



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **10th Grade | Unit 7**

BIBLE 1007

The Divided Kingdom

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Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

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The Divided Kingdom

Introduction

The content of this LIFEPAC® continues the history of Israel from the end of Solomon's reign to the Assyrian captivity of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. The approximate period of time covered is 931 to 722 B.C. The Old Testament historical books of 1 and 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles are included in this study: 1 Kings 12-22, 2 Kings 1-17, and 2 Chronicles 10-28. A brief survey of five books classified as minor prophets and identified with this time period will also be included in this LIFEPAC: Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea

In the midst of wisdom, wealth, and honor from God, Solomon had sinned. His house was turned into a harem, his wives turned his heart away after their gods, and the city of the Lord was corrupted by high places for the worship of false gods (1 Kings 11:1-8). For these reasons, the Lord was angry with Solomon (1 Kings 11:9) and warned Solomon that his kingdom would be divided under his sons (1 Kings 11:11-13). After more than a century of the kingdom of Israel under Saul, David, and Solomon, the kingdom was divided.

Jeroboam became king of the ten tribes of Israel that revolted against Rehoboam; and Rehoboam, Solomon's son, reigned as king over the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

The books of Kings keep in view both kingdoms, Israel and Judah, with alternating presentations of the histories of their kings. The books of Chronicles cover the same period as the book of Kings, but the books of Chronicles present only the reigns of the kings of Judah.

In this LIFEPAC, the four major divisions of the *The Divided Kingdom* study will be:

- I. From Jeroboam to Ahab
- II. From Ahab to Jehu
- III. From Jehu to the Assyrian captivity
- IV. The prophets of the period

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Outline the history of Israel from Solomon to the Assyrian captivity of Israel.
2. Enumerate the reasons for the division of the kingdom.
3. Identify two promises to Jeroboam and their conditions.
4. Describe Jeroboam's sins.
5. Identify two signs and a warning from the Lord to Jeroboam.
6. List three judgments pronounced by God through Abijah upon Jeroboam and Israel.
7. Identify all the kings of the Northern Kingdom.
8. Identify all the kings of Judah from Rehoboam to Ahaz.

9. Identify the prophets that ministered to both Judah and Israel during the period of the divided kingdom.
10. State God's commission to Jehu.
11. Discuss an unconditional promise of the Lord to Jehu.
12. Relate Joash of Judah to the history of redemption.
13. Identify Azariah's sin and judgment.
14. Identify the ancestors of the Samaritans mentioned in the Gospels.
15. Distinguish the general context of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles.
16. Describe the ministries of the prophets Elijah and Elisha to Israel.
17. List two promises of God to Israel by Amos the prophet.

Survey the LIFE PAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.

1. FROM JEROBOAM TO AHAB

Although the Lord had declared to Solomon that the kingdom would be divided under his son (11:12 and 13), Rehoboam was not without guilt before God and responsibility for the rending. Rehoboam rejected the appeal to him from the northern tribes and Jeroboam at Schechem to alleviate the oppressive measures instituted by Solomon. He also rejected

the good counsel given him by the elders and followed the bad advice of the young men, who advocated more oppressive measures. For this reason and in fulfillment of the word of the Lord by the prophet Ahijah (11:29-39), the ten northern tribes rebelled against Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king (12:20).

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Outline the history of Israel from Solomon to the Assyrian captivity of Israel.
2. Enumerate the reasons for the division of the kingdom.
3. Identify two promises to Jeroboam and their conditions.
4. Describe Jeroboam's sins.
5. Identify two signs and a warning from the Lord to Jeroboam.
6. List three judgments pronounced by God through Abijah upon Jeroboam and Israel.
7. Identify all the kings of the Northern Kingdom.
8. Identify all the kings of Judah from Rehoboam to Ahaz.
14. Identify the ancestors of the Samaritans mentioned in the Gospels.
15. Distinguish the general context of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles.

Vocabulary

Study this word to enhance your learning success in this section.

Baal

JEROBOAM

Jeroboam had been promised a *sure house* in Israel, as David had received, if he would walk in the way of the Lord. However, Jeroboam sinned and led Israel to sin, ignoring the reign and warnings God gave him. Therefore, God judged the house of Jeroboam, cutting him off as king of Israel.

