

LESSON

8 A Kingdom Divided

In Lesson 7 we paused in our study of the history of Israel to consider the writings of the kingdom age—the marvelous books of poetry and wisdom. Now we will return to the reign of king Solomon and follow the events of its last days and the years afterward.

Unlike the struggling tribes described in Judges, God’s people in the days of the united kingdom were glorious. They subdued others. But during their days of blessing and prosperity they became careless. Idolatry increased, and they forgot the principle of success which Samuel had told them: “Fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart” (1 Samuel 12:24). Solomon turned aside to false gods, and the Lord brought judgment upon him.

Soon the old tribal jealousies appeared. The shadows of division and destruction loomed like a storm cloud, blocking the glory of Israel’s achievements. And worse, the division brought dishonor on the Lord’s name among the nations. But God did not abandon His people. As you study this era of their history you will become acquainted with the messages He gave them through His prophets. You will learn many lessons to apply to your own life today.

lesson outline

Division of the United Kingdom

Description of the Divided Kingdom

History of the Divided Kingdom

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- State the causes and results of the division of the kingdom.
- Identify the characteristics and relationships of the northern and southern kingdoms.
- Describe the content of the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles.
- Using a chart, list facts concerning the kings of Israel and Judah.
- Distinguish between prophetic messages predicting future events and prophetic messages giving principles of right and wrong that can be applied to life today.
- Match verses representing the themes of the prophetic books to the book to which they belong.

learning activities

1. Read in your Bible each section of Scripture as the lesson directs you to. This lesson has a large amount of Bible reading, so you may need to spend more time in order to complete it.
2. Study the lesson carefully.
3. When you have finished it, review Unit 2 (Lessons 5–7).
4. Complete the lesson. When you have reviewed Unit 2 (Lessons 5–7), complete Unit Student Report 2 and return Answer Sheet 2 to your national GU office if you live outside the United States or to your local church's CED learning center coordinator if you live in the United States.

(If you are currently incarcerated in a jail or prison in the United States you may mark your answers on the scantron answer sheet provided and send to the following address: CED, Global University, 1211 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65804.)

key words

allegiance

assassination

B.C.

current affairs

dynasty

genealogy

political

prediction

remnant

tribute

writing prophet

lesson development

DIVISION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Read 1 Kings 11:14; 1 Chronicles 10–11

Objective 1. *State the causes and results of the division of the kingdom.*

God had warned His people through Moses, Joshua, and Samuel that sin would bring destruction. It was not an outside force which defeated them, but the fact that they themselves forsook God. They were not spared from God's judgment on their sin.

Solomon's Idolatry

God warned Solomon twice about worshipping foreign gods. Yet "Solomon did not keep the Lord's command" (1 Kings 11:10). For this reason the Lord told him the kingdom would be taken away from him, though not in his lifetime. God said that He would give one tribe to Solomon's son "for the sake of David . . . and for the sake of Jerusalem" (1 Kings 11:13).

The sin of Solomon and of the people in forsaking God and turning to abominable idolatry was the main reason why the kingdom was divided.

Application

- 1** Read 1 Kings 11:27–39 and answer the following questions in your notebook.
- a)** What reason did the prophet Ahijah give for the division of the kingdom?
 - b)** How would the kingdom be divided?



Rehoboam's Attitude

A second reason for the division of the kingdom was the attitude of Solomon's son Rehoboam, who became king after

Solomon. The people had become restless under the heavy taxes and burdens of Solomon's latter days. They asked their new king to give them relief. But Rehoboam ignored the wise counsel of the elders and consulted his young friends. He answered after three days: "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions" (1 Kings 12:14). Thereafter, the people rebelled and set up a northern kingdom under Jeroboam, a former official in Solomon's government.

Tribal Jealousy

A third reason for the division was the ancient jealousy between the tribe of Judah and the great tribe of Ephraim to the north. You will remember that Joshua had been an Ephraimite. Saul, on the other hand, was chosen from the tribe of Benjamin and David from the tribe of Judah. The sharp rivalry between Judah and Ephraim is seen in the biblical account. While they obeyed God there was unity. But when they did not the division seemed unavoidable.

When the kingdom was divided into two rival states, the entire political structure collapsed. The Philistines, Syrians, Ammonites, and Moabites—nations whom Israel had subdued—regained their freedom. The economic disturbance was serious. These nations no longer paid tribute, and it was impossible for the divided tribes to keep control of the major trade routes. A great kingdom literally fell apart overnight, leaving two weak, second-rate powers.

