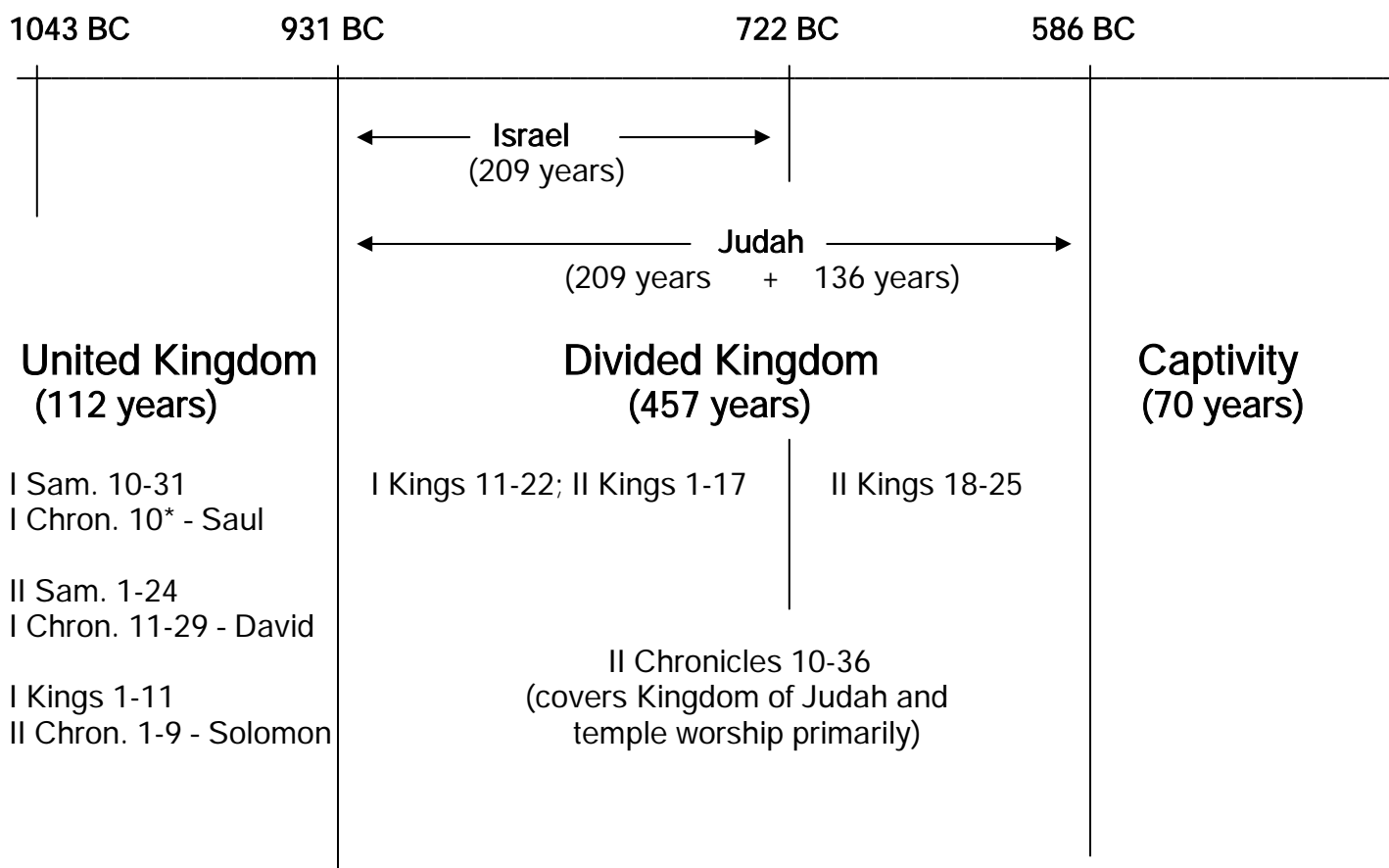
- Asa has a disease in his feet, but will not seek the LORD. (**Chron. 16:12**)

➡ This is often the way things went in the Southern Kingdom. There were some good kings and some evil kings, but many of them did *some* good and *some* evil things.

2. **A Contrast**. Contrast two other kings of Judah, and they happen to be a king and his son. **Hezekiah** and **Manasseh**.
 - Read **2 Kings 18:1 - 8**. **Hezekiah** was a remarkably good king. God blessed him in all that he did. We will study more about him in a couple of weeks.
 - Read **2 Kings 21:1-7**. **Manasseh**, his son, was the most wicked of all the kings of Judah, the Southern kingdom. At this point, God had had enough! **21:10-15--"I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down."**

- Thus, Judah was taken away as captives, or slaves, to the land of Babylon by **King Nebuchadnezzar** in three different groups between 605 B.C. and 586 B.C. (This was a little more than 100 years after the destruction of the Northern Kingdom.)

Overview of the Books of Kings and Chronicles:



➡ I Chronicles 1-9 covers genealogies from Adam to King Saul.

➡ The Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by Assyria in 722 BC.

➡ The Kingdom of Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon beginning in 605 BC.

➡ The books of I and II Kings were written before the end of the Kingdom of Judah, with the exception of the last two chapters of II Kings.

➡ The books of I and II Chronicles were written after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity.



DIVIDED LESSON 2A–The Prophet Elijah

OBJECTIVES:

1. God cares for His faithful prophet.
2. SW see God's attempt, through Elijah, to show the people of Israel that there was only One, True God.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS (to be worked on during entire unit):

1. List the kings of Judah
2. Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah
3. Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read I Kings 16:31--*"And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel daughter of the king of the Sidonians and he went to serve Baal and worshipped him."*
2. Do you know of whom this verse is speaking? (Ahab)
3. During this time we find a man named Elijah---beginning in I Kings 17.

LESSON: PART 1–NO RAIN IN ISRAEL.

1. Read I Kings 17:1–The prophet Elijah tells Ahab that there will be no dew or rain except at his word.
2. I Kings 17:2-4–The LORD told Elijah to go hide by the **Brook Cherith**, east of the Jordan River. Lord provided bread and meat in the morning and evening by ravens, and he drank from the brook, until the brook dried up (verse 7)
3. I Kings 17:9-16. Lord sent Elijah to **Zarephath in Sidon** (not in Israel), where he was told that a **widow** would provide for him. He found a widow gathering sticks, and Elijah asked her for water. While she was getting the water he also asked for a piece of bread. She had only a handful of flour and a little oil - he asked for her first piece of bread. Her flour and oil did not run out!
4. Read Kings 17:17-24. The Widow's Son Becomes Sick. Later, the woman's son became very sick and died. Elijah took him to the upper room where he was staying and prayed to God and he was brought back to life.

