

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

by
Duane L. Anderson

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

**A study of the books of 1 & 2 Kings for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

**American Indian Bible Institute
Box 511
Norwalk, California 90651-0511
www.aibi.org**

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Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of 1 and 2 Kings. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of 1 and 2 Kings. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that covered the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 1

1 Kings 1:1-2:46

Today we are beginning a study of 1 Kings. The events of this book immediately follow the events of 2 Samuel so in that sense they are a continuation of that book. David had promised Bathsheba that her son Solomon would become the king when David died. However, one of the other sons of David decided that he wanted to become the king of Israel instead. He began to plot with several other men how he could become the next king of Israel. In fact Adonijah even got Joab to join him in this plot. Adonijah was the brother of Absalom and Adonijah thought that he could succeed and become the king even though his brother had failed.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the plot of Adonijah to become the next king of Israel.
- Explain how Solomon was recognized as the new king instead.
- Tell about the final advice that David gave to Solomon.
- Tell about the deaths of Joab and Shimei.

David had become a very old man. As a result, he finally came to the point where he could no longer keep warm even when he had many clothes on him. Then his servants suggested that a young virgin be found that could sleep with the king and keep him warm at night. The servants went and searched until they found a beautiful young woman by the name of Abishag. Then she came and ministered to David. However, David did not have any sexual relationships with the young woman. Instead she remained a virgin even though she loved the king and slept with him to keep him warm. Here we see that her concern was to meet the needs of David for warmth.

1. Read 1 Kings 1:1-27 and write what Adonijah said when he exalted himself because of his desire for power.
2. Explain why it is important to know that Abishag remained a virgin even though she kept David warm.
3. Explain why you think that the servants of David suggested that they find a young virgin to keep David warm.

Adonijah was a very proud and handsome young man. In order to cause the people to notice him, he had fifty men run in front of him when he rode in his chariot. We see that his pride was very similar to his brother Absalom. He also began to plot with Joab and Abiathar, the priest, to announce that he was the new king of the nation of Israel. One day Adonijah invited his brothers and all of the leading men of Judah to come to a great feast. The only men that he did not invite were those men that he knew followed his father. Meanwhile, Nathan, the prophet, called Bathsheba and told her about the plans of Adonijah. David had promised Bathsheba that her son, Solomon, would be the next king of the nation of Israel.

4. Read 1 Kings 1:1-27 and write why Nathan told Bathsheba that he was giving her counsel.
5. Explain why Adonijah invited his brothers and all of the leading men of Judah to the feast where he was going to have himself installed as the new king.
6. Explain why you think that Adonijah chose to try and make himself the king of Israel so that he would be king before his father knew anything about his plan.

Nathan knew that Adonijah would kill Solomon and Bathsheba if Adonijah became the king because he knew that David had promised the kingdom to Solomon. Nathan told Bathsheba to go and remind the king of his promise about Solomon and then ask why Adonijah had been allowed to become the king of Israel. Bathsheba obeyed the words of Nathan. She

immediately went and spoke to David. Bathsheba told David how Adonijah had said that he was the new king and that he was now having a great feast. As a result, everyone was watching to see what David would do. She knew that David had to do something immediately or it would be too late to do anything. Then she and Solomon would be put to death once David died.

7. Read 1 Kings 1:1-27 and write who walked into the room where Bathsheba was speaking to the king.

8. Explain why Nathan chose to have Bathsheba tell David that Adonijah had appointed himself as the new king.

9. Explain how you think that David felt when Bathsheba told him that Adonijah had anointed himself to be the next king.

Nathan came into the room of David and asked David if he had decided that Adonijah was to be the one that would rule after him instead of Solomon. Then Nathan went on to tell about the great feast that Adonijah had prepared so that he could announce to the people that he was the new king. In fact Nathan told David that all of the people at the feast were saying, "God save King Adonijah." However, there were a few people that Adonijah had not invited to come to the feast because Adonijah knew that they would not accept him as the new king. Then Nathan asked the king a second time if David had changed his plan without telling him.

10. Read 1 Kings 1:1-27 and write the names of the men that Adonijah had not invited to come to the feast.

11. Explain why Nathan asked David twice if David had changed his plan about who would be the next king without telling him.

12. Explain why you think that Adonijah had decided to proclaim himself the king of the nation of Israel.

As soon as David heard the words of Nathan, he called Bathsheba back into the room and told her that her son would certainly be the new king. Then David called for Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah and told them to take Solomon to Gihon and there anoint him as the new king of Israel. Then they were to blow the trumpet and say, "God save King Solomon." The men gladly agreed and said that their desire was that the kingdom of Solomon would be even greater than the kingdom had been under David. Then a great group of people went with these men to Gihon. When they reached Gihon, Zadok took some oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon as the new king of the nation of Israel.

13. Read 1 Kings 1:28-53 and write what all of the people at Gihon shouted when they blew the trumpet.

14. Explain why David told Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah to take Solomon to Gihon and immediately anoint him as the new king of Israel.

15. Explain why you think that Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah were eager to anoint Solomon to be the next king of Israel.

The people at Gihon were filled with joy because Solomon was their new king. They played musical instruments and filled the air with shouting to celebrate the anointing of Solomon as the king. Adonijah and all of the people that were with him heard this great noise just as they were finishing their great feast. They could not understand the reason for the great noise. Then a young man by the name of Jonathan came running to tell them what had happened. He told them that David had just had Solomon anointed as the new king of Israel. Now Solomon was sitting on the throne.

16. Read 1 Kings 1:28-51 and write what the guests of Adonijah did when they heard that Solomon had been anointed as the new king of Israel.

17. Explain why Adonijah and his guests could not understand the noise that they were hearing when Solomon was anointed as the new king.

18. Explain how you think Adonijah felt when he heard that his father had just anointed Solomon to be the new king of Israel.

The guests quickly realized that Adonijah was not the one that David had selected as the new king. Then they quickly left the area. Suddenly Adonijah was left by himself. He realized that his plans to become the king had failed. Then he ran to the tabernacle where he took hold of the horns of the altar. A messenger came to Solomon asking Solomon to spare the life of Adonijah. Solomon was not a man that was looking for revenge. As a result, Solomon said Adonijah would be allowed to live if he did not do anything that was evil. However, if he did any evil he would be put to death. Then Solomon told Adonijah to go to his house.

19. Read 1 Samuel 1:28-51 and write what Solomon told Adonijah that he had to do if he wanted to live.

20. Explain why Solomon warned Adonijah that he had a choice and if he chose to be obedient that he would be allowed to live.

21. Explain why you think that Solomon did not try to immediately take revenge because of Adonijah trying to appoint himself as the king.

One day David realized that he would soon die. Then he called for Solomon and asked him to come and see him. David encouraged Solomon to be strong and show himself a man. David knew that the only way that Solomon could do this was to obey the commandments of the Lord. David knew that if Solomon was obedient to the Lord that the Lord would bless all that Solomon did. David reminded Solomon of the promise that one from their family would continue to rule as long as they served the Lord. Then David began to tell Solomon about the things that certain men had done. He said that Joab had killed Abner and Amasa even though they were innocent men. David said that Joab should not be allowed to die in peace.

22. Read 1 Kings 2:1-25 and write to whom Solomon was to show kindness.

23. Explain why David said that Joab should not be allowed to experience a peaceful death.

24. Explain why you think that David reminded Solomon of the importance of being obedient to the Lord if he wanted to be a good king.

Barzillai had shown great kindness to David when he was forced to flee from Absalom. David said that now his family was to be rewarded. David also reminded Solomon of the cursing of Shimei. Once David had given these last words to Solomon, David died. Then the Lord blessed the kingdom of Solomon. One day Adonijah came to visit the mother of Solomon. Adonijah told Bathsheba that the kingdom had been his and the people followed after him before the kingdom went to Solomon. Now he wanted Bathsheba to take a request for him to Solomon.

25. Read 1 Kings 2:1-25 and write what request Adonijah asked Bathsheba to request of Solomon for him.

26. Explain why David took time as he spoke his last words to Solomon to remind him of some individuals that had done evil and some that had shown kindness.

27. Explain why you think that Adonijah chose to ask Bathsheba to make a request of Solomon for him instead of asking Solomon himself.

Adonijah said that he wanted Solomon to give him permission to marry Abishag. Bathsheba agreed to take the request of Adonijah to Solomon. As you remember, Abishag was the young virgin that had kept David warm in his old age. Bathsheba came to Solomon and said that she had one small request to ask of Solomon. Then she told of the desire of Adonijah to marry Abishag. Absalom had earlier taken some of the concubines of David to support his claim to be the king. Now Adonijah wanted to do the same thing by taking Abishag as his wife. Solomon replied that his mother might just as well have asked that the kingdom be turned over to Adonijah. If he would make such a bold request, he would soon want more. Instead Solomon ordered that Adonijah be put to death.

28. Read 1 Kings 2:1-25 and write who Solomon sent to put Adonijah to death.

29. Explain why Adonijah was still trying to figure out a way that he could support his claim to be the king.

30. Explain why you think that Solomon chose to put Adonijah to death rather than honor his request.

Abiathar, the priest, had joined in the rebellion of Adonijah against David. As a result, Solomon said that Abiathar could no longer serve as the priest of Israel. However, Solomon said that he would not put Abiathar to death because he had carried the ark of God as a part of his ministry as the priest. Instead he was to return to his home town and support himself by working in the fields. This action completed the promise of God that the family of Eli would no longer be allowed to serve as priests because of the sins of Eli and his family.

31. Read 1 Kings 2:26-46 and write who was filled with fear when he heard what had happened to Adonijah and Abiathar.

32. Explain why the removal of Abiathar as the priest fulfilled the promise of judgment that the Lord had made to Eli many years earlier.

33. Explain why you think that Solomon removed Abiathar as the priest but did not want to put him to death.

Joab had killed two innocent men that David had appointed as leaders in his army. Joab had done this to get revenge on these people. This led David to remove Joab as the leader of his army. As a result, Joab joined the rebellion of Adonijah along with Abiathar, the priest. When Joab heard that Adonijah had been killed and that Abiathar had been removed from the office of the high priest, Joab was immediately filled with fear. Joab knew that he would be the next to be judged because of his sin and rebellion. Then Joab hurried to the tabernacle and caught hold of the horns of the altar. He did this to try and protect himself from getting put to death.

34. Read 1 Kings 2:26-45 and write what Solomon told Benaiah to do to Joab.

35. Explain why Joab had great fear and expected to be judged for his sin and rebellion when he heard about the death of Adonijah and the removal of Abiathar.

36. Explain why you think that fear begins to control a person when that person had done things that he knows are wrong.

Benaiah asked Joab to come out of the tabernacle so that he could carry out the command of Solomon. Instead Joab said that he would rather die in the tabernacle. Solomon then told Benaiah to kill Joab in the tabernacle because that was his request. He was guilty of murder and his sin must be judged. His blood would be upon his own head even if he was killed in the tabernacle. Then Benaiah killed Joab and buried him near his house. Solomon chose Benaiah to replace Joab as the captain of the army. He chose Zadok to replace Abiathar as the high priest. In this way Solomon obeyed the instructions of his father.

37. Read 1 Kings 2:26-46 and write who was appointed as the new priest to take the place of Abiathar.

38. Explain why it was necessary for Joab to be put to death even if it meant putting him to death in the tabernacle.

39. Explain why you think that Solomon said that the blood of Joab would be on his own head.

David had also given Solomon instructions about Shimei. Solomon called Shimei and told him to build a house in Jerusalem. Solomon promised that he would not kill Shimei as long as he remained in Jerusalem. However, he would be killed if he went outside the city. For three years Shimei remained in the city. Then one day he left Jerusalem to go after two of his servants that had run away. He thought that Solomon had forgotten about him. When Shimei returned, Solomon told Shimei that he had broken his promise and must die. The evil that he had done to David would be returned to him.

40. Read 1 Kings 2:26-46 and write who killed Shimei.

41. Explain why Shimei thought that it would be safe for him to leave the city since he had obeyed the instructions of Solomon for three years.

42. Explain why you think that Solomon had given Shimei a choice to let him choose whether

he wanted to live or die.

Now reread 1 Kings 1:1-2:46 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 2

1 Kings 3:1-6:38

Today we will be learning about some of the things that happened when Solomon began his reign as the king of the nation of Israel following the death of his father. One day God spoke to Solomon and asked Solomon what Solomon would like the Lord to give him as he began his rule over the nation of Israel. Instead of asking for power or riches, Solomon asked the Lord for wisdom to guide the people of Israel. Because Solomon asked for wisdom to lead the people of Israel, The Lord also told Solomon that He would give Solomon riches, long life and peace from all of his enemies. We will see some of the examples of the wisdom that the Lord gave to Solomon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Solomon asked the Lord for wisdom.
- Tell about the greatness of the wisdom of Solomon.
- Tell about the plans for the building of the temple.
- Tell about the building of the temple in Jerusalem.

Even though David had been a very godly king, we read that the people still continued to offer sacrifices to other gods. However, Solomon was like his father and loved the Lord. One day Solomon went to Gibeon to offer a great sacrifice to the Lord. There the Lord spoke to Solomon and told him that He would give Solomon whatever he desired. Solomon told the Lord that the responsibility of being king over the nation of Israel was a very great responsibility and that he was still like a child. Solomon knew that it would be very difficult to lead the people of Israel. In fact Solomon knew that he would fail if he depended on his own ideas to lead the people of Israel. As a result, Solomon did not ask the Lord for riches or power.

1. Read 1 Kings 3:1-28 and write what Solomon asked the Lord to give him instead of riches or power.
2. Explain why Solomon felt like he was still a child as he thought about leading the nation of Israel.
3. Explain why you think that we will also fail if we try to depend on our own ideas to lead people.

Solomon asked the Lord to give him an understanding heart so that he could discern between the good and the evil. The Lord was very happy when He heard the request of Solomon. Solomon had not asked for riches, long life or victory over his enemies. Instead Solomon had asked for wisdom to lead the people the way that the Lord wanted him to lead the people. As a result, God promised to make him that wisest man that had ever lived or would live after him. In addition, the Lord also promised to give him riches and honor even though Solomon had not asked for these things. Then the Lord promised Solomon that he would have a long life if he would continue to obey the commandments of the Lord as David had done. After the Lord spoke to Solomon, he returned to Jerusalem and offered burnt offerings to the Lord.

4. Read 1 Kings 3:1-28 and write who came to see Solomon.
5. Explain why God said that He would make Solomon wiser than any who had lived before him.
6. Explain why it is also important for you in your own life to ask the Lord for wisdom to do the work that He has called you to do.

Two women that were prostitutes came to the king and asked him to solve their problem. Solomon was willing to listen to the problems of any person regardless of the background of

that person. One of the women began to tell her story. Both of the women had given birth to a son within three days of each other. One night the one woman had rolled on top of her baby in her sleep and had killed the baby. When she saw that her baby was dead, she put her baby in bed with the other woman and put the live baby in her own bed. Now the other woman said that the baby that was alive belonged to her and not to the other woman. However, the other woman also claimed that the living child belonged to her.

7. Read 1 Kings 3:1-28 and write what Solomon asked his servants to bring to him.

8. Explain why Solomon was willing to listen to the problem of these two women even though these women were prostitutes.

9. Explain why you think that even though they were prostitutes that they had a great love for their babies.

Solomon told the two women that he would divide the baby in half and give one half to each mother. The woman whose baby had died agreed that would be fair. However, the real mother of the child was more concerned about the life of the child than she was about keeping the baby for herself. She told Solomon to give the baby to the other woman rather than kill the baby. Immediately Solomon knew which mother was the real mother. He gave the baby to the woman that was concerned about the life of the baby. As a result, all of the people of Israel heard about the wisdom of Solomon.

10. Read 1 Kings 3:1-28 and write what the wisdom of God gave Solomon the ability to do.

11. Explain what the decision of Solomon in these verses teaches about the wisdom of Solomon.

12. Explain why you think that the real mother was willing to have the other woman raise her baby rather than see her baby killed.

The kingdom of Solomon was very great. As a result, Solomon appointed eleven princes to be in charge of the various activities within his kingdom. Because Solomon had to feed many people that worked for him and for the kingdom, Solomon appointed twelve men to gather food for him. These men were each responsible for gathering enough food for one month. Throughout the year these men would gather food so that they would have enough food when their month came. There was also peace and safety throughout the land because the Lord was protecting the people. Other nations also brought gifts to Solomon.

13. Read 1 Kings 4:1-34 and write what we are told about the number of people in Israel and Judah.

14. Explain what lessons Solomon teaches about delegation of work so that all of the work will get done.

15. Explain why you think that it is important for every Christian leader to learn how to delegate part of the work to others.

Earlier the Lord had told the people of Israel that there were three things that were dangerous and could easily lead to sin. These three things were to multiply riches, to multiply horses and to multiply wives. God knew that any one of these things could cause a king to turn away from the Lord. Solomon was rich. However, he did not depend on his riches rather than the Lord. He also had 40,000 horses. Still he was not depending on his armies for his strength. We will learn later what happened when he multiplied wives.

16. Read 1 Kings 4:1-34 and write how many proverbs Solomon spoke during his life.

17. Explain why the Lord told the people of Israel that they were not to multiply these three things.

18. Explain why you think that money and power are things that cause many people to depend on themselves instead of the Lord.

Solomon had asked the Lord for wisdom. As a result, God had given Solomon great wisdom and understanding. In fact there were no other men on the earth whose wisdom could compare

with him. As a result, the people of the surrounding nations began to speak about the wisdom of Solomon. This wisdom was not limited to just one area of thought. Instead Solomon was able to speak proverbs about many different things. People began to come from many different parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. God had given Solomon this great wisdom because he had asked the Lord for wisdom.

19. Read 1 Kings 4:1-34 and write how many songs Solomon wrote.

20. Explain why the Lord led the people from the surrounding nations to want to come and hear the wisdom of Solomon.

21. Explain why you think that it is important for each of us in our own lives to ask the Lord daily for wisdom to do the things that we will be doing that day.

David had wanted to build a temple for the Lord. However, God had not allowed David to build that temple because he was a man of war. Instead God had told David that Solomon was the one that would build the temple. Solomon did not need to be a man of war to protect Israel from the other nations. Solomon had peace during the time that he ruled because God was with Solomon and the people of the other nations respected Solomon because of the wisdom that the Lord had given him. Hiram, the king of Tyre, sent his servants to visit Solomon as soon as he became the king of Israel. Then Solomon sent a message to Hiram. Solomon told him how David had wanted to build a temple but had not been allowed to do so by God because he was a man of war.

22. Read 1 Kings 5:1-18 and write what Solomon said that the Lord had given to him.

23. Explain why one of the things that Solomon did early in his rule was tell Hiram about the desire of David to build a temple for the Lord.

24. Explain why you think that the other nations had so much respect for Solomon that none of them thought about coming to fight against him.

Then Solomon said that it was his desire to build a house for the Lord. Now he wanted to know if he could hire the men of Tyre and Sidon to cut the lumber for the temple because they were the most skillful wood cutters. Hiram was filled with joy when he heard the request of Solomon. He was glad that God had given David such a wise son. Hiram said that he would be glad to do whatever Solomon desired him to do in order to help build the temple. He said that he servants would cut the logs, bring them down to the sea and float them to the place where Solomon wanted to haul them out of the sea to transport them to Jerusalem.

25. Read 1 Kings 5:1-18 and write what Hiram asked for in exchange for the help.

26. Explain why Hiram was thankful for the fact that the Lord had given David such a wise son.

27. Explain why you think that Hiram was willing to do whatever Solomon requested in order to help build the temple.

Solomon immediately sent out his workers to begin preparing the logs. Each month ten thousand men would go to Lebanon to work. Then these men would be home for two months while other groups of men went to Lebanon. In addition to the men that went to help in Lebanon, There were also 150,000 other men that were involved in doing various kinds of work to prepare for the building of the temple. In addition to the timbers, great stones were also prepared for the foundation of the temple. The materials were all prepared before the actual building began.

28. Read 1 Kings 5:1-18 and write what Solomon and Hiram made together.

29. Explain what lessons you learn about the leadership of Solomon from the way that the materials were prepared for the temple.

30. Explain why you think that it took such a large group of men to prepare the materials for the building of the temple.

As we come to the building of the temple, we see that the actual building did not begin until 480 years after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt. This means that for almost five hundred years the people thought only of building houses for themselves and no one

thought of building a house for the Lord. Today there are many Christians that are like the people of Israel. It is very easy to think about ourselves first and forget about the Lord. By the time the temple was built, the cloth and skin coverings of the tabernacle were probably in very poor shape even if the Lord did cause them to survive for that long period of time.

31. Read 1 Kings 6:1-38 and write how long Solomon had ruled when the building of the temple began.

32. Explain why it took the people of Israel so long for anyone to think about building a house for the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that many people think about themselves first and forget to think about the Lord.

It took time to get all of the materials ready for the building of the temple because it was to be such a great and beautiful building. The temple itself was ninety feet long, thirty feet wide and forty-five feet high. In addition, there were other porches around the outside of the building so that it covered a large area. All of the materials for the temple were prepared so that they would fit perfectly before they were brought to the place where they were building the temple. As a result, there was no sound of hammers at the temple site. The same advance preparation was done with the stones for the foundation of the temple.

34. Read 1 Kings 6:1-38 and write who spoke to Solomon during the time that he was building the temple.

35. Explain why all of the materials for the temple were prepared at a different site than the location where the temple was built.

36. Explain why you think that the materials were so carefully prepared that they fit together when they were brought to the site of the temple.

The Lord gave a wonderful promise to Solomon when He spoke to him. The Lord promised that He would live among the people of Israel and would not forsake them or allow other nations to punish them as long as Solomon and the people did a certain thing. The thing that the Lord told Solomon to do was to obey the commandments of the Lord. Here we see that the desire of the Lord has always been obedience by His people. Today the Lord still wants our obedience. He has also promised to bless us as long as we are obedient to Him. Obedience to the Lord is very important in our lives because it shows that we are choosing to submit ourselves to the Lord.

37. Read 1 Kings 6:1-38 and write what Solomon used to overlay the wood of the walls of the tabernacle.

38. Explain why the Lord promised that He would live among His people as long as they were obedient to Him.

39. Explain why you think that obedience to the Lord is very important to you in your own life.

As we read about the building of the temple, we see that it was designed like the tabernacle that Moses and the people of Israel had built in the wilderness. The temple had an inner sanctuary for the Ark of the Covenant. The temple was made from the best kinds of wood. Then this wood was covered over with gold. Throughout the temple there were beautiful carved figures of cherubim, trees and flowers. These were all very beautiful and added great beauty to the entire temple. Solomon spared no expense in the building of the temple. Even the floor of the temple was covered over with gold.

40. Read 1 Kings 6:1-38 and write how long it took to build the entire temple.

41. Explain why the temple was built according to the same pattern as the tabernacle that was built in the wilderness.

42. Explain why you think that although the temple was very beautiful that only the ark of the Covenant was placed in the inner sanctuary of the temple.

Now reread 1 Kings 3:1-6:38 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned

from these chapters.

