



A Summary of the Old Testament

within the word

Lesson Fourteen | The Divided Kingdom

.At the end of this study guide, you will find a list of the kings of Israel and Judah. This list will be helpful while doing this lesson. The time of the kings from King Saul to King Zedekiah spans approximately 500 years.

Day One

1. In last week's lesson we saw Jeroboam, one of King Solomon's officials, had rebelled and tried to take over as king of Israel. Solomon had been placing heavy burdens on the people of Israel and they were weary under the load.

God was not pleased with Solomon's leadership; he had not led the people well as he had promised when he was a young king. He had allowed those closest to him to influence him in a way that took him far from his God. God spoke through the prophet, Ahijah.

Read 1 Kings 11:31.

What did the prophet say God was about to do?

2. Just because things are hard, just because our leaders are not leading well, rebellion is not the answer. God's timing is perfect and can be trusted.

Do you remember how David handled the poor leadership of King Saul?

3. Are you tempted to rebel in some area of life?
Why not cry out to God and wait on his deliverance?
4. Jeroboam's rebellion did not go well. He should have waited for God's timing. King Solomon heard of the rebellion and tried to have him killed. However, Jeroboam quickly fled to Egypt.

Solomon had grown old and when he died his son, Rehoboam, became the next king of Israel. When word of Solomon's death reached Egypt, Jeroboam decided to return to his homeland. Jeroboam and many of the leaders of Israel attempted to reason with their new king, Rehoboam.

Read 1 Kings 12:1-16.

Rehoboam asked the people to give him three days to seek counsel and then he would give them his answer.

What was his decision?

How did the people respond to his decision?

(It might help to read 1 Kings 12:16 in several translations.)

5. Rehoboam was given an opportunity to show mercy and win the hearts of the people.

We must choose our advisors carefully. We must weigh out the advice we are given. Everyone has an opinion, but that does not mean their thoughts are valuable.

If Rehoboam would have chosen correctly, what might have been the result?

6. The truth is: When seeking advice, we often know the right thing to do. What steps can we take to weigh out advice and make wise decisions?
7. Jeroboam made a wise decision by meeting with the new king and trying to work things out for the people. When things did not work out for the better, Jeroboam continued to lead the people who followed him, but he did not lead them well. He did not lead them in obedience to God. God had spoken to Jeroboam and promised to bless him if he walked in obedience. (1Kings 11:37-39)

Read 1 Kings 12:25-33.

What did Jeroboam do that led the people away from God?

- Remember Jeroboam's sin, we will see it referred to many times as we study his successors.

8. The nation of Israel was split, just as God said it would. The 10 tribes of the north were under King Jeroboam and the remaining tribes of the south served King Rehoboam. This happened exactly as prophesied by Ahijah in 1 Kings 11:29-31.

In 1 Kings 13:1-6 we read another prophesy for this kingdom.

What future events did the prophet say would eventually come about concerning the altar set up by Jeroboam at Bethel?

Kings do not like to have their actions criticized. Jeroboam ordered the man of God to be seized by his guards. What happened that changed Jeroboam's tune?

9. Think of the last time God intervened on your behalf. It may not have been as dramatic, or as obvious to everyone, as it was that day with King Jeroboam. However, you knew in your heart God had just divinely delivered you.

What did this event do for your faith?

10. The prophet Ahijah was old and blind, but God continued to speak to him and through him.

Read 1 Kings 14:1-20.

God used him to reveal it is the LORD who elevates and establishes rulers.

Read 2 Chronicles 14:1

When Abijah died who became the king of Israel?

11. Read 1 Kings 14:21.

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, is still ruling the southern kingdom of Judah.

He was _____ years old when he became king and he reigned _____ years in Jerusalem.

Read 1 Kings 14:22-24.

How would you describe Rehoboam's reign?

Day Two

1. Read 1 Kings 15:1-8.

What is said of Abijah's rule over Judah?

2. 1 Kings 15:9-14,24 tell us it was the 20th year of Jeroboam's reign over Israel when Asa became king in Judah. Asa reigned _____ years.