LESSON: PART 2–ELIJAH'S VICTORY ON MOUNT CARMEL.

1. I Kings 18:1-16. An interesting story of Ahab's servant, **Obadiah** (had charge of Ahab's house and feared the LORD greatly), who was able to save 150 of the LORD's prophets from Jezebel by keeping them in a cave with nothing to eat but bread and water. Elijah meets him on the road and wants him to go ahead of him and tell Ahab that Elijah will be coming soon. He is fearful of Ahab's reaction. Ahab has searched far and wide to find Elijah because of the famine in the land.
2. Read I Kings 18:17ff.
 - Ahab calls Elijah "**O troubler of Israel.**"
 - Vs. 18--Elijah tells Ahab that the sins of he and his father's house have troubled Israel because of Baal worship and disobedience.

3. **Read 1 Kings 18:19-24**--Elijah gives a challenge to Ahab: gather the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah on **Mt. Carmel**.
- A contest: 2 oxen, one for the prophets of Baal and one for Elijah, cut them up and put them on wood for a sacrifice, but no fire under it.
 - **18:26**--The false prophets of Baal prayed to their god all day with no answer.
 - **18:29**--No one answered; no one paid any attention!
 - **18:30-35**--Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord, using 12 stones and made a trench around it. He put the wood and the ox on the altar, then he told the people to fill 4 pitchers of water and pour it on the burnt offering and wood and repeat this 2 more times (12 pitchers of water). Then he filled the trench with water.
 - **18:36-40**--He prayed to God and fire fell, consumed the offering, the wood, the stones and dust and it licked up the water in the trench around the altar - The people who were watching realized that God is the only true God. Then Elijah ordered that the false prophets be killed.
4. **Read 1 Kings 18:41ff.** Elijah sends word to King Ahab and tells him to go eat and drink for there is the sound of rain (**this is referred to in the NT--James 5:16-17**). Elijah went to the top of Mt. Carmel. He sent his servant to look toward the sea 7 times to look for a cloud as small as a man's hand - heavy rain. Elijah outran the chariot of King Ahab to The Valley of *Jezreel*.



"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16. Isn't it amazing what wonderful things can happen when righteous people pray?

LESSON: PART 3--ELIJAH'S DISCOURAGEMENT.

1. **1 Kings 19.** When Ahab tells Jezebel about what happened on Mt. Carmel, Jezebel threatens Elijah's life because he had killed all the prophets of Baal. Elijah ran to **Beersheba**, left his servant there and went another day's journey **into the desert**.
2. **19:4**--Elijah becomes discouraged. He sat under a juniper tree and requested that he might die. An angel touched him and told him to arise and eat (bread cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water). He lay down again.
3. The angel came again and told him to get up and eat because the journey was long. He got up, and ate and drank and went in the strength of that food 40 days to **Horeb**, the "Mountain of God" (**Sinai**). He lived in a cave.
4. **19:8**--The word of God came to him and asked him what he was doing there. Elijah complained that he had done much good, but he was the only one left and now they were trying to kill him. *Was* he the only one left?? (NO - **1 Kings 18:3-4**) The voice told him to stand on the mountain while the Lord passed by.
 - There was a) a strong wind, b) an earthquake, c) a fire, but the Lord was not in these.
 - Then there was a gentle blowing (another translation: "a still small voice"), and the Lord asked him again why he was there. Elijah was still complaining, but the Lord gives him some things to do - return to wilderness of **Damascus** and anoint **Hazael** king of Aram, anoint **Jehu** as king of Israel and **Elisha** as prophet in his place.
 - Then the Lord told him that there were 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed to Baal. Elijah obeyed the Lord's instructions.



Sometimes, when we get discouraged, the best thing to do is to get out there and do something constructive! God knew that Elijah needed to get moving in order to gain spiritual strength again. God sent him on a task--a job--that provided him with hope.

LESSON: PART 4—VICTORY OVER SYRIA AND AHAB'S SIN.

1. **1 Kings 20.** After this, God gave Ahab two amazing victories over Syria so that Ahab would know that God was the One true God. Ahab had been instructed to kill the king of Syria, Ben-Hadad, but instead he made a treaty with him and showed him mercy. ***Ahab still did not follow God's ways!*** A prophet warned him that it would be his life for the life of the king he allowed to live! Ahab went to his house sullen and displeased.
2. **Naboth's Vineyard.** Ahab wanted a piece of land that did not belong to him. Naboth, the owner would not give or sell his inherited land to the king. Of course, Ahab threw a fit, was sullen and wouldn't eat. Jezebel wanted to know why Ahab was so unhappy.
 - **Read 1 Kings 21:18-29.** Jezebel had Naboth killed so Ahab could have his vineyard, but God sent Elijah to Ahab to deliver His message of condemnation on both of them. A surprise: Ahab humbled himself before God, so the punishment happened in the days of his son!



Do you remember another person who had the punishment he deserved, delayed until the days of his son? (Solomon)

3. **The Death of Ahab.** **1 Kings 22.** Ahab died in a battle against the Syrians. His son Ahaziah became king of Israel.
4. **The Death of Ahaziah.** **Read II Kings 1:6.** One day Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber and became ill. He wanted to know if he would get well, so, do you know what he did?? He sent messengers to **Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron**, to inquire about his recovery. But God sent **Elijah** to meet the messenger. A question for the king: "Is there no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub?" Ahaziah was told by Elijah that he would not recover.
5. **The Death of Jehoram, King of Judah.** **Jehoram** was the son of **Jehoshaphat** in Judah. Jehoshaphat made an error in judgment by marrying him to a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, **Athaliah**. She was wicked like her mother. In **II Chron. 21:12** we find that **Elijah** sent a letter to **Jehoram**, King of Judah, because he had killed his brothers and followed the ways of Ahab., instead of the ways of his father, Jehoshaphat. The message is found in **II Chron. 21:12 -15**. Verse 20 says that he died to no one's sorrow! How sad!