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Lesson 3

1 Kings 7:1-9:28

In our last lesson we learned that it took seven years for Solomon to build a temple for the Lord. We see that much building and development happened during the reign of Solomon as the king of Israel. Solomon also built a beautiful palace for himself. Today we will learn about the building of that great house. Then we will learn about the sacrifices that Solomon offered at the dedication of the temple. These sacrifices were offered to the Lord after Solomon had given a sermon and a prayer of dedication for the temple. The Lord blessed Solomon because Solomon was worshipping the Lord. We will also learn what the Lord said to Solomon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell about the palace of Solomon.

Explain what happened when the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

Tell about the prayer of Solomon.

Explain what God said to Solomon.

Solomon decided to build a great palace where he could place his throne. This palace was so great that it took thirteen years to build it. This house was also made with the wood of trees that came from the land of Lebanon. The size of this house was very great. It was 150 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. In addition, this house also had several large porches. These porches were supported by large pillars. Solomon placed his throne on one of these porches and from there he ruled the nation of Israel. Many large and expensive rocks were also used in the foundation of the floors of the house. Solomon made his great house very beautiful.

1. Read 1 Kings 7:1-14 and write who Solomon brought from Tyre to help him at Jerusalem.
2. Explain why Solomon built a large and beautiful palace when he could place his throne to rule the nation.
3. Explain why you think that Solomon chose to build such an expensive palace for the nation of Israel.

We recently learned that Hiram was the king of Tyre. However, in this chapter we meet a different Hiram. This Hiram did very skillful work. His father had been a worker with bronze before he died. Hiram had learned to work with bronze from his father. Hiram was also a man that had received great wisdom and understanding from the Lord. As a result, Solomon wanted Hiram to come to Jerusalem to do the metal work for the temple. Here we see that God gives people different talents for the work that He wants them to do. God has a different ministry for each of us to do and He will give us the talents that we need in order to do the work that the Lord has for us.

4. Read 1 Kings 7:1-51 and write where the king had Hiram make the vessels for the temple.
5. Explain why the Lord gives people different talents and abilities as well as spiritual gifts so that they can do the work that the Lord has prepared for them to do.
6. Explain why you think that Hiram depended on the Lord for wisdom and understanding as he designed the various things for the temple.

As you remember, all of the stones and the timbers for the temple had been cut to size before they were brought to the location where the temple was being built. This same thing was done with all of the furniture and decorations for the temple. Hiram made the various things of bronze in the Jordan River valley and then they were brought from the Jordan valley to Jerusalem. There were so many dishes of bronze made for the temple that Solomon did not even bother to check the weight of the total amount of bronze that was used in the temple.

7. Read 1 Kings 7:1-51 and write what Solomon brought into the temple in addition to the things that he had prepared.
8. Explain why Solomon did not even try to weight the bronze that was used for the temple due to the fact that there were so many things made of bronze .
9. Explain what lessons you learn from Hiram for your own life about using your gifts and talents to serve the Lord.

The construction of the temple had taken seven years and the involvement of many people that were involved in the preparation of the materials or the actual building of the temple. Once the temple and the things that would be in the temple were complete, Solomon called all of the leaders of Israel to come to the city of Jerusalem. Then all of the leaders went together to bring the Ark of the Covenant to the new temple. Solomon and the people sacrificed so many sheep that their number could not even be counted. Then the priests took the Ark of the Covenant into the inner sanctuary of the temple. The inner sanctuary was the place where the high priest went one day each year to take blood as a covering for sin. On that day he first took blood as a covering for his own sins. Then he went in again and took blood as a covering for the sins of the people.

10. Read 1 Kings 8:1-34 and write what filled the temple once the priests had brought the Ark of the Covenant into the inner sanctuary.
11. Explain why it was important for the high priest to take blood once a year and place it on the Ark of the Covenant first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people.
12. Explain why you think that Solomon and the people sacrificed so many sheep that their number could not be counted.

God showed His approval of the attitude of Solomon and the people by filling the temple with His glory. This glory was so great that the priests could not stand before the Lord in the temple. Then Solomon spoke to the people. He reminded the people of the desire of his father to build the temple. He told them how the Lord had told David that his son would build the temple instead of David. Now the Lord had completed the promise that He had made to David and a house had been built for the Lord. Now there was a permanent place for the Ark of the Covenant that the Lord had given to the people of Israel when the people came out of the land of Egypt.

13. Read 1 Kings 8:1-34 and write where Solomon stood as he prayed to the Lord and dedicated the temple.
14. Explain why it is important that the Lord filled the temple with His glory once everything was complete.
15. Explain why you think that it was important for Solomon to remind the people why the Lord had him build the temple instead of David.

As we read the prayer of Solomon, we see that he began by speaking about the greatness of the Lord. The Lord is the One that made the heaven and the earth. He is the One that keeps those who serve Him. The Lord also keeps all of the promises that He has made. Then Solomon spoke of the fact that God is so great that even the heavens cannot contain Him. God is such a great God that He fills everything. The temple was really nothing in comparison to the greatness of God. However, God was still able to listen to the prayer of a man even though God is so great.

16. Read 1 Kings 8:1-34 and write what Solomon called himself as he spoke to the Lord in prayer.
17. Explain why it is important for every person to understand the greatness of the Lord and to understand that God still listens to the prayers of each individual.
18. Explain why you think that Solomon spoke of the fact that even the heavens cannot contain God because He fills all things.

Solomon here reminds us of the fact that we are the servants of the Lord once we place our trust in Him. Our desire should be to serve the Lord because He is our master. Then Solomon asked the Lord to hear his prayers when he prayed. Solomon also realized that the people would turn away from God. He realized that such sin would bring judgment. However, Solomon asked the Lord to show kindness and forgive the people when they prayed and asked Him to forgive their sins. He also asked the Lord to bring the people back into the land if it became necessary for God to judge the people by taking them out of the land.

19. Read 1 Kings 8:1-34 and write what Solomon asked the Lord to do when the people would turn to Him and ask for forgiveness.
20. Explain why Solomon realized that the people would experience the judgment of the Lord if they turned away from Him.
21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the sermon and prayer of Solomon.

As Solomon continued on in his prayer, he spoke of several other ways that the Lord might judge the nation of Israel if it sinned. God had warned that He would stop the rain if the people of Israel rebelled against Him. He also warned of famine that would be caused by various insects. Then God had said that He might allow the surrounding nations to judge Israel if they turned away from the Lord. Solomon prayed and asked the Lord to forgive the people when they would confess their sins to Him. Solomon also prayed for the foreigners that would trust in the Lord. He asked God to hear the prayers of the foreigners and answer the prayers of those foreigners that placed their trust in the Lord.

22. Read 1 Kings 8:35-66 and write what Solomon asked the Lord to do when the people prayed to Him before they went out to fight against their enemies.
23. Explain why it is important for all Christians to develop a concern that causes them to pray for the salvation of people of other nations.
24. Explain why you think that Solomon also prayed and asked the Lord to hear and answer the prayers of the foreigners that placed their trust in the Lord.

As Solomon continued his prayer, He asked the Lord to forgive the people if they were taken to a foreign land because of their sin. He asked the Lord to forgive the people as soon as they returned to the Lord with all of their heart and all of their soul. Solomon asked the Lord to forgive and show compassion because Israel was the nation that the Lord had chosen. God had brought them out of the land of Egypt and had given them an inheritance in the land of promise. The Lord had used Moses to bring them out of Egypt. We see that Solomon had spoken this entire prayer to the Lord as he was in front of the altar.

25. Read 1 Kings 8:35-66 and write what position Solomon was in as he prayed to the Lord.
26. Explain why Solomon realized that it is important for people to turn to the Lord with all of their heart and all of their soul.
27. Explain why you think that the Lord chooses to show compassion to every person that turns to Him with their whole heart and soul.

Solomon had shown his great respect to the Lord by kneeling before the Lord as he prayed. We also show our respect to the Lord as we kneel when we pray. When Solomon arose from his knees, he blessed all of the people. He also encouraged the people to live for the Lord so that the whole earth would hear about the Lord. Here we are reminded of the fact that people will only listen to what we say about the Lord when we are living for the Lord. Then the people offered a great sacrifice to the Lord. This sacrifice included 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep.

28. Read 1 Kings 8:35-66 and write from what parts of the land of Israel the people came to celebrate the dedication of the temple.
29. Explain why these verses teach that we should live for the Lord.
30. Explain why you think that it is important for us to live for the Lord if we want to be effective when we tell others about the Lord.

The Lord had appeared to Solomon when he first became the king of Israel. Now the Lord appeared to Solomon a second time. The Lord said that He had heard the prayer of Solomon. God gave Solomon a great promise if he would do certain things. God promised Solomon that his throne would be established forever if Solomon would obey the commandments of the Lord for the rest of his life. Solomon was to keep his heart right before the Lord and serve the Lord just as David had done. If Solomon was obedient like David, he would receive the same promise that David had received.

31. Read 1 Kings 9:1-28 and write what the Lord had promised to David.

32. Explain why the Lord told Solomon that the one way that his throne would be established forever would be if he served the Lord for the rest of his life.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord made this particular promise to Solomon based on whether Solomon was obedient or not for his entire life.

The throne of Solomon would last forever if he served the Lord. However, the Lord also warned Solomon what would happen if Solomon chose to turn away from God and began to serve other gods. Here we see that God placed a choice before Solomon. He could choose to obey and be blessed or he could choose to rebel and experience the consequences. God explained what those consequences would be. God said that such rebellion would cause the nation to be taken out of the land one day. The great temple that Solomon had built would be destroyed. The people of other nations would all speak evil of the nation of Israel. The people of the other nations would speak of the fact that Israel had been judged because the people had turned away from God who had brought them out of the land of Egypt.

34. Read 1 Kings 9:1-28 and write to whom Solomon gave a gift.

35. Explain what the Lord said would be the consequences for the nation of Israel if they chose to turn away from the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to help every person realize that they have choices and their choices with bring either good or bad consequences.

As you remember, Hiram had supplied Solomon with the cedar and fir trees to build the temple and also the great house of Solomon. As a result, Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the area of Galilee as a gift. Although these cities were not exactly what Hiram had expected them to be, Hiram maintained his friendship with Solomon by sending a gift of gold to Solomon in return. Even though we sometimes feel that we have received less than we deserved, we should not allow this to break our friendship with another person. Instead we should also show kindness in return.

37. Read 1 Kings 9:1-28 and write what Solomon made the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites that remained in the land do.

38. Explain why Hiram chose to maintain his friendship with Solomon even though the cities that Solomon gave him were not what he wanted.

39. Explain why you think that it is important to maintain your friendships with others even when they say or do things that do not benefit you.

Solomon was also a very powerful ruler. The Canaanites that still lived in the land became the slaves of Solomon. However, none of the men of Israel became slaves. Instead they became soldiers and leaders for Solomon. These leaders were in charge of the slaves of the other nations. Solomon also offered sacrifices three times each year as the Lord had instructed the people to do. Here we see another example of the obedience of Solomon to the commandments of the Lord. Solomon also built a navy that brought gold to him from other lands.

40. Read 1 Kings 9:1-28 and write on what sea this navy was located.

41. Explain why it was important that Solomon provided an example to the rest of the people of Israel by offering sacrifices to the Lord three times each year.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for every leader to be a godly example to those that follow that leader.

Now reread 1 Kings 7:1-9:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 4

1 Kings 10:1-12:34

We have learned about the choices that Solomon made that resulted in him becoming the wisest man that ever lived. Word of the great wisdom and riches of Solomon traveled to many parts of the world including lands that were far from the land of Israel. The queen of Sheba heard such great things about Solomon that she decided to see if those things were really true. She traveled from her country to Jerusalem to hear the wisdom of Solomon and see his land. When she arrived and saw everything, she found that Solomon was much wiser and richer than she had even imagined. However, in spite of this great wisdom, Solomon failed as he became older. We will learn about his failure in our lesson today.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell what the queen of Sheba said about the greatness of Solomon.

Explain what caused Solomon to fail.

Explain how God judged Solomon for his failures.

Explain what happened to the kingdom of Israel after Solomon died.

One day the queen of Sheba came from her country to visit Solomon. She had heard of the wisdom of Solomon and had come to test him with some hard questions to see if the things that she had heard were true. She came with a large group of camels all of which were loaded with riches. Solomon was able to answer every single question that the queen of Sheba asked him. She also saw the house that Solomon had built and the food that he served each day. After seeing all of these things and hearing the wisdom of Solomon, the queen of Sheba had no more spirit left in her. She had become convinced that all that she had heard about Solomon was true.

1. Read 1 Kings 10:1-29 and write what finally caused the queen of Sheba to believe all that she had heard about Solomon.
2. Explain why the queen of Sheba chose to travel a great distance to hear the wisdom of Solomon and see his riches.
3. Explain why you think that the queen of Sheba came to test Solomon with hard questions.

The queen had heard many things about Solomon. However, the proof for the queen of Sheba was to have the opportunity to see the riches of Solomon and hear the wisdom of Solomon. Then she said that the things that she had heard about Solomon did not even begin to describe the greatness of Solomon. In addition to the riches of Solomon, she also saw that his servants were happy. The queen of Sheba realized that the Lord was the One that had blessed Solomon and given him this great wisdom. She realized that the Lord had done this because He loved the nation of Israel. Then the queen gave Solomon rich gifts of gold, precious stones and spices. In return, Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all that she desired.

4. Read 1 Kings 10:1-29 and write from where the navy of Hiram brought gold.
5. Explain what the queen of Sheba realized about the Lord when she had seen and heard Solomon.
6. Explain why you think that the queen of Sheba was impressed by the fact that the servants of Solomon were happy.

The riches of Solomon were so great that there was no other king on the earth that was as rich as Solomon. He was so rich that he even had shields that were made of gold. The throne of Solomon was made from ivory and then covered with gold. In addition, even the glasses from which Solomon drank were made of gold. Solomon had so much gold that silver had very little

value. Here we see that the Lord had blessed Solomon with great riches even though Solomon had not asked for riches. The ships of Solomon would also travel to Tarshish. This trip would take three years. However, these boats returned with even more riches.

7. Read 1 Kings 10:1-29 and write how the other kings of the world compared with Solomon.
8. Explain why the Lord had chosen to bless Solomon with all of the riches that the Lord brought him from the different nations.
9. Explain why you think that it is important for people to understand the difference between having money and loving money.

People from many different countries continued to come to hear the wisdom of Solomon. When these people from the other nations came to Solomon, each of these people brought a gift for Solomon. This caused him to become even richer. Then Solomon began to gather horses and chariots. Solomon had so many horses and horsemen that he had to build special cities for these men and horses. Since Solomon had so much silver that the silver was just like stones, he used this silver to buy horses and chariots from the land of Egypt. Here we see that the Lord chose to bless Solomon. In fact everything that Solomon did was blessed by the Lord.

10. Read 1 Kings 10:1-29 and write the source of the wisdom that Solomon had in his heart.
11. Explain what these verses teach you about the way that the Lord blessed Solomon with wisdom and riches.
12. Explain why you think that people from many different countries would come just to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

We have seen the great wisdom of Solomon. However, Solomon failed in one area of his life. This failure in one area of his life caused him to eventually fail in many other areas also. Solomon loved the women of foreign nations. The Lord had instructed the people of Israel not to make any marriages with the people of certain nations because God knew that the people of those nations would cause the people of Israel to turn away from the Lord and follow the idols of those nations. It was the women of these very nations with whom Solomon fell in love. Solomon married many women. In fact Solomon had a total of seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines.

13. Read 1 Kings 11:1-13 and write what these women did to Solomon when he became old.
14. Explain why God warned the people of Israel not to marry the women of foreign nations that worshiped idols.
15. Explain why you think that the fact that Solomon loved and married many women from nations that worshiped idols led him to a failure that then led to many other failures.

The women that Solomon married from these foreign nations served the idols of these nations. As a result, these wives began to encourage Solomon to worship these idols with them. As Solomon grew old, he began to worship these idols with his wives. They also encouraged him to build places of worship for these idols. Solomon did not follow the Lord completely as his father, David, had followed the Lord. In the sight of the Lord the actions of Solomon were very evil. God had said that those who serve Him are not to make or serve idols. Solomon had become more interested in pleasing his wives than he was in serving the Lord.

16. Read 1 Kings 11:1-13 and write how the Lord felt when He saw the sins of Solomon.
17. Explain why God considered the fact that Solomon chose to worship idols to be very evil.
18. Explain why you think that Solomon began to worship the idols of his wives as he grew old even though God had given him such great wisdom.

The Lord had warned Solomon that he was not to marry foreign women because the Lord knew that these women would lead Solomon away from God. Instead of listening to the warning of the Lord, Solomon had chosen to go ahead and marry these foreign women. As a result of the disobedience of Solomon, the Lord said that the kingdom would be taken away and given to his servant. However, the Lord said that He would not do this in the days of Solomon because of

David, his father. Instead the kingdom would be divided and one tribe would remain under the control of the family of Solomon because of the promise that the Lord had made to David.

19. Read 1 Kings 11:1-13 and write who God said He would give the kingdom of Israel to when He took the kingdom away from the family of Solomon.

20. Explain why the foreign wives of Solomon turned his heart away from the Lord and led him to join them in the worship of idols.

21. Explain why you think that Solomon chose to marry foreign wives even though the Lord had warned him not to so.

Those who trust in the Lord will never experience eternal judgment. As a result, God warns us that those who trust in Him will be judged for their sins while they are still here on the earth.

That is what happened to Solomon. God allowed several men to rebel against Solomon. These men caused trouble for Solomon for the rest of his life. Hadad and Rezon were two of the men that caused trouble for Solomon. A third man that caused trouble for Solomon was a servant of Solomon. However, this servant did not actually rebel against Solomon. Instead Solomon was bothered because of the message that a prophet gave to this servant.

22. Read 1 Kings 11:14-43 and write the name of this servant that received a message from the prophet.

23. Explain why God allowed several men to rebel against Solomon and cause him to start having trouble in his kingdom.

24. Explain why it is important for any Christian living in rebellion against the Lord to realize that his or her judgment will come on the earth.

Jeroboam was a young man that was a very hard worker. He was also a strong and powerful man. As a result, Solomon placed him in charge of the house of Joseph. One day the prophet, Ahijah, came to speak to Jeroboam. Ahijah caught the new coat of Jeroboam and tore his coat into twelve pieces. Then he told Jeroboam to take ten of the pieces. The prophet said that this was a sign that Jeroboam would one day rule over ten of the tribes of Israel. However, that would not happen until after the death of Solomon. Jeroboam would not rule the complete land because of the promise that God had made to David.

25. Read 1 Kings 11:14-43 and write what Solomon tried to do when he heard what Ahijah had said to Jeroboam.

26. Explain why Solomon was very upset when he heard the prophecy that Ahijah had spoken to Jeroboam.

27. Explain why you think that God was going to keep his promise to David even though Solomon had begun worshiping idols.

Here we see the results of a guilty conscience. This passage shows that Solomon reacted the same way that Saul had reacted two generations earlier. Solomon wanted to kill Jeroboam because of his own sin rather than any sin in Jeroboam. This was the same reason why Saul had tried to kill David about eighty years earlier. A guilty conscience will always cause a person to try to either blame or harm others. This is why if we allow unconfessed sin to remain in our lives, our conscience may drive us to do evil to others if we do not repent of that unconfessed sin. Ahijah also told Jeroboam that God would bless him if he would obey and serve God rather than turn away from Him as Solomon had done. God also promised to judge the family of Solomon because of his sin.

28. Read 1 Kings 11:14-43 and write how long Solomon reigned in Jerusalem before he died.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the results of a guilty conscience in any person that will not turn back to the Lord.

30. Explain why the guilty conscience of Solomon helps you to understand why it is important for you to avoid unconfessed sin in your own life.

Jeroboam was forced to remain in Egypt until the death of Solomon. When Solomon died, his

son, Rehoboam, became the new king. Soon after he became king, Rehoboam invited Jeroboam and the other leaders of Israel to come to speak to him. Jeroboam told Rehoboam that the people felt that Solomon had charged them too many taxes. Now they promised that they would faithfully serve Rehoboam if he would lower the taxes. Rehoboam said that he would give Jeroboam an answer in three days. Then Rehoboam asked the old men what he should do. The old men told Rehoboam to do as Jeroboam had suggested.

31. Read 1 Kings 12:1-33 and write what Rehoboam did with the advice that had been given to him by the old men.

32. Explain why the old men advised Rehoboam to listen to the request of the people and lower the taxes.

33. Explain why you think that Jeroboam and the other leaders said that they would faithfully serve Rehoboam if he would lower the taxes.

Instead of listening to the old men, Rehoboam asked his young friends what they thought he should do. They encouraged him to increase the taxes rather than lower them. On the third day Jeroboam and all of the people came to hear the decision of Rehoboam. Rehoboam said that he would make the taxes heavier and make the people work harder. As soon as the people saw that the king would not listen to them, they said that they would no longer allow the family of David to rule over them. Only the tribe of Judah and those from the other tribes that lived in the cities of Judah remained faithful to Rehoboam and followed him.

34. Read 1 Kings 12:1-33 and write what the people did to Adoram.

35. Explain why people do not want to follow a leader that will not listen to them and their suggestions.

36. Explain why you think that the young men that were the friends of Rehoboam encouraged him to make the burden of the people even more severe.

Adoram was the man in charge of the forced labor of the king. Rehoboam sent him to the people of the other tribes and so they stoned him to death. Suddenly Rehoboam realized that the other tribes were actually rebelling against him. In fear, Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem. There he gathered together the armies of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Meanwhile the other tribes had chosen Jeroboam as their king. As Rehoboam gathered his troops together, the Lord sent a prophet to him telling him not to go and fight against the other tribes of Israel. The people of Judah listened to the words of the prophet and returned to their own homes instead of going to fight against the other tribes.

37. Read 1 Kings 12:1-33 and write why Jeroboam decided that he did not want the people of the ten tribes to go to worship at Jerusalem any longer.

38. Explain the real reason why Israel was divided into two nations.

39. Explain why you think that Rehoboam was filled with fear when he heard that the people of Israel had killed Adoram.

Jeroboam decided that he should not allow the people to go to Jerusalem to serve and worship the Lord. He was afraid that they might begin to follow Rehoboam again if they went to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. As a result, Jeroboam made two golden calves. Then he said that these calves were the gods that had brought the people out of the land of Egypt. He also built special places of worship for these calves. In order to prevent the people from going to worship in Jerusalem, he had a special feast to offer sacrifices to these calves at the same time that there was a feast in Jerusalem.

40. Read 1 Kings 12:1-33 and write the names of the two cities where these calves were placed.

41. Explain why Jeroboam established a feast to offer sacrifices to the calves at the time the people would normally go to the feast in Jerusalem.

42. Explain why you think that Jeroboam decided to set up two golden calves for Israel to worship and said that those were the gods that brought Israel out of Egypt.