3. What kind of king was Asa?

4. Who succeed him to rule in Judah?

5. 1 Kings 15:33-34 tell us about king Baasha and how he ruled over the 10 tribes of the north, Israel.

What kind of king was he?

6. Next, we see Elah becomes king of Israel. He was only king for 2 years, when a revolt happened and then Zimri became the king.

Israel became two factions for a short period of time. Omri was the stronger of the two kings. Neither of these men led well.

Read 1 Kings 16:15-19.

How did Zimri die?

7. Read 1 Kings 16:21-28.

Omri became king of Israel.

What kind of king was he?

8. When Omri died, who succeeded him?

9. Most of us have heard something about this next king of Israel. If you have not heard of him, you have probably heard of his wife.

Read 1 Kings 16:31.

What was his wife's name?

10. Are you beginning to see a pattern of leadership over the northern tribes?

When we have poor leaders, the people suffer. Poor leaders try to control everything, they are often ego driven and do not learn from their mistakes or the mistakes of those who have gone before them. It can be discouraging when we see bad leader after bad leader come into power. What can be done?

11. The truth is we are all leaders. Craig Groeschel says, *"Leadership is influence, and everyone has influence."*

How are you using your influence?

Would you say God is pleased with your leadership?

12. All the remaining kings of Israel were basically bad kings. Each followed in the steps of those who had preceded them. None of the kings that led the northern tribes did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. We will look at some of their stories in greater detail when we study the prophets next week.

Do you recall where the problem started for the Israelites?

13. Way back in 1 Samuel 8:6-7, the people wanted a king so they could be like all the other nations.

What did God say was their real motive for wanting a king?

Day Three

1. While Ahab was king over Israel, Jehoshaphat ruled over Judah.

Read 1 Kings 22:41-50.

Whose footsteps did Jehoshaphat follow?

What kind of king was Jehoshaphat?

2. What were some of the things he did while he ruled?
3. Jehoshaphat died and his son, Jehoram, succeeded him. Jehoram's father and grandfather, were both men who longed to please God and rule Judah well. But, does a godly heritage ensure a godly leader?

Read 2 Kings 8:16-19.

What kind of king was Jehoram?

4. What are some things we can do today to invest in the heritage we long to leave?

Are there things we can do to help those we love to recognize and steward the gifts and abilities God has given them?

5. After Jehoram, Ahaziah became king over Judah.

Read 2 Kings 8:25-29.

How old was Ahaziah when he became king?

6. After only one year as king of Judah, Ahaziah joined forces with Joram, King of Israel and the son of Ahab, and went to battle against the Arameans. (The Arameans are also known as the Syrians in some translations.) It has been said that *birds of a feather flock together*. People with similar interests and character often enjoy one another's company.

What do you believe was the character and interests of these two rulers?

7. The prophet Elisha sent one of his servants to find Jehu and anoint him king of Israel. For a short period, he led the nation well.

Read 2 Kings 10:18-36.

What did Jehu do well?

What was one area of weakness concerning his leadership?

8. What is another word to describe partial obedience?
9. Are you careful to check your heart from time to time?
We may be obedient in one area and neglect to follow the commands of God in another area. Like Jehu we might start well, but neglect to finish strong.

10. Read 2 Kings 12:1-3.

What do you see concerning Joash and his leadership of the people of Judah?

11. Read 2 Kings 12:19-21.

What happened to end the rule of Joash?

If that was all the information, it might seem strange that his officials would do such a thing.

Read 2 Chronicles 24:17-25.

What led up to the death of Joash the king of Judah?
 The prophet Zechariah had come with a word from God, what was King Joash response?

Day Four

- Why were so many king's evil?
 Why did they choose to worship idols?
 Why do people choose an idol over God?
 Spend some time thinking about this. An idol is anything we place our trust in other than God.