PICTURES OF CHRIST IN DIVIDED—ELIJAH.

What similarities can you see between Elijah and Jesus?

- Raised someone from the dead
- Forty days without food
- The challenge between God and Baal on Mount Carmel remind us of the battle between God and Satan. In the end, God will be victorious!

There is another character in the New Testament that reminds us of Elijah. Can you think who that might be?

John the Baptist!



DIVIDED LESSON 2B–Death of Elijah; Work of Elisha

OBJECTIVES:

1. *God's prophets used His power to show the people the One, True God, whom they should faithfully serve.*
2. *God is always able to accomplish His purpose*
3. *Elisha was Elijah's Successor and his life foreshadows the ministry of the coming Messiah.*

ESSENTIAL SKILLS (to be worked on during entire unit):

1. **List the kings of Judah**
2. **Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah**
3. **Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.**

INTRODUCTION:

1. Remember, in our last lesson, that God instructed Elijah to anoint three different men for three different tasks. Can you tell me who these were?
 - **Hazael**—to be king over Aram
 - **Jehu**—to be king over Israel
 - **Elisha**—to succeed Elijah as prophet of Israel
2. In today's lesson, we will learn about **Elisha** and his ministry as God's prophet in the land of Israel.
3. Many events in the life of **Elisha** foreshadow the ministry of **Jesus Christ**. Let's see how many things about Elisha remind us of Jesus:

LESSON: PART 1—ELIJAH GOES TO HEAVEN.

Overview 2 Kings 2:1 - 11

1. Elisha followed Elijah from Gilgal to Jericho and across the Jordan.
2. **Elijah** tried to get **Elisha** to remain behind while he went to the places the Lord was sending him, but Elisha went with him. When they came to the Jordan River, Elijah took his mantle, folded it together, and struck the waters so that they crossed over the river on dry ground.



What other occasion do you remember when someone crossed the Jordan River on dry ground?
(*The Israelites, into the Promised Land - Joshua 3*)

3. **Elijah** asked **Elisha** what he wanted before he departed from him. **Elisha** asked for a double portion of his spirit. **Elijah** said this was a hard thing, but if **Elisha** saw **Elijah** when he was taken away, it would be so. They were walking and talking and a chariot of fire and horses separated them, and **Elijah** went up by a whirlwind into heaven!
4. **Elisha** tore his own clothes into 2 pieces, took up the mantle of **Elijah** that fell from him and returned to the Jordan River. He struck the water with the mantle and the waters divided, again.

LESSON: PART 2—ELISHA'S MINISTRY.

As I tell the stories, see how many ways that Elisha seems to be like Jesus!

1. **Bad Water in Jericho.** Read II Kings 2:19-22. Elisha told the men to bring him a new jar and put salt in it. Elisha threw salt in the spring, and water was purified.



Reminds us of Jesus' first miracle—water into wine.

2. **Disrespectful Youths.** Read II Kings 2:23-25. Young lads mocked him (“baldhead”) - Elisha cursed them in name of the Lord; 2 female bears came out of woods and killed 42.
3. **The Poor Widow.** Read II Kings 4:1-7. Widow came to Elisha because creditors were about to take her 2 sons as slaves. Elisha told her to borrow vessels from her neighbors, close her door and fill the vessels with oil from her jar. Oil did not run out until the last jar was filled. She sold the oil to pay her debt.
4. **Shunnamite Woman's Son Raised from the Dead.** Read II Kings 4:8-37. In Shunem there was a family Elisha often visited. They built him a room with a bed, table, chair and lampstand. Her husband was old and she had no son. She requested a son and had one the next year. One day his head was hurting, and he died. She put him on Elisha's bed and went to Mt. Carmel to find Elisha. Elisha sent Gehazi with his staff, but nothing happened, but when Elisha came and prayed for him, he was raised from the dead.



Jesus often went to visit Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

5. **Multiplication of Food.** Read II Kings 4:42-44. A man from Baal-shalishah brought bread of first fruits (20 barley loaves, fresh of grain). Elisha told him to give them to the people to eat. “Not enough for 100 men.” He gave it to them, they ate and had leftovers. Does this remind you of anything else you have heard about in the Bible?



Reminds us when Jesus fed the 4000 and the 5000 with just a basketful of food.

6. **Healing of Naaman** (II Kings 5:1-27) Elisha heals the Syrian army commander of his leprosy when he dips in the river Jordan seven times.



Jesus healed many lepers during His ministry!



This also is a picture of baptism. Naaman was asked to do a simple thing (dip 7 times in the Jordan) to cleanse himself of his disease. We are asked to do a simple thing (be immersed in water) to cleanse ourselves of sin.

LESSON: PART 3—ELISHA REVEALS SECRET MILITARY PLANS TO THE KING. 2 Kings 6

1. The Syrians kept making plans for military action, but the Israelites always seemed to know about them ahead of time. The king of Syria wanted to know **who** in his inner circle was betraying him!
2. Some in Syria knew about God and told the king that there was a prophet in Israel that could tell Israel's king “**the words spoken in his bedroom.**” (Who would that be?? **Elisha!**)
3. **The King of Syria** was upset and sent his servants to find the prophet. When they found Elisha in Dothan, an army of horses and chariots were sent to surround the city.
4. Elisha's servant saw the army and was afraid. Elisha said “**Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**”

5. **Elisha** prayed and asked the Lord to open the eyes of the servant, and he saw the mountain was *full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha!* **Elisha** prayed and the army of Syria was struck with blindness. He led them into the city of Samaria.
6. **Elisha** prayed again and their eyes were opened. At the instruction of **Elisha**, Israel's king fed Syria's army and sent them home. The Syrian raiders never came against Israel again.

LESSON: PART 4—FAMINE IN SAMARIA.

