

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE

DIVIDED

KINGDOM

Year 2 - Quarter 3

by

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LESSON 1

THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

I Kings 12

INTRODUCTION. God's eternal plan from the beginning was to save mankind from their sins. As God's plan unfolds in the scriptures, He chose one righteous man, Abraham, and promised him that he would be the father of a great nation. He promised to give this nation a place to dwell, the land of Canaan. And He promised that through Abraham's seed all families of the earth should be blessed (Gen. 12:2-3, 7).

THE EXODUS AND CONQUEST OF CANAAN. When Moses led the children of Israel, a multitude of people who were Abraham's descendants, out of the land of Egypt, the nation promise was fulfilled. When Joshua took the Israelites into the land of Canaan and conquered it, the land promise was fulfilled. Throughout the remainder of the Old Testament period, God prepared the world to receive his Son. The spiritual promise was then fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son and Savior.

THE JUDGES. After the death of Joshua there was no national leader in Israel. The tribes were loosely joined to one another through their common ancestor, Abraham, and their symbol of worship, the ark of the covenant. Their rulers were judges who were merely tribal leaders—leaders of their own and perhaps surrounding tribes.

THE UNITED KINGDOM. Eventually the people wanted a national leader and demanded a king. God directed Samuel, the prophet and last judge, to anoint Saul from the tribe of Benjamin as the first king. When Saul disobeyed God by not destroying the Amalekites, God rejected him as king and chose David from the tribe of Judah as the next king.

David was a warrior and expanded and extended the borders of his kingdom by conquering the nations surrounding Israel. Gradually under his leadership the kingdom was strengthened and united. Through the prophet Nathan, God promised David He would establish his kingdom and throne forever (II Sam. 7). The prophecy had its immediate fulfillment in David's son Solomon who reigned after him. But the

prophecy was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ who was a descendant of David through his earthly parents Joseph and Mary.

The last king of the United Kingdom was Solomon who reigned during a period of peace and great prosperity. During his reign the kingdom reached its zenith and gradually evolved from an agricultural society into an industrial empire. However, when Solomon was old and his many wives turned his heart away from God to idols, God rent the kingdom from him. Ten tribes in the north became a separate kingdom known as the northern kingdom or Israel. Nevertheless, God preserved for the house of David the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin which continued as the southern kingdom or Judah.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM (931/930 B. C.). When Solomon's son Rehoboam became king, the people demanded that he lighten their burdens and lower their taxes. Rehoboam first asked the advice of the older men who had served Solomon. They advised him to do as the people asked, serve them, and they would support him.

Rehoboam then asked the advice of the younger men who had grown up with him. They advised him to rule harshly, not with kindness, and to increase the burdens of the people. Unfortunately Rehoboam followed the foolish advice of the younger men.

The ten tribes in the north then revolted and rallied around Jeroboam, choosing him as their king. Thus the kingdom was divided and remained divided for 200 years until the northern kingdom, Israel, was carried away into captivity by the Assyrians. The southern kingdom, Judah, continued for another 130 years until it, too, was carried into captivity by the Babylonians.

When Rehoboam gathered the people loyal to him to fight against the newly formed northern kingdom, God sent a prophet, Shemaiah, to him. The prophet told Rehoboam and the people of Judah and Benjamin that the division of the kingdom was from God. The people then returned to their homes and civil war between the northern and southern kingdoms was avoided.

A. REHOBAM BECOMES KING

1. Why had all Israel come to Shechem? (I Kings 12:1)
2. Why was Jeroboam in Egypt? (I Kings 12:2)
3. When Jeroboam returned to Israel, what did he and all Israel say to Rehoboam? (I Kings 12:3-4)
4. Rehoboam told them to depart and then come back to him in how many days? (I Kings 12:5)
5. When Rehoboam asked the older men for advice, they told him the people would serve him if he spoke to them how? (I Kings 12:6-7)
6. The younger men told Rehoboam to tell the people: (I Kings 12:10-11)
 - a. my little _____ is thicker than my father's _____
 - b. whereas my father put a _____ yoke on you, I will _____ to your yoke
 - c. my father chastised you with _____, but I will chastise you with _____
7. Whose counsel did Rehoboam follow? (I Kings 12:12-14)
8. These events were brought about by whom to establish the words of the prophet Ahijah? (I Kings 12:15)
9. When Israel heard Rehoboam's words, what did they do? (I Kings 12:16)

10. What happened to Adoram when Rehoboam sent him out to gather taxes? (I Kings 12:18)
11. Who became king over all Israel? (I Kings 12:20)
12. Who followed the house of David (Rehoboam)? (I Kings 12:20)
13. Rehoboam assembled 180,000 warriors of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin for what purpose? (I Kings 12:21)
14. Why did Shemaiah, a man of God, tell Rehoboam he should not fight against his brothers, Israel? (I Kings 12:22-24)

B. THE SINS OF JEROBOAM. Since the temple and Jerusalem were in the southern kingdom of Judah, Jeroboam was afraid the people would kill him and renew their allegiance to Rehoboam when they went to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. After casting out the priests and Levites in the north who left their cities and went to Judah and Rehoboam, Jeroboam then devised his own system of worship.

1. Jeroboam made two _____ and told the people it was too hard to go to Jerusalem to worship. (I Kings 12:28)
2. He placed one golden calf in _____ and one in _____. (I Kings 12:29)
3. This thing became _____, for the people went to these places to worship. (I Kings 12:30)

Note. These two cities were in the southern and northern limits of his kingdom.

4. He made _____ in the high places, and _____ who were not from the tribe of Levi. (I Kings 12:31)
5. He ordained a feast on the 15th day of the 8th month, then went to Bethel and _____ unto the calves he had made. (I Kings 12:32-33)

Note. This feast decreed by Jeroboam was to replace the Feast of Tabernacles which was ordained by God on the 15th day of the 7th month (Lev. 23:33-34).

LESSON 2

JEROBOAM AND THE MAN OF GOD

I Kings 12

INTRODUCTION. When the ten northern tribes of Israel rebelled against the high taxes and harsh rule of Solomon's son Rehoboam, they chose Jeroboam from the tribe of Ephraim as their king. Jeroboam soon turned to idolatry as a means to prevent his subjects from returning to Jerusalem to worship, for the city and temple were located in the southern kingdom. He corrupted the worship of God with his golden calves, shrines in high places, priests who were not Levites, and unlawful feast days.

As Jeroboam stood by the altar at Bethel to burn incense during his unlawful feast, a man of God from Judah spoke against the altar. He prophesied that a descendant of David by the name of Josiah would one day pollute and destroy the altar. To prove the prophecy was true he gave a sign the same day—the altar split and the ashes poured out. When Jeroboam in anger put forth his hand against the prophet, his hand withered. When he saw the altar split, he repented and entreated the man of God to heal his hand. When his hand was restored, Jeroboam invited the man of God to come home with him, promising to reward him. The man of God refused saying that the Lord had forbidden him to eat or drink in that place and had commanded him to return to Judah by a different route.

THE PROPHECY OF THE MAN OF GOD FULFILLED. More than three hundred years later, a descendant of David by the name of Josiah became king of Judah. Josiah was a righteous king and attempted to bring the idolatrous people back to God. He went throughout the land destroying the idols and images, the places of idolatrous worship, the altars and shrines to false gods. He removed the idolatrous priests and the articles in the temple used for worshipping idols (II Kings 23:4-25).

"Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake

down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed" (II Kings 23:15-16).

A. THE ALTAR AT BETHEL

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. _____ There came out of Judah (13:1) | a. dried up
(withered) |
| 2. _____ Jeroboam stood by the altar at Bethel to (13:1) | b. the Lord |
| 3. _____ The man of God cried against the (13:2) | c. different way |
| 4. _____ He said a child shall be born to the house of David named (13:2) | d. burn incense |
| 5. _____ Josiah shall burn upon the altar (13:2) | e. a man of God |
| 6. _____ To prove his words were true, the prophet gave a sign that day: (2 answers; 13:3) | f. men's bones |
| 7. _____ When Jeroboam put forth his hand against the prophet, his hand (13:4) | g. reward |
| 8. _____ When he saw the altar split and the ashes poured out, Jeroboam asked that his hand be (13:5-6) | h. restored |
| 9. _____ The king's hand was restored when the man of God entreated (13:6) | i. ashes poured out |
| 10. _____ The king invited the prophet to come home with him and promised to give him a (13:7) | j. Josiah |
| 11. _____ The prophet said that the Lord had forbidden him to (13:8-9) | k. eat or drink at that place |
| 12. _____ The Lord had told him to return by a (13:9) | l. the altar split |
| | m. altar |

B. THE MAN OF GOD AND THE OLD PROPHET. God had told the man of God to return to Judah by a different route and not to eat or drink while in Bethel. There was an old prophet who lived in Bethel, and after hearing about the man of God

who had prophesied against the altar, he saddled his donkey and went after him. When he found the man of God, he invited him to come home with him. The man of God told him the Lord had forbidden him to eat or drink in that place, but the old prophet lied and told him an angel had spoken to him, telling him to bring the man of God to his house. The man of God then went home with the old prophet. While the two prophets were eating and drinking, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet, revealing to him the imminent death of the man of God because of his disobedience. When the man of God from Judah finished eating and drinking and resumed his journey, he was met by a lion and killed.

Later the old prophet found the body of the younger prophet—the lion had not eaten the body nor his donkey. The old prophet brought the body of the man of God back to his home and buried him in his own sepulchre.