Application

- 2** Read 1 Kings 12. When Rehoboam assembled an army to attack the tribes under Jeroboam, God told him to
- a)** go ahead and fight the rebellious tribes in order to keep unity.
 - b)** wait until he received further instructions from the prophet.
 - c)** send all the people home because the division was His will.

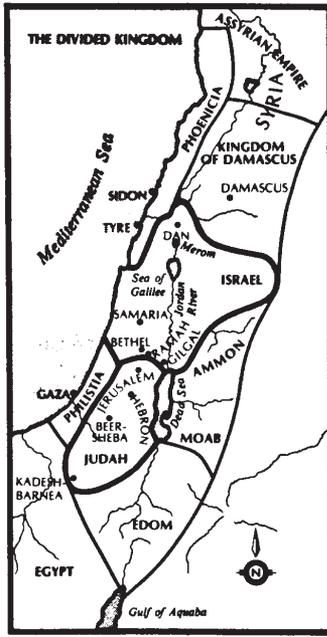
Their Contrasts

The northern kingdom (Israel) had many advantages over the southern kingdom (Judah). It possessed ten strong tribes whereas the southern kingdom had only two.

(Sometimes, however, Judah and Benjamin are counted as one tribe.) As you will see by looking at this map of the two kingdoms, the northern one had a much larger area. It also had the best farming land—the fertile Jordan valley. Its population outnumbered that of Judah by three to one.

In addition, the major military centers built by Solomon and David were there. So were the schools of the prophets in Bethel, Gilgal, and Ramah. The reason for its existence was that God had allowed the kingdom to be divided in this way in judgment because of the people's sins.

But the southern kingdom, though smaller in land and population, possessed Jerusalem, the political and religious center of the nation. It was fear of the influence of Jerusalem which caused Jeroboam, the first king of the northern kingdom, to make a fatal error. This act brought God's immediate wrath and judgment upon him.



Application

4 Read 1 Kings 12:25–31. What did Jeroboam do to try to keep his people from going to worship in Jerusalem?

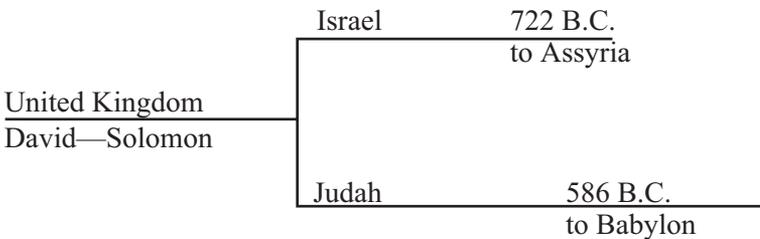
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After this act by Jeroboam, the priests, Levites, and many others from each tribe who were strong in loyalty to the Lord forsook the northern kingdom and transferred their allegiance to Judah. Judah was greatly strengthened by their addition. This meant that remnants of all the tribes were then found within Judah's borders (2 Chronicles 11:13–17).

The southern kingdom enjoyed one even greater advantage. It had only one family of kings, all from the descendants of David. God kept His promise to David, His servant! In contrast, the northern kingdom had nine separate dynasties or families of kings with nineteen wicked rulers. These dynasties followed one another by assassination, bloodshed, and revolution. Perhaps for this reason the southern kingdom outlasted the northern kingdom by 130 years. Below is a chart which summarizes the differences between these two kingdoms and a diagram which shows the length of time each one lasted.

ISRAEL	JUDAH
Northern, ten tribes Capital at Shechem, then Samaria Idol worship at Dan and Bethel	Southern, two tribes Capital at Jerusalem Worship in Temple at Jerusalem
Nine different dynasties All kings were bad Nineteen kings Lasted about 240 years	One ruling family Good and bad kings Nineteen kings, one queen Lasted 395 years
Kingdom fell in 722 B.C. Taken captive by Shalmanezar to Assyria	Kingdom fell in 586 B.C. Taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon



Application

- 5** According to the diagram and charts just given, the northern kingdom
- a)** was ruled by David.
 - b)** had two religious centers.
 - c)** lasted less time than the southern.
-