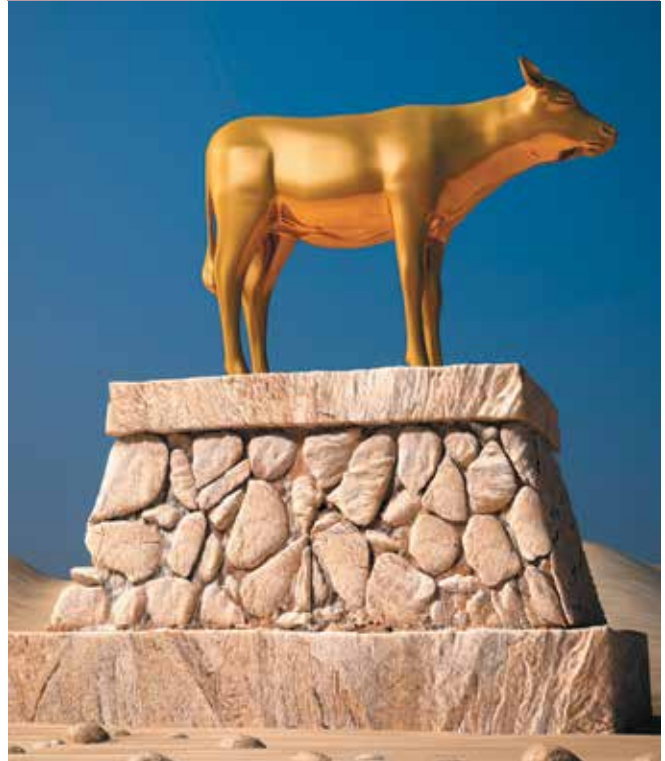
Promises. Prior to his becoming king of Israel, Jeroboam encountered Ahijah the prophet in Jerusalem. Catching his own new garment, Ahijah tore it into twelve pieces; and giving Jeroboam ten pieces, Ahijah declared to Jeroboam these conditional promises of the Lord (11:31-38):

1. That He would rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon's son and give ten tribes to Jeroboam and
2. That He would establish Jeroboam's house in Israel like the house of David.

The conditions that were placed on these promises were (1) to keep God's commandments and (2) to walk in His ways.

Sins. Jeroboam's first sin as king of Israel appeared to be the sin of unbelief (12:26). God had said that his kingdom would be established, but Jeroboam feared that he would lose it to Rehoboam if the people went to worship at Jerusalem. Ignoring God's promise and setting out to establish his kingdom by his own hand, Jeroboam began to lose what he was attempting to keep. In violation of God's commandment and in rejection of God's way, Jeroboam made two golden calves and declared them to be Israel's gods (12:28). Establishing a false religion of convenience and idolatry, Jeroboam placed one of the false gods in Bethel, on the southern border of Israel, and one in Dan, on the northern border of Israel. Jeroboam appointed priests from among "the lowest of the people," who were not Levites (12:31). Observing feasts that he instituted and offering

Read 1 Kings 12-16:34 and
2 Chronicles 10-16:14



| Golden Calf

sacrifices upon altars that he had established, Jeroboam sinned and led Israel to sin (14:16).

Signs. In His mercy and grace, God sent a servant from Judah to warn Jeroboam at Bethel (13:1-3). The man of God prophesied that a king would be born in the house of David, Josiah by name, who would destroy the altars of Bethel; and as a sign of this prophecy, the altar would be rent. When Jeroboam heard the words of the man of God, he pointed to the man of God and ordered his seizure. The hand that Jeroboam pointed toward the man of God withered. The altar was rent and its ashes were scattered. Although Jeroboam entreated the man of God to pray for the restoration of his withered hand and experienced that restoration, and in spite of the warning and the confirming sign of the rent altar and scattered ashes, Jeroboam refused to repent (13:33 and 34).

Judgment. Because of their sins and refusal to repent, God by His prophet Ahijah pronounced judgment upon the house of Jeroboam and upon Israel: Jeroboam's son would die

(14:12 and 13); his house (dynasty) would be destroyed (14:14); and, ultimately, Israel would be displaced from their land (14:15 and 16; a likely prediction of the Assyrian captivity).



Complete the following statements.