- Fill in the chart below

	King's name?	How long was his reign?	Good or bad king?
2 Kings 13:1-2			
2 Kings 13:10-11			
2 Kings 14:23-24			
2 Kings 15:8-9			
2 Kings 15:10,13			
2 Kings 15:14-18			
2 Kings 15:23-24			
2 Kings 15:27-28			
2 Kings 17:1-2			

- How bad had things gotten in Israel?

Read 2 Kings 17:14-17,40.

- What a sad legacy of sin we have seen in reign after reign in Israel. We would do well to not merely read the stories of these men but learn from their mistakes.

What can we do to break patterns of sin and leave a legacy of faith?

- A legacy of faith is the baton we begin to pass to the next generation, even while we are alive. What are you doing to pass on a faith that can withstand the storms of life?

Day Five

- Now let's look at the remaining kings of Judah. Fill in the chart below.

	King of Judah?	How long was his reign?	Good or bad king?
2 Kings 14:1-4			
2 Kings 15:1-4			
2 Kings 15:32-35			
2 Kings 16:1-4			
2 Kings 18:1-7			
2 Kings 21:1-6			
2 Kings 21:19-21			
2 Kings 22:1-2 if you have time read all of chapter 23			
2 Kings 23:31-32			
2 Kings 23:36-37			
2 Kings 24:8-9			
2 Kings 24:18-20; 2 Chronicles 36:11-14			

- The last king of Judah was Zedekiah. 2 Kings 25 tells how Jerusalem finally fell to the Babylonians. After a two-year siege by the Babylonians, the city of Jerusalem was starving. The Babylonians broke through and over-powered them. The people of Jerusalem tried to run but to no avail.

Read 2 Kings 25:5-7 and 2 Chronicles 36:15-21.

What happened to King Zedekiah and the people of Jerusalem?

- After 37 years in a Babylonian prison, a new Babylonian king comes to power. How did the disposed King Jehoiachin end his days?
Read 2 Kings 25:27-30
- Judah was invaded by the Babylonians three times.

Read 2 Kings 24:1, 10 and 25:1.

Do you see the repeated mercy extended to Israel and Judah?

Both had many years and multiple opportunities to turn, repent and follow God. Who do the people have to thank for the years of captivity?

5. I believe we have all experienced multiple warnings and exhortations. Yet, we have continued a path, which ultimately led to sorrow. There are various reasons and excuses we tell ourselves and others why we do not stop. In the end, our choice was no different from the nation of Israel. We are choosing our way over God's way.

What is the best thing we can do when we find ourselves making these choices?

6. Your family tree may look more like Israel than Judah.

What can you do to leave a legacy worth following?

7. Yesterday, we laid to rest my best friend, Dorothy. She had spent the last 49 years of her life loving and sharing Jesus, through her conversation and her actions. She left her family and friends a beautiful example of one who spent her days wisely. She rose early every day to read her Bible and fervently prayed for those she loved. She has left a well-lit path to a life filled with real joy. Her work is over but her legacy lives on.

Are you lighting the path for others?
What will be the focus of your funeral?

8. As we have done each week, add God's character qualities you have seen to your list on **The Character of God** page. Some of His qualities may be repeated from chapter to chapter but you may also see new ones as well.

Please, do not leave this undone. The purpose of our study is to get to know our God.

Kingdom United – King Saul, King David, and King Solomon (all 12 tribes, one nation)

Kingdom Divided– Judah (2 tribes of the south) and Israel (10 tribes of the north)

Judah	Israel
Rehoboam	Jeroboam
Abijah	Nadab
Asa	Baasha
Jehoshaphat	Elah
Jehoram	Zimri
Ahaziah	Tibni
Athaliah	Omri
Joash	Ahab
Amaziah	Ahaziah
Arariah	Joram
Jotham	Jehu
Ahaz	Jehoahaz
Hezekiah	Jehoash
Manasseh	Jeroboam II
Amon	Zachariach
Josiah	Shallum
Jehoahaz	Menahem
Jehoiakim	Pekahiah
Jehoiachin	Pekah
Zedekiah	Hoshea