1. **Read 11 Kings 6:24-31 and 7:1 - 20.** Ben-Hadad, the king of Syria besieged Samaria, and things got so bad that people would even eat a donkey's head and dove droppings!
2. A woman told the king of Israel (Joram) that she and her friend decided to eat first her son, then the other woman's son, but the woman hid her son instead!
3. The king threatened to cut off Elisha's head as soon as he was found (**vs. 31**).
4. Elisha found out about it and made a prophecy that soon the famine would be over and there would be plenty of food, but the king's officer did not believe it (**7:2**). Elisha said "**you will see it, but you will not eat of it.**"
5. God caused the nearby Syrian army to believe that Hittites and Egyptians were about to attack them (**vs. 6**), so they fled their camp, leaving all their supplies, food, clothing, donkeys, horses and tents!
6. Lepers from Samaria found it, and then reported it to the king.
7. The Israelites went out and plundered the camp, so that plenty of food was found for them to eat.
8. The officer was trampled at the gate of the city because of the mob racing to the Syrian camp. So, he saw it, but did not eat of it because of his unbelief.

LESSON: PART 5—ELISHA'S DEATH. II KINGS 13:14-21.

1. **Read II Kings 13:14-21.** Elisha became sick and died.
2. While they were burying him, a band of invading Moabites came by and threw the body of a dead man into the grave with Elisha.
3. When the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood up on his feet!



This is a foreshadowing of the resurrection of Christ!



Can you see all the similarities between the ministry of Elisha and the ministry of Christ? God was showing His people clues and pictures so that when Jesus came to the earth, their minds would be prepared for Him! They would be able to look back and see that God was showing them glimpses of His beloved Son.



DIVIDED LESSON 3A—What is a Prophet? Kings of Judah

OBJECTIVES:

1. SW understand the role of a prophet.
2. SW know how the prophets fit into the history of the Divided Kingdom.
3. SW see the importance of wise counselors.
4. SW know that God rewards faithfulness and punishes evil ways.
- 5.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS (to be worked on during entire unit):

1. List the kings of Judah
2. Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah
3. Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.

LESSON: PART 1--WHAT IS A PROPHET?

1. Name some of the prophets we have studied in 5th Grade:
 - **Nathan, Ahijah, Shemaiah, Elijah, and Elisha** - these were *“oral prophets,”* meaning that they spoke God's words to the people)
 - An oral prophet is someone who speaks a message from God, but we have none of their writings, or they didn't write anything down.
 - There were also *“written prophets”* - their writings are recorded in the Bible and are known as The Prophetic Books of the OT - sometimes called *Major and Minor Prophets*.
 - What is the difference in the Major and Minor prophets?
(Long ones are major, short ones are minor; no difference in importance of their messages - Why?—the messages all came from God!)
2. *What exactly is a prophet?*
 - A prophet is a **speaker** or **spokesman** for God
 - He sometimes predicts future events.
 - Some were prophets by **profession** (like Samuel and Nathan). Others were only called for a **specific task**.
 - There were also **“False Prophets.”** Those who pretended to speak for God.
 - Prophets are also called “watchmen” or “God's messengers.”
3. *What was their message?*
 - They were sent either to **“condemn”** (rebuke, criticize, censure for sins committed) or **“console”** (comfort or relieve as in times of great stress).
4. There are **17 books of prophecy in the OT** - 5 major and 12 minor; and they are the last books of the OT;
5. All, except one of the books of prophecy have the name of the author. Do you know which one does not? (**Lamentations** - written by **Jeremiah**)

6. Not all of the OT prophets lived during the period of the divided kingdom, but **eleven** of the **sixteen** did.

LESSON: PART 2—SOME PROPHETS DURING THE DIVIDED KINGDOM.

1. Remember, God's people in both **Israel** and **Judah** had begun to fall into "apostasy" (idol worship). Rather than forsake His people, God sent His **prophets** to **warn** the people of the inevitable **consequences** of their actions.
2. But God was also concerned about **other nations** of the world also. There were two countries to which God sent prophets during this time:
 - **Obadiah** was given a message to prophesy against the country of **Edom** (**Edomites** were descendants of Esau!). This is the shortest book of the Old Testament! **Edom** was going to be **overthrown** because of **pride** (they thought they were secure and safe in their fortress city of Mt. Seir). They had also been **cruel** to the Israelites (they wouldn't let them pass through their country on their way into Canaan), and they had been **cruel** to Judah during a time of invasion.
 - **Jonah** was sent to preach to the great city of **Ninevah**, the capitol of **Assyria**. Remember the Assyrians? They were a fierce, destructive and powerful country. They would eventually take over all of the northern kingdom of Israel. God's people didn't think very highly of them! Jonah was told by God to go and preach repentance to the people of Ninevah. Jonah did not want to go because he knew what they would do to his own people. *But God cares about all people and wants everyone to do what is right. God is in control of kings and kingdoms, then and now, and He is able to use the events in nations to bring about His own will.* By the way, who remembers what the people of Ninevah did when Jonah finally got there to preach? They repented!

LESSON: PART 3—KINGS OF JUDAH: Jehoram, Ahaziah, Joash, Amaziah and Uzziah.

1. In our last lesson, we ended with the death of the prophet **Elisha**. **Elijah** and **Elisha** were living and prophesying in which Kingdom, primarily? (Northern Kingdom of Israel) During this time there are some interesting things going on in **Judah**:
2. **Reign of Jehoram.**
 - **King Jehoram** (Jehoshaphat's son) in Judah married **Athaliah**, the daughter of **Ahab & Jezebel**.
 - He died, because the Lord struck him with a disease of his bowels (**II Chron. 21**). God did this because of his evil ways.
 - The Philistines came against him and carried away his wives and children, so that all he had left was his youngest son, **Ahaziah** - **II Chron 22:1; II Kings 8:25**).



Do you think King Jehoshaphat made a very wise decision when he arranged a marriage between his son and the daughter of wicked Ahab and Jezebel? We'll find out...

3. **Reign of Ahaziah.**
 - When **Ahaziah** became king, he joined with **Joram** (a cousin), **King of Israel** to fight **Hazael**, King of Aram.

- **Joram** was wounded, and **Ahaziah** went to visit him (**II Kings 9:16**). While he was there **Jehu** (remember God's instructions to Elijah while he was on the Mount Horeb, in I Kings 19:16) killed **Joram**, King of Israel and **Ahaziah**, king of Judah.



Now we see that God carried through on his threat to kill all of the descendants of Ahab, even though it is much later.