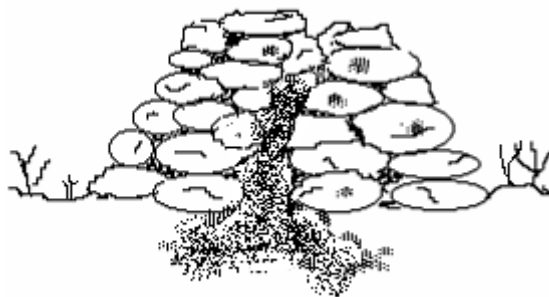
- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ At Bethel there dwelt an old prophet whose sons told him about the (13:11) | a. bones |
| 2. _____ He told his sons to saddle his donkey, then he found the man of God sitting under an (13:13-14) | b. lied |
| 3. _____ The old prophet said an angel told him to bring the man of God home with him, but he (13:18) | c. man of God |
| 4. _____ As they sat at the table, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet and said the man of God had (13:20-21) | d. grave (tomb) |
| 5. _____ Because he had not kept the commandment of the Lord, his body would not come to the (13:21-22) | e. pass |
| 6. _____ After the man of God left the old prophet's house, he was killed by a (13:23-24) | f. lion |
| 7. _____ When the old prophet found the body of the man of God, the lion had not eaten it nor the (13:28) | g. oak |
| 8. _____ The old prophet buried the man of God in his own (13:29-30) | h. disobeyed the Lord |
| 9. _____ The old prophet told his sons to bury him in the same sepulchre (tomb) when he died and lay his bones beside the man of God's (13:31) | i. donkey |
| 10. _____ He said the prophecy of the man of God shall surely come to (13:32) | j. sepulchre (tomb) of his Fathers |

THE SEPULCHRE OF THE MAN OF GOD AND THE OLD PROPHET. When Josiah more than three hundred years later polluted the altar at Bethel by burning bones upon it, he spied a certain sepulchre and asked whose gravestone it was. "And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel. And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria" (II Kings 23:17-18).

C. AHIJAH'S PROPHECY AGAINST THE HOUSE OF JEROBOAM. Ahijah, who had prophesied to Jeroboam that God would give him ten tribes to rule, spoke another prophecy regarding Jeroboam.

1. What would happen to the house of Jeroboam? (I Kings 14:14)
2. What would happen to Israel (the northern kingdom)? (I Kings 14:15)
3. Why would God give up Israel? (I Kings 14:16)

CONCLUSION. The prophet Ahijah had previously told Jeroboam that if he kept the statutes and commandments of the Lord, God would be with him and build him a house (kingdom) as He built for David (I Kings 11:38). However, when Jeroboam became idolatrous and did not follow God with his heart, then God pronounced judgment upon Jeroboam and his descendants. Jeroboam was followed upon the throne by a son who was killed after two years by Baasha who then reigned in Israel. Baasha destroyed all the house of Jeroboam thus fulfilling Ahijah's prophecy.



LESSON 3

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

I Kings 17

INTRODUCTION. After the death of Solomon, the great Hebrew kingdom divided. Through the years the southern kingdom of Judah was ruled by the descendants of David in fulfillment of God's promise to David (II Sam. 7). Some of the kings of Judah were righteous and some were wicked.

In contrast the northern kingdom of Israel immediately became idolatrous. God promised Jeroboam to establish his kingdom and give Israel to him if he kept the commandments and statutes. Jeroboam, however, soon corrupted the worship of God with his golden calves and other sinful policies. As a consequence God brought judgment against Jeroboam, cutting off his family, and thus several dynasties (families) ruled in Israel. Unfortunately all the kings of Israel were idolatrous, following the improper system of worship begun by Jeroboam, and later practicing Baal worship.

The sixth king of Israel was Omri who built the city of Samaria for his capital city. Located about forty-two miles north of Jerusalem, the city was on a hill and could thus be easily defended. Samaria remained the capital city of Israel until the northern tribes were carried away into captivity.

Omri's son Ahab ruled after him. Ahab's wife was Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon. Jezebel was a worshipper of Baal, and Ahab introduced Baal worship into Israel. Ahab "did evil in the sight of the Lord" and "did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him" (I Kings 16:30, 33).

Suddenly, the prophet Elijah, an inhabitant of Gilead, the territory east of the Jordan River, appears in the narrative making a dramatic appearance before King Ahab.

After predicting to Ahab a devastating drought and famine, Elijah fled to a brook east of the Jordan River. During the ensuing drought, the Lord fed Elijah by ravens which brought him food in the mornings and evenings. When the brook dried up, the Lord directed Elijah to go to Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. There he was sustained by a widow whose oil and meal miraculously increased during the drought. When the widow's son died, Elijah restored him to life.

A. ELIJAH AND THE FAMINE

1. Elijah told Ahab there shall not be _____ nor _____ these years but according to my word. (I Kings 17:1)
2. The Lord told Elijah to go east and hide by the _____. (I Kings 17:2-3)
3. The Lord told Elijah to drink from the _____, and He commanded _____ to feed him. (I Kings 17:4)
4. Elijah obeyed and the ravens brought him _____ in the morning and evening, and he _____ from the brook. (I Kings 17:5-6)
5. After a while the brook _____. (I Kings 17:7)
6. The Lord then told Elijah to go to Zarephath, a city in Phoenicia near Sidon, for He had commanded a _____ there to sustain him. (I Kings 17:8-9)
7. When Elijah came to the gate of the city, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her for _____. (I Kings 17:10-11)
8. The woman told Elijah she had only a handful of _____ and a little _____. (I Kings 17:12)
9. She said she was gathering two sticks that she might prepare the last of her food so she and her son might _____. (I Kings 17:12)

10. Elijah told her to fear not, do as she said, but bring him a _____ first, then make for herself and son afterward. (I Kings 17:13)
11. Elijah told her the God of Israel said the jar (bin) of meal (flour) shall not be used up nor the cruse (jar) of oil run dry until the day the Lord God sends _____ on the earth. (I Kings 17:14)
12. When the woman did as Elijah said, what happened? (I Kings 17:15-16)

B. THE WIDOW'S SON

1. The woman's son became sick, and there was no _____ left in him. (I Kings 17:17)
2. The woman asked Elijah if he had come to bring her sin to remembrance and _____ her son. (I Kings 17:18)

Note. What sin the woman was referring to, the Bible does not say. Perhaps the woman believed this tragedy meant she was being judged for some past sin.

3. Elijah took the child, carried him to his room and laid him upon his _____. (I Kings 17:19)
4. He stretched himself upon the child _____ and prayed the child's soul would return to him. (I Kings 17:21)
5. The Lord heard Elijah, the child's soul came back to him, and he _____. (I Kings 17:22)
6. When Elijah brought the child again to his mother, what confession did she make? (I Kings 17:23-24)

C. AHAB, THE WICKED KING OF ISRAEL

1. How long did Ahab reign over Israel? (I Kings 16:29)

2. What kind of king was Ahab? (I Kings 16:30)
3. Who was his wife? (I Kings 16:31)
4. Whom did Ahab serve and worship? (I Kings 16:31)
5. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord to _____ than all the kings of Israel before him. (I Kings 16:33)

*And Elijah...said unto Ahab,
As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand,
there shall not be dew nor rain these years,
but according to my word.
I Kings 17:1*

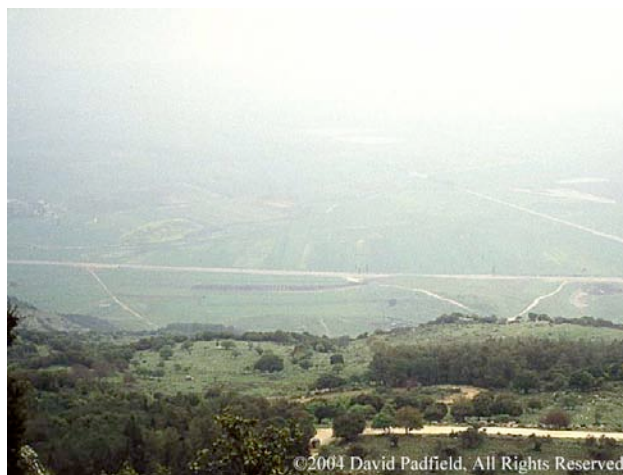
LESSON 4

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

I Kings 18

INTRODUCTION. After three years of drought, the Lord instructed Elijah to go back to Israel, show himself to Ahab, and He would send rain. When Ahab met Elijah, he called him the troubler of Israel, but Elijah told Ahab it was he (Ahab) who troubled Israel because he had forsaken the Lord and followed Baal. Elijah then challenged Ahab to gather all the 450 prophets of Baal and Jezebel's 400 prophets of the Asherah to Mount Carmel. There Elijah and the prophets of Baal had a contest before the people of Israel.

The prophets of Baal built an altar, prepared a bullock for sacrifice without fire, and Elijah did the same. The prophets of Baal called upon their god for fire from morning to evening to consume their sacrifice, leaping about and cutting themselves with knives, but they received no answer. Elijah then poured water on his sacrifice and called on the name of the Lord God of Israel. Fire from the Lord fell which consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the altar, and the water, causing the people of Israel to acknowledge the true God. Elijah then slew the prophets of Baal, and the Lord sent rain, ending the drought.