Now reread 1 Kings 10:1-12:33 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings
Lesson 5
1 Kings 13:1-15:33

In our last lesson we saw that the nation of Israel was divided into two nations. The northern kingdom continued to call itself Israel. The main tribe in the southern kingdom was the tribe of Judah and so that became the name of the southern kingdom. That was actually the names that the two nations had been called between the time of the death of Saul and the time when David became the king of all of the tribes. Today we will be studying about Israel for most of our lesson. The first king of Israel was Jeroboam. We will see that he was a very evil king. God sent a prophet from Judah to speak to Jeroboam about his sin. This prophet disobeyed God after he gave his message to Jeroboam. As a result, God also judged the prophet.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the message that the prophet gave to Jeroboam.
- Explain how the prophet was judged for disobedience.
- Explain what kind of a king Rehoboam was as he ruled Judah.
- Tell about the kings that followed Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

We learned in our last lesson that Jeroboam made two golden calves for the people of Israel to worship so that the people would not return to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. One day God sent a man of God to warn Jeroboam of coming judgment because of his evil worship. When Jeroboam heard the words of the man of God, Jeroboam immediately put out his hand and told his guards to arrest the man of God. Then the Lord caused the arm of Jeroboam to become paralyzed. God also destroyed the altar. Then Jeroboam asked the man of God to pray for him. As the man of God prayed, the arm of Jeroboam was healed.

1. Read 1 Kings 13:1-34 and write what Jeroboam said to the man of God when he saw that his arm was healed.
2. Explain why Jeroboam quickly asked the man of God to pray for him when the Lord caused the arm of Jeroboam to become paralyzed.
3. Explain why you think that many people can be speaking evil against the Lord and then want someone to pray for them a few minutes or days later when they face a crisis.

God had warned the man of God not to eat or drink anything until he returned to his own home. As a result, the man of God said that he would not go to the house of Jeroboam even if Jeroboam offered him half of his riches. Then the man of God started toward his home. Meanwhile an old prophet in Bethel had heard what had happened to Jeroboam. Then the prophet went after the man of God and invited him to come to his house and eat. The man of God replied that he was not to eat or drink anything until he returned to his own home. However, the prophet said that an angel had come and told him to invite the man of God to dinner.

4. Read 1 Kings 13:1-34 and write whether the prophet was telling the truth.
5. Explain why the man of God said that he would not go to eat at the house of Jeroboam regardless of how much riches Jeroboam would offer.
6. Explain why you think that the prophet from Bethel said that an angel had told him to come and invite the prophet to dinner.

When God has spoken, He does not change His word. The man of God should have known that God would not change His word. However, the man of God listened to the prophet instead of obeying the Word that God had given him before he left home. While they were eating, the prophet told the man of God that he would die because of his disobedience. The man of God

started on his way after he had finished eating. Suddenly a lion came out onto the road and killed the man of God. Here we see the terrible results of failing to do what you teach. The man of God had just warned Jeroboam that he would be judged for disobedience. Then the man of God was disobedient himself.

7. Read 1 Kings 13:1-34 and write what the lion was doing after he killed the man of God.
8. Explain why a person will sometimes warn someone else about the danger of disobedience and then turn right around and be disobedient himself.
9. Explain why you think that God judged the man of God for his disobedience by allowing a lion to kill him.

The prophet heard what had happened to the man of God. He quickly rode his donkey to the place where the body was laying. Then he took the body back to his own city and buried it. The prophet was filled with sorrow when he saw what had happened to the man of God. The prophet said that when he died he wanted his body to be buried with the man of God because he realized that the words of the man of God to Jeroboam were true. Meanwhile Jeroboam did not listen to the warning that he had been given. Instead he continued to walk in his evil ways.

10. Read 1 Kings 13:1-34 and write who Jeroboam chose to be the priests that led the people of Israel in the worship of the golden calves.
11. Explain why the prophet from Bethel was filled with sorrow when he saw what had happened to the man of God.
12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the results of disobedience from these verses.

One day the son of Jeroboam became very sick. Jeroboam was afraid that his son was going to die. Then Jeroboam told his wife to disguise herself so that no one would know that she was the wife of Jeroboam. In this disguise, she was to go to the prophet, Ahijah, and ask him what would happen to the child. Ahijah was now an old man and he could no longer see. Jeroboam did not think that Ahijah would know that the woman that came to him was the wife of Jeroboam. However, Jeroboam did not recognize the power of God. He did not understand that God knows all things and can make that knowledge known to those that He chooses.

13. Read 1 Kings 14:1-20 and write what God was telling Ahijah at the same time that Jeroboam was sending his wife to him.
14. Explain why Jeroboam thought that his wife would be able to deceive Ahijah since Ahijah had become blind.
15. Explain why you think that Jeroboam thought that he needed to have his wife try to deceive Ahijah about who she was.

As soon as Ahijah heard footsteps coming to his door, he said, "Come in, you wife of Jeroboam." He told her that her disguise was worth nothing because God had said that she was coming. The Lord had also given Ahijah a message for Jeroboam. The Lord said that He was going to take the kingdom away from Jeroboam and destroy every male in the family of Jeroboam. One day none of the family of Jeroboam would remain. Some would be eaten by the dogs while others would be eaten by the birds. In addition, the child would die at the very moment that the wife of Jeroboam reached her home. God was going to start the judgment of the family of Jeroboam by causing that son to die when his mother reached the house.

16. Read 1 Kings 14:1-20 and write why this child would die and be buried in a grave rather than be eaten by the dogs or the birds.
17. Explain why God told Ahijah to tell the wife of Jeroboam that He would judge the family of Jeroboam so that none of them remained.
18. Explain why you think that God said that the entire family of Jeroboam would be judged because of the sins of Jeroboam.

Here we see that God shows kindness to some of the children of evil men by allowing them to

die while they are still young children. The Lord does this rather than allowing them to grow up in a very evil home. God said that He had found some good thing toward the Lord in the life of the child of Jeroboam and that was why he was going to allow him to die as a child. God knew what the child would have become like if he had been allowed to grow to maturity. Ahijah went on to tell the wife of Jeroboam that the nation of Israel would one day be scattered among the other nations because they followed the sins of Jeroboam. When the woman went home, the child died just as she entered the door exactly as God had said. We also read about the death of Jeroboam.

19. Read 1 Kings 14:1-20 and write how long Jeroboam ruled over the nation of Israel.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the reason why some children that live in very evil homes die as children.

21. Explain why you think that God chooses to give even children in very evil homes the opportunity to receive eternal life by taking them to heaven as very young children.

Meanwhile, there were also things that were happening in the nation of Judah where Rehoboam was now the king. The mother of Rehoboam was a woman from the nation of Ammon. As a result, she had taught her son to worship the false gods of Ammon rather than teaching him to worship and serve the true and living God. This is also what often happens today when a person that is a Christian marries a person that is not a Christian. Often the children will be influenced by the parent that is not a Christian and will not serve the Lord. Instead of serving the Lord, Rehoboam led the whole nation of Judah into idol worship. During that time the people became more evil than any of their fathers had been. They set up idols on every hill and under every tree.

22. Read 1 Kings 14:21-31 and write what else was in the land of Judah during that time in their history.

23. Explain why the people of Israel became more evil than any of their fathers had been during the time that Rehoboam was the king of Judah.

24. Explain why you think that children will often be greatly influenced by the parent that is not a Christian when one parent is a Christian and the other is not.

Sodomites were individuals that practiced homosexuality. This was the kind of practices that the people in the land had been practicing when the nation of Israel came from Egypt. In fact that was the reason that God had said that all of the people in the land should be completely destroyed by the nation of Israel. God says that he has a very great hatred for the sinful practices of those who practice homosexuality. Now part of the people of Judah had become involved in these same evil acts. As a result, God decided that He must judge the people of Judah.

25. Read 1 Kings 14:21-31 and write who God brought to fight against the nation of Judah because of these sinful acts.

26. Explain why God said that he must judge the nation of Judah because they had people that were Sodomites.

27. Explain why you think that God said that He will judge any sexual activity outside of marriage whether it is adultery or homosexuality.

Sin and evil must always be judged. This time was no exception. God allowed the king of Egypt to come up and fight against the city of Jerusalem. In order to keep the city from being destroyed, Rehoboam was forced to take the treasures in the temple and the shields of gold and give them to the king of Egypt. As a result, Rehoboam was forced to make bronze shields to take the place of the gold shields. In addition to war with Egypt, there was also much conflict between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Finally Rehoboam died and his son, Abijah, became the king of the nation of Judah.

28. Read 1 Kings 14:21-31 and write the name of the mother of Rehoboam.

29. Explain why God chose to judge the sins of the people of Judah by allowing the treasures in

the temple and the shields of gold to be taken by Egypt.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the choices and sins of Rehoboam.

Abijah was just as evil as his father. He committed all of the same sins that his father had committed. He did not follow the ways of David. God was very sad to see all of this evil happening in the land of Judah. However, the Lord had made a promise to David. That promise said that one from the family of David would continue to rule. God had made this promise to David because David had done what was right in the sight of God. There had only been one great failure in the life of David. During his rule over the nation of Judah, Abijah continued to fight against Israel. Finally Abijah died and his son became the king of Judah.

31. Read 1 Kings 15:1-34 and write the name of the son of Abijah that became the king when he died.

32. Explain why God continued to keep his promise to David even though the kings that came from his family did much evil.

33. Explain why you think that God will always keep His promises both to those who do right and those who do evil.

Asa was a very different king than his father had been. He had his trust in the Lord and depended on the Lord for guidance and direction. One of the things that Asa did was to destroy the Sodomites that were living in the land. He also destroyed the idols that his fathers had made. In fact he even removed his mother as the queen mother because she had made an idol. He also destroyed the idol of his mother. We read that the heart of Asa was perfect with the Lord for his entire life. He was trusting in the Lord instead of trusting in his own strength. He also made vessels of silver and vessels of gold that he brought into the temple.

34. Read 1 Kings 15:1-34 and write who came to fight against Asa.

35. Explain how the fact that Asa was a godly king shows that people can become godly leaders even though they have very sinful parents.

36. Explain why you think that Asa was even willing to destroy the idol that had belonged to his mother.

Baasha built a fort at Ramah to stop the people of Israel from going to Asa. Then Asa sent money to the king of Syria and hired him and his army to help him fight against Israel. The king of Syria went and fought against the cities in the northern part of Israel. As a result, Baasha was forced to stop building Ramah. Then Asa sent the people of Judah to Ramah and they completely destroyed all that Baasha had built. They took the stones and the timbers and moved them to another place. Asa ruled for a total of forty-one years before he died. Then the son of Asa named Jehoshaphat became the king of Judah and began to rule.

37. Read 1 Kings 15:1-34 and write how long Baasha ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel.

38. Explain why the Lord made it possible for Judah to destroy all that Baasha had built to try and stop people from his land from going to Jerusalem.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the life of Asa.

Meanwhile, there were also many things that were happening in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during this time. Nadab, the son of Jeroboam, was a very evil king just like his father. He caused the whole nation of Israel to sin. Then Baasha began to plot against Nadab. He surrounded the city where Nadab lived and killed Nadab. Then Baasha killed the entire family of Jeroboam so that there was not a single person left of the entire family of Jeroboam. However, Baasha was just as evil as Jeroboam and Nadab. He also caused the people of Israel to sin and turn away from God.

40. Read 1 Kings 15:1-34 and write how long Baasha ruled Israel.

41. Explain why the Lord allowed Baasha to destroy the entire family of Jeroboam even though Baasha was a very evil king himself.

42. Explain why you think that an evil leader of a nation can lead his entire nation to get

involved in various kinds of sin.

Now reread 1 Kings 13:1-15:34 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 6

1 Kings 16:1-18:46

We have seen that all of the kings of Israel were evil men. All of the future kings of Israel will also be evil. As a result, God raised up prophets to speak to the people of Israel and tell them what God wanted to say to them. Today we will be studying about one of these prophets named Elijah. One day God sent Elijah to speak to the king. Elijah warned Ahab that it would not rain in the land of Israel until Elijah spoke the word because of the sins of Ahab. Then Elijah disappeared for three years so that Ahab could not find him. We will also learn how Elijah challenged the false worship of Ahab.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell about some of the evil kings of Israel.

Tell how God provided food for Elijah for three years.

Explain why Elijah challenged Ahab.

Explain what happened when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal.

As we finished our last lesson, we learned that Baasha was a very evil king. As a result, God sent a prophet to tell Baasha what would happen to him. Jehu, the prophet, said that one day the entire family of Baasha would be destroyed because of his evil actions. Then the bodies of his dead family members would be eaten by the dogs or by the birds. When Baasha died, his son Elah became the king of the nation of Israel. However, one of the leaders of the army wanted to be the king instead. One day Zimri came to visit Elah and found him drunk. That gave Zimri the opportunity that he wanted to become the king. Zimri killed Elah and all of the family and friends of Baasha so that none of them would try and take the kingdom away from him.

1. Read 1 Kings 16:1-34 and write whose words these actions fulfilled.
2. Explain why Jehu, the prophet, told Baasha that he and his entire family would be destroyed because of his sin.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to warn Baasha in advance that judgment would come to he and his family.

God had warned Baasha that judgment would come on Baasha and his entire family. Just as God had promised, God carried out that judgment against the entire family of Baasha. However, God also judged Zimri because he was also a very evil man. The people heard that Zimri had killed the king. Then the people gathered together to go and fight against Zimri. The people first appointed Omri as their king. Then they followed him to go and fight against Zimri. When Zimri saw that the people were going to capture him, he went into the palace and set the palace on fire. In this way his body was destroyed at the same time that he died.

4. Read 1 Kings 16:1-34 and write how long Zimri ruled over the nation of Israel.
5. Explain why Zimri chose to kill Elah and destroy his family and then announce that he was the new king of Israel.
6. Explain why you think that the rest of the people of Israel chose Omri and followed him to go and destroy Zimri.

After Omri led Israel in their fight against Zimri, Omri also had to fight against a man by the name of Tibni because he also wanted to become the king of Israel. Half of the people of Israel followed Omri and the other half followed Tibni. Omri finally defeated Tibni. Then Omri was the king of Israel for twelve years. During this time he did more evil than any of the previous kings of the nation of Israel had done. In addition to living in sin himself, Omri also caused the people of Israel to live in sin. The Lord was very angry when He saw the sins of Omri and the

people of Israel.

7. Read 1 Kings 16:1-34 and write who became the king of Israel when Omri died.
8. Explain why Omri was even more evil than the previous kings of Israel even though he knew what had happened to the previous kings.
9. Explain why you think that the people of Israel joined Omri and participated in his sins as they followed him as their king.

Ahab was the son of Omri that became the king of Israel. However, he was even more evil than his father. Ahab married a woman by the name of Jezebel. She was the daughter of the king of Sidon. As a result of his marriage to Jezebel, Ahab began to worship Baal. He also had an idol of Baal built in the city where he lived. Many other people in Israel also followed Ahab by choosing to disobey God. One of those was a man by the name of Hiel. Hiel rebuilt the city of Jericho. God had said that the city of Jericho was never to be rebuilt. This rebellion against God caused the death of two of his sons just as Joshua had promised many years earlier. Ahab was so evil that he did more evil than all of the kings of Israel before him.

10. Read 1 Kings 16:1-34 and write where Ahab placed the altar that he built to offer sacrifices to Baal.
11. Explain what the book of 1 Kings teaches about the evil actions of the kings that ruled over the nation of Israel.
12. Explain why you think that Ahab led the people of Israel to worship Baal after he married Jezebel.

Because Ahab was such an evil king, the Lord sent the prophet, Elijah, to give Ahab a message. Elijah came to Ahab and said that because of the sin of Ahab that it would not rain again until Elijah spoke the word. Then the Lord told Elijah to go and hide where Ahab could not find him. The Lord told Elijah to hide near a small creek called Cherith. To provide food for Elijah, God caused the ravens to come with food each morning and each evening to Elijah. These birds would carry pieces of bread and pieces of meat to Elijah. In this way God provided for the daily needs of Elijah for a period of time. In fact Elijah remained by that creek until it became dry because of the lack of rain.

13. Read 1 Kings 17:1-24 and write where God told Elijah to go when the creek became dry.
14. Explain why God chose to provide food for Elijah by having the ravens bring him food until the creek became dry.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord often chooses to supply our needs in very unusual and unexpected ways.

God had a widow in Zarephath that He was going to use to provide food for Elijah. However, the widow did not know about the plan of God. Elijah reached the city just as the widow was returning with a load of wood. Elijah asked the widow for some food. Then she replied that she only had enough food for one meal and she was planning to eat that food with her son and then die. Elijah told the woman that God would supply food for her if she would give him a meal. The widow listened to the promise that the Lord would supply and fed Elijah. Then the Lord caused her food to last until the end of the famine.

16. Read 1 Kings 17:1-24 and write what happened to the son of the widow.
17. Explain why the Lord caused the food of the woman to last until the famine was over because of her choice to feed Elijah.
18. Explain why you think that the woman listened to Elijah and fed him even though she only had enough food for one meal for she and her son.

One day the boy became so sick that he had no breath and died. The widow called Elijah and asked him why God had allowed her son to die. Elijah took the boy and carried him to his room on the roof of the house where the widow lived. Elijah prayed to the Lord and asked the Lord why the boy had died. Then Elijah prayed that the boy would come back to life again. The

Lord heard and answered the prayer of Elijah. As a result, the boy came back to life again. Then Elijah brought the boy to his mother. That caused the woman to know without any doubts that Elijah was a man of God.

19. Read 1 Kings 17:1-24 and write what Elijah told the mother when he brought her son back to her.

20. Explain why the Lord used some very unusual ways to care for Elijah and provide him with food in different places.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to allow this boy to die so that He could use Elijah to bring him back to life.

Because there was no rain, there was a very great famine in the land. The crops did not grow without the rain and so there was very little food. One day after there had been no rain for three years the Lord spoke to Elijah and told him to go and speak to Ahab. Meanwhile Ahab told his servant to go one way to look for grass while he went the other way to look for grass. Ahab was getting desperate to find enough grass to keep the animals alive so that they would not starve.

The name of the servant of Ahab was Obadiah. Obadiah was a man that served the Lord and he had protected one hundred prophets of God when Jezebel had tried to kill them. Obadiah obeyed the words of Ahab and went to look for grass for the animals.

22. Read 1 Kings 18:1-19 and write who met Obadiah as he was looking for grass for the animals.

23. Explain why God allowed the famine to become very severe before He spoke to Elijah and told him to go and speak to Ahab.

24. Explain why you think that Obadiah was a faithful servant of the Lord even when Jezebel was trying to kill the prophets of God.

Elijah instructed Obadiah to go and tell Ahab that Elijah was coming to see him. At first Obadiah was afraid because he thought that Elijah might leave. Ahab had been looking for Elijah for three years. If Obadiah said Elijah was coming and Elijah did not come, Obadiah was afraid that Ahab would kill him. Obadiah reminded Elijah of the fact that he served the Lord and had protected the prophets from Jezebel. Elijah promised that he would not leave if Obadiah would tell Ahab that he was coming. Then Obadiah agreed and went and told Ahab that Elijah was there. Ahab quickly hurried to the place where Elijah was to talk to him.

25. Read 1 Kings 18:1-19 and write what Ahab asked Elijah when the two of them met.

26. Explain why Ahab was so eager to talk to Elijah and had been looking for him for three years.

27. Explain why you think that God often works on a different time plan than the people of the world.

Ahab wanted to blame Elijah for the famine in the land of Israel and so he asked Elijah if Elijah was the one that was troubling Israel. Ahab wanted to blame Elijah because Elijah had said that it would not rain. Elijah replied that the reason that God had stopped the rain was due to the sins of Ahab. Ahab was responsible because he had turned away from the commandments of the Lord and had worshiped Baal instead. Then Elijah challenged Ahab to gather all of the prophets of Baal and the prophets of the idols and come to meet him on Mount Carmel. In addition, all of the people of Israel were also to come to Mount Carmel.

28. Read 1 Kings 18:1-19 and write how many prophets of Baal and how many prophets of the idols there were at this time.

29. Explain why it had not rained for three years in the land of Israel.

30. Explain why you think that Ahab was quick to try and blame Elijah instead of confess his own sin.

Elijah waited until all of the people of Israel were gathered together on Mount Carmel. Then Elijah asked the people how much longer they were going to try to serve both God and Baal.

Elijah said that they must choose one or the other but the people refused to answer him. Then Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to build an altar but put no fire on it. He would also do the same. The god that sent fire from heaven to burn the sacrifice was the true God. Elijah suggested that the prophets of Baal go first. They built their altar and put their sacrifice on it.

31. Read 1 Kings 18:20-46 and write what the prophets of Baal cried from morning until noon.

32. Explain why the people refused to answer Elijah when he asked them how long they were going to try and serve both God and Baal.

33. Explain why you think that Elijah chose to challenge the prophets of Baal in front of all of the people of Israel.

The prophets of Baal shouted and leaped on their altar all morning but they got no answer. Then Elijah began to mock them and told them that their god must be busy so that they needed to call louder. They continued to shout and cut themselves until the blood started to pour out of them but they received no answer. As it was getting close to evening, Elijah called the people to come close to him. He prepared his sacrifice. Then he dug a trench around the altar. He had the people pour twelve barrels of water over the sacrifice until it was soaked and the trench around it was full of water.

34. Read 1 Kings 18:20-46 and write when Elijah began to pray to the Lord.

35. Explain why Elijah had the people pour twelve barrels of water over his sacrifice before he started to pray to the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal and said that either their god was too busy or they needed to call louder.

When it came time for the evening sacrifice, Elijah began to pray to the Lord. First Elijah asked God to show the people that He was the God of Israel. Then Elijah asked the Lord to hear and answer his prayer. God answered the prayer of Elijah by sending fire from heaven. This fire burned the sacrifice, the wood, the altar, the dust and the water in the trench. Then the people recognized God and said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God." Elijah immediately told the people to kill all of the prophets of Baal before they could escape. Then all of the prophets of Baal were killed. This passage gives us a beautiful example of the power of God and what happens when it is compared with the lack of power of all false gods.

37. Read 1 Kings 18:20-46 and write what Elijah then told Ahab that God would soon supply in abundance.

38. Explain why Elijah told the people to kill the prophets of Baal immediately before they were able to escape.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the way that the Lord worked in these verses.

Then Elijah told Ahab that there would soon be much rain. Ahab went to eat and drink while Elijah went to pray. As Elijah was praying, he sent his servant to go and look and see if he saw any rain clouds yet. This happened seven times. The seventh time the servant said that he saw a cloud that was about as big as the fist of a man. Elijah told his servant to hurry to Ahab and tell him to leave the mountain before it began to rain. Elijah knew that the Lord was going to show His power by providing the land with an abundance of rain. Then the sky became black. The wind began to blow and it started to rain. God send a rain that was a great rain.

40. Read 1 Kings 18:20-46 and write where Ahab went in his chariot.

41. Explain why God waited until the seventh time that the servant went to look before God sent a small cloud.

42. Explain why you think that God very quickly caused a great rain to start soon after the servant saw the cloud.

Now reread 1 Kings 16:1-18:46 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 7

1 Kings 19:1-20:43

In our last lesson we learned that Elijah had challenged the prophets of Baal to show who was the true and living God. Then when God had answered the prayer of Elijah with fire, Elijah told the people to kill the false prophets of Baal. The king went home and told his wife, Jezebel, what Elijah had done to the prophets of Baal. This made Jezebel very angry. She sent a message to Elijah telling him that she was going to make certain that he was killed for killing the prophets of Baal. Instead of trusting the Lord to protect him from Jezebel, Elijah became fearful and ran to escape from Jezebel. Elijah ran a long way to escape from Jezebel. Then God spoke to Elijah and asked him why he was running.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Elijah wanted to die.
- Explain how the Lord encouraged Elijah.
- Tell what happened when Ahab fought against Syria.
- Explain what God said to Ahab when he protected Ben-Hadad.