4. Reign of Athaliah.

- **Ahaziah** had no sons old enough to rule, so his mother, **Athaliah**, decided that she wanted to rule.
- She killed all the royal offspring and took the throne. She missed one son, a baby named **Joash**. Ahaziah's sister, Jehoshabeath took the king's baby (her nephew), along with his nurse and hid them in the house of God for six years (**II Chron 22:10-12**)

5. Reign of Joash.

- When **Joash** was 7 years old, **Jehoida**, the priest, gathered the Levites and some key people. With a special plan, Joash was crowned king.
- **Athaliah** heard noise and came out to see what was happening, and she was killed.
- Repairs were done on the temple and the people again worshipped God. After Jehoida's death, the people started their idol worship again. God sent prophets, but the people would not listen.
- God sent the army of Aram to defeat Judah.
- **Joash** was sick and some of his own servants killed him because he killed Jehoida's son when he tried to get Joash to turn back to the Lord (**II Chron. 24**).
- Joash's son, **Amaziah** became the next king in Judah (*This was about the same time period that Jonah went to Ninevah to preach*).

6. Reign of Amaziah, Son of Joash.

- **II Chron 25:2** tells us he did right in the sight of God, but not with his whole heart.
- After a big victory over Edom, gods were brought back and worshipped. The Lord was angry and allowed Israel to defeat Judah in battle.
- Part of the wall round Jerusalem was broken down, and the gold and silver utensils in the house of God were taken, along with the treasures in the king's house.
- Some of the people from Jerusalem killed **Amaziah** while he was trying to hide in Lachish.

7. Reign of Uzziah. His son, **Uzziah** was 16 years old and became the next king in Judah. He did what right in the sight of the Lord, and as long as he did, the Lord prospered him.

- **Uzziah** is remembered for his great military accomplishments (**II Chron. 26:6-15**). He armed fortifications with newly invented implements of war, which we read about for the first time in Jewish history. One of these war machines was the catapult.
- **II Chron. 26:16** tells us when he became strong, he was filled with pride and was unfaithful to the Lord, his God, because he entered the temple of the Lord to burn

incense on the altar. *Who can tell me what would be wrong with the king going into the temple to burn incense?*

- Azariah, the priest along with 80 other priests went in and opposed **Uzziah**. He was furious, and leprosy broke out on his forehead and he lived as an outcast for the rest of his life.



Even though Uzziah reigned for a long time and obeyed the LORD, when he got older he let his pride get the best of him. He thought it was OK to go into the temple to do the work of the priest!



Haven't we learned many times that God is very unhappy when we disobey Him, especially about worship? (Ask for examples)



DIVIDED LESSON 3B–Prophets; King Hezekiah; End of Israel

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will know how prophets fit into history of the Divided Kingdom.
2. God answers prayer.
3. Pride in the life of King Hezekiah became a problem.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS:

1. List the kings of Judah in order
2. Name the Major and Minor prophets in order
3. Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah

INTRODUCTION:

1. In our last lesson, we ended with **Uzziah** as the King in Judah. A king known for his military accomplishments but ended as an outcast from his own people because his pride caused him to disobey God's laws about the sanctuary, and God caused him to have leprosy.
2. During the time of **Uzziah**, we have two more prophets, **Amos** and **Hosea**, being sent to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. *Today, we are going to learn about the prophecies of both Amos and Hosea.*

LESSON: PART 1–AMOS THE PROPHET

1. **Amos**, from his hometown in **Judah** was sent to proclaim God's coming judgment on **Israel**.
 - **Read Amos 3:2**–*God will punish His people for all their iniquities*
 - **Chapter 4**–*this chapter tells us that God had sent famine, wars, plagues, locusts upon them but they still had not repented! Verse 12 says "Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"*
 - **5:12, 14-15, 21-24**. What were there sins? They took bribes; abused the poor; were not righteous. They loved evil! However, they continued to hold their feast days and offer burnt offerings and sing songs, but God would not accept their worship because they did not live holy lives.



Does God accept us today if we come to church faithfully, but don't live as God wants us to when we leave the building? No. God wants our hearts and our lives to be devoted to Him and to living righteously.

LESSON: PART 2--HOSEA

1. **Hosea** came along about the time Amos finished his preaching. Hosea also prophesied in the **northern kingdom of Israel**. Hosea was told by God to marry a prostitute to **illustrate** to the people of Israel that they had done the same thing by not being faithful to God.
 - **Hosea** married **Gomer** and they had 3 children with symbolic names to show that God would judge and scatter Israel because of sin.
 - **Gomer** left Hosea and lived in the streets. Eventually she was sold on the slave block, and Hosea bought her back.



Read 2 Kings 17:5 - 6. Eventually God punished Israel because of her sins. God allowed the Assyrians to come into Israel, take her people away and let people from other nations come there to live. The people of Israel were scattered in various cities of Assyria, never to return as a group.



Reasons God punished His people: Read 2 Kings 17:7 - 23. Here is a long, sad list of all the sinful things the people did against God. The people did not listen to God's prophets.

LESSON: PART 3–ISAIAH, A PROPHET TO JUDAH

1. Now I want you to turn to **Isaiah 6**. What is the time this happens? (Year of King Uzziah's death). This passage records for us the call of another prophet. His name is **Isaiah**. (*Highlight events of 6:1-8, when God calls Isaiah to the ministry*)

Isaiah knows his place before A Holy God, and when asked to go and speak for Him, Isaiah accepts the job.

- In the first several chapters of **Isaiah**, there are messages of condemnation to the nations surrounding Judah. Look through your chapter headings from **Chapter 13**, and tell me which nations are mentioned. **Babylon, Moab, Assyria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Philistia, Tyre, Damascus (Syria), Samaria (Israel), Arabia.**
- Isaiah also prophesied that the people of **Judah** were neglecting God. They showed signs of moral and spiritual sickness. God invites them to repent and return to Him because this is their only hope of avoiding God's judgment.
- **Read 9:6.** The book of Isaiah is full of prophecies about the coming of "**The Messiah.**" "**Messiah**" means the "anointed one."