Mount Carmel

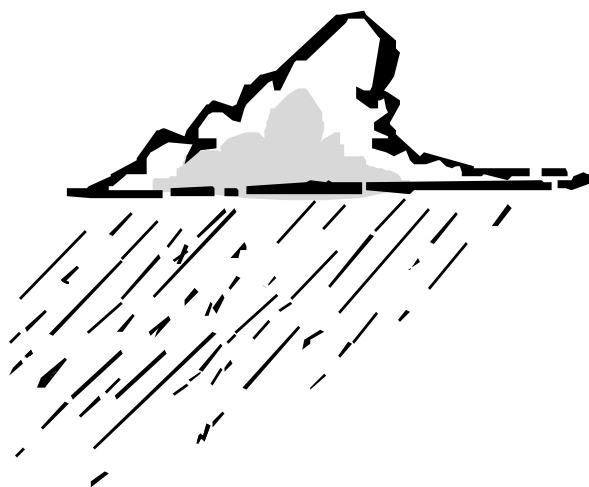
A. ELIJAH AND AHAB

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. _____ The word of the Lord came to Elijah in the (18:1) | a. livestock |
| 2. _____ The Lord told Elijah to show himself to Ahab, and He would send (18:1) | b. 450 prophets of Baal |
| 3. _____ There was a sore (severe) famine in (18:2) | c. Spirit of the Lord |
| 4. _____ Obadiah, Ahab's servant, hid from Jezebel (18:3-4) | d. Samaria |
| 5. _____ He hid them by fifty in a cave and fed them (18:4) | e. Israel |
| 6. _____ Ahab told Obadiah to go to all the springs of water and brooks to find grass for the (18:5) | f. Jezebel's table |
| 7. _____ While Obadiah was on his way, he met Elijah who told him to tell Ahab (18:7-8) | g. third year |
| 8. _____ Obadiah said Ahab had searched for Elijah in every (18:10) | h. nation and kingdom |
| 9. _____ Obadiah was afraid Elijah would be carried away by the (18:11-12) | i. kill him |
| 10. _____ Obadiah then feared Ahab would (18:12) | j. Mount Carmel |
| 11. _____ When Ahab saw Elijah, he asked if he was the troubler of (18:17) | k. Baalim (Baals) |
| 12. _____ Elijah said that Ahab had troubled Israel because he had forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the (18:18) | l. Elijah is here |
| 13. _____ Elijah told Ahab to gather all Israel to (18:19) | m. rain |
| 14. _____ In addition Elijah wanted him to gather the (18:19) | n. 100 prophets of the Lord |
| 15. _____ Elijah also wanted the 400 prophets who ate at (18:19) | o. bread and water |

B. THE CONTEST ON MOUNT CARMEL

1. Elijah asked the people of Israel how long they would halt (limp, falter) between two opinions—if the Lord is God _____, but if Baal is God _____. (I Kings 18:21)
2. How many prophets of the Lord were left? How many prophets of Baal were there? (I Kings 18:22)
3. Two bullocks were chosen—one for the prophets of Baal and one for Elijah.
Each bullock was cut in pieces and laid on wood, but no _____ was under it. (I Kings 18:23)
4. The prophets of Baal would call on their god, and Elijah would call on his God.
The God that answered by _____, He is God. (I Kings 18:24)
5. The prophets of Baal prepared their bullock and called on their god from _____ to _____. (I Kings 18:26)
6. There was no voice, and they _____ about the altar. (I Kings 18:26)
7. Elijah said their god was either _____, or _____, on a _____, or _____. (I Kings 18:27)
8. The prophets of Baal cried aloud, cut themselves with knives and lances until the _____ gushed out, and prophesied until the time of the evening sacrifice. (I Kings 18:28-29)
9. Describe Elijah's altar:
 - a. he took _____ stones (I Kings 18:31)
 - b. he made a _____ about the altar (I Kings 18:32)
 - c. he put the _____ in order (I Kings 18:33)

- d. he cut the _____ in pieces and laid it on the wood (I Kings 18:33)
 - e. four _____ were filled with water and poured on the sacrifice (I Kings 18:33)
 - f. the water was poured on the sacrifice _____ times (I Kings 18:34)
 - g. he filled the _____ with water (I Kings 18:35)
10. When Elijah called upon God to send down fire, he called for the Lord God of _____, _____, and _____.
(I Kings 18:36)
11. He asked God to hear him that the people would know He is the _____.
(I Kings 18:37)
12. The fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt _____, the _____, the _____, the _____, and licked up the _____ in the trench. (I Kings 18:38)
13. The people fell on their faces and said, _____.
(I Kings 18:39)
14. Elijah then brought the prophets of Baal to the Brook Kishon and _____ them. (I Kings 18:40)
15. Shortly afterward the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was heavy rain (I Kings 18:45). How long had the drought lasted? (Jas. 5:17-18)



LESSON 5

JEZEBEL AND NABOTH'S VINEYARD

I Kings 21

INTRODUCTION. When Jezebel learned that Elijah had killed her prophets, she vowed revenge. Elijah fled to the wilderness south of Judah, lay down under a tree, and asked God to allow him to die. An angel ministered unto him, providing food and encouraging him to continue his journey. For forty days and nights on the strength of that food, Elijah journeyed through the wilderness to Mount Horeb where he sought shelter in a cave (I Kings 19:1-9).

When the Lord asked Elijah what he was doing there, Elijah said the children of Israel had forsaken God's covenant and were seeking his life because he had been zealous for the Lord. The Lord told Elijah to stand upon the mountain. Then the Lord passed by, and a strong wind rent the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a still small voice (I Kings 19:10-12).

When Elijah heard the voice, he wrapped his face in his mantle and stood in the entrance of the cave. The voice of the Lord asked him once more what he was doing there. Again Elijah said the children of Israel were seeking his life, and he was the only one left in Israel who served the Lord. God spoke to him and assured him there were *seven thousand* in Israel who had not bowed to Baal. He instructed Elijah to anoint Hazael to be king of Syria, Jehu to be king of Israel, and Elisha to be a prophet and his successor. These three men would bring about reformation in Israel (I Kings 19:13-18).

Sometime later Ahab desired a vineyard which was adjacent to his summer palace in Jezreel. The vineyard belonged to Naboth who refused to sell it to Ahab. Jezebel, therefore, plotted the execution of Naboth. After Naboth was dead, Ahab went

to the vineyard to take possession of it, and Elijah met Ahab for the last time. Elijah prophesied the violent deaths of Ahab and Jezebel and the extermination of their house (family). When Ahab repented at Elijah's word, the Lord had compassion on Ahab and said the prophecy would not come to pass during Ahab's lifetime but in the days of his son (I Kings 21).

A. AHAB DESIRES NABOTH'S VINEYARD

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Naboth, the Jezreelite, had a (21:1) | a. bread |
| 2. _____ It was near the palace of (21:1) | b. vineyard |
| 3. _____ Ahab told Naboth that he wanted the vineyard for a (21:2) | c. fathers |
| 4. _____ He told Naboth that he would give him a better vineyard or give him its worth in (21:2) | d. Naboth |
| 5. _____ Naboth said that the Lord forbid him to give away the inheritance of his (21:3) | e. sad (sullen) |
| 6. _____ Ahab went to his house (21:4) | f. King Ahab |
| 7. _____ He laid down on his bed, turned away his face, and would eat no (21:4) | g. heavy (sullen), displeased |
| 8. _____ Jezebel, his wife, asked him why his spirit was so (21:5) | h. garden |
| 9. _____ When Ahab told her about the vineyard, Jezebel said she would give him the vineyard of (21:6-7) | i. elders, nobles in Naboth's city |
| 10. _____ She wrote letters with Ahab's seal to the (21:8) | j. money |

B. JEZEBEL'S PLOT AND THE LORD'S JUDGMENT

- Jezebel instructed the elders and nobles to proclaim a _____ and give Naboth a seat of high honor. (I Kings 21:9)
- They were to obtain two false witnesses to say Naboth had _____ God and the king. (I Kings 21:10)

3. After they accused Naboth, the elders were to carry Naboth out and _____ him that he might die. (I Kings 21:10)
4. When Jezebel received word from the elders and nobles that they had done _____ as she instructed them, Jezebel told Ahab to take _____ of Naboth's vineyard, for he was dead. (I Kings 21:15)
5. The Lord told Elijah to go and meet Ahab in the _____ of Naboth. (I Kings 21:17-18)
6. The Lord instructed Elijah to tell Ahab that in the place where the _____ licked the blood of Naboth, the dogs would lick his blood. (I Kings 21:19)
7. Ahab called Elijah his _____. (I Kings 21:20)
8. Elijah said he had found Ahab because he had sold himself to work _____ in the sight of the Lord. (I Kings 21:20)
9. Because Ahab had done evil, the Lord would take away his _____. (I Kings 21:21)
10. Regarding Jezebel, the Lord said the _____ would eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. (I Kings 21:23)
11. Regarding Ahab, the Lord said the _____ shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the _____ shall eat whoever dies in the field. (I Kings 21:24)
12. Because Jezebel stirred him up, Ahab did wickedness in the sight of the Lord and behaved abominably in following _____. (I Kings 21:25-26)
13. When Ahab heard the words of the Lord, he _____ his clothes, put on _____, and _____. (I Kings 21:27)
14. Because Ahab humbled himself, the Lord would bring this evil (calamity) in the days of his _____. (I Kings 21:29)

LESSON 6

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

II Kings 2:1-22

INTRODUCTION. After reigning over Israel for 22 years, Ahab was killed in a battle with the Syrians at Ramoth Gilead on the east side of the Jordan River. He was struck by an arrow as he rode in his chariot in the battle, and his blood ran out of the wound into the bottom of the chariot. After the battle Ahab's body was brought back to Samaria, his capital city. While his chariot was being washed, the dogs licked up his blood according to the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah (I Kings 22).