Elijah had just faced a very great challenge. He had trusted the Lord and challenged the prophets of Baal and had defeated them. This was a great victory for the Lord and for Elijah. However, victories can be dangerous. Following a great victory in our lives, we may be tempted to depend on our own strength instead of depending on the Lord. That was what happened to Elijah. Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done to the prophets of Baal. Jezebel was filled with anger and hatred when she heard that Elijah had killed the prophets of Baal because she was a worshiper of Baal. In her anger Jezebel sent a message to Elijah.

1. Read 1 Kings 19:1-7 and write what the message that Jezebel sent to Elijah said.
2. Explain why Jezebel was filled with anger and hatred when she heard that Elijah had killed the prophets of Baal.
3. Explain why you think that Christians can be tempted to depend on their own strength after a great victory.

In her message Jezebel promised Elijah that he would be dead by that time the next day. Instead of trusting the Lord to protect him from Jezebel, Elijah decided to run and escape from Jezebel. Elijah headed south toward the land of Judah. Instead of stopping when he reached Judah, he crossed that entire country and came to the city of Beersheba. That city was located about one hundred miles south of the place where he started his run to get away from Jezebel. Elijah left his servant at Beersheba and headed further south into the desert. At the end of the next day, he sat down to rest under a tree.

4. Read 1 Kings 19:1-7 and write what Elijah said to the Lord as he sat under that tree in the desert.
5. Explain why Jezebel said that she would get even with Elijah for killing the prophets of Baal by killing him.
6. Explain why you think that Elijah ran from Jezebel even though he had just seen all of the prophets of Baal destroyed.

The words of Elijah show that he was so discouraged that he wanted to die. In his mind it seemed that he had nothing for which to live. Then Elijah lay down and went to sleep. Later the Lord sent an angel with some food for Elijah. Elijah ate the food and drank the water that the Lord had supplied through the angel. Then he went to sleep again. The angel came to Elijah a second time and gave him some more food to eat. The Lord knew that Elijah had not finished running yet and so the Lord showed kindness to Elijah by giving him food and rest.

7. Read 1 Kings 9:1-7 and write why the angel told Elijah to get up and eat a second time.
8. Explain why it is easy for people to get discouraged when they neglect proper rest and food.
9. Explain why you think that Elijah chose to run from Jezebel after the Lord had given him such a great victory over the prophets of Baal.

Sometimes we also become so physically and emotionally exhausted that the Lord has to stop us for a while so that we can rest and eat. When we are physically and emotionally exhausted, we will often become discouraged and may very easily become depressed. God made our bodies so that they need rest. When our bodies and emotions are not being renewed by food and rest, it is very easy to become discouraged or depressed. After eating the second time, Elijah started on his way again. He traveled for a total of forty days until he came to the mountain where the Lord had given Moses the Ten Commandments. Elijah traveled as far as he could to get away from Jezebel. At Mount Horeb Elijah found a cave and decided to live in the cave. While Elijah was in this cave, the Lord spoke to him.

10. Read 1 Kings 19:8-21 and write what the Lord asked Elijah.
11. Explain why Elijah thought that he would be protected from Jezebel if he lived in a cave at Mount Horeb.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord waited until Elijah was in this cave to begin to speak to him.

When the Lord asked Elijah why he was at the cave, Elijah began complaining to the Lord. He told the Lord that all of the people of Israel had turned against God and that he was the only one left that still worshiped and served the Lord. In addition, his own life was now in danger from Jezebel. Elijah felt like the world was ready to come to an end. Then the Lord told Elijah to go outside the cave. There Elijah saw the power of the Lord demonstrated in several ways. First a great wind came that even broke the rocks. This was followed by an earthquake. Following the earthquake, there was a fire. However, the Lord was not in any of these things. These things were only demonstrations of the power of God.

13. Read 1 Kings 19:8-21 and write what came after the fire.
14. Explain why God chose to demonstrate His power to Elijah in several different ways before speaking to Elijah.
15. Explain why you think that Elijah felt that he was the only one left that still worshiped and served the Lord.

We have just seen that the Lord showed His power in several ways before speaking to Elijah. However, Elijah still did not get the point that the Lord was trying to help him understand. Elijah said the second time that he was the only one left that was serving the Lord. Elijah failed to realize that the lessons that the Lord was teaching him was that God is the One that is in control of all things. Then the Lord told Elijah to go and do three things. He was to anoint Hazael to be the next king of the nation of Syria. He was to anoint Jehu to be the next king of the nation of Israel. Then he was to anoint Elisha to be the prophet that would one day take his place. The Lord promised to use these three men to judge those who followed Baal.

16. Read 1 Kings 19:8-21 and write how many men had not bowed their knees to worship Baal.
17. Explain why the Lord told Elijah to go and do three things that God said would bring judgment against those that followed Baal and especially against Ahab and Jezebel.
18. Explain why you think that Elijah had forgotten that the Lord is the One that is in control of all things.

Elijah thought that he was the only one that still served the Lord. God told him that there were actually seven thousand men that still served God. The Lord will always keep a group of people that serve Him in every generation. As a result, we never need to feel that we are alone in our service of the Lord. Elijah obeyed the instructions of the Lord and went and found Elisha. Then Elijah threw his coat on the shoulders of Elisha as he was working. Elisha

immediately took his oxen and killed them. He cooked the oxen and gave the food to the people. Then he became the servant of Elijah so that he could learn the work of a prophet. 19. Read 1 Kings 19:8-21 and write who the Lord said would judge those who escaped the sword of Hazeal.

20. Explain why the Lord chose to help Elijah realize that there were actually 7,000 men that still served the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that Elijah felt that he was all alone.

One day the king of Syria, Ben-Hadad, decided to go to fight against the city of Samaria. He also had thirty-two other kings and their armies with him so that he had a very great army. Ben-hadad sent a message to Ahab. Ben-Hadad told Ahab to give him his silver, his gold, his wives and his children if Ahab did not want to be destroyed by Ben-Hadad and the armies that were with him. Ahab agreed to do all of these things. Then Ben-Hadad sent a second message saying that his servants would go through the houses of the city to take all that they desired.

Ahab called the elders of Israel and told them about the plan of Ben-Hadad.

22. Read 1 Kings 20:1-21 and write what the elders told Ahab.

23. Explain why Ben-Hadad sent a second message to Ahab saying that he and those with him would go through the houses of the people and take what they wanted.

24. Explain why you think that Ahab agreed to let Ben-hadad and those with him take his gold, his silver, his wives and his children.

Ahab told the servants of Ben-Hadad that he would honor the first request but that he would not honor the second request. Then Ben-Hadad began to boast about what he would do to the city of Samaria. Because Ben-Hadad was drunk, his boasts were very great. Then a prophet of God came to speak to Ahab. This prophet promised that the Lord would give victory to Israel even though the army of Ben-Hadad was much stronger than the army of Israel. The Lord said that He would do this to show Ahab that He was the Lord. Immediately Ahab wanted to know who the Lord would use to win this great victory over Ben-Hadad.

25. Read 1 Kings 20:1-21 and write who the Lord told Ben-Hadad that He would use.

26. Explain why the Lord chose to judge the boasting of Ben-Hadad even though God was going to one day judge Israel.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord said that He would show Ahab that He is the Lord and give Ahab one more opportunity to repent.

There were only two hundred and thirty-two princes in Israel. Meanwhile Ben-Hadad had an army of more than one hundred thousand men. It looked like it was an impossible fight for Israel except for the promise of the Lord. Ben-Hadad and the kings that were with him were so certain of victory that they became drunk. While Ben-Hadad was drunk, his servants told him that a small group of men were coming from the city of Samaria. Ben-Hadad ordered his men to capture these young men alive. Instead this small group of men won a great victory and Ben-Hadad was forced to flee on his horse. Then Ahab joined the battle and destroyed many of the horses and chariots of the Syrians.

28. Read 1 Kings 20:1-21 and write what the men of Israel did to the Syrian army.

29. Explain why the Lord chose to give Israel a great victory that day over the armies of Ben-Hadad.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord wanted to use the princes to win this victory instead of the whole army of Israel.

The prophet of God came to Ahab again after the army of Syria had fled. The prophet said that the army of Syria would return again the next year. Meanwhile, the servants of Ben-Hadad told him that Israel had won the victory because Israel served the god of the hills and Syria served the god of the valleys. They said that they could defeat Israel the next time if they fought in the valleys instead of the hills. Ben-Hadad replaced all of his horses, chariots and soldiers that he had lost. Then Ben-Hadad went to fight against Israel again. Ben-Hadad had a very great army

again this time when he went against Israel. In comparison the army of Israel was like two little flocks of goats.

31. Read 1 Kings 20:22-43 and write how the Syrians were described as they came with their armies against Israel.

32. Explain why the prophet of God warned Ahab that Ben-Hadad would come again with his army the next year.

33. Explain why you think that Ben-Hadad thought that he would win a victory the next year because Syria served the god of the valleys.

God spoke to Ahab through the prophet again. This time God said that He was going to give Israel a great victory over the armies of Syria because of the pride and attitude of Syria. He would show that He was the true God and not like the false gods of the Syrians. The armies of Syria and Israel faced each other for seven days. Finally the battle began. The Lord gave Israel a great victory that day. One hundred thousand of the soldiers of Syria were killed in the battle. Many others were killed when a wall fell on them.

34. Read 1 Kings 20:22-43 and write to what city Ben-Hadad and his remaining soldiers fled.

35. Explain why it was necessary for God to judge the pride of Ben-Hadad and the army of Syria before He judged Israel.

36. Explain why you think that God will always judge pride regardless of who shows that pride.

The servants of Ben-Hadad told him that they had heard that the kings of Israel were merciful. They thought that Ahab might not kill them if they went to Ahab in sackcloth. They said that they would go first and talk to Ahab. They told Ahab that Ben-Hadad would be his servant if Ahab would allow him to live. Ahab immediately called Ben-Hadad his brother. This made it possible for the servants to be able to know immediately that Ahab would allow Ben-Hadad to live. Ben-Hadad promised to return to Ahab all of the cities of Israel that his father had taken from Israel. Ahab agreed to the offer and the two kings made a covenant.

37. Read 1 Kings 20:22-43 and write what the disguised prophet of God said had happened to the man that he was supposed to guard.

38. Explain what these verses teach about Ahab.

39. Explain why you think that Ahab was willing to spare the life of Ben-Hadad instead of putting him to death.

Then God sent a prophet to speak to Ahab because he had not killed Ben-Hadad. The prophet disguised himself and told Ahab that he had been given the responsibility of guarding one of the enemies. The man that asked him to guard the enemy told him that he would be killed if he allowed the man to escape. The one that was supposed to guard the prisoner said that the prisoner had escaped as he was busy here and there. Since the man escaped, the prophet asked the king what judgment the king thought that the prophet should receive. The king said that he should be killed. Then the prophet revealed who he really was and told Ahab that he had just decided his own judgment for allowing Ben-Hadad to escape.

40. Read 1 Kings 20:22-43 and write what God said would happen because Ahab had not killed Ben-Hadad.

41. Explain why the prophet of God told Ahab that he had pronounced his own judgment and would not escape.

42. Explain why you think that when God tells us to do something that we should not be busy here and there doing other things.

Now reread 1 Kings 19:1-20:43 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings
Lesson 8
1 Kings 21:1-22:53

In our last two lessons we have seen some of the sins of Ahab and his wife, Jezebel. Today we will learn how they became guilty of murder in order to get what Ahab wanted. Ahab thought that no one would be able to stop him from carrying out his evil actions. He did carry out his evil actions. However, Ahab forgot that the Lord is the One that controls all things. When any person commits sin, judgment will certainly come to that person for their sin. That is what happened to Ahab. God had given him many opportunities to turn from his sins. Finally the Lord brought judgment on Ahab because of his sin. We will learn about that judgment in our study today.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the results of the lust of Ahab for the vineyard of Naboth.
- Explain why judgment was promised to Ahab for his sin.
- Explain why Ahab depended on lying prophets.
- Explain how Ahab was killed.

One day Ahab started looking at a beautiful vineyard that was located near his palace. This very beautiful field of grapes belonged to a man by the name of Naboth. Ahab spoke to Naboth and asked to buy the vineyard from Naboth. Ahab wanted to plant a garden for himself in that field. Ahab promised to give Naboth another field instead. However, Naboth refused to sell the field to Ahab because he said that the field was the inheritance that he had received from his father. God had told the nation of Israel many years earlier that a field was to remain with the family to whom it had originally been given as an inheritance. Ahab was very angry when he heard the words of Naboth that he would not sell him the vineyard.

1. Read 1 Kings 21:1-16 and write what Ahab did when he reached his palace.
2. Explain why Ahab became very angry when Naboth said that he could not sell the land because it was the inheritance that he received from his father.
3. Explain why you think that God had told the people of Israel that they were to keep the land in their family and not sell it to someone else.

Here we see that Ahab was like a little child that was having a temper tantrum. He lay down on his bed, turned his face away and refused to eat. Jezebel was not happy when she saw that Ahab would not eat. She asked him why he refused to eat. Ahab explained that Naboth had refused to sell his field to him. Then Jezebel told him to get up and eat because she would get the field for him. Jezebel instructed the leaders of the city where Naboth lived to have a special fast. During the fast the leaders were to hire two worthless men to come and speak against Naboth in front of all of the men of the city. These two men were to tell the people that they had heard Naboth speak evil against God and against the king.

4. Read 1 Kings 21:1-16 and write what the leaders of the city were to do to Naboth following this false testimony against him.
5. Explain why Jezebel planned the murder of Naboth in order to get the field that Ahab wanted for himself.
6. Explain why you think that Ahab acted like an angry little child when he did not get what he wanted.

The leaders of the city where Naboth lived did exactly as Jezebel had told them to do. Once Naboth was dead, the leaders of the city sent a message to Jezebel telling her that Naboth was dead. As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth was dead, she went to Ahab and told him that he could have the field of Naboth. Naboth was dead which meant that he could no longer refuse to

give the land to Ahab. Ahab was very happy when he heard the words of Jezebel. He immediately rose up and went to Jezreel to take possession of the land that had formerly belonged to Naboth.

7. Read 1 Kings 21:1-16 and write how the men of the city killed Naboth.

8. Explain why Ahab was happy when he heard that Naboth was dead and that he could now take that field as his possession.

9. Explain why you think that it did not bother Ahab to know that an innocent man had been killed to get him what he wanted.

Ahab and Jezebel thought that no one could stop them from getting what they wanted. They had received the land that Ahab had wanted. They thought that no one could stop them in their plans. However, God knew that Ahab and Jezebel had taken the land of Naboth. God spoke to Elijah and told him to go to the vineyard of Naboth and meet Ahab. God said that He had a message for Ahab and Jezebel. That message was a message of judgment. God said that the dogs would lick up the blood of Ahab at the same place where they had licked the blood of Naboth. As soon as Elijah received this message, he went to talk to Ahab.

10. Read 1 Kings 21:17-29 and write what Ahab said when he saw Elijah coming to talk to him.

11. Explain why Elijah was willing to go with this message of judgment for Ahab and Jezebel even though he had been fearful of Jezebel earlier.

12. Explain why you think that God said that the dogs would lick up the blood of Ahab at the very place where they had licked up the blood of Naboth.

Ahab had a guilty conscience because he knew that he had done wrong. Here we see that our consciences will always bother us when we know that we are in rebellion against God and have sin in our lives. God told Ahab that all of the men of the family of Ahab would be destroyed. This would happen because Ahab had caused the entire nation of Israel to sin. Because Jezebel was the one that had planned the death of Naboth, God said that the dogs would eat the body of Jezebel. The men from the family of Ahab would be eaten by the dogs if they died in the city. They would be eaten by the birds if they died in the country. None of the family of Ahab would escape the judgment of God because of the sin of Ahab.

13. Read 1 Kings 21:17-29 and write what God said that Ahab had sold himself to do.

14. Explain why God said that the judgment against the family of Ahab would be complete and none of his family would escape.

15. Explain why you think that the conscience of Ahab was bothering him when he saw that Elijah had come to talk to him.

Ahab was so evil that none of the other kings of Israel could be compared to him for doing evil. He was as evil as the Amorites that had lived in the land when Israel came to the land from Egypt. When Ahab heard the words of the Lord, he showed that he was sorry for what he had done to Naboth. He put sackcloth on himself and began to fast. Then the Lord spoke to Elijah again. The Lord said that He would wait until after the death of Ahab before bringing judgment on the family of Ahab. Here we see that the Lord showed kindness to Ahab because of his sorrow for his sin even though that sorrow did not lead to true repentance.

16. Read 1 Kings 21:17-29 and write who God gave another message for Ahab.

17. Explain why God postponed the judgment of the family of Ahab because of the fact that Ahab had humbled himself before the Lord.

18. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that the Lord postponed the judgment of Ahab's family even though there was not true repentance.

Although Ahab was sorry for what he had done to Naboth, he was not sorry for his other sins. He did not put his trust in the Lord. One day the king of Judah came to visit Ahab. Then Ahab asked Jehoshaphat if he would be willing to go and fight against Syria with him. Jehoshaphat said that he would be glad to send his army with Ahab but he thought that it might be a good

idea to see if the Lord thought that they should go and fight against Syria. Ahab immediately called for four hundred of his false prophets and asked them what God wanted the two kings to do. The four hundred false prophets all agreed that Israel and Judah would defeat Syria.

19. Read 1 Kings 22:1-28 and write what Jehoshaphat asked next.

20. Explain why Jehoshaphat said that they should ask the Lord whether the Lord wanted Ahab and Jehoshaphat to go and fight against Syria.

21. Explain why you think that Ahab called for four hundred false prophets to come and tell them whether God wanted them to go and fight against Syria.

Jehoshaphat wanted to know if there was a prophet of the Lord that they could ask in addition to the four hundred prophets of Ahab. Ahab answered that there was one prophet of God that spoke for God. However, Ahab said that he did not like to hear Micaiah because he always spoke evil prophecies about Ahab. Then Jehoshaphat asked Ahab to get Micaiah so that they could hear from the Lord. Immediately the king sent for Micaiah. Meanwhile one of the false prophets had taken two horns of iron and said that Israel and Judah would push Syria as if they had iron horns. The messenger that went to get Micaiah told him to agree with all of the other prophets because they had all said the same thing.

22. Read 1 Kings 22:1-28 and write what Micaiah said that he would speak.

23. Explain why Jehoshaphat wanted to know if there was a prophet of the Lord that they could ask whether they should go and fight against Syria.

24. Explain why you think that one of the false prophets of Ahab said that Israel and Judah would push Syria as if they had two iron horns.

When Micaiah came before the kings, he spoke first in a mocking tone of voice and told the kings to go and fight against Syria. Ahab could tell that Micaiah was mocking and so he asked Micaiah to tell the truth. Then Micaiah said that the army of Israel would be scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd. Ahab immediately said that he knew that Micaiah would speak evil to him. Micaiah went on to tell how the Lord had persuaded Ahab to go so that he could be destroyed. Many evil spirits had spoken to the Lord telling how they would cause Ahab to and fight against the Syrians so that he could be destroyed.

25. Read 1 Kings 22:1-28 and write how a lying spirit said that he would persuade Ahab to go and fight.

26. Explain why Ahab did not want to hear the truth from Micaiah about whether he should go and fight against Syria.

27. Explain why you think that God had let the evil spirits tell how they would cause Ahab to go and fight against the Syrians so that he could be destroyed.

The desire of evil spirits (demons) is always to destroy life so they were glad to have the opportunity to deceive Ahab. A false prophet by the name of Zedekiah came and hit Micaiah across the face and asked how the Spirit of the Lord had come to Micaiah after speaking to him. Micaiah said that Zedekiah would be judged. Ahab immediately ordered Micaiah to be put into prison until Ahab returned. During this time Micaiah was only to eat bread and water. Micaiah then reminded Ahab that Ahab would not return from the battlefield.

28. Read 1 Kings 22:1-28 and write what Micaiah answered Ahab when Ahab said that Micaiah was to have only bread and water until he returned.

29. Explain how Ahab showed that he did not really believe the message of Micaiah when Micaiah said that Ahab would be killed on the battlefield.

30. Explain why you think that the false prophet hit Micaiah across the face for telling Ahab the truth about what was going to happen to him.

When Ahab and Jehoshaphat went to fight against Syria, Ahab suggested that Jehoshaphat dress like a king while he would disguise himself like an ordinary soldier. Ahab thought that he would allow Jehoshaphat to be killed instead of himself in case the prophecy of Micaiah came

true. Meanwhile the army of Syria had been instructed to try and kill the king of Israel and forget the rest of the soldiers. When the Syrians saw Jehoshaphat, they all started after him. Suddenly the leaders of Syria realized that Jehoshaphat was not the king of Israel and so they stopped following him.

31. Read 1 Kings 22:29-53 and write what a certain man in the army of Syria did.

32. Explain why the Lord caused the leaders of Syria to realize that Jehoshaphat was not the king of Israel even though he was dressed like the king.

33. Explain why you think that Ahab thought that he would be safe if he disguised himself when he went out to the battlefield.

One of the men in the army of Syria drew his bow and shot an arrow without aiming it at anything. However, the Lord guided this arrow and it hit Ahab right at the place where the two parts of his armor met. Ahab continued to direct the battle throughout the day but he was rapidly losing blood. His blood covered the bottom of his chariot and he died when evening came. After burying Ahab, one of his servants washed the blood out of the chariot and off of the armor. Then the dogs came and licked up this blood exactly as the Lord had predicted.

34. Read 1 Kings 22:29-53 and write who became the king of Israel when Ahab died.

35. Explain why the Lord guided the arrow right to the place where it would injure and eventually kill Ahab even though the one that shot the arrow did not even aim it at anything.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord led the servant of Ahab to wash the blood out of the chariot and off of the armor at the place where he washed the blood off.

We are also given a summary of the rule of Jehoshaphat over the nation of Judah. He was a good king and did what was right in the sight of the Lord. However, he failed to destroy the high places where the people worshiped idols. As a result, the people continued to follow idols even though they had a king that served the Lord. He followed the Lord but he did not teach and show the people how to follow the Lord. One thing that Christian leaders need to do today is teach people about the Lord and also show them how to follow the Lord and live for Him.

Otherwise they will continue to follow the ways of Satan even though they claim to follow the Lord. Jehoshaphat did destroy the remaining sodomites that had not been killed by his father.

37. Read 1 Kings 22:29-53 and write who became the king of Judah when Jehoshaphat died.

38. Explain why it is important for leaders to teach people and show them how to follow the Lord in order for people to really learn to follow the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that a spiritual leader will fail if he does not show the people how to serve the Lord by his own example.

As we come to the end of the book of 1 Kings, we see what the son of Ahab was like. We read that Ahaziah followed the sinful ways of his father and mother. He was very evil in the sight of the Lord. Just like the former kings of Israel, Ahaziah continued to lead the people of Israel away from the Lord. He served Baal and worshiped him. This was exactly what his father and mother had done. Here we see an example of the fact that children will usually follow the evil ways of their parents. In fact if the parents are providing an evil example for their children, many times the children will become even more evil and rebellious against the Lord.