LESSON: PART 4–ISAIAH AND HEZEKIAH

1. **Isaiah** was both an "oral prophet" and a "written prophet." During his ministry, Hezekiah becomes king of Judah. Let's read about him. **Read 2 Kings 18:1 - 8.**
 - **Hezekiah's Character:** When Hezekiah became king, he removed the high places and sacred pillars (used for worship to false gods) and he broke in pieces the **bronze snake** that Moses had made because they were burning incense to it and had named it "Nehushtan" (**2 Kings 18:4; Num. 21:6-9**). He trusted in the Lord (**II Kings 18:5-7**).
 - **Hezekiah's Reforms:** **2 Chron. 29, 30 and 31** tell about **repairs to the temple** and **restoration of the temple worship** to the way it had been in the days of Solomon (**2 Chron. 30:26**) under the leadership of Hezekiah.
2. **The Assyrian Threat:** Eight years after Assyria destroyed the nation of Israel, **Sennacherib**, the King of Assyria came up against the fortified cities of Judah. To get them to go away, **Hezekiah** gave him the silver from the House of the Lord and from his own house, and he also cut off the gold from the doors of the temple and from the doorposts.
3. **A Praying King:** Sometime later, **Sennacherib** sent his army up to Jerusalem. Rabshakeh, the commander of his army called out to the men on the wall and to Hezekiah's officials and told them they were going to be destroyed. He told the people that no gods from any other country had been able to defend their lands, and their God would not be able to defend them either.
4. When **Hezekiah** heard about this, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth and entered the house of the Lord. He then sent a message to Isaiah and asked him to pray. Isaiah sent a message to Hezekiah that the Lord had heard his prayer and He (God) was going to save the city. That night the angel of the Lord went out and *killed 185,000 of the Assyrians!*

Sennacherib returned home to Nineveh and as he was worshipping in the house of his god, two men killed him.

LESSON: PART 5–THE REST OF HEZEKIAH’S REIGN

1. **Read 2 Kings 20:1–Hezekiah’s Illness.** The Lord sent Isaiah to him and told him “To set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.” Hezekiah again prayed.
 - Before **Isaiah** had gotten out of the middle court, the Lord told Isaiah to go back to Hezekiah and tell him that the Lord was going to add 15 years to his life.
 - When **Hezekiah** asked for a sign that he would be healed, Isaiah asked him if he wanted the shadow on the steps to go forward or backward 10 steps. Hezekiah wanted the shadow to turn back 10 steps, and that is what happened!
 - **Hezekiah’s Unwise Decision:** The son of the **King of Babylon, Berodach-Baladan**, had heard about Hezekiah’s sickness and he sent letters and a present to him. Hezekiah showed his visitors from Babylon all of his treasures. *Do you think this was wise?*
 - Then **Isaiah** told him the words from the Lord - that the days would come when all of those treasures would be carried to Babylon and some of his descendants would become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon. (It happened in a little more than 100 years.)



Remember Isaiah’s prophecy for later lessons. God’s people will be sent into Babylon at a later date! All the treasures that Hezekiah was so proud of will indeed be taken to Babylon, and the temple will be destroyed!

LESSON: PART 6–MANASSEH, A WICKED KING

1. After the death of Hezekiah, his son, **Manasseh**, became king at the age of 12. **Manasseh** was the *most wicked king* in all of Judah’s history, and he reigned longer than any other king - 55 years. And after him, his son **Amon** became king. He was yet another wicked king in Judah.



LESSONS FROM TODAY’S LESSON:

- *God loved his people! To help them to repent and turn from their ways, He sent prophets to warn them of coming punishment and to try and turn their hearts back to God before it was too late.*
- *Unfortunately, the people of Israel, the northern kingdom, refused to listen to God’s prophets, and they were sent into captivity in Assyria. They were taken away from their promised land forever. How sad!*
- *But what about the southern kingdom of Judah? Hezekiah listened to Isaiah. He obeyed God. God blessed him for it by extending his life and ridding him of his enemies.*
- *But now that wicked kings have come after him, what will happen to God’s people?*



DIVIDED LESSON 4A—Judah's Last Days; More Prophets

OBJECTIVES:

1. God sent prophets in the last days of Judah to warn of coming destruction.
2. God uses other nations to accomplish His purposes.
3. God is just, and He punishes sin

ESSENTIAL SKILLS (to be worked on during entire unit):

1. List the kings of Judah
2. Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah
3. Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Pass out the "More Prophets" and "Last Kings of Judah" worksheets. Direct kids to fill in as we talk.
2. Wednesday night we ended with 2 evil kings in Judah, after the time of **Hezekiah**. Their names were **Manasseh** (son of Hezekiah) and **Amon**. Manasseh is thought to be the most wicked king that the nation of Judah ever had!

LESSON: PART 1—NAHUM AND ZEPHANIAH

1. It was during this time that God decided to bring upon His people all the things He had predicted because of their **idol worship**, disregard of His **laws** and **immorality**. It was probably during the time of King Manasseh that the prophet **Nahum** was sent to prophesy the destruction of Nineveh.
 - *Where is Nineveh?* Capitol city of Assyria
 - *Who else do you remember that went to Ninevah to preach?* (Jonah)
2. It was probably at the beginning of the next king's reign, but because of the evil ways under Manasseh and Amon, that we have another minor prophet. His name is **Zephaniah**. Some of his words may have influenced Judah's next young king: Josiah.



NOTE TO TEACHERS: *have students fill out the "More Prophets" page as you teach.*

LESSON: PART 2—KING JOSIAH OF JUDAH

1. Another young boy comes to the throne as Judah's next king. Josiah was the son of Amon, and he was 8 years old when he became king. **2 Kings 22** and **2 Chronicles 34-35** record the events surrounding the life of Josiah.
2. **Read 2 Chronicles 34:1 - 7.** At the age of 16 he began to seek the God of his father David, and at the age of 20 he began to get rid of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images. He even went into the area that had formerly been a part of Israel, and destroyed idols there.

3. **Read 2 Chronicles 34:8**--In the 18th year of his reign (he was 26 years old), he gave instructions for the repair of the temple.
 - **34:14**--While the process of repairing was going on, **Hilkiah** the priest found the *book of the law of the Lord*. The scribe read it to **Josiah** and he tore his clothes when he heard the laws for the first time! Josiah asked that inquiry be made of the Lord about the words written, because their fathers had not kept the words of the book.
 - **34:23-28**--Through a prophetess, named **Huldah**, the Lord sent word to **Josiah** that He was going to bring evil upon the inhabitants and the place according to the curses written in the book because of their sin. But, because Josiah's heart was tender and he had humbled himself before God, the evil things would not happen until after his death.
 - The king gathered the people and he read all the words of the book of the covenant. He then made a covenant before the Lord to walk after the Lord with all his heart and to do what was written in the book.
4. **Read II Chronicles 35:1, 17-18.** **Josiah** kept the **Passover**, as it had not been celebrated since the days of Samuel! During the time Josiah was living, the people followed the Lord.