When Elijah fled from Jezebel into the wilderness after he had killed the prophets of Baal and Asherah, God directed him to anoint Elisha to be a prophet (I Kings 19:16). Sometime later Elijah and Elisha journeyed together to the Jordan River and crossed on dry land after Elijah smote the waters with his mantle (coat). As they walked and talked, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Suddenly a chariot and horses of fire appeared, and Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle, and returning to the river he smote the waters with the mantle, calling upon the God of Elijah. The waters parted and Elisha crossed over. Sons of the prophets nearby who witnessed Elisha's action acknowledged him as Elijah's successor.

A. ELIJAH AND ELISHA

1. Elijah and Elisha journeyed from Gilgal to Bethel to Jericho, and eventually the two stood at the _____. (II Kings 2:6-7)
2. Fifty sons of the _____ stood afar off. (II Kings 2:7)
3. Elijah took his _____ and struck the water. (II Kings 2:8)
4. The water was divided and the two crossed on _____. (II Kings 2:8)

5. When they had crossed, Elisha asked that a _____ of Elijah's spirit be given him. (II Kings 2:9)
6. Elijah said he asked a hard thing, but Elisha would know if his request was granted if he _____ Elijah when he was taken from him. (II Kings 2:10)

B. ELIJAH IS TAKEN TO HEAVEN

1. Suddenly a _____ of fire and _____ of fire parted Elijah and Elisha. (II Kings 2:11)
2. Elijah went up by a _____ into heaven. (II Kings 2:11)
3. Did Elisha see it? What did he say? (II Kings 2:12)
4. Elisha tore his clothes in _____ pieces. (II Kings 2:12)
5. He took up Elijah's _____ which had fallen and went back to the Jordan River. (II Kings 2:13)
6. He took the mantle and _____ the waters and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? (II Kings 2:14)
7. The waters _____ and Elisha crossed over. (II Kings 2:14)
8. The sons of the prophets at Jericho saw this action and said, The _____ of Elijah rests on Elisha. (II Kings 2:15)
9. The prophets bowed before Elisha and said they would send _____ to search for Elijah. (II Kings 2:16)
10. They said the Spirit of the Lord may have taken Elijah up and cast him upon some _____ or into a _____. (II Kings 2:16)
11. They searched for _____ but did not find Elijah. (II Kings 2:17)
12. Elisha waited for them at _____. (II Kings 2:18)

13. Then the men at Jericho told Elisha the _____ in the city
was bad and the _____ barren. (II Kings 2:19)
14. Elisha told them to bring him a new cruse (bowl), and put _____
in it. (II Kings 2:20)
15. Elisha went to the spring, cast in the salt and said that the Lord had healed the
waters and there would be no more _____ or _____.
(II Kings 2:21-22)

*And it came to pass...behold, there appeared a chariot of fire,
and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder;
and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father,
the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof,
And he saw him no more...
II Kings 2:11-12*

LESSON 7

THE WIDOW'S OIL AND THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

II Kings 4:1-37

INTRODUCTION. At God's direction Elijah chose Elisha to succeed him as prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. When Elijah ascended to heaven in the chariot of fire, a double portion of his prophetic spirit fell upon Elisha.

Elijah's religious reformation in Israel was continued by Elisha who ministered to the people of the northern kingdom for about fifty years. Elisha performed many miracles and some of them were similar to the miracles of Elijah.

A. THE WIDOW'S OIL. One day a widow told Elisha a creditor was going to take her two children as slaves to pay her debt to him. When the woman told Elisha the only thing she had in her house was a jar of oil, he told her to borrow vessels from all of her neighbors. He instructed her to pour the oil from her jar into the borrowed vessels. When they were all full, Elisha told her to sell the oil and pay her debt.

1. A widow told Elisha: (II Kings 4:1)
 - a. she had no food
 - b. she had no place to live
 - c. a creditor was going to take her children as slaves to pay her debt to him
2. When Elisha asked what she had in her house, she said she had: (II Kings 4:2)
 - a. a bed
 - b. a jar of oil
 - c. a candlestick
3. Elisha told her to borrow from her neighbors: (II Kings 4:3)
 - a. many empty vessels
 - b. oil
 - c. wine
4. Elisha told her to go into her house and: (II Kings 4:4-5)
 - a. shut the door
 - b. pour her oil into the borrowed vessels
 - c. set aside the full jars

5. When all the vessels were full, Elisha instructed her to: (II Kings 4:6-7)
 - a. sell the oil
 - b. pay her debt
 - c. live with her sons on the income from the rest of the oil
6. In a similar miracle Elijah, by the word of the Lord, caused the oil and meal of the widow of Zarephath to increase because: (I Kings 17:1, 14)
 - a. she had a debt to pay
 - b. she baked delicious bread
 - c. there was a famine

B. THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN. As often as Elisha passed through Shunem, a city in the territory belonging to Issachar near Mount Gilboa, a notable (wealthy) woman fed him. After a while she persuaded her husband to build a room on to their house for the prophet to stay when he visited them. Elisha repaid them for their kindness by telling the childless couple they would have a son. In due season the child was born. A few years later the child died suddenly, and when Elisha heard the news, he went to Shunem and restored the child to life.

1. As Elisha passed by Shunem, a woman persuaded him to eat at her home.

She told her husband this was a _____ who passed by regularly. (II Kings 4:8-9)

2. She suggested they build a small room for Elisha and furnish it with a _____, _____, _____, and _____. (II Kings 4:10)

3. Elisha told his servant to ask her what he could do for her. The servant said she had no _____ and her husband was old. (II Kings 4:12-14)

4. Elisha called for the woman and told her she would have a _____ in about a year. (II Kings 4:15-16)

5. The woman bore a son at the appointed time, but one day when the child was grown, he went out to his father to the reapers and complained about his _____. (II Kings 4:18-19)

6. The father instructed a servant to carry the child to his mother, and he sat on her knees till noon, then _____. (II Kings 4:19-20)

7. The woman laid the child on Elisha's bed, then saddled her donkey and told her servant to _____ and go forward quickly. (II Kings 4:24)
8. She went to Mount Carmel to Elisha and caught hold of his feet. When his servant tried to push her away, Elisha said to let her alone, for she was deeply distressed, and the Lord had _____ it from him. (II Kings 4:27)
9. When the woman humbly told Elisha her problem, he told his servant Gehazi to take his (Elisha's) staff, go to the child, and lay the staff on the _____ of the child. (II Kings 4:29)
10. Gehazi, who went ahead of Elisha and the woman, laid Elisha's staff on the child but there was neither _____ nor _____. (II Kings 4:31)
11. When Elisha came to the house, the child was _____ upon his bed. (II Kings 4:32)
12. Elisha went into the room, shut the door, and _____. (II Kings 4:33)
13. Elisha stretched himself on the child, mouth upon mouth, eyes upon eyes, hands upon hands. The first time the flesh of the child became _____; the second time the child _____ seven times and opened his eyes. (II Kings 4:34-35)
14. Elisha then told the woman to take her son, and she _____ at his feet, bowed to the ground, and took her son. (II Kings 4:36-37)
15. In a similar manner, Elijah stretched himself on the dead child of the widow of Zarephath _____ times, prayed, and God restored the child's life. (I Kings 17:21-22)

C. JESUS AND THE WIDOW'S SON (Luke 7:11-17). As Jesus came to the city of Nain in Galilee one day, He encountered a funeral procession. A dead man, the only son of a widow woman, was being carried outside the city for burial. It is interesting to note that Nain is near Shunem, the place where Elisha restored life to the son of the Shunammite woman. How did Jesus restore life to the man? (Luke 7:14)

LESSON 8

NAAMAN THE LEPER

II Kings 5

INTRODUCTION. Syria was a nation to the northeast of Israel and throughout the years fought many battles against the children of Israel. David conquered and subdued the Syrians, at one time killing 22,000 and another time 18,000 (II Sam. 8:3-13). King Ahab of Israel fought three different battles with the Syrians. He conquered them in the first two battles but lost his life in the third (I Kings 20; 22; II Chron. 18).

During part of Elisha's ministry, one of Ahab's sons, Joram, was king of Israel. At that time the captain of the Syrian army was Naaman, a great and honorable man, but he was a leper. During one Syrian raid into Israel, a young Israelite girl was captured, brought back to Syria, and became a servant to Naaman's wife. She told her mistress that a prophet in Samaria could cure Naaman of his leprosy.

The king of Syria wrote a letter to the king of Israel and sent the letter by Naaman with gifts of gold, silver, and clothing. The letter stated that the king of Israel could cure Naaman. After reading the letter, the king of Israel tore his clothes, for he believed the king of Syria was seeking a quarrel with him by giving him this impossible task.

Elisha heard about the incident and sent a message to the king of Israel, telling him to send Naaman to him. When Naaman arrived at Elisha's house, Elisha sent his servant out to him. The servant told Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River seven times and his flesh would be restored.

Naaman was furious and went away, saying the rivers of Damascus in Syria were better than all the waters of Israel. However, Naaman's servants persuaded him to do as Elisha had said—after all if the prophet had told him to do some great deed,

would he not do it? Naaman then humbled himself, did as Elisha commanded, and was healed.

