

# **The Kingdom Divided**1 Kings 11–13

### **Bible Story Summary:**

King Solomon's heart turned away from God. So, God said the kingdom would be divided in two. Later, Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king. Wise men gave Rehoboam good advice on how to rule God's people. But Rehoboam didn't listen. The people rebelled and made Jeroboam king. The kingdom was divided into Israel and Judah.

- · Why didn't Rehoboam listen to the wise men?
- Sin causes division and separates people from God. How does Jesus bring people back to God?



### **Israel's Evil Kings** 1 Kings 14–15; 2 Chronicles 12–13

### **Bible Story Summary:**

Jeroboam was an evil king over Israel. Jeroboam made two golden calves for the people to worship. God sent a prophet to tell Jeroboam that disaster would come on him. Later, Jeroboam died in battle, and his son Nadab became king. But Nadab was wicked too. A man named Baasha killed Nadab and became the new king of Israel. Baasha was also evil and led the people to worship idols.

- · Why were the kings of Israel considered evil?
- ·What might you be tempted to turn to instead of God?



## **Elijah Confronted Ahab**

1 Kings 18-19

#### **Bible Story Summary:**

King Ahab worshiped a false god named Baal. Elijah told King Ahab, "We will both build an altar and pray. The God who sends fire is the real God." The people prayed to their false god, but there was no answer. Then Elijah prayed to God, and fire fell from heaven. The people said, "The Lord is God!" Then God spoke to Elijah in a whisper and said those who worship Him will be kept safe.

- · How do we know God hears us when we pray?
- · Why does God alone deserve our worship?



### The Reign of Ahab 1 Kings 20-22; 2 Kings 1

### **Bible Story Summary:**

King Ahab was at war with the king of Aram. Israel won the war, but Ahab didn't obey God's commands to destroy everything. Later, Ahab had a man named Naboth killed because Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. Then Ahab wanted to go to war again, but God's prophet told him not to go. Ahab didn't obey, and he was killed in battle.

- · How was Ahab disobedient, stubborn, and greedy?
- Ahab died because of his sin. How did Jesus pay for our sin? How can we escape judgment for our sin?



### Elisha the Prophet

2 Kings 2; 4-5

### **Bible Story Summary:**

Elisha wanted to receive twice as much of Elijah's spirit. Elijah said he would have it if Elisha saw Elijah taken away. Elisha did, and he received his request. Elisha performed many miracles as a prophet, like making water clean, helping a widow multiply her oil, raising a boy to life, and healing a man named Naaman of a skin disease.

- · How did Elisha display God's power?
- Elisha wanted to be a prophet like Elijah. Why do Christians want to become more and more like Jesus?



## Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh

### **Bible Story Summary:**

God told Jonah to preach to the people in Nineveh because their sin was great. Jonah did not obey God. Jonah ran away and got on a boat. So, God sent a storm. Jonah was thrown in the sea, and God sent a fish to swallow Jonah. Then Jonah obeyed God, went to Nineveh, and preached God's coming judgment. The people repented and didn't face God's judgment.

- · How did God show mercy to Jonah and the Ninevites?
- · How has God shown mercy to us through Jesus?



## Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Hosea

### **Bible Story Summary:**

God told Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer. Hosea obeyed God. Hosea loved Gomer, even when she ran away and was unfaithful to him. To show Israel how much He loved them, God told Hosea to get Gomer back. Hosea pled with the Israelites to return to God, just as Gomer had come back to Hosea. Through Hosea, God promised to be faithful to Israel.

- · How did Hosea's marriage to Gomer show God's love?
- · What does it mean that God is faithful?



# **The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed** 2 Kings 17

### **Bible Story Summary:**

King Hoshea was the last king of Israel. During his reign, the king of Assyria captured Samaria in Israel, put Hoshea in prison, and moved the people to Assyria. Through the prophets, God warned His people to turn away from their sin. But the people didn't listen. Because of their sin, the Northern Kingdom was destroyed.

- · How did God show patience toward His people, even though they continued to sin against Him?
- · Why does God take sin so seriously?



## **Judah's Good Kings**

2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 14-24

### **Bible Story Summary:**

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many evil kings, but they also had several good kings. Asa, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah led the people to follow God, worship Him, and turn away from sin. Asa removed the places of idol worship. Joash tore down the temple of Baal. Hezekiah brought back the Passover feast. Josiah read the words of the law to the people at the temple.

- · Why were these four kings considered good?
- · How can we worship God through faith in Jesus?



### Prophets to Judah

Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah

### **Bible Story Summary:**

Over the years, the prophets Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah brought God's messages to Judah. Micah told God's people to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Nahum warned Judah not to act like the evil nations around them. Zephaniah told the people to turn from sin while there was still time. Habakkuk reminded the people that God was their salvation.

- ·What common message did the prophets share?
- · What did Jesus tell people to do? (See Matthew 4:17.)



## God Promised a New Covenant Jeremiah 17: 31

#### **Bible Story Summary:**

God sent a prophet named Jeremiah to tell the people of Judah that their sin couldn't be wiped away and that people's hearts are deceitful because of sin. But Jeremiah also shared good news: God would make a new covenant that brings forgiveness for people's sins. God would write His teaching on people's hearts. God's people would know Him, and He would be their God forever.

- ·What promises did the new covenant include?
- · How did Jesus fulfill the new covenant?



## **Judah Was Taken Captive**

2 Chronicles 36

### **Bible Story Summary:**

God's people continued to sin and did not listen to His warnings. The last four kings of Judah were: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. They were evil kings, and they led the people to continue to rebel against God. So, God allowed Babylon to destroy Judah. The people who survived were taken captive to Babylon.

- · Why is God right to punish sin?
- Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. How does Jesus make people right with God?



## **Ezekiel Gave Hope**

Ezekiel 37

### **Bible Story Summary:**

God took Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones. God told Ezekiel to speak to the bones, and they came together with muscles and skin. But they weren't alive yet. God told Ezekiel to tell breath to enter the bones, and the people came alive. God explained that the bones were like His people—hopeless. But God promised to give His people new life and bring them together as one.

- · Why were the bones like a picture of God's people?
- · How does Jesus give people new life?