**Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions** Lesson Seven: <u>The Divided Monarchy</u> - 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 10-25

King Jeroboam of Israel and King Rehoboam of Judah: 1 Kings 12-14; 2 Chronicles 10-12

- 1) After glancing at 1 Kings 11:26-43 for context, read 1 Kings 12-14 and 2 Chronicles 10-12. Summarize the events that occurred in Israel after Solomon's death by answering the following:
  - a) Who was Ahjiah and what did he prophesy in 1 Kings 11:29-39 and 1 King 14:1-16?

b) Who were Jeroboam and Rehoboam and how were their reigns characterized?

- c) Who was Shishak and what did he do?
- 2) Read 1 Kings 12:25-13:34 with 2 Chronicles 11:13-17. What sins did Jeroboam commit and how did the godly people in Israel respond?

- 3) Merely two generations after David reigned as king, Israel had changed drastically.
  - a) To what event(s) would you trace this decline (think back to the previous lesson)?
  - **b)** Sin always costs more and carries us further than we expect. What departure from God's ways do you need to confess and turn from before it forces some kind of unforeseen division in your life (you will not be asked to share about this in class unless you choose to do so)?

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## Kings Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, and Omri of Israel and Kings Abijah and Asa of Judah: 1 Kings 15-16, 2 Chronicles 13-16

- 4) Read the chapters listed above. Starting on the last page of this lesson, begin a chart that tracks the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah by filling in the blanks. The first mention of each king's name is highlighted in this lesson: yellow = kings of Israel; green = kings of Judah. List 1) the number of years each one reigned next to their name, 2) whether the king received a favorable ☺, unfavorable ☺, or mixed ☺ ☺ evaluation from the Lord, and 3) whether they succeeded a family member (same house/dynasty), designated by "same □," or were from a different family (new house/dynasty), designated by "new □." As you work your way through the remainder of the lesson, continue to add the kings. You may want to include other notes and continue the list of kings on your own in subsequent lessons.
- 5) Reread 1 Kings 15:3-5. David sinned, yet the Lord commended his life overall as a worthy example. What do you think was different about his life than that of some of his descendants who sinned and received a negative evaluation by the Lord?

- 6) Imagine the spiritual climate in Israel and Judah based on what you have read.
  - a) Contrast Asa's approach to trouble with a foreign king in 2 Chronicles 14:9-11 with his approach to trouble that was much closer to home at another period in his life, recorded in 2 Chronicles 16:7-9.
  - **b)** Have you ever found it easier to rely on the Lord for help with the trouble that occurs outside your home than with trouble inside the home? For what family issue will you choose to rely on the Lord today?
  - c) Look back at 1 Kings 12:15; 13:26, 32; 14:17, 18; 15:29, 16:12, and 16:34. Who really had the final word in all that would take place?
  - d) How does this truth impact your feelings about relying on the Lord for today's needs?

<u>Kings</u> Ahab and Ahaziah of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah: 1 Kings 16:29-34; 1 Kings 20 – 2 Kings 2; Chronicles 17:1-21:3

(Note: Most of 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 9 will be covered in the next lesson on the ministries of Elijah and Elisha. In this lesson, our goal is to continue chronologically tracing the line of kings who served Israel and Judah.)

7) Read 1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:4; 20:1-8, 13, 29-30, 34, 42-43; 21:4-8, 15-16, 20; and 22:30, 32-34, with as much of the context as you can, noting 1 Kings 22:51-53 and 2 Kings 1:17 for your chart-keeping. Describe Ahab, as a king and as a person, and then tell what the spiritual climate was like in Israel during his reign.

- 8) Read 1 Kings 22:41-47 and 2 Chronicles 17:1-10, 20:1-30. As evidenced by these passages, Jehoshaphat was a good king who did many things right.
  - a) According to 1 Kings 22:4 and 2 Chronicles 18:1-3, 19:1-2, 20:35, what error did he make?
  - **b)** How can a person who walks closely with the Lord easily fall into the trap in which Jehoshaphat fell (see 2 Corinthians 6:14)?
- 9) Reread 2 Chronicles 20:6, 12, 15, 21-22. What battle will you entrust to the Lord? Which words in these verses might you use to pray about it?

<u>Kings</u> Jehoram (also known as Joram) and Jehu of Israel and Kings Jehoram and Ahaziah and Queen Athaliah of Judah: 2 Kings 3, 8:16-11:21; 2 Chronicles 21:4-23:21.

10) Consult 2 Kings 8:16-18, 25-28 with 1 Kings 16:29 and 2 Kings 11 to answer the following:

a) How were Kings Joram of Israel and Jehoram of Judah related?

b) Explain the relationship between these three rulers of Judah: Ahaziah, Athaliah, and Joash.

- 12) In 2 Kings 10:16, Jehu said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord."a) What do you learn about zeal from Romans 10:1-2 and 12:11?
  - b) Contrast Phinehas' zeal in Number 25:6-13 with Saul's zeal in 2 Samuel 21:1-2.
  - c) What do you conclude about the zeal shown by Jehu (see 2 Kings 9:14 10:36)?
  - d) Are you zealous for the Lord? Why or why not?

<u>Kings Jehoahaz</u> and Jehoash of Israel and Kings Joash and <u>Amaziah</u> of Judah: 2 Kings 11-14; 2 Chronicles 23-25 **13**) What do you admire about Jehoiada the Priest (see 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 23:1-24:15)?

14) Read 2 Chronicles 25:5-10. What unhealthy influence could the Lord more than make up to you if you decided to release it?

15) What stands out in this lesson as most significant to you?

## **KINGS OF ISRAEL**

NOTE: House  $\triangle$  = Dynasty (succession of rulers from the same family)