Naaman was so grateful, he returned to Elisha offering him gifts and acknowledging faith in the God of Israel. Elisha refused the gifts even though Naaman urged him to accept. Naaman then asked that he might take back to Syria two mule-loads of earth, apparently for the purpose of erecting an altar of Israelite soil in order to worship the God of Israel in his own country of Syria. Elisha bid him to go in peace.

A. NAAMAN COMES TO ELISHA

1. Naaman was _____ of the host (army) of Syria. (II Kings 5:1)
2. He was a mighty man of valor, but was a _____. (II Kings 5:1)
3. Naaman's wife had a little (young) _____ captive from Israel. (II Kings 5:2)
4. She told her mistress a _____ in Samaria could heal Naaman of his leprosy. (II Kings 5:3)
5. The king of Syria sent a _____ to the king of Israel by Naaman. (II Kings 5:5)
6. Naaman took with him ten talents of _____, 6000 pieces of _____, and ten changes of _____. (II Kings 5:5)
7. When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, Am I _____ to kill and make alive? (II Kings 5:7)
8. Elisha sent a message to the king of Israel and told him to send Naaman to him, and he (Naaman) would know there is a _____ in Israel. (II Kings 5:8)
9. Naaman came with his _____ and _____ and stood at Elisha's door. (II Kings 5:9)
10. Elisha sent his servant out to tell Naaman to wash in the Jordan River _____ times. (II Kings 5:10)

B. NAAMAN HUMBLER HIMSELF. Naaman was angry at the words of Elisha. Naaman was a very important person in Syria and expected Elisha to humble himself and treat him with great ceremony. Instead Naaman discovered that he was the one who needed to humble himself before the Lord's prophet.

1. Naaman at first became angry and said: (II Kings 5:11)
 - a. Behold, I thought (said to myself), he will surely come out to _____,
 - b. and stand, and call on the name of the _____,
 - c. and wave his hand over the place, and _____.
2. Naaman turned away in rage, saying the rivers of Damascus were better than the Jordan in Israel, but his servants said to him, If the prophet had told you to do something _____, would you not do it? (II Kings 5:12-13)
3. Naaman then dipped _____ in the Jordan and was healed. (II Kings 5:14)

C. NAAMAN'S GRATITUDE

1. Naaman returned to Elisha and said he now knew there was no _____ in all the earth except in Israel. (II Kings 5:15)
2. Naaman offered a _____ to Elisha, but he refused to take it. (II Kings 5:15-16)
3. Naaman then asked Elisha for two mules' burden of earth to take to Syria, for he would not offer sacrifices to any gods but unto the _____. (II Kings 5:17)

Note. Apparently Naaman intended to use the Israelite soil to erect an altar in Syria which would be more appropriate for worshipping the God of Israel than the earth of his own country.

D. ELISHA'S SERVANT. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, decided to pursue Naaman, and ask for a portion of the gift which Elisha had refused. When Naaman saw Gehazi running after him, he alighted from his chariot and greeted him. Gehazi told Naaman that Elisha had sent him, saying he needed the gifts for two sons of the prophets. Gehazi, however, intended to keep for himself the reward.

1. Gehazi said two sons of the prophets had come to Elisha and they needed a talent of _____ and two changes of _____. (II Kings 5:22)
2. Naaman took two talents of silver and two changes of clothing and handed them to two of his servants who carried them ahead of Gehazi. When they came to the tower (citadel), Gehazi took the gifts and bestowed them in the _____. (II Kings 5:23-24)
3. When Gehazi returned to Elisha and lied about his whereabouts, Elisha said his _____ went with him when the man turned back from his chariot. (II Kings 5:25-26)
4. Elisha said, Is it a time to receive money, clothing, oliveyards, vineyards, sheep, oxen, menservants and maidservants? The _____ of Naaman shall cleave to thee and thy seed forever. (II Kings 5:27)
5. Describe Gehazi as he went out of Elisha's presence. (II Kings 5:27)

*Naaman was wroth...and said, Behold, I thought,
He will surely come out to me, and stand,
and call on the name of the Lord his God,
and strike his hand over the place,
and recover the leper.
II Kings 5:11*

LESSON 9

MIRACLES PERFORMED BY ELISHA

II Kings 4:38-44; 6:1-23

INTRODUCTION. Elijah began the destruction of Baal worship in Israel by his contest on Mount Carmel with the prophets of Baal. Elisha finished this cleansing of the land of Baal worship together with Jehu, the king of Israel .

Although Elijah and Elisha were both prophets of God, in many ways they were quite different. Elijah suddenly appeared and disappeared on the scene, but Elisha moved about steadily among the people during his lifelong ministry. Elijah came from an area of rugged hills while Elisha's home was in a peaceful valley. Elijah was stern, demonstrated by his calling for fire from heaven in the contest with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (I Kings 18). Elisha was more gentle, calling for a minstrel to play for him one time to help with his prophetic mission (II Kings 3:15).

One time during his long ministry, Elisha was in Gilgal during a drought. He ordered his servant to prepare food for the sons of the prophets at that place. One man gathered some poisonous wild gourds by mistake and added them to the pot of food. Elisha cast some meal (flour) into the pot and the contents became harmless.

Another time when a man brought him twenty barley loaves and some grain, he ordered him to place the food before one hundred men. The men ate and there was enough to eat and some left over.

In another incident, the sons of the prophets wanted to build a new dwelling place at the Jordan River. As the men were cutting down wood, one man's ax head fell into the water. The man was distressed because the ax was borrowed. Elisha miraculously recovered the ax head.

A. MORE MIRACLES

1. One man gathered and put into a pot of food some poisonous: (II Kings 4:38-39)
 - a. wild gourds
 - b. wild berries
 - c. wild grapes
2. Elisha made the food harmless by putting into the pot: (II Kings 4:40-41)
 - a. salt
 - b. spices
 - c. meal (flour)
3. Elisha fed one hundred men with: (II Kings 4:42-43)
 - a. 10 loaves of barley and some grain
 - b. 20 loaves of barley and some grain
 - c. 50 loaves of barley and some grain
4. Another one who fed many people with a small amount of food was:
 - a. Moses
 - b. Samuel
 - c. Jesus
5. The sons of the prophets wanted to build a new dwelling place at: (II Kings 6:1-2)
 - a. Samaria
 - b. the Jordan
 - c. Jerusalem
6. When one man's ax head which was borrowed accidentally fell into the water, Elisha: (II Kings 6:5-7)
 - a. miraculously made a new ax head
 - b. miraculously cut down many trees
 - c. caused the ax head to swim in the water

B. ELISHA AND THE KING OF SYRIA. The king of Syria was warring against the king of Israel. Each time the king of Syria counseled with his servants regarding the location of his camp, Elisha would warn the king of Israel to avoid the place. The king of Syria believed he had a spy among his own people, but one of his

servants informed him that it was Elisha, the prophet of Israel, who was revealing his secrets to the king of Israel.

The king of Syria then sent a great host by night to capture Elisha. The army compassed the city of Dothan where Elisha was staying. In the morning when the army came into the city to seize Elisha, the Lord smote the army with blindness. Elisha then told the army to follow him, and he would lead them to the man they sought. Elisha led them into Samaria, the capital city, to the king of Israel. When the king asked Elisha if he should kill the army, Elisha told the king to feed them and send them home.

1. The king of Syria counseled with his servants regarding the location of his _____ . (II Kings 6:8)
2. The man of God (Elisha) warned the king of _____ to avoid these camps, and he was watchful, saving himself not just once or twice. (II Kings 6:9-10)
3. The king of Syria was greatly _____ and believed one of his servants was a spy. (II Kings 6:11)
4. His servants told him that Elisha, the prophet of Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that he (the king of Syria) speaks in his _____. (II Kings 6:12)
5. The king of Syria told his men to find Elisha, and it was told him that Elisha was in _____. (II Kings 6:13)
6. He sent his _____, _____ and a great _____ who compassed the city at night. (II Kings 6:14)
7. When Elisha's servant saw the army in the morning surrounding the city, he was alarmed, but Elisha told him not to _____, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. (II Kings 6:15-16)
8. When Elisha prayed, the Lord opened the eyes of his servant, and he saw the mountain full of _____ and _____ all around Elisha. (II Kings 6:17)

9. When the army came into the city to seize Elisha, he prayed that the Lord would smite them with _____. (II Kings 6:18)
10. Elisha led the blinded men to _____. (II Kings 6:19)
11. When they came to Samaria, Elisha prayed for the Lord to open their _____. (II Kings 6:20)
12. The king of Israel asked Elisha if he should _____ them. (II Kings 6:21)
13. Elisha asked the king if he would smite those that he had taken captive with the _____ and _____. (II Kings 6:22)
14. Elisha told the king to feed the captives and then send them away to their _____. (II Kings 6:22-23)



LESSON 10

JOASH, THE BOY KING

II Kings 11; 12:1-16

INTRODUCTION. During the time Elijah and Elisha were doing their work, there was turmoil in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. In the northern kingdom of Israel, the wicked Ahab was succeeded on the throne first by one son, and following his death, by a second son. Both of these kings were wicked as their father.

A descendant of David ascended the throne in Judah about the same time as Ahab's first son began reigning in Israel. This king of Judah was married to Athaliah who was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. The king was wicked, as was his wife, and his son who succeeded him on the throne was also wicked.

Meanwhile God instructed Elisha to anoint Jehu as king of Israel. God chose Jehu as his instrument to destroy the house (descendants) of Ahab, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Elijah (I Kings 21:21-22; II Kings 9:1-13).