- 1.1** After more than a century of the kingdom of Israel under a. _____
b. _____, and c. _____, the kingdom was divided between d. _____, and e. _____, (in their order of reigns).
- 1.2** The guilt and responsibility for the division of the kingdom rested upon a. _____ and b. _____.
- 1.3** The northern tribes and Jeroboam appealed to Rehoboam at Shechem to _____
_____.
- 1.4** Rejecting the good counsel of the elders, Rehoboam accepted the bad advice of the young men, who advocated _____.
- 1.5** In response to Rehoboam's decision and in fulfillment of the word of the Lord, the ten northern tribes rebelled a. _____ and made b. _____.
- 1.6** These two conditional promises came from the Lord to Jeroboam by Ahijah the prophet:
a. _____
_____ and b. _____
_____.
- 1.7** To receive the promises, two conditions would be required of Jeroboam:
a. _____ and
b. _____.
- 1.8** Jeroboam's first sin as king of Israel appeared to be the sin of _____
_____.
- 1.9** Ignoring God's promise and endeavoring to establish his kingdom by his own hand, Jeroboam made a. _____ and declared b. _____.

- 1.10** Establishing a false religion of convenience and idolatry, Jeroboam placed one false god in a. _____ and a second one in b. _____.
- 1.11** Jeroboam appointed priests that were not _____.
- 1.12** Jeroboam both sinned and led Israel to sin by observing a. _____ and by offering b. _____.
- 1.13** God sent a servant from a. _____ to warn Jeroboam at b. _____.
- 1.14** By His servant, God warned Jeroboam that a child would be born in the house of David, a. _____ by name, who would destroy the b. _____.
- 1.15** A sign from God confirming the word of the Lord to Jeroboam was the rending of the a. _____ and the scattering of the b. _____.
- 1.16** Another clear sign from the Lord to Jeroboam was the a. _____ of his b. _____, which was restored through c. _____.
- 1.17** In spite of God's signs and warnings, Jeroboam refused to _____.
- 1.18** Unrepentant sin led God to pronounce judgment upon both a. _____ and b. _____.
- 1.19** Jeroboam was told that his a. _____ would die and that his b. _____ would be destroyed.
- 1.20** Jeroboam was also told that Israel would be a. _____ from their b. _____, a likely prediction of the c. _____.

REHOBOAM, ABIJAH, AND ASA

The first three kings of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) in their order of succession were Rehoboam, Abijah, and Asa.

Rehoboam. Rehoboam, son of Solomon, succeeded Solomon as king of the united kingdom; but, as stated earlier, the kingdom was divided from Rehoboam in fulfillment of God's word and in response to Rehoboam's rejection of the good counsel of the elders to lighten the load of oppression Solomon had placed on the people. Rehoboam reigned in Jerusalem over Judah and Benjamin for seventeen years. The first step away from the Lord by Rehoboam appears to be that recorded in 2 Chronicles 12:1 (italics added for emphasis):

And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, *he forsook the law* of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

Notice also verse 14 of 2 Chronicles chapter 12: "And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD."

Rehoboam's sins appear to have been more sins of omission. He failed to keep the Law of the Lord, he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord, and he permitted idolatry and immorality to prevail in Judah. Notice 1 Kings 14:22, "And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD...."

Symbolic of Judah's loss of power, all the golden treasures of the Temple that Solomon had made, including the shields of gold, were taken by Shishak, king of Egypt; and in their place, Rehoboam substituted brasen (brass) shields (14:27).

Abijah. Upon the death of Rehoboam, his son Abijah, son of his favorite wife Maachah (2 Chronicles 11: 21), reigned in Jerusalem. Abijah

was king for three years, and his heart was not perfect (not blameless) before the Lord; but for David's sake, the line was continued through Abijah (1 Kings 15:4). Abijah led Judah to war against Israel, and because they relied upon the Lord (2 Chronicles 13:15), Judah prevailed against Israel.

Asa. Asa, son of Abijah, reigned in Judah forty-one years. Outstanding in the reign of Asa was his stern and aggressive attack upon immorality and idolatry. Asa did right in the eyes of the Lord (1 Kings 15:11). He even removed his grandmother from her throne as queen because of her idolatry, and he destroyed her idol, burning it by the brook Kidron (15:13). (Note: Obviously, Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom, could not have been the mother of both Abijah and Asa, his son—compare 15:2 and 15:10. She was either Asa's grandmother—not an unusual reference in the Old Testament—or the mothers of both Abijah and his son Asa were named Maachah.)