When there are Godly men leading God's people, wonderful things can happen! This is also true today. Josiah had three qualities that all Christian leaders need:

- **CONVICTION:** *A confidence in what you believe. Josiah's belief in God was strong. Synonym--faith*
- **ACTION:** *This conviction (or faith) caused him to act on his belief--he got rid of all the things in the nation, which had caused God's people to sin. James 2:18 says, "But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." Our belief in God is demonstrated when we act upon it.*
- **DEVOTION:** *Josiah was read the words of the Books of the Law, and then he devoted (committed, dedicated) himself to following them and leading his nation in following them.*

LESSON: PART 3--THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

1. Now we will learn about a great prophet named **Jeremiah**. **Jeremiah** was on good terms with **Josiah** and lamented (mourned) when he was killed by the king of Egypt (See **2 Chron. 35:25**). Jeremiah continued to prophecy to God's people during the reign of the next 4 kings, until the destruction of Judah.



*During this time, The Babylonians became more powerful under a king named **Nebuchadnezzar**. We will hear a lot about him in the next few weeks! The Babylonians overthrew Assyria and defeated the Egyptians. Then they turned their eyes toward Judah.*



On Wednesday night, we will talk more about Jeremiah, "The Weeping Prophet."



DIVIDED LESSON 4B—Jeremiah; the Last Kings of Judah

OBJECTIVES:

1. God sent prophets in the last days of Judah to warn of coming destruction.
2. God uses other nations to accomplish His purposes.
3. God is just, and He punishes sin
4. Sometimes when we proclaim God's word to others we may be persecuted, like Jeremiah.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS (to be worked on during entire unit):

1. List the kings of Judah
2. Define these words: Prophet, Prophecy, Repent, Judgment, Messiah
3. Name the Major Prophets and the Minor prophets in order.

INTRODUCTION:

1. On Sunday, we learned that King Josiah was a man of **conviction, action** and **devotion**.
2. Who can tell me what Josiah's men discovered when they began repairing the temple?
3. We also talked about some of God's prophets during this time period. Someone tell me some things you wrote down on your "More Prophets" page about the prophet, **Nahum**.
4. Who can tell me something they know about the prophet **Zephaniah**?
5. Today, we will hear more about God's prophet, **Jeremiah**. He is sometimes called "The Weeping Prophet." Today we will find out why!

LESSON: PART 1—JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

1. **Jeremiah** begged the people to turn from their wickedness and repent so that the calamity that God had predicted would not come upon them. **They refused to listen!**
2. He told the people that **God's judgment** was sure, that it would definitely happen, and that **Nebuchadnezzar** was going to come, no matter what. He encouraged them not to rebel against **Nebuchadnezzar**, but to humble themselves so that more people would survive.
3. Of course, this is not what they wanted to hear! There were many men during this time, who would tell the kings and the people just what they wanted to hear.
4. **Jeremiah** told the kings and their officials **not to listen to the false prophets!** Jeremiah sent word to the Jews already taken into exile in Babylon. He told them to build houses, plant vineyards and get on with their lives because they were going to be there for **70 years (Jer. 29:10)**. This was not what they wanted to believe!



Sometimes, when we do God's work and speak His message of salvation to others, things do not go well. We might be persecuted; we might not be listened to. This can be very frustrating and discouraging. Listen to the things that happened to Jeremiah because he followed God's instructions:

LESSON: PART 2–JEREMIAH'S TROUBLES.

1. The Lord told Jeremiah to write His words on a **scroll**. Jeremiah called his scribe, Baruch and told him to write his dictation.
 - *See Jer. 36. Jeremiah sent his scribe **Baruch** to read it to the people in the temple. The words were also read to the princes of Judah and they thought that **King Jehoiakim** should hear of it. The princes also told Baruch to go get Jeremiah and then hide.*
 - *Jehoiakim did not like Jeremiah's words and cut up the scroll with a knife and threw it into a fire! He did not repent or tear his clothes when he heard the words, but totally disregarded them.*
 - *Jeremiah had to completely rewrite the words of the scroll!*
2. At this time, **Jehoiachin**, Jehoiakim's son, became king (refer to chart). He was 18 years old. He only reigned 3 months. Then **Nebuchadnezzar** took him, all the mighty men of valor, the king's mother, the king's wives and his officers. He also took 7000 valiant men, one thousand craftsmen and everyone who was fit and strong for war. He left only the poorest people of the land. **Jeremiah** was one of the ones left behind.
3. Then **Nebuchadnezzar** put the king's uncle on the throne. His name was **Zedekiah**. Zedekiah was also a son of **Josiah**.
4. During this invasion, all the **beautiful things of value** from the **temple** were taken to Babylon, including all the gold and treasures from the king's palace.



Try to remember this, because these beautiful objects will show up in a story in our timeline period called "Punished"!

LESSON: PART 3–THE END OF JUDAH AS A NATION

1. See Jeremiah 37. **Zedekiah** was now the king. He reigned for 11 years. During some of his years as king, the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem. There was very little food. Zedekiah didn't like **Jeremiah's** words either. He put **Jeremiah** in prison for many days, then after talking to him again, he let him remain in the courtyard of the prison with only a piece of bread from the bakery each day!
2. See Jeremiah 38. Later, **Zedekiah's** officials had **Jeremiah** put in a dungeon that was like a cistern, where he had to be let down with ropes. At the bottom was mud and mire, and Jeremiah began to sink! A sympathetic servant of the king talked the king into letting Jeremiah out so that he would not starve. He was put back in the courtyard of the prison.
3. **Jerusalem** was still under the siege from the Babylonians at this time. **Jeremiah** begged the king to surrender so that all would go well, and there would be no further destruction of the city. The king was afraid that his officials would not like this message, so he refused to listen to Jeremiah's warnings. But he promised not to kill him. **Zedekiah** proved in this that he was a very weak leader! He knew what was right, but did not do it because he feared the people!