40. Read 1 Kings 22:29-53 and write how long Ahaziah ruled as the king over Israel.

41. Explain why Ahaziah followed the evil example of his father and his mother and served and worshiped Baal.

42. Explain why you think that many of the children of evil parents will follow the evil example of their parents and become even more evil and rebellious.

Now reread 1 Kings 21:1-22:53 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings
Lesson 9
2 Kings 1:1-3:27

In our last lesson as we finished the book of 1 Kings, we learned that God had said that the family of Ahab would be completely destroyed because of the great sins of Ahab and Jezebel. Today we will learn about the death of the son of Ahab as the Lord begins to carry out His judgment of the family of Ahab. While we were studying 1 Kings we also learned that Elijah was told to anoint Elisha to take his place. Today we will see how the Lord chose to remove Elijah from the earth. Then we will begin to study about the early part of the ministry of Elisha. Elisha asked to receive a double blessing from the Lord so we will see how the Lord answered his request.

As you study this lesson today, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Ahaziah died.
- Explain what happened to Elijah.
- Explain how the Lord answered the request of Elisha.
- Tell how Israel defeated the nation of Moab.

One day king Ahaziah of Israel fell out of the window of his room on the roof of his house. The injuries from the fall caused him to become sick. Then Ahaziah sent messengers to the house of his idol to find out if he would recover from his sickness. However, the Lord sent Elijah to meet the messengers of Ahaziah before they reached the house of the idol. Elijah asked them if they were going to inquire of the idol because they did not believe that there was a God in Israel. As a messenger from the Lord, Elijah told these messengers to go and tell Ahaziah that he would surely die. Elijah knew that Ahaziah would not be happy when the messengers told Ahaziah the message that Elijah had given them.

1. Read 2 Kings 1:1-18 and write what Elijah did as soon as he gave the messengers this message.
2. Explain how Ahaziah showed that he did not believe in the true and living God.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord sent Elijah to the messengers of Ahaziah so that the messengers did not even get to the house of the idol.

Ahaziah was surprised when his messengers returned so quickly. The men of Ahaziah told him that they had met a man that told them to return to the king and ask him if he had sent the messengers to Baal-zebub because there was not a God in Israel. The messengers said that this man had told them that Ahaziah would surely die. Ahaziah immediately wanted to know what had given his servants this message. Then the messengers described the man that had given them this message. They said that he was a hairy man that had a leather belt around his waist. Ahaziah immediately knew who had given the messengers this message.

4. Read 2 Kings 1:1-18 and write who Ahaziah said was the man that gave the message when he heard his description.
5. Explain why Ahaziah immediately wanted to know who had given his servants the message that he would die.
6. Explain why you think that Ahaziah began asking the servants to describe the man that had given them the message.

Ahaziah was very angry when he heard the words of Elijah. He immediately sent fifty men to capture Elijah. The leader of the soldiers ordered Elijah to come down from the top of the hill where he was. Instead Elijah said that fire would come down from heaven and destroy the fifty men if he was a man of God. Immediately fire came down from heaven and destroyed the fifty

men. Ahaziah then sent a second group of fifty men to capture Elijah. This second group was also destroyed by fire. Then Ahaziah sent a third group of fifty men to capture Elijah.

7. Read 2 Kings 1:1-18 and write what the leader of this third group of soldiers said to Elijah.

8. Explain why God chose to judge these soldiers that had come to arrest Elijah by sending fire from heaven to destroy them.

9. Explain why you think that Ahaziah was so angry when he heard the message that Elijah had given his servants.

The leader of the third group of fifty men realized that he must depend on the Lord for safety rather than depend on himself. Otherwise he knew that he and his men would also be destroyed just as the first two groups of men had been destroyed. Then the Lord told Elijah to go with these men and speak to the king. Elijah obeyed the Lord and went with these men and spoke to Ahaziah. He told Ahaziah that he would die because he had tried to get advice from Baal rather than the Lord. Here we are reminded of the importance of allowing the Lord to show us His will. We see that Ahaziah died just exactly as Elijah had predicted.

10. Read 2 Kings 1:1-18 and write who became the king when Ahaziah died.

11. Explain why the Lord said that Ahaziah would die because of the choice that he had made.

12. Explain why you think people need to understand that there will be consequences in their lives if they choose to sin.

One day the Lord told Elijah that the time had come for Elijah to leave the earth. However, God planned to remove Elijah from the earth rather than allow him to die. As a result, Elijah tried to leave Elisha so that Elisha would not see God take Elijah to heaven. Elijah told Elisha to stay at Gilgal while he went to Bethel. However, Elisha refused to leave Elijah because he realized that God was going to take Elijah away that day. The desire of Elisha was to be a faithful servant until the time that Elijah was taken away. Then the two of them went together to Bethel.

13. Read 2 Kings 2:1-11 and write what the sons of the prophets at Bethel told Elisha while he was there.

14. Explain why Elisha refused to leave Elijah since he knew that the Lord was going to take Elijah away that day.

15. Explain why you think that Elisha wanted to be a faithful servant of Elijah right up to the moment that he left the earth.

Elisha told the sons of the prophets that he knew that the Lord was going to take Elijah away that day. When Elijah said that he had to go to Jericho, Elisha said that he would go with him. The prophets at Jericho also told Elisha that Elijah would be taken away that day. Elijah told Elisha to remain at Jericho while he went on his way. Again Elisha said that he would not leave Elijah and so the two of them went on their way together. When they reached the Jordan River, Elijah told his outer coat and struck the river with it. Suddenly a very unusual thing happened. The river divided and they crossed to the other side on dry ground.

16. Read 2 Kings 2:1-11 and write what Elisha requested before Elijah was taken up to heaven by the Lord.

17. Explain why the Lord stopped the river so that Elijah and Elisha could cross the river on dry ground.

18. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to faithfully serve the Lord until the Lord takes you to heaven.

Elisha was requesting the blessing that a father usually gave to his oldest son at the time of the death of the father. By this request, Elisha was actually asking the Lord to bless his ministry with twice as many blessings as Elijah had received during his ministry. Elijah told Elisha that he was requesting a very hard thing. However, Elijah said that the request of Elisha would be honored if Elisha saw the Lord take Elijah from the earth. Then they continued on down the

road together. As they were going down the road together, suddenly a chariot of fire separated them. This chariot of fire was pulled by horses of fire.

19. Read 2 Kings 2:1-11 and write what happened to Elijah when the chariot and horses of fire separated Elijah from Elisha.

20. Explain why Elijah told Elisha that he was requesting a very hard thing when he requested a double portion of his spirit.

21. Explain why you think that Elisha requested a double portion of the spirit of Elijah before Elijah was taken to heaven.

When Elisha saw that Elijah was gone, he tore his clothes into two pieces. Then he took the outer coat of Elijah that had fallen beside Elisha when the chariot took Elijah. The fact that Elisha received this outer coat was a sign that God was going to honor the request of Elisha for a double portion of blessing. The Bible records seven miracles that were done by Elijah and fourteen miracles that were done by Elisha. We read that the first miracle done by Elisha was the same miracle that Elijah had done earlier that day. Elisha struck the river with the outer coat and then he crossed the river on dry ground just as the two of them had done earlier.

22. Read 2 Kings 2:12-25 and write what the sons of the prophets at Jericho said about Elisha.

23. Explain why the fact that Elisha received the outer coat of Elijah must have been a great encouragement to him.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to honor the request of Elisha to receive a double portion of blessing from God.

The sons of the prophets recognized that the Lord had placed His blessing on Elisha. These men volunteered to go and find the body of Elijah because they thought that God had probably placed in on some mountain. Elisha said that there was no need for them to go and hunt for the body of Elijah because they would not find the body. However, they kept on requesting until Elisha became ashamed and told them to go and search. They searched for three days and found nothing. When they returned to Jericho, Elisha reminded the men that he had told that that they would find nothing. Then the men of Jericho told Elisha that the water of their city was bad.

25. Read 2 Kings 2:12-25 and write what Elisha told the men of the city to bring to him.

26. Explain why Elisha finally agreed to let the sons of the prophets go and hunt for the body of Elijah.

27. Explain how you think that the sons of the prophets recognized that the Lord had placed His blessing on Elisha.

The men obeyed the instructions of Elisha and brought a new bucket with salt in it. Elisha prayed that the Lord would heal the water. Then he cast the pail of salt into the spring and God healed the water. When Elisha left the city a group of young men began to mock Elisha and told him to go to heaven like Elijah had done. By mocking Elisha in this way these young men who were probably in their late teens or early twenties were actually mocking the power of God. As a result, God sent two bears out of the woods. The two bear attacked these young men and tore them and gave them very serious wounds.

28. Read 2 Kings 2:12-25 and write the names of the two places where Elisha went after the young men were judged by the bears.

29. Explain why God judged these young men so severely.

30. Explain why you think that many people are like the young men that chose to mock God and His prophet.

After the death of Ahaziah, another son of Ahab by the name of Jehoram became the king of Israel. He was evil like his parents but he did do one good thing. Jehoram put the idol of Baal away so that the people of Israel would not worship it. However, he continued to follow the rest of the sins of Jeroboam. The nation of Moab had been serving Israel during the time that Ahab was king. When Ahab died, Moab decided to rebel and regain its freedom. Jehoram

thought that his army was not large enough to defeat Moab so he asked Jehoshaphat to go with him and fight against Moab. The king of Edom also joined them. Then they made a circle around Moab that took them seven days so that they could attack from a different direction.

31. Read 2 Kings 3:1-27 and write what they did not have as they traveled.

32. Explain why it was important that Jehoram removed the idol of Baal so that it was no longer there for the people of Israel to worship.

33. Explain why you think that Jehoram continued to follow the rest of the sins of the former kings of Israel.

When the people in the armies became very thirsty, Jehoram thought that all three of the kings and their armies would be destroyed by the army of Moab. Then Jehoshaphat asked if there was a prophet of the Lord that they could ask for help. Jehoram replied that Elisha had been the servant of Elijah. Then the kings went together to talk to Elisha. Elisha told Jehoram to go and ask the gods of his parents because he was still worshiping them. However, Elisha said that he would seek the will of the Lord since Jehoshaphat was with them. Then the Lord spoke to Elisha and told him what the Lord was going to do.

34. Read 2 Kings 3:1-27 and write what the Lord told the kings to do.

35. Explain why the presence of Jehoshaphat as one of the three kings caused Elisha to say that he would seek the will of the Lord.

36. Explain why the kings became fearful that they would be destroyed when their armies became very thirsty.

The Lord promised to do two things for the three kings. First, He promised to supply them with the water that they needed. Second, God said that he would give them victory over the army of Moab. However, God also gave the kings certain responsibilities. He told them to dig ditches for the water. God also told them to completely destroy the cities that they defeated. Here we see an example of the way that the Lord answers our prayers. He also gives us certain responsibilities. God did not supply the water until the people obeyed the instructions of God and dug ditches for the water. Today the Lord will answer our prayers as we are obedient.

37. Read 2 Kings 3:1-27 and write what God also promised to do in addition to supplying water for the armies.

38. Explain the relationship between obedience to God and answered prayer.

39. Explain why you think that the Lord chooses to give us certain responsibilities to carry out His work rather than just doing everything Himself.

When the king of Moab saw the water in the valley, he thought it was blood and decided that the three kings were fighting among themselves. He quickly gathered his army to go against Israel, Judah and Edom. Then the three king and their armies rose up together against Moab. Moab suffered a great defeat. Then the three kings and their armies destroyed the cities of Moab and filled the wells of the people of Moab. They also covered the land with rocks. All of the large trees were also destroyed so that they could not be used to build new cities.

40. Read 2 Kings 3:1-27 and write what the king of Moab offered as a sacrifice when he saw the way that he was being defeated.

41. Explain why the three kings filled the wells of the people of Moab and covered the land with rocks.

42. Explain why you think that God chose to make the water in the valley look like blood to the king of Moab.

Now reread 2 Kings 1:1-3:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 10

2 Kings 4:1-6:33

One of the worst diseases mentioned in the Bible is the disease of leprosy. A person that caught leprosy seldom recovered. It was an incurable disease that could only be cured by God. Those who had the disease in Israel would call, "Unclean, Unclean" whenever another person came close to warn them of the danger. Today we will be studying about a man that was cured of the terrible disease of leprosy by the Lord. God worked a great miracle in the life of that man when he was obedient to the commandment given by the Lord through Elisha. His obedience gives us a real picture of what happens to our sin when we place our trust in Christ. We are cleansed from our sin just as Naaman was cleansed of his leprosy.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how the Lord used Elisha to help a widow pay her bills.

Explain why God raised a dead boy back to life.

Explain how Naaman was healed of leprosy.

Explain how Elisha spoiled the plans of the army of Syria.

One day a widow came to Elisha. She said that a man was going to take her two sons and make them slaves because she could not pay her bills. Elisha then asked her what she had in her house. God often asks us to see what we have and then He uses the things that He has given us to bring glory to Himself. The woman answered that all she had was a pot of oil. Elisha told the woman to borrow all of the pots and jars that she could borrow from her neighbors. Once she had gathered these jars and pots she was to take them to her house and close the door.

Elisha told her to take her pot of oil and begin pouring the oil into these other pots and jars.

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1-24 and write what happened to the oil when the last pot was filled with oil.
2. Explain why God often chooses to use what we have already received to carry out the work that the Lord calls us to do.
3. Explain why you think that God is able to bring glory to Himself when He uses the things that He has already given us to carry out His commands.

God rewarded the woman according to her faith. Every single pot and jar that she had borrowed was filled. One the pots were all filled, the oil stopped. The woman was able to pay all of her bills and still have enough money left to provide for her future needs. The Lord chose to reward this woman according to her faith. One day as Elisha was traveling a woman invited him to eat lunch with the woman and her husband. This woman and her husband later built a small room where Elisha could stay whenever he passed through that area. Elisha wanted to reward the couple for their kindness. As a result, Elisha had his servant ask her if she had any particular needs.

4. Read 1 Kings 4:1-24 and write what Gehazi said that the woman did not have.

5. Explain why God chose to reward the faith of the woman by filling every pot and jar that she had borrowed with oil.

6. Explain why you think that Elisha wanted to know how he could reward the kindness that this husband and wife had shown to him.

Elisha called the woman and told her that God would give her and her husband a son. At first the woman thought that Elisha was telling a lie because her husband was old. However, the words of Elisha were fulfilled exactly as he had spoken them. This couple was rewarded for their faithfulness as God gave them a son. One day while the boy was out in the field a few years later his head began to hurt. His father had a servant take the boy to the house so his

mother could care for him. However, the boy died about noon. When the woman saw that her son was dead, she immediately went in search of Elisha. She recognized the power of God even though her son had died.

7. Read 2 Kings 4:1-24 and write the name of the place where the woman found Elisha.
8. Explain why God allowed this son to die after the Lord had been the One that had given them the child.
9. Explain what lessons you learn about faith for your own life from these verses.

As the woman went in search of Elisha, Elisha saw her coming. Elisha sent his servant to find out what was bothering the woman. When Gehazi met the woman, she did not tell him her problem. She wanted to talk personally with Elisha. The reason that she did not tell Gehazi her problem was because she could tell that he was not personally concerned about her need. This is shown by the fact that he tried to prevent her from bothering Elisha. When people sense a lack of concern and interest, they will not share their real needs. That is why we must have a real concern for the needs of others if we are going to be effective in ministering to them. Elisha heard what had happened to the child and sent Gehazi to go and see about the child. However, the woman refused to return home unless Elisha also went with her.

10. Read 2 Kings 4:25-44 and write what Gehazi said about the child when he met Elisha.
11. Explain why the woman did not tell Gehazi the reason that she wanted to talk to Elisha.
12. Explain why you think that many people are like Gehazi and are not concerned about the needs of others.

Gehazi was not really concerned about the woman and her child. However, Elisha went into the house and found that the child was dead. Then Elisha prayed to the Lord. The Lord heard the prayer of Elisha. When Elisha stretched himself on top of the child, life came back into the child and his body became warm again. When Elisha saw that the child was alive, he sent Gehazi to call the mother. Then he presented the child alive to his mother. As we compare the attitudes of Elisha and Gehazi, we see that Elisha had a personal concern for the needs of others. Elisha provides us with an example of the kind of concern that we should have for the people that are around us.

13. Read 2 Kings 4:25-44 and write to what place Elisha went next.
14. Explain why some people seem to have no concern for others while other people show a great concern for others.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the concern that Elisha had for the needs of others.

When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in that area of the land. One of the sons of the prophets gathered some wild gourds to make a stew. When the men started to eat the stew, they suddenly realized that it was poison and would kill them. Elisha immediately had them put meal in the pot and the stew became good to eat instead of poisonous. Another day there was not enough food and God increased the amount of food so that there was even extra food after one hundred men had eaten. These miracles show us that the Lord was blessing Elisha was a double portion of the blessing of Elijah just as the Lord had promised.

16. Read 2 Kings 4:25-44 and write what a man from Baal Shalisha brought to Elisha to help feed the prophets.
17. Explain what this chapter teaches about the personal concern of Elisha for the needs of others.
18. Explain why you think that God chose to multiply the food that was to given to Elisha so that it was more than enough to feed the one hundred men.

The land of Syria was north and east of the land of Israel. The leader of the army of Syria was a man named Naaman. Although Naaman was a great military leader, he also had a great problem. Naaman had the disease of leprosy and there was no cure for that disease. During

this time Israel and Syria had a war and Naaman brought a young girl that was captured to act as the servant for his wife. This young girl spoke one day and said that there was a prophet in Israel that could cure Naaman of his leprosy. That was great news both to the king of Syria and to Naaman. Then the king of Syria sent Naaman to the king of Israel so that Naaman could be cured of his leprosy.

19. Read 2 Kings 5:1-27 and write what the king of Syria said that he would send to the king of Israel.

20. Explain why the message of the young girl that the prophet in Israel could cure Naaman of his leprosy brought great hope to Naaman.

21. Explain why you think that this young girl had confidence that Elisha could heal Naaman of the leprosy.

The king of Syria did not get all of the details straight. As a result, in this letter the king of Syria told the king of Israel to heal Naaman of his leprosy. The king of Israel read the letter and thought that the king of Syria was looking for an excuse to start another war with Israel.

However, Elisha heard what had happened and sent a message to the king of Israel asking him why he was afraid. Elisha told the king to send Naaman to him and he would realize that there was a prophet in Israel. When Naaman reached the house of Elisha, a servant came out of the house and told him to go and wash seven times in the Jordan River.

22. Read 2 Kings 5:1-27 and write what the servant said would happen to Naaman if he washed himself seven times in the Jordan River.

23. Explain why Elisha sent the servant to tell Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River instead of going and telling Naaman himself.

24. Explain why you think that God caused Naaman to bring the letter from the king of Syria to the king of Israel instead of going directly to Elisha.

Naaman immediately became very angry. He had expected Elisha to come out of the house and touch him so that he would be cleansed of his leprosy. He left the house of Elisha in great anger. Then the servants of Naaman told him that he would have been willing to do some great work in order to be clean if Elisha would have asked him to do such a work. However, Elisha had said through the servant that all Naaman had to do was wash and he would be clean. Today many people are like Naaman was at first. They want to do some great work in order to earn their salvation rather than to allow Christ to make them clean. When Naaman heard the words of his servants, he went and washed himself seven times in the Jordan River and was healed. Then Naaman returned to Elisha and wanted to give Elisha a reward.

25. Read 2 Kings 5:1-27 and write what Elisha answered Naaman.

26. Explain why Elisha said that all that Naaman had to do was wash in the Jordan River and he would be cleansed of his leprosy.

27. Explain why you think that people need to realize that all they need to do for salvation is come to Christ and ask Him to wash away their sins.

Then Naaman realized that it was the power of God that had healed him. He said that he would no longer worship any other gods even though he had to go with the king of Syria to the house of the god, Rimmon, when the king went to worship. Meanwhile Gehazi had seen the reward that Naaman had offered to Elisha and decided to get part of that reward for himself. He followed Naaman and said that Elisha changed his mind about the reward and needed part of it to give to two men that had come to visit him. Naaman gladly gave part of the reward to Gehazi. For that sin God caused the leprosy that had been on Naaman to be on Gehazi and his family forever.

28. Read 2 Kings 5:1-27 and write the question that Elisha asked Gehazi when he returned from getting part of the reward that Naaman had offered to Elisha.

29. Explain why God said that the sin of Gehazi would cause he and his family to have the disease of leprosy in their family forever.

30. Explain why you think that Naaman said that he would no longer worship any other gods even though he had to go to the house of the god, Rimmon, to protect the king when the king went to worship his false god.

The Lord also used Elisha to do several other miracles. One day the sons of the prophets decided to increase the size of the building where they lived because the building was becoming too small. In that time it was very expensive to buy an ax and so they borrowed one. As they were cutting the trees for the addition to the building, the head of the ax fell into the Jordan River. Then the Lord told Elisha to throw a stick into the river. When Elisha obeyed, the head of the ax floated to the surface. One day the king of Syria decided to come and fight against Israel again. However, the Lord used Elisha to tell the king of Israel about the plans of the king of Syria.

31. Read 2 Kings 6:1-33 and write where Elisha was living at that time.

32. Explain why the Lord chose to cause the head of the ax to float when Elisha threw a stick into the river.

33. Explain what you think that the sons of the prophets learned about God as the Lord caused the head of the ax to float.

When the king of Syria learned that Elisha was telling the king of Israel his plans, the king of Syria sent a large army to Dothan to capture Elisha so that he could not continue to tell the king of Israel the plans of Syria. The servant of Elisha was filled with fear the next morning when he saw the city surrounded by the army of Syria. The servant thought that the end had come for Elisha. Then God opened the eyes of the servant and showed him a great army of horses and chariots of fire that the Lord had sent to protect Elisha. When Elisha prayed, the Lord blinded the entire army of the Syrians. Then Elisha told the army to follow him because they were in the wrong place.

34. Read 2 Kings 6:1-33 and write where Elisha led the army of Syria.

35. Explain why the servant of Elisha was not able to see the heavenly army that God had sent to protect Elisha until God opened the eyes of the servant.

36. Explain why this event causes you to realize that the Lord provides protection to His followers even when they may not see that protection.

When God opened the eyes of the Syrian army, they were surrounded by the army of Israel. The king of Israel wanted to know whether he should kill the Syrians. Instead Elisha told the king of Israel to feed the army of the Syrians and send them back to their master. Sometime later the king of Syria came again and surrounded the city of Samaria. The people could not get any food into the city and they became so hungry that they even paid money for a small amount of droppings from a bird. One day two women came to the king with a problem. They had become so hungry that they had agreed to eat their two sons. After they had eaten the son of the first woman, the second woman hid her son so that they could not eat him.

37. Read 2 Kings 6:1-33 and write what the king of Israel was wearing under his royal robe because of what was happening.

38. Explain why Elisha told the king of Israel to show kindness to the army of Syria and not to kill the men of the army.

39. Explain why you think that these women were willing to eat their children to try and satisfy their hunger.

The king of Israel did not want to admit that the war and famine had come to the nation of Israel because of his own sin. Instead the king decided to blame someone else. He decided to kill Elisha. Then the king sent a messenger to kill Elisha. The leaders of Israel were sitting in the house of Elisha when the messenger of the king approached. Elisha told the elders that a messenger was coming from the king. Elisha knew that the king would soon follow the messenger. In our next lesson we will learn what Elisha said to the king when he arrived.