Jehu immediately commenced the task of conspiring against the descendants of Ahab and eliminating them. First, Jehu rode in his chariot to the city of Jezreel. As he approached the city, the king of Israel and the king of Judah who were visiting one another rode in their chariots to meet Jehu. Jehu slew both kings then continued on to the city (II Kings 9:14-29).

Next, as Jehu entered the city, Jezebel greeted him from an upper window. He commanded some servants in the house to throw Jezebel down. They threw her down, and Jehu trampled her underfoot with his horses and chariot. He went inside, ate and drank, then commanded the servants to bury Jezebel, for she was a king's daughter. When the servants went outside only the skull, feet, and palms of her hands remained, for the dogs had eaten her as prophesied by Elijah (I Kings 21:23; II Kings 9:30-37).

Jehu proceeded to slay all that remained of the house of Ahab, both in Israel and Judah. Then he destroyed the house of Baal and killed the worshippers of Baal. He did

not remove Jeroboam's two golden calves, however, nor did he walk in the law of the Lord with all his heart (II Kings 10).

When Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, saw that her son the king of Judah was dead, she destroyed all the royal heirs and declared herself queen of Judah. However, the wife of the high priest, who was also the sister of the dead king, managed to rescue one of the king's sons, Joash (her nephew), and hide him from Athaliah. He remained hidden for six years in the house of the Lord.

In the seventh year, the high priest Jehoiada presented Joash to the officers of the temple and took an oath of allegiance from them. Jehoiada then armed temple guards, and as they stood round about Joash, Jehoiada placed a crown upon the boy. As the people shouted, *Long live the king!*, Athaliah, hearing the noise, came to the temple and saw the young king standing by the pillar. While all the people of the land rejoiced and blew the trumpets, Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, *Treason! treason!* Jehoiada then commanded the officers to follow Athaliah and slay her outside the temple.

A. ATHALIAH

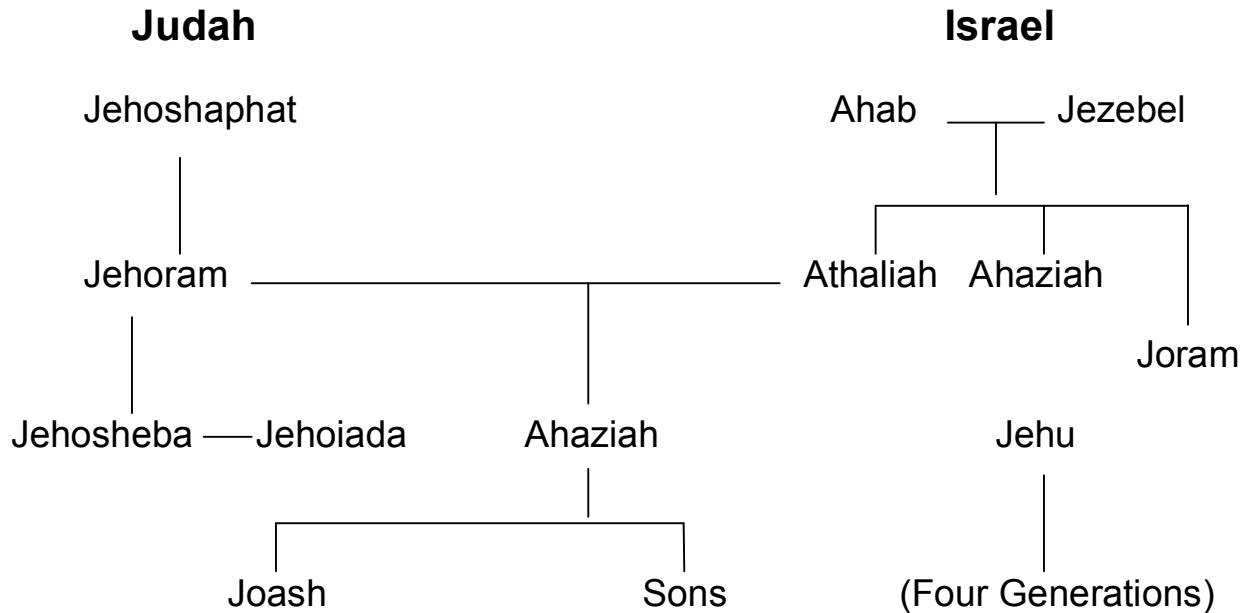
1. When Athaliah saw that her son was dead (killed by Jehu), she arose and destroyed the _____. (II Kings 11:1)
2. Jehosheba, the sister of the dead king, took _____ and hid him from Athaliah. (II Kings 11:2)
3. He was hidden in the house of the Lord for _____ years. (II Kings 11:3)
4. In the seventh year (II Kings 11:4) Jehoiada brought out Joash, the king's son, put the _____ on him, gave him the _____ (law), and made him king. (II Kings 11:12)
5. When Athaliah, hearing the noise, went to the temple and saw the young king standing by the pillar, she tore her clothes and cried, _____. (II Kings 11:13-14)

6. Jehoiada commanded the officers to follow Athaliah out of the temple and slay her with the _____. (II Kings 11:15-16)
7. What did the people then do to the house of Baal and the priest of Baal? (II Kings 11:18)

B. JOASH REPAIRS THE TEMPLE. Joash, a descendant of David, began reigning over Judah when he was seven years old and reigned for forty years. Joash was a righteous king all the days of Jehoiada, the high priest, and his main achievement was the repair of the temple.

1. Joash was _____ years old when he began to reign, and he reigned _____ years in Jerusalem. (II Kings 11:21; 12:1)
2. Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days that Jehoiada, the priest, _____ him. (II Kings 12:2)
3. Joash told the priests that all the money brought into the house of the Lord should be used to _____ the temple. (II Kings 12:4-5)
4. The _____ of Athaliah had broken up the house of God and presented the dedicated things (treasures) to the Baals. (II Chron. 24:7)
5. In the _____ year of King Joash, the priests had not repaired the temple. (II Kings 12:6)
6. Jehoiada, the priest, took a _____, bored a hole in the lid, set it beside the altar, and the priests put there all the _____ brought into the house of the Lord. (II Kings 12:9)
7. When there was much money in the chest, they gave the money into the hands of those who did the _____. (II Kings 12:11)
8. The men who received the money and did the work dealt _____. (II Kings 12:15)

THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL DURING THE MINISTRIES OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA



In Judah:

- *Jehoram* was married to Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and reigned for eight years
- *Ahaziah*, the son of Jehoram and Athaliah, reigned for one year and was killed by Jehu of Israel
- *Athaliah*, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, was married to Jehoram of Judah and reigned for six years after the death of her son Ahaziah; she killed all the sons of Ahaziah except Joash; she was killed by order of Jehoiada the high priest
- *Joash* was the only son of Ahaziah to escape from Athaliah; he was hidden in the temple by Ahaziah's sister Jehosheba (probably half-sister) who was married to Jehoiada, the high priest; he began to reign when he was seven years old and reigned for forty years

In Israel:

- *Ahaziah*, son of Ahab and Jezebel, reigned two years then died
- *Joram*, son of Ahab and Jezebel, reigned after his brother Ahaziah for twelve years; he was killed by Jehu
- *Jehu*, anointed king by command of God, killed Ahaziah of Judah, Joram of Israel, Jezebel and remaining house of Ahab, then destroyed the Baal worship; he reigned in Israel for 28 years; his dynasty continued unto the fourth generation

Elijah and Elisha were prophets to Israel:

- *Elijah* ministered during the reigns of Ahab and Ahaziah
- *Elisha* ministered during the reigns of Joram, Jehu, and two of Jehu's descendants

LESSON 11

HEZEKIAH AND SENNACHERIB

II Kings 18:1-8, 13-37; 19

INTRODUCTION. When Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel, the Lord was gracious to Israel for a time and had compassion on them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He would not destroy them or cast them from his presence (II Kings 13:23).

THE END OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. Jehu's dynasty continued after his death for sixty-some years with his son, grandson, great-grandson, and great great-grandson (four generations) succeeding him on the throne of Israel. The kingdom then fell into a period of tumult and rapid decline. Meanwhile the ancient kingdom of Assyria located in northern Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers commenced its greatest period about 745 B. C. The Assyrians were fierce, warlike, and extremely cruel.

In 723 B. C. the nation of Assyria conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and carried the people captive into foreign lands. This marked the end of the northern kingdom which had been ruled by wicked kings for slightly more than two hundred years. The Assyrians then brought into Israel peoples from other nations they had conquered. Eventually these foreigners intermarried with the Israelites who remained in the land. This was the beginning of the mixed race of Samaritans who were held in contempt by the Jews in New Testament times.

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH ALONE. In Judah the descendants of David continued to reign for another one hundred and thirty-some years. Some of the kings were righteous and some were wicked. The fifth king to rule after Joash was Hezekiah who reigned about 715-686 B. C. shortly after the northern kingdom had been taken captive. Hezekiah was righteous and cleansed the land, reforming and restoring the true worship of God.

After conquering the northern kingdom of Israel, the Assyrians soon turned their attention to Judah, invading the land and conquering some of the cities. The king of Assyria, Sennacherib, sent a message to Hezekiah, warning him to surrender Jerusalem, for Judah was not strong enough to withstand the mighty Assyrian army.