Asa's reign began in Judah during the reign of Jeroboam, Israel's first king (15:9), and continued until Ahab, Israel's seventh king, had come to the throne (16:29). Wars continued intermittently between Israel and Judah during the reign of Asa. When they recognized that God was with Judah, many Israelites went to Jerusalem where they could worship their true God (2 Chronicles 15:9). Baasha, king of Israel, attempted to keep the Israelites in Israel by building border fortifications (2 Chronicles 16:1). Asa appealed to Ben-hadad of Syria for assistance against Israel, sending him silver and gold out of the treasures of the Temple. For reliance upon Syria, Asa was rebuked by the Lord through Hanani the seer (2 Chronicles 16:7-9).



Answer the following questions.

1.21 Who were the first three kings of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) in the order of their succession? a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ .

1.22 What appears to have been Rehoboam's first step away from the Lord (cite the reference)?

1.23 In 1 Kings 14:22, where was the responsibility for evil placed? _____

1.24 What incident might be considered symbolic of Judah's loss of power under Rehoboam?

1.25 Why was Judah victorious over Israel under Abijah? _____

1.26 How long did Asa, son of Abijah, reign in Judah? _____

1.27 What action of Asa was outstanding in his reign as king of Judah? _____

1.28 Which kings of Israel mark the beginning and ending respectively of Asa's reign in Judah?

1.29 Why did many Israelites migrate from the north to Jerusalem during the reign of Baasha in Israel and Asa in Judah? _____

1.30 Why was Asa rebuked by the Lord through the seer Hanani? _____

_____ .

NADAB AND SUCCESSORS

Nadab's brief reign concluded the dynasty of Jeroboam in Israel, and a new dynasty began with Baasha. Baasha's line terminated with his son Elah, who was slain and succeeded by Zimri. A victim of suicide, Zimri was succeeded by Omri the father of Ahab.

Nadab. Little information is given about the reign of Nadab, son of Jeroboam. He began to reign in Israel during the second year of the reign of King Asa in Judah, and he reigned two years in Israel (1 Kings 15:25). Nadab did evil in the sight of the Lord, walking in the ways of his father Jeroboam (who had established idol worship in the Northern Kingdom) and causing Israel to sin (15:26). While at war with the Philistines in Gibbethon, Nadab was slain by a conspirator, Baasha of Issachar.

Baasha. To gain the throne in Israel, Baasha slew King Nadab. To retain the throne, he completely destroyed all the royal seed of Jeroboam—a complete extermination of every living descendant of Jeroboam (15:29). Baasha also sought to secure his rule in Israel by endeavoring to restrain any Israelites from migrating to Judah. War continued between Israel and Judah throughout the years of Baasha's reign. He ruled Israel for twenty-four years. Although God used Baasha to destroy the house of Jeroboam because of Jeroboam's sin, Baasha did not learn the lesson taught by God's judgment on the house of Jeroboam. Baasha continued walking in the way of Jeroboam (15:34) and was judged even as Jeroboam had been judged—his house was completely destroyed (16:12).

Elah. Elah, son of Baasha, began to reign in Israel during the twenty-sixth year of Asa, king of Judah. With his army apparently at war with

the Philistines in Gibbethon (see 15:27 and 16:15), Elah remained in Tirzah “drinking himself drunk” (16:9) where he was slain by Zimri, captain of half of his chariots.

Zimri. The pattern of conspiracy and murder designed by Baasha, Elah's father, was continued by Zimri. He slew Elah and murdered not only all of Baasha's relatives but also all of his friends. When the people encamped at Gibbethon heard of Zimri's conspiracy and murder, they rejected him as king and turned instead to Omri, the captain of the host, and made him king. With his brief reign of seven days (16:15) threatened and the capital city fallen to Omri, who led Israel back from Gibbethon, Zimri committed suicide by burning the palace down upon himself (16:18).

Omri. Of all the kings of Israel preceding him, Omri was the most infamous; and he was the father of Ahab, the king who was even more wicked than Omri. Omri became king in Israel during the thirty-first year of the reign of Asa in Judah. He reigned for twelve years. After six years in Tirzah, Omri bought the hill of Samaria and built on it a city. The city of Samaria continued to be the capital city of Israel until the Assyrian captivity.