40. Read 2 Kings 6:1-33 and write what Elisha told the elders to do to the messenger of the king when he entered the house.
41. Explain why Elisha told the elders of the people to hold the messenger of the king when he came to the house.
42. Explain why you think that the king decided to kill Elisha because the city of Samaria was suffering from the famine.

Now reread 2 Kings 4:1-6:33 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 11

2 Kings 7:1-9:37

In our last lesson we finished the lesson by seeing that the king of Israel had decided to kill Elisha because of the famine in the city. The elders of Israel had gathered at the house of Elisha and so they held the messenger of the king when he came to kill Elisha. Elisha knew that the king would soon follow his messenger. As we begin our lesson today, we will study the message that Elisha had for the king. That message was a message of good news. The people were almost ready to starve to death because of the famine that they were experiencing. The message of Elisha was that there would soon be plenty of food for the people.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how God supplied food for the people of Samaria.

Explain why the king returned the land of the Shunammite woman to her.

Explain what kind of leadership Judah had at this time.

Explain how Jehu judged the evil of Jezebel.

The people of the city of Samaria were starving because the city was surrounded by the army of the Syrians. The Syrians would not allow anyone to bring any food into the city. When the king reached the house of Elisha, he told the king that there would be plenty of food for all of the people the next day. The man that had come with the king to the house of Elisha immediately said that the words of Elisha were not true. Then Elisha spoke to the man that was with the king. Elisha told the man that was with the king that although there would be plenty of food the next day that the man would not have the opportunity to eat any of that food. Elisha told the man that he would see the food but that he would not get to eat any of the food.

1. Read 2 Kings 7:1-20 and write who was sitting just outside the gate of the city of Samaria.
2. Explain why Elisha told the man with the king that he would not have the opportunity to eat any food even though there would be plenty of food the next day.
3. Explain why you think that the man with the king told the king that the words of Elisha were not true words.

In that time the lepers usually had to beg for enough food to live. As a result, these men realized that there was very little hope for them. They would die from the famine if they were in the city. They would die from starvation if they remained outside of the gate of the city. As a result, they decided to go and beg from the Syrian army since all that the Syrians could do was either feed them or kill them. When the lepers reached the camp of the Syrians, they found that the camp of the Syrians was empty. God had caused the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and horses. The Syrian army thought that a great army had come to help the city of Samaria and so the Syrians had fled for their lives. The four lepers ate until they were full. Then they carried some money and clothes out of the camp and hid them.

4. Read 2 Kings 7:1-20 and write what the four men said to each other after they had done those things.
5. Explain how God had worked to cause the Syrians to think that there was a great army coming against them.
6. Explain why you think that these lepers realized that they needed to seek mercy from the Syrians or they would starve to death.

The four men realized that they had a responsibility to the people that were still inside the city of Samaria. They realized that they should go and tell the king that very night that the Syrians had fled. When the king heard the good news, he thought that the Syrians had set a trap to trick the people of the city to come out of the city. One of the servants of the king suggested that the

king send a few men down the road toward the Jordan River to see if they could find out whether it was a trap. As these men went down the road, they could see that the Syrians had left things all along the road as they tried to run faster in order to escape.

7. Read 2 Kings 7:1-20 and write what the people did when they realized that the Syrians had fled.

8. Explain why the four lepers realized that they had a responsibility to help the people that were starving in the city.

9. Explain why you think that the four lepers give us an example of the fact that we have a responsibility to tell the people about the good news of salvation.

The man that had called Elisha a liar was appointed by the king to be in charge of the gate of the city. In their hurry to get to the food, the people of the city ran right over this man because he was standing in the gateway. As a result, he was trampled to death by the people and the prophecy that he would see the food but would not eat of it was fulfilled exactly as Elisha had said. This is a real warning about the results of rejecting the words that God speaks. As we see in the case of this man, such rejection of what God has said will bring judgment.

10. Read 2 Kings 7:1-20 and write what the man had said that God would have to do in order for the people to have food the next day.

11. Explain why people need to realize that there are consequences when they reject the things that the Lord has said.

12. Explain how the words of the lepers in verse 9 apply to us today in our own lives.

Although God had delivered Israel from the Syrians, the people did not turn back to the Lord. Instead they continued to follow their sinful ways. As a result, God said that He was going to send a famine that would last for a total of seven years. Elisha was instructed to go to the woman whose son had been raised from the dead and warn her to leave the land for seven years so that she would not suffer from the famine that was going to come in the land. While she was gone, other people took possession of her house and land. Upon returning, the woman decided to go and ask the king if he would give instructions that her house and her land should be returned to her.

13. Read 2 Kings 8:1-15 and write to whom the king was talking when the woman arrived with her request.

14. Explain why God said that He was going to bring a famine on the land of Israel that would last for seven years.

15. Explain why you think that this woman decided to go to the king and ask him to give instructions so that her house and land would be returned to her.

The king had asked Gehazi to come and tell him about all of the great things that Elisha had done. Although the king refused to obey God, he was still curious about the way that the Lord was using Elisha. Just as Gehazi was telling the king about the boy being raised from the dead, the woman walked in and asked the king to restore her house and her land to her. Because the king had just heard how the son of the woman had been raised from the dead, the king ordered one of his officers to go and make certain that everything that had belonged to the woman was returned to her.

16. Read 2 Kings 8:1-15 and write where Elisha went during this time.

17. Explain how the Lord had prepared the heart of the king so that he responded favorably to the request of the woman for her house and land.

18. Explain why you think that the king was curious to hear about the great things that Elisha had done even though he refused to obey God himself.

One day Elisha went to visit the king of Syria. The king of Syria was sick when Elisha came to visit him. The king sent his servant, Hazael, to find out if he would recover from his sickness. Elisha told Hazael that the king would die. Then Elisha began to cry. When Hazael asked

Elisha why he was crying, Elisha said that he was crying because he knew that Hazael was going to do evil to the nation of Israel. He knew that Hazael would kill many of the people of Israel in very cruel ways. Then Elisha told Hazael that he was going to be the next king of Syria. Hazael told the king that he would recover even though Elisha had said that the king would die. The next day the king died and Hazael became the new king of Syria.

19. Read 2 Kings 8:1-15 and write what the king had spread over his face before he died.

20. Explain how these verses show that God is the One that is in control of all things.

21. Explain why you think that Elisha was filled with such great sorrow because of the evil that he knew that Hazael would do to the nation of Israel.

Meanwhile there were also things happening in the land of Judah while these things were happening in the land of Israel. Jehoshaphat was getting old and so his son Jehoram, began to rule with him. Jehoram was a very evil king. In an effort to establish peace between the countries of Israel and Judah, Jehoram had married the daughter of Ahab. As a result, Jehoram started following the evil ways of Ahab. Here we see that people can often be influenced for evil by the people that they marry. This gives us another reminder of the reason why God wants Christians to marry Christians so that they can serve the Lord together and not be encouraged to do evil.

22. Read 2 Kings 8:16-29 and write why God did not destroy the country of Judah even though Jehoram was a very evil king.

23. Explain why the wife of Jehoram helped her husband begin to follow the evil ways of her father.

24. Explain why you think that it is important for Christians to ask the Lord to lead them to a person that also follows the Lord when they are looking for a partner.

Although Jehoram was very evil, the Lord was still kind to Judah because of the promise that the Lord had made to David. The Lord will always keep His promises even when we fail to obey Him. However, the Lord did allow judgment to come on the nation of Judah in other ways. The nations of Edom and Libnah had both been serving Judah at that time. As a part of the judgment of Judah, the Lord led these nations to rebel against Judah. As a result, Judah did not receive riches from these countries any longer. After ruling for only eight years, Jehoram (Joram) died.

25. Read 2 Kings 8:16-29 and write who became the next king of the nation of Judah.

26. Explain why the Lord still continued to show kindness to Judah even though Judah was a very evil king.

27. Explain why you think that God shows that He will always keep His promises to those who trust in Him.

As you remember from earlier in this lesson, Jehoram had married, Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab. Ahaziah was the son of that marriage. Although Jehoram had also had children from other wives, the son of this very evil woman became the king of Judah. Ahaziah had been taught the evil ways of his grandfather by his mother and so he followed the evil actions of Ahab. Here we see a real warning about the danger of what can happen when a child of God marries one who totally rejects God. Here we see that the husband began to follow the evil ways of his wife. However, the son was even worse than the father that had married Athaliah.

28. Read 2 Kings 8:16-29 and write the name of the father of Athaliah.

29. Explain why the marriage of a Christian and an unbeliever can produce very evil children.

30. Explain why you think that Ahaziah chose to follow the evil ways of his mother and her family.

Now let us return to see what was happening in Israel while Ahaziah was the king in Judah. God had said that the family of Ahab would be destroyed. One day God told Elisha to go to Ramoth Gilead and anoint Jehu to be the next king of Israel. At that time the king of Judah was

visiting Joram, the king of Israel, at Jezreel. Joram had been injured while fighting against the Syrians. When Elisha anointed Jehu to be the king of Israel, he told Jehu that he was to completely destroy the family of Ahab. God also said that Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, would be eaten by the dogs.

31. Read 2 Kings 9:1-37 and write what the men in the house of Jehu did when he announced that he had been anointed as the next king of Israel.

32. Explain why Elisha had told Jehu that he was to completely destroy the family of Ahab.

33. Explain why you think that God had said that the entire family of Ahab needed to be destroyed.

As soon as Jehu was anointed as the king of Israel, he decided to go to Jezreel immediately before Joram heard that he was rebelling. When the guard of the city of Jezreel saw a chariot coming, he immediately told the king. The king sent a messenger to see who was coming. Jehu made the messenger follow behind him. Jehu did the same thing when a second messenger came. However, the watchman realized that it was Jehu that was coming because he had a reputation for being a wild chariot driver. Then Joram invited Ahaziah to go with him to meet Jehu.

34. Read 2 Kings 9:1-37 and write where the three men met.

35. Explain why the Lord had Elisha anoint Jehu to be the next king of Israel at the time that the king was visiting the king of Judah

36. Explain why you think that the way that Jehu drove the chariot caused the watchman to recognize that it was Jehu that was coming

Joram immediately wanted to know if the mission of Jehu was peaceful. Jehu said that there could be no peace as long as the immorality and witchcraft of Jezebel was practiced.

Immediately Joram realized that Jehu was rebelling and he ran to escape. Then Jehu shot and killed Joram with an arrow. Jehu told his men to dump the body of Joram on the land that had belonged to Naboth because Jehu had heard the prophecy that had been spoken against the family of Ahab. Jehu knew that the family was going to be judged by God because of what Ahab and Jezebel had done to Naboth. Jehu also killed Ahaziah, the king of Judah, because he was a grandson of Ahab.

37. Read 2 Kings 9:1-37 and write the next person that Jehu killed after he killed the two kings.

38. Explain why God said that the entire family of Ahab must be judged and destroyed.

39. Explain why you think that Jehu told his men to dump the body of Joram on the land that had belonged to Naboth.

After killing Joram and Ahaziah, Jehu rode on to the city of Jezreel. Jezebel had heard what Jehu had done and so she had painted her face. When she yelled at Jehu from an upstairs window, Jehu asked some men to throw her out the window. The fall killed Jezebel. Later Jehu told some men to go and bury the body of Jezebel. However, all the men could find was her head, her hands and her feet. The dogs had eaten the rest of her body just as God had prophesied. Here we see that God always keep His promises including those promises about judgment.

40. Read 2 Kings 9:1-37 and write the name of the prophet God had first used to give the prophecy against Jezebel.

41. Explain why Jehu decided later that he should send men to bury the body of Jezebel.

42. Explain why you think that Jehu chose to judge Jezebel by having some men throw her out the window.

Now reread 2 Kings 7:1-9:37 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings
Lesson 12
2 Kings 10:1-12:21

In our last lesson we learned that Jehu had become the king of Israel. When God had sent Elisha to anoint Jehu to be the next king of Israel, God had told Jehu to completely destroy the entire family of Ahab because of their sin and evil. Jehu began by killing the kings of Israel and Judah because they were both from the family of Ahab. Then Jehu killed Jezebel, the wife of Ahab. Today we will learn how the Lord used Jehu to completely destroy the family of Ahab. We will also learn about the great effect that the evil of Ahab had on the nation of Judah even though he had been the king of Israel and not Judah.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Jehu judged the family of Ahab.
- Explain how Jehu destroyed those who worshiped Baal.
- Explain how Athaliah was judged.
- Explain what kind of a king Joash was.

Jehu had been told to completely destroy the family of Ahab. However, it was a very large family because Ahab had seventy sons. Jehu sent a message to the leaders of Jezreel and told them to put one of the sons of Ahab on the throne of Israel so that the son could carry on the fight against Jehu. The leaders of the city of Jezreel were afraid that they and their city would be destroyed if Jehu came to fight against them because Jehu had already killed two kings. As a result, these leaders sent a message to Jehu saying that they would rather serve Jehu instead of serving the family of Ahab. They said that they would do whatever Jehu requested them to do. Jehu agreed to meet the men if they would do one thing.

1. Read 2 Kings 10:1-17 and write what Jehu told the leaders of Jezreel to bring with them the next day.
2. Explain why the leaders of Jezreel said that they would rather serve Jehu than serve the family of Ahab.
3. Explain why you think that many people are so controlled by fear that they make their decisions because of fear.

Jehu agreed not to fight against the city of Jezreel if the men of the city would bring him the heads of the seventy sons of Ahab. The men of Jezreel quickly obeyed the words of Jehu. They killed the seventy sons of Ahab and put the heads in baskets and sent the baskets to Jehu. The next morning Jehu went to the gate of the city of Jezreel and saw the heads of the sons of Ahab stacked in two piles. Then he knew that the Lord was fulfilling His promise that the entire family of Ahab would be destroyed. Jehu also killed all of the close friends and priests of Ahab so that none of those who were loyal to the family of Ahab remained.

4. Read 2 Kings 10:1-17 and write where Jehu went after he had destroyed the seventy sons of Ahab.
5. Explain why Jehu was very quick to follow the instructions of the Lord to destroy the entire family of Ahab.
6. Explain why you think that Jehu asked the men to bring him the heads of the seventy sons of Ahab if they were going to follow him as king.

A group of people met Jehu in Samaria. They had come to Samaria to visit Joram and the rest of the family of Ahab. Since they were related to Ahaziah, they were probably also a part of the family of Ahab. They had not heard what had happened to the family of Ahab. Then Jehu took these men and put them to death also. He also put all of those from the family of Ahab that

lived in the city of Samaria to death. Only the daughter of Ahab, Athaliah, remained alive of the family of Ahab. Because he was obeying the commandment of the Lord, Jehu invited Jehonadab to come with him and see that he was completely destroying the family of Ahab.

7. Read 2 Kings 10:1-17 and write the name of the father of Jehonadab.

8. Explain why God said that it was necessary for Jehu to kill so many men and completely destroy the family of Ahab.

9. Explain why you think that Jehu said that it was his zeal for the Lord that was leading him to destroy the entire family of Ahab.

In addition to destroying the family of Ahab, Jehu also destroyed the followers of Baal. Jehu did this by deceiving the leaders of the Baal worshipers. Jehu said that he wanted all of the prophets of Baal to gather together so that he could offer a great sacrifice to Baal. He said that any of the priests of Baal that did not come to this great sacrifice would be put to death. On the appointed day a great crowd of Baal worshipers gathered to offer a sacrifice to Baal. These people filled the building that was used for the worship of Baal. In preparation for the sacrifice, each of the worshipers of Baal was given a special robe.

10. Read 2 Kings 10:18-36 and write who Jehu took with him to make certain that all of the people that were gathered were worshipers of Baal.

11. Explain why Jehu told the leaders of the Baal worshipers that he wanted every single one of them to come together for a great sacrifice to Baal.

12. Explain why you think that each of the worshipers of Baal was given a special robe for the sacrifice.

Jehu wanted to make certain that there was no a single person inside the house of Baal that was a worshiper of the Lord. While all of the Baal worshipers were gathered inside, Jehu sent guards to each of the entrances to the house of Baal to make certain that no one escaped. Then when the Baal worshipers had finished offering their sacrifice, Jehu sent his soldiers into the house of Baal to kill every single person that was inside the house of Baal. All of the worshipers of Baal were killed. Then the images of Baal were taken outside and burned. In this way the worship of Baal was destroyed in the country of Israel in one day.

13. Read 2 Kings 10:18-36 and write whose sins Jehu continued to follow even though he had destroyed the worshipers of Baal.

14. Explain why Jehu wanted to make certain that he killed every single one of the worshipers of Baal so that none remained.

15. Explain why you think that God chose to use Jehu to destroy the worship of Baal in the land of Israel.

God rewarded Jehu for destroying the family of Ahab and the worshipers of Baal by promising Jehu that four more generations from the family of Jehu would rule over the nation of Israel. However, Jehu did not worship God or lead the people to follow the Lord. Instead he led the people of Israel in the worship of the two golden calves that Jeroboam had made. As a result of this sin, God allowed the king of Syria to capture that part of the nation of Israel that was located east of the Jordan River. When Jehu died, his son Jehoahaz became the new king of Israel.

16. Read 2 Kings 10:18-36 and write how many years Jehu had ruled over the nation of Israel.

17. Explain why the Lord promised Jehu that his family would rule Israel for four generations even though Jehu still worshiped the golden calves.

18. Explain why you think that Jehu chose to worship the two golden calves even though God made a great promise to his family.

Next we turn to see what was happening in the land of Judah during the time that Jehu was destroying the family of Ahab and the worshipers of Baal. Jehu had been able to destroy all of

the family of Ahab except for his daughter, Athaliah. Since she had married the king of Judah, her son Ahaziah had become the king of Israel. As we have seen, Ahaziah had been killed by Jehu. When Athaliah heard that Ahaziah had been killed by Jehu, she decided to kill all of the sons of the king that had a right to the throne so that she could rule the country. However, the sister of Ahaziah was able to protect one small boy that had the right to be the king of Judah.

19. Read 2 Kings 11:1-21 and write the name of that boy that was protected from Athaliah.

20. Explain why Satan led Athaliah to try to kill all of the sons of the king that had a right to the throne of Judah.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord used the sister of Ahaziah to preserve one person from those who had a right to the throne of the nation of Judah.

After killing all of the sons of the king except the one that she did not know about, Athaliah ruled the country of Judah for six years. Then when Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada, the priest, showed Joash to all of the leaders of Judah. Then Jehoiada divided the guard into three groups so that they could protect Joash from Athaliah. Each of these three groups was given instructions about what they were to do and where they were to stand. On the appointed Sabbath day, all of these men of the guard took their appointed places. They were ready to protect Joash from anything that Athaliah might try to do. Once everyone was in place, the priest gave something to each of the leaders of one hundred men.

22. Read 2 Kings 11:1-21 and write what the priest gave to these men.

23. Explain why Jehoiada kept Joash hidden in the house of the Lord for six years before showing him to the leaders of Judah.

24. Explain why you think that God was working to protect the family line of David by protecting Joash from Athaliah.

Once the captains had given these spears and shields to the men, Jehoiada had made every possible effort to protect Joash from Athaliah. There was a solid line of soldiers from one side of the temple to the other side. Then Jehoiada brought out the crown and placed it on the head of Joash. All of the men were filled with joy and began to clap their hands. They also shouted, "God save the king." Athaliah heard the noise in the temple and decided that she better investigate and see what was happening in the temple. When Athaliah came into the temple, she saw Joash standing by a pillar of the temple with the crown on his head.

25. Read 2 Kings 11:1-21 and write what Athaliah shouted when she what was happening in the temple.

26. Explain why all of the men were filled with joy when the crown of Judah was placed on the head of Joash.

27. Explain why you think that Athaliah came to investigate the noise in the temple to see what was happening in the temple.

Athaliah was filled with anger when she saw that the people had anointed Joash as the king of Judah and she cried, "Treason, Treason." She said that all of these men that were involved were guilty of treason. Actually she was the one that was guilty of treason because she had killed all of the descendants of David that had a right to the throne except Joash. Then she had made herself queen even though she had no right to be the queen. Jehoiada immediately ordered the guards to capture Athaliah and all that followed her. The guards took her out of the temple. They led her down the path that the horses used to go to the palace and killed her.

28. Read 2 Kings 11:1-21 and write what kind of a covenant Jehoiada made with the people of Judah.

29. Explain why Athaliah accused the leaders of Israel of being guilty of treason when she was the one that was actually guilty of treason.

30. Explain why you think that people that are guilty of sin often accuse others of the very sins that they are committing.

Jehoiada also led the people of Judah to destroy all of the altars and images of Baal. Then he killed the priest of Baal. The people of Judah were filled with joy when they saw that Athaliah had been killed and they now had their own king again. Joash (Jehoash) ruled over the land of Judah for a total of forty years. Jehoash did the things that were right in the sight of the Lord. This happened because Jehoiada took the time to teach Jehoash the Word of God so that he knew and could obey the Word of God. This gives us an example of the importance of taking time to teach the Word of God to children as well as young people and adults so that they will know how to obey the Lord and follow Him.

31. Read 2 Kings 12:1-21 and write the one thing that the king failed to do.

32. Explain why it is important to teach leaders the Word of God if we want them to be obedient to the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for you to both teach young people and adults the Word of God and also show them how to obey it.

Many of the people of Judah still continued to worship idols even though they no longer worshiped Baal. Jehoash gave instructions to the priests and told them that they were to take the money that was brought to the temple and use it to repair the temple. However, the priests did not do as they were told. Instead nothing was done to repair the temple for twenty-three years. Then the king called Jehoiada and asked him why the temple had not been repaired. The priests had been keeping the money for themselves instead of using the money to repair the temple.

34. Read 2 Kings 12:1-21 and write what Jehoiada did to start gathering the money to repair the temple.

35. Explain why the priests did nothing to repair the temple even though that is what they had been instructed to do.

36. Explain why you think that the priests were keeping the money for themselves instead of using it to repair the temple.

All of the people that wanted to give special gifts to repair the temple were to have the priests put their gifts in the chest that was set beside the altar. Soon the chest had much money in it. Then the money was used to hire workmen to repair the temple. In addition, the priests did not need to check on the men that were caring for the money because they were faithful men. This is the kind of men that God wants all of us to be. When we are faithful, the Lord can use us to serve Him in many ways. The Lord looks for faithful people.

37. Read 2 Kings 12:1-21 and write what money belonged to the priests to meet their needs.

38. Explain why a special chest was placed beside the altar so that the people could give their special gifts for the repairs on the temple.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the way that the Lord worked through the people to repair the temple.

One day the king of Syria decided to come and fight against the city of Jerusalem. Instead of fighting, Jehoash decided to give the king of Syria all of the gold that was in the temple. Jehoash sent the gold to the king of Syria and the king of Syria returned to his own land instead of fighting against the people of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. One day the servants of Jehoash began to plot against him. Then these servants killed Jehoash and made his son the king of Judah instead.

40. Read 2 Kings 12:1-21 and write the name of the new king of Judah.

41. Explain why Jehoash chose to give the gold in the temple to the king of Syria instead of trying to fight against him.