A. SENNACHERIB'S MESSAGE TO HEZEKIAH

1. The king of Assyria sent three men and a great _____ to Hezekiah in Jerusalem. (II Kings 18:17)
2. Hezekiah sent three servants out to the Assyrians. The chief Assyrian messenger stood and cried in a loud voice in the Jews' (Hebrew) language and told the three men and the people sitting on the wall not to listen to Hezekiah when he tells them the _____ will deliver them from Assyria. (II Kings 18:28-30)
3. He asked if any of the _____ of other lands had delivered those people from the king of Assyria. (II Kings 18:33)
4. However, the people held their _____ and answered him not a word according to the commandment of the king (Hezekiah). (II Kings 18:36)

B. HEZEKIAH'S FAITH. When Hezekiah heard the words of the Assyrian messengers, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went to the temple. He sent his servants covered with sackcloth to Isaiah the prophet to seek his advice (II Kings 19:1-5).

1. Isaiah told the messengers to tell Hezekiah that the Lord said not to be afraid, for the servants of the Assyrian king had _____ him (the Lord). (II Kings 19:6)
2. Isaiah said the Assyrian king would hear tidings and return to his own land and fall by the _____ in his own land. (II Kings 19:7)
3. The Assyrian messengers returned to their king who sent another message to Hezekiah telling him not to be deceived by _____. (II Kings 19:10)

4. When Hezekiah received the letter, he went to the temple, spread the letter before the Lord and _____. (II Kings 19:14-15)
5. He asked the Lord to save Judah that all _____ of the earth may know that the Lord God is the only God. (II Kings 19:19)
6. God's answer to Hezekiah was delivered to Hezekiah by the prophet Isaiah. Through Isaiah God said the following about Assyria:
 - a. the king of Assyria had blasphemed and reproached the _____ (II Kings 19:22)
 - b. the king of Assyria had boasted of great victories, but God had allowed him to make fenced (fortified) cities into _____; (II Kings 19:25)
 - c. because the Assyrian king had raged against the Lord, He would put his _____ in his nose, and _____ in his lips, and turn him back by the way he came; (II Kings 19:28)
 - d. the Assyrian king would not come into this city (Jerusalem), nor shoot an _____ there, nor come before it with a _____, nor cast up a _____ before it; (II Kings 19:32)
 - e. by the way that he _____, by the same shall he _____. (II Kings 19:33)
 - f. the Lord would defend the city to save it for _____ and _____ sake. (II Kings 19:34)
7. That night the angel of the Lord smote the Assyrian camp, killing _____. (II Kings 19:35)
8. Sennacherib departed and returned to _____. (II Kings 19:36)
9. One day as Sennacherib was worshipping in the house of his god, his

_____ smote him with the sword as Isaiah had prophesied.
(II Kings 19:37)

LESSON 12

HEZEKIAH'S LIFE IS LENGTHENED

II Kings 20

INTRODUCTION. About the same time that Sennacherib invaded Judah, Hezekiah became seriously ill. Isaiah told him to set his house in order and prepare to die. In great distress Hezekiah prayed to the Lord. The word of the Lord came to Isaiah with a message for Hezekiah. The Lord said He had answered Hezekiah's prayer, healing him, extending his life for fifteen years, and promising him deliverance from Assyria.

A. HEZEKIAH'S ILLNESS

1. Hezekiah was sick unto _____. (II Kings 20:1)
2. Isaiah told him the Lord said to set his house in order for he would _____. (II Kings 20:1)
3. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and _____. (II Kings 20:2)
4. Hezekiah asked the Lord to remember that: (II Kings 20:3)
 - a. he had walked before the Lord in _____
 - b. with a perfect (loyal) _____
 - c. he had done that which was _____
5. Hezekiah _____ sore (bitterly). (II Kings 20:3)
6. The word of the Lord came to Isaiah telling him to go to Hezekiah with this message: (II Kings 20:5-6)
 - a. I have heard thy _____ and seen thy _____
 - b. I will _____ thee
 - c. the _____ day you shall go to the house of the Lord

- d. I will add _____ to your life
 - e. I will _____ thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria
 - f. I will _____ this city for my sake and for David's sake
7. A _____ was laid on Hezekiah's boil and he recovered. (II Kings 20:7)

B. THE SIGN AND MIRACLE. Hezekiah asked Isaiah for a sign that the Lord would heal him, and that he would go to the house of the Lord on the third day. Isaiah asked Hezekiah if he wanted the shadow to go forward ten degrees or backward ten degrees (II Kings 20:8-9).

- 1. What was Hezekiah's response? (II Kings 20:10)
- 2. When Isaiah cried to the Lord, what happened? (II Kings 20:11)

Note. Ahaz (Hezekiah's father) had some kind of instrument showing the time of day by the shadows, possibly a series of steps rather than a modern sundial. The Hebrew word *maalah*, which is translated dial or sundial, means elevation (such as a journey to a higher place), degree, stair, or step. Obviously this was a miracle, for the shadow always goes forward, but this time it went backward.

C. HEZEKIAH'S PRIDE. The king of Babylon, Berodach-Baladan (or Merodach-Baladan as the name appears in Isa. 39:1), sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

At this time in history this Babylonian king had been defeated by the Assyrians and was in exile. Having heard of Hezekiah's successful defense against Sennacherib, he probably sent his ambassadors to Judah in order to form an alliance with Hezekiah against the Assyrians.

Hezekiah showed the Babylonian messengers all the treasures of his kingdom. Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah for his action, saying that one day all these treasures shall be carried to Babylon as well as his sons.

- 1. What did the king of Babylon send to Hezekiah? (II Kings 20:12)

2. Hezekiah showed the Babylonians all his precious things (treasures) in his dominion: (II Kings 20:13)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
3. What would happen to these treasures one day according to Isaiah? (II Kings 20:16-17)
4. Hezekiah's sons (descendants) would also be carried to Babylon and become servants where? (II Kings 20:18)
5. These calamities would occur after Hezekiah's death. Why did God not bring this judgment upon Judah during the days of Hezekiah? (II Chron. 32:26)

The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah,
when he had been sick, and was recovered of his sickness...
*The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day:
the father to the children shall make known thy truth.
The Lord was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs...*
Isa. 38:9, 19-20

LESSON 13

JOSIAH

II Kings 22; 23:1-20

INTRODUCTION. Hezekiah was followed on the throne by his son, his grandson, and then his great-grandson Josiah. When he ascended the throne, Josiah was only eight years old. His father and grandfather who had reigned before him were extremely wicked, leading the people of Judah into sin and polluting the land with idolatry.

A. JOSIAH'S FIRST AND SECOND REFORMS

1. Josiah was _____ years old when he began to reign in Judah. (II Chron. 34:1)
2. Josiah's first reform occurred in the eighth year of his reign when he began to _____ the God of David his father. (II Chron. 34:3)
3. Josiah's second reform occurred in the twelfth year of his reign when he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the: (II Chron. 34:3)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

B. JOSIAH'S THIRD REFORM AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW. In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign (when he was 26 years old), he began his third reformation. Josiah ordered the repair of the temple, and in the process the high priest Hilkiah found the book of the law. When the book was read before Josiah, he tore his clothes, for the people of Judah had strayed from the commandments of the Lord.

Josiah commanded Hilkiah to inquire of the Lord concerning the words of the book. Hilkiah consulted the prophetess Huldah who revealed that the Lord would bring evil upon Judah because they had forsaken him and worshipped idols. But concerning King Josiah, because his heart was tender and he humbled himself before the Lord, the evil would not occur until after his death.

1. In the eighteenth year of his reign, Josiah ordered the repair of the temple, and Hilkiah, the high priest, found the _____ in the temple. (II Kings 22:8)
2. Shaphan, the scribe, took the book to Josiah and _____ it before the king. (II Kings 22:10)
3. When Josiah heard the words of the book of the law, he _____. (II Kings 22:11)
4. Josiah commanded Hilkiah to inquire of the Lord for him and the people of Judah regarding the words of the book. The Lord's anger was great because their fathers had not _____ the words of the book. (II Kings 22:13)
5. Hilkiah went to the prophetess Huldah to seek her advice. She predicted that evil would come upon Judah and its inhabitants because they had _____ God and burned incense to other gods. (II Kings 22:15-17)
6. Josiah would be spared from these calamities because: (II Kings 22:18-19)
 - a. his _____ was tender
 - b. he _____ himself before the Lord
 - c. he _____ his clothes
 - d. he _____ before the Lord
7. The Lord would gather Josiah to his grave in _____, and he would not see the _____ the Lord would bring upon Judah. (II Kings 22:20)

C. JOSIAH'S COVENANT, REFORMS, AND PASSOVER CELEBRATION. Josiah gathered all the people of Judah together at the temple and read to them all the words of the book of the law that had been found. Before the assembly he made a covenant with the Lord to keep all the statutes and commandments contained within the book.

Josiah continued with his reforms, destroying the remnants of Baal worship, idolatrous altars, houses of sin, and cult objects of worship to the sun, moon, and stars. He slew the idolatrous priests and burned men's bones on the pagan shrines, thus defiling them to prevent the people from rebuilding them. He then ordered the people to observe the Passover feast according to all the words of the law.