Do you think there might be some times in your life when you are going to have to “do the right thing” even if none of your friends will? How will you respond if this happens? Do you think it might be easy to give in and go ahead and do a wrong thing? Zedekiah proved that he could not do something even though it was right because he was afraid of what other people might do or think. We will see that this caused his downfall!

4. When the Babylonians made their **final siege** on Jerusalem and destroyed it, they captured **Zedekiah**, the last king of Judah. But the destruction that they caused was terrible! The city walls and gates were destroyed, the temple was torn down, and many people were killed. The whole city was destroyed! The rest of the people were carried away.
5. **Jeremiah** was freed from his courtyard prison. He finally was taken to **Egypt** against his will by the last of the people left in Jerusalem, but continued to minister to the people for the rest of his days.



Jeremiah is remembered as the “weeping prophet.” Can you tell me why?



Read Jeremiah 39:18. God tells Jeremiah not to be afraid because he would not die by the sword, but his life would be given to him as a “prize, because you have put your trust in Me.”




Remember, God told the people in many places and at many times that if they did not obey Him and follow His laws and devote themselves to Him, that He would cause another nation to come and destroy the land and the people. Remember all the prophets that God sent to warn the people of these things. If time, read 2 Kings 17:7 - 23. These verses tell us all the causes of Israel and Judah’s sins and why God had to punish them. Now God’s people will go into captivity in Babylon—God’s punishment. However, we will see that even though God had to punish His people, He will also bring a future blessing. God’s people will not be destroyed—He will save a “remnant” (a small piece) so that the Messiah can eventually come in God’s good time.



DIVIDED 20 QUESTIONS

1. Why was the kingdom of Israel divided?
I Kings 11:11 Because "you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant."
2. Which two books of the OT trace the history and the Northern and Southern Kingdoms?
I & II Kings
3. Which OT book parallels two other OT books, but virtually ignores the Northern Kingdom and focuses on the kings who pattern their lives after that of King David?
II Chronicles
4. Who was the first king of the Northern Kingdom?
Jeroboam
5. How many tribes made up the Northern Kingdom?
Ten
6. Who was the first king of the Southern Kingdom?
Rehoboam
7. Which two tribes made up the Southern Kingdom?
Judah and Benjamin
8. Who was the father of King Rehoboam?
King Solomon
9. What was the name of the Northern Kingdom?
Israel
10. What was the name of the Southern Kingdom?
Judah
11. What was the capital city of the Southern Kingdom?
Jerusalem
12. Which kingdom had only one dynasty in all its history?
Judah, Southern Kingdom
13. Which kingdom had all bad kings?
Israel, Northern Kingdom
14. Who was the prophet who told Jeroboam that he would be given 10 tribes?
Ahijah (I Kings 11:30-31)

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15. What did the prophet tear into pieces to show Jeroboam that the kingdom was going to be divided?
A new cloak (I Kings 11:30-31)
 16. Who tried to put Jeroboam to death before he became king?
Solomon (I Kings 11:40)
 17. What promise was made to Jeroboam on the condition that he would do all the commands of the Lord?
Lord would be with him and build him an enduring house as the Lord built For David and would give Israel to him (I Kings 11:37-39)
 18. With whom did Rehoboam consult when the people asked him about lightening their burden and hard service (two groups of people)?
The elders who had served his father and the young men with whom he had grown up and served him (I Kings 12:6,8)
 19. Whose advice did Rehoboam take when deciding about the service of the people to the king?
The young men (I Kings 12:13-14)
 20. Where did Jeroboam hide until the death of Solomon?
Egypt (I Kings 11:40)



DIVIDED 20 QUESTIONS

1. To what king did Elijah appear and tell him that it would not rain except by his word?
King Ahab
2. Whom did King Ahab marry?
Jezebel
3. Where did Elijah get his food when he went to the brook to hide from the king?
God sent ravens
4. When the brook dried up, the Lord told Elijah to go to Zarephath, and who would take care of him there?
A widow
5. What two things did Elijah ask for when he got to Zarephath?
Water and bread
6. A woman gave Elijah bread made from her last flour and oil and what miraculous thing happened?
The flour and oil did not run out
7. When the widow of Zarephath's son died, what did Elijah do?
Carried him to his room, prayed and he was brought back to life
8. Elijah asked the king to gather all the prophets of Baal and Asherah to what location?
Mt. Carmel
9. What happened when the prophets of Baal built their altar and put their ox on it for a sacrifice?
They prayed to their god and nothing happened
10. What did Elijah put on his altar besides the wood and ox?
12 pitchers of water
11. When Elijah prayed to God at the altar on Mt. Carmel, what happened?
Fire fell, consumed the offering, wood, stones, dust and licked up the water in the trench around the altar
12. What did Elijah want to prove to the people of Israel by the contest on the mountain?
That the God in Heaven is the One True God
13. What happened to the prophets of Baal and Asherah?
They were killed
14. A verse in the NT (James 5:17) tells how long the land was without rain during the days of King Ahab. How long was it?
3 and 1/2 years

15. How many times did Elijah send his servant out to the sea to look for a cloud?

7 times

16. Who threatened to kill the prophet Elijah?

Jezebel

17. What did Elijah do when his life was threatened?

Ran to Beersheba and left his servant, then went another day's journey into the desert; sat under a juniper tree and requested to die

18. Who woke Elijah up and gave him food to eat and water to drink?

An angel

19. How many days did Elijah go without food when he went on the long journey to Horeb?

40 days

20. Who was Elijah told to anoint to take his place?

Elisha

Bonus Questions:

1. How many people did the Lord tell Elijah were left in Israel who had not bowed to Baal? (7,000)

2. While Elijah was looking for the Lord on Mt. Horeb, what three things happened that the Lord was not in? (a strong wind, an earthquake, and a fire)

3. What did the angel give Elijah to eat? (a bread cake baked on hot stone and a jar of water)

4. What happened when Elijah struck the Jordan River with his mantle? (the water parted so Elijah and Elisha crossed on dry ground)

5. What did Elisha request from Elijah? (a double portion of his spirit)

6. As they were walking and talking, what separated Elijah and Elisha? (a chariot of fire and horses of fire)

7. What happened to Elijah when he and Elisha were separated? (he was taken into heaven in a whirlwind)

8. What did Elijah leave behind for Elisha? (his mantle)