42. Explain why you think that king of Syria was willing to take the gold and return to his own land instead of fighting against Judah.

Now reread 2 Kings 10:1-12:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you

learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings
Lesson 13
2 Kings 13:1-15:38

As we have been studying the book of 2 Kings, we have read much about the life of Elisha. We have seen that the Lord rewarded his request for a double blessing of the ministry of Elijah. Today we will be studying the final part of the life of Elisha. Even after the death of Elisha, one more miracle happened as a result of the way that the Lord worked through Elisha. As we study our lesson today, we will also learn more about the failures of the nations of Israel and Judah because they failed to obey the Lord and serve Him. The failures of the people of these two countries give us some warnings for our own lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the miracle that happened at the tomb of Elisha.
- Tell about the fighting that occurred between Israel and Judah.
- Explain what the kings of Israel were like during this time.
- Explain what the kings of Judah were like during this time.

Jehoahaz was the king of Israel during this period. Like his father he encouraged the people of Israel to worship the golden calves that Jeroboam had made. As a result, God allowed the Syrians to punish Israel. Then Jehoahaz prayed to God and asked God to help Israel and deliver them from the armies of Syria. The Lord heard the prayer of the king of Israel. Here we see that sometimes God will even answer the prayer of a person that does not worship and serve Him. However, the people of Israel forgot about the Lord as soon as they were free from the Syrians. They continued to worship their idols. Today many people still pray to God when they are in trouble and then forget God once the trouble is past.

1. Read 2 Kings 13:1-25 and write who became the king of Israel when Jehoahaz died.
2. Explain why many people pray to the Lord when they are in trouble and then forget the Lord as soon as the trouble is past.
3. Explain why you think that God will sometimes answer the prayers of a person that does not worship Him.

For a few years the kings of Israel and Judah both had the same names. As a result, it is necessary to notice the name of the country as well as the name of the king while you are studying this section. One day Elisha became sick and so the king of Israel came to visit him. Even though the king did not worship the Lord, he had a great respect for Elisha. Elisha told the king to take his bow and arrows and do some very unusual things. First the king was told to shoot an arrow out the window. Elisha said that the arrow was a sign that the Lord would deliver Israel from Syria. Then Elisha told the king to hit the ground with his arrows.

4. Read 2 Kings 13:1-25 and write how many times the king hit the ground with his arrows.
5. Explain why Elisha use the bow and arrows of the king of Israel to give him a visual lesson about what the Lord was going to do.
6. Explain why you think that the king of Israel had developed a great respect for Elisha even though the king did not worship the Lord.

Elisha was angry when the king hit the ground with the arrows only three times. He had wanted him to hit the ground several more times. Elisha told the king that the number of times that he had hit the ground with the arrows was the number of victories that Israel would win over Syria. If he would have hit the ground several more times, Israel would have completely destroyed Syria. Elisha died a short time later. Some men were burying a body near the grave of Elisha some time later. When a group of Moabites appeared, these men threw the body in the grave of

Elisha and fled. When the body touched the bones of Elisha, it came back to life. Israel also regained the land that had been taken from Israel by Syria when they defeated Syria the three times that Elisha had predicted.

7. Read 2 Kings 13:1-25 and write why the Lord was gracious to the nation of Israel.
8. Explain why God said that He would only give Israel as many victories over Syria as the number of times that the king had hit the ground with the arrows.
9. Explain what these verses teach you about the power of God over all things.

Meanwhile things were going a little bit differently in the land of Judah. Amaziah was a good king and did right in the sight of God. He followed the commandments in the law and put the men to death that had murdered his father. However, there were also some failures in the life of Amaziah. He failed to destroy the high places where the people were worshiping false gods. As a result, the people continued to offer incense to idols instead of serving the Lord. Although Amaziah did right in the sight of God, he failed to take real spiritual leadership among the people. We also see that there was one other sin in his life that had a great impact.

10. Read 2 Kings 14:1-29 and write the message that Amaziah sent to Jehoash.
11. Explain why it is possible for a leader to do what is right in the sight of God in his personal life but fail to provide real spiritual leadership to the people that he is leading.
12. Explain why you think that Amaziah failed to destroy the high places where the people worshiped their false gods.

Here we see that Amaziah also became proud and wanted to show his power against the army of Israel. The king of Israel warned Amaziah that he had become proud because of his victory over Edom and suggested that Amaziah not try to fight with him. When Amaziah decided to fight anyway, the army of Israel defeated the army of Judah. The army of Israel also broke down six hundred feet of the wall of Jerusalem. Then the king of Israel took all of the gold and silver that was stored in the temple at Jerusalem. He also took some of the people as slaves. This is a real warning about the dangers of pride. Here we see that the pride of Amaziah caused great suffering and much loss to the people of the nation of Judah.

13. Read 2 Kings 14:1-29 and write who became the king when Amaziah died.
14. Explain what these verses teach about the consequences of the pride of Amaziah for the nation of Judah.
15. Explain why you think that many people become filled with pride and think that they have done what they have done in their own strength.

We also read about the way that Amaziah died. One day a group of men began to plot against him. As a result, he fled from the city of Jerusalem to Lachish. However, he could not escape the men that had conspired against him. They caught him in the city of Lachish and killed him there. Then they made his son Azariah (Uzziah) their king even though he was only sixteen years old. One of the things that Azariah did was build the city of Elath. This was a seaport on the Red Sea so that he was able to trade with new countries. This port greatly increased trade in the land of Judah.

16. Read 2 Kings 14:1-29 and write who became the king of Israel when Joash died.
17. Explain why the building of a seaport on the Red Sea made it possible for Judah to establish trade with many additional countries.
18. Explain why you think that the group of men began to conspire against Amaziah and then put him to death.

The man that became king in Israel is the second king of Israel that was named Jeroboam that served as the king of the nation of Israel. This Jeroboam was an evil king and committed the same sins that the first Jeroboam had committed. Even though Jeroboam was an evil king, the Lord used him to bring a certain amount of freedom to the land of Israel. The Lord saw how much suffering the people of Israel were experiencing. As a result, the Lord fulfilled a

prophecy that He had spoken through Jonah, the prophet. The Lord showed this kindness because He had promised that He would not completely destroy Israel. When Jeroboam died, his son, Zechariah, became the king.

19. Read 2 Kings 14:1-29 and write the name of the home town of Jonah, the prophet.

20. Explain why the Lord showed kindness to the nation of Israel even though the people were not serving the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord shows compassion to many unbelievers during their times of suffering.

Azariah became the king of Judah when he was only sixteen years of age. He then ruled the nation of Judah for a total of fifty-two years. Azariah did what was right in the sight of the Lord except for one thing. He failed to destroy the places where the people of Judah worshiped idols. As a result, the people of Judah continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense to their idols. God brought judgment on Azariah because he failed to become a spiritual leader to the people of Judah. Here we see that one of the desires of the Lord is that godly leaders have an influence on the spiritual development of the people as well as leading them. God caused Azariah to get leprosy. This leprosy remained with him for the rest of his life.

22. Read 2 Kings 15:1-18 and write who became the king of the nation of Judah when Azariah died.

23. Explain why it is the desire of God for godly leaders to have an influence on the spiritual development of people as well as exercise political leadership.

24. Explain why you think that several of the kings of Judah that personally obeyed the Lord failed to take spiritual leadership and lead the people to turn to the Lord.

Azariah was the ruler of the land of Judah for a long time. However, the kings of Israel were changing much faster because of their sins. Zechariah only ruled the nation of Israel for six months. During those few months he continued to cause the nation of Israel to sin. One day a man by the name of Shallum decided to kill Zechariah and make himself the king. Shallum carried out his plan in front of the people and made himself the king. The death of Zechariah and his replacement by a king from another family fulfilled a prophecy that the Lord had spoken to Jehu. The Lord had promised that four generations of the family of Jehu would serve as the kings of Israel after the reign of Jehu over Israel.

25. Read 2 Kings 15:1-18 and write how long Shallum ruled over Israel in Samaria.

26. Explain why it was possible for Zechariah to cause the nation of Israel to sin even though he only ruled for a few months.

27. Explain how the Lord kept His promise to Jehu even though Jehu and his descendants did not serve the Lord.

Shallum had become the king of Israel by murdering the former king of Israel. He reaped the consequences of his own sin. He only ruled for one month before he was murdered by Menahem. Here we see a good example of the fact that people will reap what they sow. Menahem was also a very evil man. He continued to lead Israel to follow the evil ways of the former kings of Israel. As we have been studying the kings of the people of Israel, we have seen that every single king of the nation of Israel was evil. Not a single king of Israel served the Lord. This was why it was necessary for the Lord to bring judgment on many of the kings of Israel.

28. Read 2 Kings 15:1-18 and write whose sins Menahem followed all the time that he ruled the nation of Israel.

29. Explain why the Lord chose to bring judgment on many of the kings of Israel because of their sins.

30. Explain what warnings you learn for your own life from the lives of the evil kings of Israel from these verses.

One day the king of Assyria invaded the land of Israel. Menahem was forced to give the king of Assyria one thousand talents of silver in order to keep his throne. We will see that the kings of Assyria kept coming back to fight against Israel until they destroyed Israel. As a result, that was the nation that caused more and more suffering to the people of Israel. When Menahem died, his son Pekahiah became the new king of Israel. However, he was just as evil as his father. As a result, he continued to lead the nation of Israel the wrong way just as all of the previous kings had done. Over and over again we have been reminded that evil leaders will lead the people that they are leading to follow their evil ways.

31. Read 2 Kings 15:19-38 and write how long Pekahiah ruled over the nation of Israel.

32. Explain why Assyria kept coming back to fight against Israel until they destroyed the nation of Israel.

33. Explain why the choices of the people of Israel to continue to do evil made it necessary for the Lord to allow them to experience more and more suffering.

Pekahiah had only been the king of Israel for two years when one of the leaders of his army began to plot against him. Pekah took fifty men with him and they put the king to death. However, Pekah was no better than any of the previous kings of Israel. He also followed the ways of Jeroboam and caused the people to worship the two golden calves that Jeroboam had made. Pekah thought that he would not be judged for his sin of murder because he ruled the country for many years. Today there are also many people that think that they can escape the judgment of God when they are not judged by God immediately. However, judgment will come one day.

34. Read 2 Kings 15:19-38 and write how many years Pekah ruled the nation of Israel.

35. Explain why Pekah thought that the Lord would not judge him for his sin.

36. Explain why you think that many people think that God does not know about their sins when He does not judge them immediately.

The king of Assyria came to fight against the nation of Israel while Pekah was the king of Israel. The king of Assyria won a great victory against the north part of the nation of Israel. All of the people that Assyria captured in the northern part of Israel were taken to the land of Assyria. Here we see that the Lord is beginning to take the people of Israel out of their land because of their sin. Then a man by the name of Hoshea killed Pekah and made himself the king of Israel. Here we see that Pekah reaped exactly what he had sown when he killed Pekahiah twenty years earlier. God says that people will reap the consequences of their sins and that is exactly what happened.

37. Read 2 Kings 15:19-38 and write who became the king of Judah while Pekah was ruling in Israel.

38. Explain why God caused Pekah and the other kings of the nation of Israel to reap exactly what they had sown.

39. Explain why you think that the Assyrians took the people that they captured in the northern part of Israel to Assyria.

Meanwhile Jotham had become the king of Judah. He was a good king but he failed in the same areas that his father and grandfather had failed. He failed to destroy the high places where the people were offering sacrifices and incense to idols. As a result of this failure, the Lord allowed the surrounding nations to come and fight against Judah. During the time that Jotham was the king of Judah, both Israel and Syria came and fought against Judah. Here we are reminded again that sin will always bring judgment. Jotham had not destroyed the high places where the people were offering sacrifices and incense to idols so God allowed these nations to come and fight against Judah.

40. Read 2 Kings 15:19-38 and write who became the king of Judah when Jotham died.

41. Explain why the people of Judah continued to offer sacrifices and incense to idols even though they had several godly kings.

42. Explain why you think that many people are deceived into thinking that idols made of wood

or stone can help them.

Now reread 2 Kings 13:1-15:38 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings
Lesson 14
2 Kings 16:1-18:37

As we have studied the history of the nation of Israel, we have read over and over again how the people of Israel followed false gods. We have seen many times that they did evil in the sight of the Lord. Every single king of Israel from the time that Israel and Judah became separate nations was an evil king. Today we will see that God finally brought the long promised judgment on the nation of Israel for their sin. God had warned the people of Israel that they would be taken out of their land and scattered among the nations if they continued to do evil. We will see that is exactly what happened to the nation of Israel in the chapters that we will be studying today.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what we learn about King Ahaz.
- Explain why the nation of Israel was taken out of its land.
- Explain how the judgment of Israel was a warning to Judah.
- Tell how Rabshakeh threatened the city of Jerusalem.

Ahaz became the king of Judah when he was twenty years old. There had been several good kings in Judah. However, Ahaz was a very evil king and followed the sinful ways of the kings of Israel. He caused his son to walk through a fire as a sacrifice to his false gods. He also burned incense and offered sacrifices to his gods on the tops of the hills. Then the king of Syria came to fight against the city of Jerusalem. Instead of confessing his sins and turning to the Lord for help, Ahaz sent messengers to the king of Assyria to ask him for help to fight against Syria. Ahaz said that he would serve the king of Assyria if the king would help him fight against Syria.

1. Read 2 Kings 16:1-20 and write what Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria from the house of the Lord.
2. Explain how the fact that Ahaz forced his son to walk through a fire as a sacrifice to his false gods shows that Ahaz was involved in a demonic form of worship.
3. Explain why you think that many people are willing to sacrifice the lives of their children to satisfy the desires of those people to please themselves.

Because Ahaz did not trust in the Lord, the only way that he could see to have victory over the enemy was to take what belonged to the Lord and use it to hire the king of Assyria to fight against the Syrians. The king of Assyria went and fought against Syria and captured the city of Damascus. Ahaz then went to Damascus to meet with the king of Assyria. While in Damascus, Ahaz saw an altar that he liked. He immediately copied the plan of that altar and sent the plan back to the priest in Jerusalem. The priest followed the plan that Ahaz had sent to him and built an altar just like it before the king returned to Jerusalem.

4. Read 2 Kings 16:1-20 and write what the king did when he saw that altar that the priest had built for him.
5. Explain how Ahaz showed by his desire for an altar like the one that he saw in Damascus that he was open to many forms of false worship.
6. Explain why you think that the priest in Jerusalem was ready to built an altar like Ahaz desired instead of reminding him of the importance of worshiping the true God.

Ahaz now had his own altar on which to offer sacrifices and worship the gods that he had chosen to follow. Then Ahaz took the bronze altar out of the temple and set it on the north side of his altar. Ahaz told the priest what kind of sacrifices should be offered on this new altar. Here we see that Ahaz wanted to make his own form of worship instead of serving the Lord.

Today many people are doing the same thing that Ahaz did. Instead of serving the Lord and obeying the Word of God, they are developing their own form of worship. They are really seeking to please themselves instead of worshiping the true and the living God.

7. Read 2 Kings 16:1-20 and write who became the king of Judah when Ahaz died.

8. Explain why Ahaz developed his own form of false worship as he continued to follow his own evil ways.

9. Explain why you think that many people want to develop their own form of worship instead of serving Christ.

We saw that Hoshea had become the king of Israel. Then the army of the nation of Assyria came against Israel and forced Israel to pay yearly taxes. One year Hoshea decided not to pay the taxes. As a result, the king of Assyria came and fought against Israel for three years. When the king of Assyria captured Israel, he decided to move the people to other lands so that they would not be tempted to rebel against him. Although the king of Assyria did not realize it, he was actually fulfilling the prophecy that God had made. God had said that Israel would be scattered among the nations if the people continued to rebel against Him and live in sin.

10. Read 2 Kings 17:1-23 and write what the children of Israel did secretly.

11. Explain why Hoshea thought that he could stop paying taxes to the king of Assyria even though Assyria was a much stronger nation.

12. Explain why you think that the king of Assyria decided to move the people of Israel to other lands.

Here we are given a list of the things that the people of Israel did that brought this judgment that caused them to be scattered among the nations. The people of Israel thought that they were doing these things secretly because they did not realize that God knows all things. The people followed the gods and the actions of the nations around them. They set up idols on the hills and under the trees. Then the people offered incense to those idols. They also did other evil things to provoke the anger of the Lord. Because of His love for the people of Israel, the Lord sent prophets among the people to warn them to turn from their evil ways.

13. Read 2 Kings 17:1-23 and write what the people did when God sent His prophets among them.

14. Explain what this chapter teaches about the false worship of the people of Israel in the period just before they were scattered among the other nations.

15. Explain why you think that the people of Israel thought that they were carrying out these false religious practices secretly and did not think that God would know.

The people of Israel completely rejected the Word of God and followed the gods of the nations around them. The people worshiped the stars and served Baal. They caused their children to go through great fires as sacrifices to their gods. Instead of following the Word of God, they followed fortune tellers, astrologers and those who cast evil spells. They sold themselves to do evil. They were not just satisfied to do evil themselves. They also encouraged the people of Judah to join them in their evil ways. These were the reasons why it became necessary for God to judge His people and take them out of the land that He had given to them.

16. Read 2 Kings 17:1-23 and write in whose sins the people of Israel walked until the time that the Lord removed Israel from the land.

17. Explain what these verses teach about the sins of the people of Israel that caused them to be taken out of their land and scattered among the nations.

18. Explain why you think that the people of Israel sold themselves to do evil and encouraged the people of Judah to join them in their evil.

Because the people of Israel were taken out of their own land, the king of Assyria decided to send people of other lands to live in the land that had belonged to the nation of Israel. Then God sent lions into the land. These lions killed some of these foreigners that the king of

Assyria had sent into the land of Israel. The king of Assyria then sent a priest of Israel to teach the people about God so that the lions would not kill the people any more. These people became part of the ancestors of the Samaritans. The priest taught the people about God and instructed them to fear and serve Him. The priest told the people that they should not serve other gods. He promised that the Lord would deliver them from their enemies if they would put their trust in the Lord instead of the gods that they served.

19. Read 2 Kings 17:24-41 and write what these nations did because they did not listen to the Word of the Lord.

20. Explain why the priest taught the people the importance of fearing God and serving Him only if they wanted God to deliver them from their enemies.

21. Explain why you think that God wanted these new people in the land to be instructed about the importance of fearing and serving the Lord.

Today many people are afraid of the Lord because they recognize His great power. However, many of these people are like the people of Israel and the people that were resettled in the land of Israel. They may fear the Lord but they continue to serve other things. Here we see that God had to judge the nation of Israel because of the choices that they made. Meanwhile in the land of Judah Hezekiah had become the new king. Hezekiah had his trust in the Lord and so he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. Hezekiah destroyed the high places where the people were worshipping idols. He also destroyed the bronze serpent that Moses had made in the wilderness because the people began to worship the bronze serpent.

22. Read 2 Kings 18:1-16 and write how the Lord blessed Hezekiah because he chose to follow the Lord.

23. Explain what kind of a fear people are talking about when the people say that they fear God but then continue to serve other gods.

24. Explain why you think that Hezekiah made it a priority to destroy the high places where the people of Judah were worshipping idols.

Hezekiah trusted the Lord with a much greater trust than any of the previous kings of Judah from the time that the nation had been divided into two nations. Hezekiah kept the commandments of the Lord and did not depart from them. As a result, the Lord blessed him. Then Hezekiah refused to pay taxes to the king of Assyria any longer. The Lord also gave Hezekiah victory over the Philistines. It was during this very time that the king of Assyria captured the nation of Israel and took the people of Israel as captives to another land.

25. Read 2 Kings 18:1-16 and write the name of the king that came to fight against Judah.

26. Explain why Hezekiah chose to have a godly fear of the Lord instead of a worldly fear of the king of Assyria.

27. Explain why you think that Hezekiah focused on keeping the commandments of the Lord and not departing from them.

Sennacherib was the king of Assyria. He was angry because Judah had stopped paying taxes to him. As a result, Sennacherib destroyed some of the cities of Judah. Then Hezekiah decided to send some silver and gold to the king of Assyria so that he would not try to destroy Jerusalem. The king of Assyria had destroyed some of the other cities of Judah as he had come through the land as he brought his army against Jerusalem. This was the reason why Hezekiah decided to give silver and gold to Sennacherib rather than have the city of Jerusalem destroyed.

28. Read 2 Kings 18:1-16 and write how much gold and silver Sennacherib asked Hezekiah to pay to keep from destroying Jerusalem.

29. Explain why Sennacherib destroyed some of the other cities of Judah on his way to Jerusalem to show his power.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the choices that Hezekiah made when he became the king of Judah.

However, the king of Assyria was not satisfied with the silver and the gold that Hezekiah had sent to him. Instead he wanted to destroy Jerusalem just as he had destroyed many other cities. As a result, Sennacherib sent a very large army against the city of Jerusalem. The leader of the army of Assyria named Rabshakeh called to Hezekiah and told him to send out a man to talk to him. The leader of the army of Assyria asked who the people of Judah thought would protect them from the great power of the Assyrian army. He told Hezekiah and the other people that it would do them no good to ask the king of Egypt for help because Egypt was weak.

31. Read 2 Kings 18:17-37 and write what he said would happen to the hand that leaned on the staff of Egypt.

32. Explain why the leader of the army of Assyria began to boast to Hezekiah and the people of Judah that no one could protect them from his power.

33. Explain why you think that the Assyrians became filled with pride because of their military victories over other nations.

We have seen though that Hezekiah and the people of Judah were not depending on Egypt to come and protect them. Instead their trust was in the Lord. The leader of the Assyrian army said that Israel could not trust in God because Hezekiah had destroyed all of the altars and told the people that they must worship in Jerusalem. Here we see that Rabshakeh, the leader of the Assyrian army had no understanding of the true and living God. All that he knew was the worship of idols. Rabshakeh told the people of Judah to serve the king of Assyria because he was the one that had great power.

34. Read 2 Kings 18:17-37 and write what language the men from Hezekiah told Rabshakeh to speak.

35. Explain why the leaders of Assyria showed by their words that they had no understanding of the true and living God.

36. Explain why you think that Hezekiah was depending on the Lord and not some other nation to deliver them from the Assyrians.

The people on the walls of Jerusalem were close enough so that they could hear everything that Rabshakeh was saying. Instead of listening to the servants of Hezekiah, Rabshakeh began shouting even louder to the people on the walls of the city of Jerusalem. He told the people that Hezekiah was trying to deceive them. He told them that the Lord could not help the people of Judah because the king of Assyria was so great and so powerful. Here we see that the leader of the Assyrian army was totally controlled by pride.

37. Read 2 Kings 18:17-37 and write what kind of a land the leader of the Assyrian army said he would take them to if they surrendered to him.

38. Explain what this passage shows about the pride of the Assyrians and the leader of their army.

39. Explain why you think that Rabshakeh shouted to the people of Jerusalem that Hezekiah was trying to deceive them.

Rabshakeh told the people of Judah that they would be taken to a very good land if they would surrender to him. It would be a land where the people would have plenty to eat. It would be a land where the people would be able to live instead of die. The leader of the Assyrians said that the people of Judah should make the choice to surrender to him because no gods could help them. Then Rabshakeh reminded them that the gods of Israel had not been able to help the people of Israel. Here we see again that Rabshakeh had no understanding of the true and living God. However, the people on the walls of Jerusalem did not answer a word.