1. Josiah made a covenant with the Lord and the people to follow the Lord, keep his _____, _____, and _____ with all their heart and soul. (II Kings 23:3)
2. One of Josiah's many reforms occurred at Bethel where he: (II Kings 23:15-16)
 - a. _____ down the altar
 - b. took bones out of the sepulchres and _____ them on the altar

Note. This was a fulfillment of the prophecy by the man of God to Jeroboam which had been spoken about 300 years previously (I Kings 13:1-2).
3. One sepulchre Josiah did not disturb was that of the _____ who came from Judah and prophesied against the altar of Bethel which Josiah had just destroyed. (II Kings 23:17-18)
4. In the eighteenth year of King Josiah the _____ was held to the Lord in Jerusalem. (II Kings 23:23)
5. Such a Passover had never been held from the days of the _____, nor in all the days of the _____ of Israel and Judah. (II Kings 23:22)

D. JOSIAH'S DEATH. In 609 B. C. when Josiah had reigned for thirty-one years, he went to battle against Pharaoh-Necho, king of Egypt, and was killed in the battle at Megiddo. His body was brought back to Jerusalem for burial, and all the people mourned for him.

1. When Josiah died, who mourned for him? (II Chron. 35:24)
2. What prophet lamented for Josiah? (II Chron. 35:25)

CONCLUSION. As a young man Josiah sought the Lord to serve him and was dedicated to restoring the true worship of God. Because of his humility and tender heart, the Lord granted him peace and prosperity during his thirty-one year reign.

Josiah removed all the _____ out of the land and made all the people in Israel serve the Lord their God. How long did the people serve the Lord? (II Chron. 34:33)

THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL¹

JUDAH

Rehoboam – 17 yrs. (930-913 B.C.)
 Abijam – 3yrs.
 Asa – 41 yrs.

Jehoshaphat – 25 yrs.
 Jehoram – 8 yrs.
 Ahaziah – 1 yr.
 Athaliah – 7 yrs. (841-835 B.C.)
 Joash – 40 yrs.
 Amaziah – 29 yrs.
 Uzziah – 52 yrs.

Jotham – 16 yrs.
 Ahaz – 16 yrs.

Hezekiah – 29 yrs.
 Manasseh – 55 yrs.
 Amon – 2 yrs.
 Josiah – 31 yrs.
 Jehoahaz – 3 mos.
 Jehoiakim – 11 yrs.
 Jehoiachin – 3 mos.
 Zedekiah – 11 yrs. (597-586 B.C.)

ISRAEL

Jeroboam I – 22 yrs. (930-909 B.C.)

Nadab – 2 yrs.
 Baasha – 24 yrs.
 Elah – 2 yrs.
 Zimri – 7 days
 Tibni – rival to Omri
 Omri – 12 yrs.
 Ahab – 22 yrs.

Ahaziah – 2 yrs.
 Joram – 12 yrs.
 Jehu – 28 yrs. (841-814 B.C.)
 Jehoahaz – 17 yrs.
 Jehoash – 16 yrs.
 Jeroboam II – 41 yrs.
 Zachariah – 6 mos.
 Shallum – 1 mo.
 Menahem – 10 yrs.
 Pekahiah – 2 yrs.
 Pekah – 20 yrs.

Hoshea – 9 yrs. (732-723 B.C.)

¹ Dates are from Edwin R. Thiele, *Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, (Grand Rapids, 1983), p. 10-13.

THE MINISTRIES OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA AND THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL

JUDAH

Jehoshaphat—righteous king

Jehoram—son of Jehoshaphat; married to Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel; wicked

Ahaziah—son of Jehoram and Athaliah

Athaliah—daughter of Ahab and Jezebel; married to Jehoram; mother of Ahaziah; destroyed royal heirs except for Joash

Joash—son of Ahaziah; upon the death of Athaliah, began to reign at seven years of age

ISRAEL

Ahab—married to Jezebel; wicked; introduced Baal worship into Israel

Elijah:

- provides food for widow of Zarephath
- restores the widow of Zarephath's son
- challenges the prophets of Baal
- prophesies against the house of Ahab

Ahaziah—son of Ahab; wicked

Elijah:

- prophesies death of Ahaziah

Joram—son of Ahab; wicked

Elijah:

- ascends to heaven

Elisha:

- heals waters of Jericho
- multiplies the widow's oil
- restores the Shunamite woman's son
- heals poisonous pottage
- feeds 100 people miraculously
- heals Naaman of leprosy
- causes ax head to swim
- reveals location of Syrian camp
- smites Syrians with blindness
- anoints Jehu king

Jehu—killed Ahaziah of Judah, Joram of Israel, Jezebel, remaining house of Ahab; destroyed Baal worship

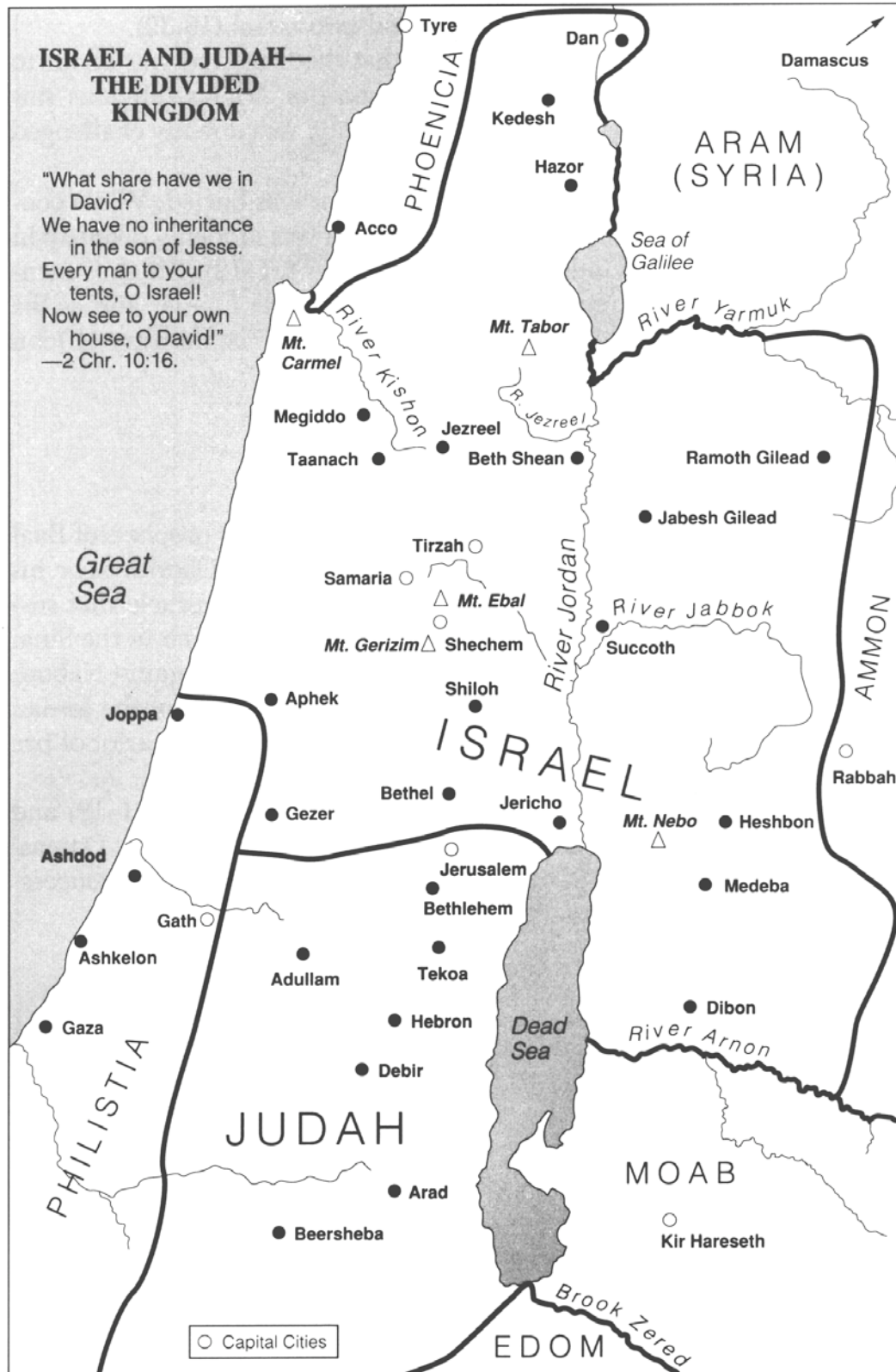
Jehoahaz—son of Jehu; wicked

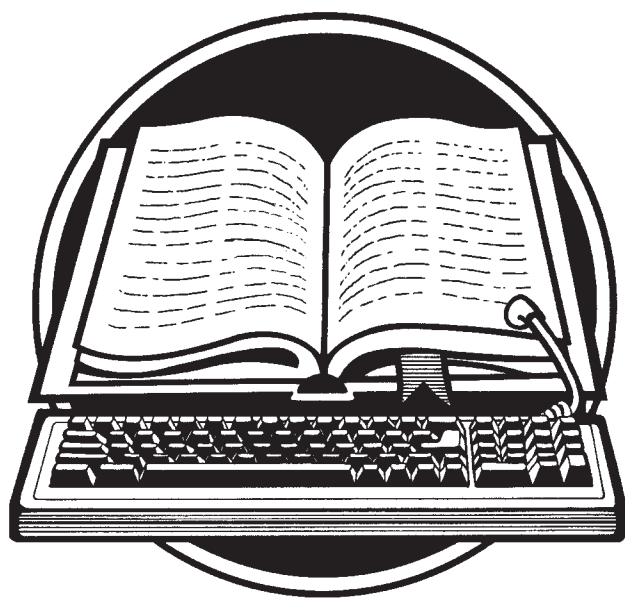
Jehoash—son of Jehoahaz; wicked

Elisha:

- prophesies deliverance from Syria
- man buried in the sepulchre of Elisha revives upon touching bones of Elisha

The Divided Kingdom





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