Ahab. Upon the death of his father Omri, Ahab became king in Israel, during the thirty-eighth year of Asa, king of Judah. Ahab was the seventh and most wicked king of Israel; he reigned in Israel twenty-two years (16:29 and 30). Ahab married Jezebel of Sidon and consequently became a worshiper of **Baal**. Building a house of Baal and erecting an altar for Baal, Ahab introduced Baal worship into the kingdom of Israel. The study of Ahab will continue in more detail in the following section.



Write the letter for the correct answer on the blank.

- 1.31** The dynasty of Jeroboam was concluded by the brief reign of _____ .
 a. Elah b. Baasha c. Nadab d. Asa
- 1.32** Upon the death of his father Omri, _____ became king in Israel.
 a. Zimri b. Nadab c. Ahab d. Elah
- 1.33** Of all the kings of Israel preceding him, _____ was the most wicked.
 a. Nadab b. Omri c. Zimri d. Abihu
- 1.34** While at war with the Philistines in Gibbethon, Nadab was slain by a conspirator, _____ of Issachar.
 a. Omri b. Zimri c. Ahab d. Baasha
- 1.35** All of Baasha's relatives and all of his friends were murdered by _____ .
 a. Nadab b. Abihu c. Zimri d. Omri
- 1.36** Every living descendant of Jeroboam was killed by _____ .
 a. Naasha b. Baasha c. Elah d. Zimri
- 1.37** The hill of Samaria was bought, and on it was built by _____ the capital city of Israel, which was also called Samaria.
 a. Omri b. Zimri c. Nadab d. Ahab
- 1.38** Of all the following kings in Israel, _____ was the most wicked.
 a. Nadab b. Ahab c. Omri d. Zimri
- 1.39** Idol worship was established in the Northern Kingdom by _____ .
 a. Jeroboam b. Rehoboam c. Nadab d. Ahab
- 1.40** Baal worship was introduced into the kingdom of Israel by _____ .
 a. Jeroboam b. Rehoboam c. Nadab d. Ahab



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Answer true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.01 _____ Full guilt and responsibility for the division of the kingdom must be assigned to Rehoboam.
- 1.02 _____ The first recorded sin of Jeroboam as king of Israel was idolatry.
- 1.03 _____ Jeroboam appointed priests that were not Levites.
- 1.04 _____ Upon the death of Rehoboam, his son Abijah reigned in Jerusalem.
- 1.05 _____ The capital of Israel was moved from Tirzah to Samaria by Ahab.

Complete the following statements (each answer, 5 points).

- 1.06 Baal worship was introduced into the kingdom of Israel by _____.
- 1.07 Every living descendant of Jeroboam was killed by _____.
- 1.08 His stern and aggressive attack upon immorality and idolatry made a. _____ an outstanding king of b. _____.
- 1.09 These two kings of Israel mark the beginning and ending respectively of a. _____ reign in b. _____ : Jeroboam and Ahab.
- 1.010 Forsaking the Law of the Lord appears to have been _____ first step away from the Lord.
- 1.011 In spite of God's signs and warnings at Bethel, _____ refused to repent.
- 1.012 In addition to the rending of the altar, another clear sign from the Lord to a. _____ was the b. _____ of his hand.

Match the following items (each answer, 3 points)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1.013 _____ Asa | a. was king for three years |
| 1.014 _____ Elah | b. was son of most infamous king of all preceding kings in Israel |
| 1.015 _____ Ahab | c. reigned in Judah forty-one years |
| 1.016 _____ Abijah | d. slew King Nadab |
| 1.017 _____ Bassha | e. was slain while drunk in Tirzah by one of his captains |

Answer the following questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.018 What were the *primary* reasons for the division of the kingdom of Israel?

1.019 Why was Asa rebuked of the Lord by Hanani the seer (answer in a complete sentence or more)?

1.020 What incident might be considered symbolic of Judah's loss of power under Rehoboam?

1.021 Why was Judah victorious over Israel under Abijah? _____

1.022 Relative to Jeroboam, how did God view Baasha's complete destruction of his house?

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." — 2 Chronicles 16:9.



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Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
www.aop.com

BIB1007 – Apr '15 Printing

ISBN 978-0-86717-197-6