40. Read 2 Kings 18:17-37 and write what the king had commanded the people of the city of Jerusalem.

41. Explain why the people on the wall of Jerusalem did not answer a word to Rabshakeh when he told them that no one could help them.

42. Explain why you think that Rabshakeh reminded the people of Judah that the gods of the

nation of Israel had not been able to help them.

Now reread 2 Kings 16:1-18:37 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings
Lesson 15
2 Kings 19:1-22:20

In our last lesson we learned that the nation of Israel was conquered by Assyria and the people were taken and moved to a foreign land because of their sin. As a result, the remaining chapters of 2 Kings will be about the nation of Judah. In our study today we will learn about two kings of Judah that served the Lord. We will also learn about two kings that did evil. One of the kings that served the Lord was Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a good king. He teaches us a very important lesson about prayer. However, his life also shows the danger of pride. God includes the failures as well as the successes so that we will realize the importance of trusting the Lord at all times.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Hezekiah teaches us about the right way to pray.
- Explain what you learn about the results of pride.
- Tell what you learn about the sins of Manasseh.
- Explain what happened when the Word of God was read to the people.

As we finished the last lesson, Rabshakeh was standing outside the city wall of Jerusalem and shouting to the people on the wall that they had to choose whether they wanted to be taken away to another land or be destroyed. As you remember Rabshakeh was the leader of the army of Assyria. When Hezekiah heard the words of Rabshakeh, he went to the house of the Lord. Hezekiah also sent men to Isaiah, the prophet, to see what the Lord had to say about the situation that Judah faced. Isaiah said that the Lord would cause Rabshakeh to return to his own land because he would hear a rumor that his king was fighting in another place. When Rabshakeh returned to his land, the king of Assyria was fighting against Libnah. Then Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, sent a message to Hezekiah.

1. Read 2 Kings 19:1-37 and write what Sennacherib said about God in his message to Hezekiah.
2. Explain why Hezekiah sent men to talk to Isaiah to learn from God what the real situation was that Judah faced.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord caused Rabshakeh to hear a rumor that his king was fighting in another place.

Sennacherib boasted about the fact that he was so powerful that he could destroy any nation that served God. He boasted of all of the other nations that he had destroyed. Here we see the great pride of the king of Assyria. When Hezekiah received the letter, he took the letter with him to the temple. There Hezekiah spread the letter out in front of him and began to pray to the Lord. Here we see a very important lesson about prayer. Instead of praying about his feelings, Hezekiah spread the letter before the Lord and asked the Lord to show His great power as an answer to the Assyrians. When we have a problem or a difficult situation, we need to define the real problem rather than our feelings and then ask the Lord to answer according to His will.

4. Read 2 Kings 19:1-37 and write why Hezekiah asked the Lord to save the nation of Judah.
5. Explain why Hezekiah took this letter to the temple and spread it out before the Lord and then began to pray to the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that Hezekiah asked the Lord to show His great power against the Assyrians and did not depend on his own power.

The desire of Hezekiah was to see the people of the earth recognize that God is the true God. The Lord sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that the Lord had heard his prayer. The Lord had heard

the great boasts of the king of Assyria against the Lord and against the nation of Judah. As a result, the Lord said that He would judge Assyria. The Lord reminded Hezekiah of the great things that the Lord had done for His people in the past. Just as the Lord had done great things in the past for His people, He would again do great things in order to protect the nation of Judah from Sennacherib and the army of the Assyrians when they came against Judah.

7. Read 2 Kings 19:1-37 and write what God promised the remnant of Judah would do instead of being destroyed.

8. Explain why the Lord chose to remind Hezekiah of the great things that the Lord had done in the past to protect His people.

9. Explain how you think that Hezekiah felt when Isaiah told him that the Lord had heard his prayer and would judge Assyria.

The Lord promised that the nation of Judah would again become a strong and fruitful nation. As they took root in the Lord, the Lord would cause them to be a fruitful nation. The Lord said that the king of Assyria would come again to fight against Jerusalem. However, the Assyrians would not shoot a single arrow at Jerusalem. Instead the Lord would fight for Judah for the sake of His own name. When the Assyrians came against Jerusalem, the angel of the Lord went through the camp of the Assyrians one night. That night the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 men of the army of Assyria. Sennacherib immediately returned home. There two of his sons killed him as he was worshiping in the house of his god.

10. Read 2 Kings 19:1-37 and write who became the king of Assyria when Sennacherib died.

11. Explain why the Lord told Hezekiah that He would fight for Judah for the sake of His own name.

12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about prayer from the prayer of Hezekiah.

One day Hezekiah became very sick. The Lord sent Isaiah to talk to Hezekiah and tell him to get his house in order because the time had come for him to die. Hezekiah immediately turned toward the wall and began to pray to the Lord. He reminded the Lord of the way that he had faithfully served the Lord. When Isaiah started to leave the house, the Lord spoke to him and gave him a second message for Hezekiah. The Lord promised to hear and answer the prayer of Hezekiah. The Lord said that He would answer by healing Hezekiah on the third day.

13. Read 2 Kings 20:1-21 and write how many more years the Lord promised to add to the life of Hezekiah.

14. Explain why Hezekiah began to pray to the Lord and remind the Lord of the way that he had faithfully served the Lord when he heard that he was going to die.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to heal Hezekiah instead of letting him die.

In addition to promising Hezekiah that he would live for an extra fifteen years, the Lord also promised to protect Jerusalem from the king of Assyria. The Lord said that He would do this for His own sake as well as for the sake of David. Here we see that the Lord had not forgotten His promise to David. Hezekiah asked the Lord what sign the Lord would give to show that He would do these things. The Lord said that He would cause the sun to go backward on the sun dial ten degrees. That sign meant that the Lord would give them an extra forty minutes that day.

16. Read 2 Kings 20:1-21 and write the name of the country whose king sent a present to Hezekiah when he recovered from his sickness.

17. Explain why the Lord said that He would protect Jerusalem from the king of Assyria for his own sake and for the sake of David.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to show that He would carry out His promise by adding an extra forty minutes to that particular day.

Here we see the way that Satan is continually working to deceive the followers of the Lord. Hezekiah became proud when he realized that these men had come all of the way from the

country of Babylon to bring him a present from the king. Instead of giving the credit to the Lord, Hezekiah showed these men all of his riches and possessions. Isaiah came to talk to Hezekiah to ask him who the visitors were that had come to him. He asked Hezekiah what he had shown these visitors. Hezekiah said that he had shown the men from Babylon all of his riches. Then Isaiah told Hezekiah that his pride would be judged by the Lord. The Lord would allow all of these riches and also his descendants to be taken as captives to the land of Babylon.

19. Read 2 Kings 20:1-21 and write why Hezekiah said that the word of the Lord was good even though that word predicted the judgment of Jerusalem.

20. Explain what lessons the Lord is teaching us from the fact that God said that He would judge the pride of Hezekiah.

21. Explain why you think that Hezekiah decided to show the men from Babylon all of his riches and possessions.

As God had promised, Hezekiah lived for fifteen more years before he died. His son Manasseh became the king when Hezekiah died. At that time Manasseh was only twelve years old. He was born after the sickness of Hezekiah. Here we see another result of the desire of Hezekiah to have his life extended. During the period that was added to his life, Hezekiah produced a son that became a very evil king. Manasseh made an altar for Baal and also made an idol. He also encouraged the people of Judah to worship the stars. In addition, he followed the practices of witchcraft.

22. Read 2 Kings 21:1-26 and write what his wickedness caused the Lord to do.

23. Explain how the extended life of Hezekiah resulted in the nation of Judah having a very evil king after Hezekiah.

24. Explain why you think that Manasseh chose to follow the worship of Baal and also the practices of witchcraft.

Manasseh even placed his idol in the temple in Jerusalem. He caused the people of Judah to do greater evil than any of the nations that had been in the land at the time that Israel came from Egypt. Here we see that the request of Hezekiah to have fifteen years added to his life brought very serious consequences to the nation of Israel. Then the Lord sent His prophets with messages of judgment to the people of Judah. God said that He would judge Judah as He had previously judged the nation of Israel. God said that Judah would be wiped bare like a dish. The enemies of Judah would be used by the Lord to judge the sins of the nation of Judah.

25. Read 2 Kings 21:1-26 and write what kind of blood Manasseh shed.

26. Explain why God said that the sins of Manasseh and the people of Judah meant that God would bring judgment on Judah just as He had done to Israel.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to use the country of Babylon to one day be the nation that would bring this judgment on Judah.

Manasseh was so evil that he filled Jerusalem with the blood of innocent men. This reminds us that he killed many innocent people. When Manasseh died, his son Amon became the next king of Judah. Amon was also a very evil king. He followed all of the sins of his father. He did not follow the Lord at all. Amon was so evil that his own servants plotted against him and killed him. Then the people of Judah killed the servants of Amon that had plotted against him. Here we see that the Lord will always judge those who do evil and break the commandments of the Lord. They will not escape. When Amon died, Josiah became the next king of Judah.

28. Read 2 Kings 21:1-26 and write what the Lord said that Manasseh had forsaken.

29. Explain why God mentioned that part of the evil that Manasseh had committed was to fill the city of Jerusalem with innocent blood.

30. Explain what you learn from the fact that Manasseh was a very evil king that chose to do much evil.

Josiah was eight years old when he became the king of Judah. However, he was very different

from his father. He was a good king and did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He followed the Lord as David had done and did not turn aside from following the Lord. During the time of Manasseh and Amon the temple had not been fixed or repaired. As a result, there were many parts of the temple that needed to be repaired. Josiah sent a message to the high priest and told him to take the money that had been brought to the temple and use it to make repairs on the temple.

31. Read 2 Kings 22:1-20 and write the name of the man that was the high priest at that time.

32. Explain why Josiah was eager to see the high priest repair the temple at Jerusalem.

33. Explain why you think that Josiah followed the Lord like David even though his father and grandfather were very evil.

Hilkiah, the high priest was to use the money in the temple to hire workmen and buy materials so that the temple could be repaired. The men that Hilkiah hired were very honest men. As a result, it was not necessary for Hilkiah to keep a record of the way that the money was spent. While they were repairing the temple, Hilkiah found a copy of the first five books of the Old Testament. Hilkiah took this copy of the law of God and gave it to a scribe by the name of Shaphan. Shaphan took the copy of the law and showed it to the king. Here we see one reason why the people were not following the law of God. They had not even had a copy of the law to read.

34. Read 2 Kings 22:1-20 and write what Shaphan did with the law.

35. Explain why the fact that the people did not even have a copy of the law meant that none of them even knew how to follow the Lord.

36. Explain why it was important for Hilkiah to send the copy of the law that he found to Josiah.

Shaphan read the law of God to the king. When the king heard the Word of God, he tore his clothes. The king was filled with sorrow when he heard the Word of God because he realized that the people had not been obeying the commandments of the Lord. The king was also convicted of his own sin. Here we are given a picture of the power of the Word of God. The Word is so powerful that it will always bring conviction to the people that read it and study it. This conviction will either cause them to repent or rebel. No one can remain neutral when they hear the Word of God and know what God commands us to do in our lives.

37. Read 2 Kings 22:1-20 and write the name of the prophetess to whom Hilkiah and some of the other men of Judah talked.

38. Explain what you learn about the power of the Word of God from these verses.

39. Explain why you think that the Word of God will either cause people to repent or rebel when they read and understand the Word of God.

Hilkiah and some of the other men of Judah went to a prophetess by the name of Huldah to find out if God had a message for the people of Judah. These men wanted to know what the Lord had to say to them since the nation of Judah had turned away from the commandments of the Lord. Huldah said that judgment would come on the land of Judah just as the Word of God had promised. However, that judgment would not come during the time of Josiah because he had humbled himself and confessed his sins and the sins of the people to the Lord. Here we see that God will always show mercy to those who will humble themselves before the Lord.

40. Read 2 Kings 22:1-20 and write what God said that Josiah would not see with his eyes.

41. Explain why Huldah said that the judgment promised by the Word of God would not come during the time that Josiah was the king.

42. Explain why you think that God will always show mercy to those who humble themselves before Him.

Now reread 2 Kings 19:1-22:20 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 16

2 Kings 23:1-25:30

In our last lesson we learned that the Lord brought great conviction to the life of Josiah when the Word of God was read to him. As a result, we are going to learn about the desire of Josiah to serve the Lord. He had a great concern both for himself and for the whole nation of Judah. While reading the scripture, Josiah had also learned that God had promised to bring judgment on the nation if the people turned away from the Lord. However, the Lord had said that this judgment would not come on the nation of Judah during the time of Josiah because he had faithfully served the Lord. Today we will learn how that judgment came after the death of Josiah.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Josiah did to destroy the false worship in the land.
- Explain how God summarized the life of Josiah.
- Tell about the first invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar.
- Tell about the destruction of Jerusalem.

God had used the reading of the first five books of the Old Testament to bring conviction to the life of Josiah. The first thing that Josiah wanted to do when he heard the warnings of judgment was call the people of Judah together so that they could also be warned of coming judgment. In the same way, as soon as we place our trust in Christ, our desire should also be to warn others of the coming judgment that they face so that they can also place their trust in Christ. Josiah called all of the people of Judah together and personally read the Word of God to the people. Then Josiah made a covenant to obey all of the commandments of the Lord.

1. Read 2 Kings 23:1-20 and write who joined with Josiah in making this covenant with the Lord.
2. Explain why the reading of the first five books of the Old Testament led Josiah to call together the people so that they could also hear the warnings that the Lord gives in those books.
3. Explain why you think that the reading and explaining of the Word of God will cause many people to realize their need to turn from sin and turn to God.

Here we see that Josiah realized the importance of helping the people to understand the Word of God and become obedient to it. In addition to reading the Word and serving the Lord, Josiah wanted to destroy all of the idol worship of the people of Judah. Josiah began to destroy these idols by telling Hilkiah to remove everything from the temple that was related to the worship of Baal. All of the vessels that had been made for Baal were taken out of the city and burned. Then all of the priests of Baal were destroyed so that they could not continue to worship Baal in some other place. The idol of Baal was also destroyed. Josiah also began to judge the sins of the people. The houses of people that were sodomites (homosexuals) were also destroyed.

4. Read 2 Kings 23:1-20 and write where the houses of the sodomites were located.
5. Explain why Josiah had Hilkiah remove everything from the temple that was related to the worship of Baal.
6. Explain why you think that Josiah realized the importance of helping the people to understand the Word of God and become obedient to it.

The homosexuals in the time of Josiah had become so bold in their activities that they carried on their activities in houses located near the temple in Jerusalem. Today we see that the same thing is happening in many places. Homosexuals are becoming very bold in their activities and there are now many false churches that are led by homosexuals. However, God says in the

Bible that homosexual activities are an abomination in the sight of the Lord. This makes it very clear that God sees such activities as sin and those who are committing these acts need to repent of their sin if they want to have eternal life. In addition to stopping the worship of idols, Josiah also destroyed the places where the people worshiped those idols. Josiah also destroyed the places where the people offered their children as human sacrifices to Molech. All of the idols and images were broken into pieces.

7. Read 2 Kings 23:1-20 and write what Josiah used to fill the places where these idols had been standing.

8. Explain why God says that homosexual activities are an abomination in the sight of the Lord.

9. Explain why you think that God will judge all acts of sin regardless of the types of sin that are involved.

Jeroboam had made an idol at Bethel for the people of Israel to worship. Josiah destroyed that idol so that the people of Judah would not worship that idol. Then Josiah took the bones from several graves and scattered them on the altar of the idol. This fulfilled a prophecy that had been made by a prophet of God. Josiah wanted to make certain that the people would not be tempted to worship other gods. As a result, he covered all of the altars where the people had offered sacrifices to idols with the bones of dead men so that the people would not be tempted to start using these altars again.

10. Read 2 Kings 23:1-20 and write why Josiah burned bones on these altars.

11. Explain what this chapter teaches about the desire of Josiah to destroy all forms of false worship in Judah.

12. Explain why you think that Josiah scattered bones on all of the altars of the idols that were in the land.

In addition to destroying the idols that the people had been worshipping, Josiah also taught the people to worship and serve the Lord again. He began by instructing the people to keep the Passover as God had commanded the people to do throughout their generations. There had not been a Passover like the Passover under Josiah since the time of the judges. It had been a long time since the people of Judah had worshiped the Lord as they did during the time of Josiah. Josiah got rid of every form of false worship that he could find anywhere in the land of Judah. He did this so that he would be obedient to the commandments in the Word of God.

13. Read 2 Kings 23:21-37 and write how God compared Josiah to the other kings that had ruled before him.

14. Explain why Josiah realized the importance of teaching the people by having them keep the Passover as God had commanded.

15. Explain why you think that there had not been a Passover like the Passover led by Josiah since the time of the judges.

Josiah was a true man of God. He gave his whole life to being a king that was faithful to the commandments of the Lord. However, the Lord promised that judgment would come one day on the nation of Judah because of the sins of the rest of the people. One day the king of Egypt came to fight against the land of Judah. Josiah led his army against the army of the Egyptians. During the battle, Josiah was killed. Then the servants of Josiah took his body back to Jerusalem and buried it. Here we see that God kept His promise and did not bring judgment on the land of Judah during the time of Josiah.

16. Read 2 Kings 23:21-37 and write who became the king of Judah when Josiah died.

17. Explain why God said that the sins of the people of Judah must be judged even though it did not happen during the time of Josiah.

18. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of Josiah who gave his whole life to being a leader that was faithful to the commandments of the Lord.

Jehoahaz was the son of Josiah. He became the king of Judah but we see that he was an evil king. As a result, the Lord allowed the king of Egypt to capture him after three months. The king of Egypt put Jehoahaz in prison so that he was no longer the ruler of the nation of Judah. Instead his brother, Jehoiakim, was appointed by the king of Egypt to serve as the king of Judah. Each year Jehoiakim collected taxes from the people and sent them to the king of Egypt. However, we read that Jehoiakim was also an evil king. He did not do what was right in the sight of God. Instead he chose to do evil instead of following the Lord.

19. Read 2 Kings 23:21-37 and write what the name of Jehoiakim was before it was changed to Jehoiakim by the king of Egypt.

20. Explain why the Lord allowed the king of Egypt to capture Jehoahaz after he had been king for only three months and put him in prison.

21. Explain how verse 25 applies to you in your own life.

The king of Egypt was only able to maintain his power over the land of Judah for a few years. Then the king of Babylon came and forced Jehoiakim to begin paying taxes to him. However, Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar after three years and refused to pay taxes to him. The Lord allowed this rebellion to happen so that He could bring the judgment that had been promised because Manasseh had killed so many innocent people. In addition, all of the kings that followed Josiah were all evil men and so they were also being judged for their own sins. God had promised that there would be judgment for sin and the time had come for God to allow that judgment.

22. Read 2 Kings 24:1-20 and write who became the king of Judah when Jehoiakim died.

23. Explain why the Lord said that he would bring judgment on Judah because of the sins of Manasseh and the other evil kings of Judah.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord allowed Jehoiakim to try and rebel against Nebuchadnezzar and the nation of Babylon.

Jehoiachin was an evil king just like his father. As a result, Nebuchadnezzar soon came to fight against the land of Judah. Judah could not stand against the powerful army of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and took the king as a captive to the land of Babylon. In addition, the king of Babylon took all of the leading people of Judah to Babylon as captives. All of the gold and other treasures that were in the temple at Jerusalem were also taken to Babylon. It was during this time that Daniel and the other princes of Judah were taken to Babylon.

25. Read 2 Kings 24:1-20 and write who Nebuchadnezzar allowed to remain in the land of Judah.

26. Explain why the king took all of the leading people of the nation of Judah as captives to the land of Babylon.

27. Explain why you think that God chose to take men like Daniel as captives to the land of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar wanted to make certain that the people of Judah did not rebel against him. As a result, he took all of the leaders and left only the poor people in the land of Judah. Zedekiah, the uncle of Jehoiachin, was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar to serve as the king of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar thought that Zedekiah would not rebel because only the poor people were left in the land. We see that Zedekiah was an evil king and followed all of the evil ways of Jehoiakim. One day Zedekiah decided that he would rebel against Babylon even though he only had a small group of poor people under his control.

28. Read 2 Kings 24:1-20 and write why the Lord led Zedekiah to rebel against the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar.

29. Explain why it was necessary for God to judge Judah and the city of Jerusalem.

30. Explain why you think that God will work through evil rulers to complete His purpose.

Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar even though many of the leaders of Judah had already been taken away as captives to Babylon. When Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar came to fight against him. He surrounded the city until there was no food in the city. Finally the army of Babylon broke a hole in the wall of Jerusalem. That night Zedekiah and his army tried to escape. However, the Babylonians caught Zedekiah in the plains of Jordan. Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah right in front of his eyes.

31. Read 2 Kings 25:1-30 and write what the Babylonians did to Zedekiah.

32. Explain why Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar even though most of the leaders had already been taken to Babylon.

33. Explain why you think that the Babylonians killed the sons of Zedekiah in front of his eyes.

This time Nebuchadnezzar decided to make certain that the people of Jerusalem would not rebel against him any more. He burned the temple and then burned all of the houses in the city. In addition, the Babylonians broke down the walls of Jerusalem so that the people would have nothing to protect them in case they decided to try and rebel again. Many of the people that remained in the land were taken as captives to Babylon. As a result, only the very poorest people were allowed to remain in the land and care for the fields. Any that had been leaders in Judah were taken away.

34. Read 2 Kings 25:1-30 and write who was appointed to be the governor of Judah.

35. Explain why Nebuchadnezzar wanted to make certain that the people of Jerusalem would not rebel against him again.

36. Explain why you think that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple, the houses and the wall of the city of Jerusalem and took many of the people as captives to Babylon.

Some of the leaders of Judah had hidden and escaped from the army of Babylon. After the army of Babylon returned to Babylon, these men came to Gedaliah. He told them that they did not need to be afraid. They would be allowed to remain in the land as long as they served the Babylonians. These men were promised safety and protection as long as they were faithful. These men were faithful for a short period of time. However, one day several of them decided to kill Gedaliah.

37. Read 2 Kings 25:1-30 and write to whom the new king of Babylon chose to show kindness.

38. Explain how God fulfilled His promise to bring judgment on the city of Jerusalem because of the sins of the people.

39. Explain why you think that the leaders that had escaped the army of Babylon were only faithful to Gedaliah for a short time.

The men that had plotted against Gedaliah killed him. Then they became fearful that the king of Babylon would come and destroy them. As a result, they fled to Egypt. We learn from the book of Jeremiah that the people were judged in the land of Egypt for their sin. Meanwhile a new king came into power in Babylon. He showed kindness to Jehoiachin and took him out of the prison in Babylon. In addition to taking him out of the prison, the king also supplied him with food and a living allowance.

40. Read 2 Kings 25:1-30 and write how long this kindness was shown to Jehoiachin.

41. Explain why the men that had killed Gedaliah became fearful after they had killed Gedaliah.

42. Explain why you think that God brought such a great judgment on the people of the land of Judah.

Now reread 2 Kings 23:1-25:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.