Their Relationship

You are aware of what civil war does in a nation. It leaves families divided. It leaves business, transportation, and social life destroyed. Israel had been one family, one language, and one nation. Now they were, as Ahijah had prophesied, like a garment torn into twelve pieces; ten pieces now united against two. The relationship between the two kingdoms went through four clearly-marked periods:

1. Mutual hostility. During this time the kings of Judah continued to try to regain authority over the ten tribes of the northern kingdom. There were about 60 years of constant warfare.
2. Close ties against a mutual enemy. Syria threatened the two kingdoms. King Ahab of Israel tried to form an alliance with Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, through the intermarriage of the royal families. The purpose was to unite against the increasing powers of Syria.
3. A period of fresh mutual hostility. When Jehu came to the throne in the northern kingdom he killed all the remaining people of the family of Ahab. This shattered the alliance which had been made by Ahab with the southern kingdom. The wound was never healed. The northern kingdom fell more and more into idolatry. There were a number of prophetic warnings, but the northern kingdom was finally carried away into captivity by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.
4. The southern kingdom alone. Assyria, Egypt, and finally the Chaldeans came to try to conquer Judah. The struggle went

on for about 130 years until 586 B.C. when Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar.

Application

6 Match each fact (left side) to the kingdom which it describes (right side).

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| ... a Possessed the best farming land | 1) Northern |
| ... b Had a smaller land area | 2) Southern |
| ... c Fell to Assyria in 722 B.C. | |
| ... d Was ruled by Jehu | |
| ... e Fell to Babylonia in 586 B.C. | |
| ... f Responsible for killing Ahab's family | |
| ... g Tried to regain control over the ten tribes | |
| ... h Had nine ruling dynasties | |
| ... i Had one ruling family | |
| ... j Jerusalem was its capital | |
| ... k Formed an alliance through marriage with the family of Jehoshaphat | |
-

HISTORY OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

The Records

Read 1 Kings 15–16, 20–22; 1 Chronicles 13:17; 28–29; 2 Chronicles 13–20

Objective 3. *Describe the content of the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles.*

The history of the united and divided kingdom is recorded in the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles. Together these books make up about one-fifth (20%) of the Old Testament. It is important to remember that this history is written from God's point of view.

For example, consider one of the kings of the northern kingdom named Omri. His family reigned for 44 years, the second longest dynasty of all of Israel. We learn from non-biblical records that Omri founded the most powerful ruling family in the northern kingdom. He moved the capital to Samaria, where he began a great city, and he regained territory from the Moabites. In fact, the Assyrians, who later conquered the northern kingdom, called it the land of Omri. Yet the Bible gives the actual events of Omri's reign in only two verses—1 Kings 16:23–24! It is important to keep this point of view in mind when studying these historical records.

Application

7 Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and 1 Kings 16:21–28. Why do you think so little is said about what Omri accomplished?

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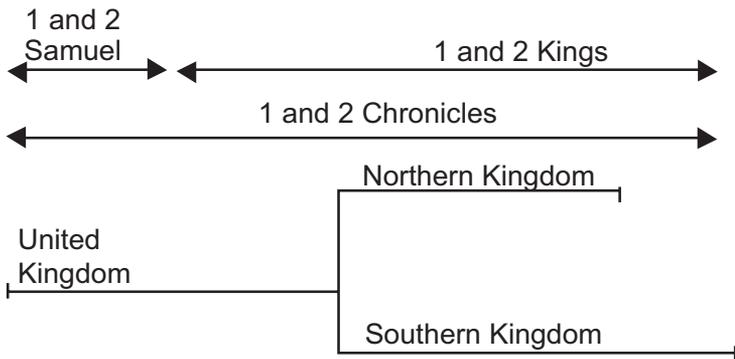
These books differ from each other regarding the importance they place on different aspects of the history they deal with. Let us consider the emphasis of each one.

1. The books of 1 and 2 Samuel show us the principles upon which God wanted the kingdom to be established. It was to be founded on the spiritual values taught by Samuel and ruled by kings who followed the example of David's submissive leadership.
2. The books of 1 and 2 Kings describe how the kingdom actually developed. We see how the prophecy given by Nathan to David (2 Samuel 7:12–16) was fulfilled. This prophecy said that David would always have descendants. First and Second Kings tell about both the northern and southern kingdom. They give much attention to the prophets such as Elijah and Elisha.
3. The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles emphasize the temple: its ceremonies of worship and official figures. With the priesthood and the temple as their main theme, these books

recount the history of the united kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon. Then they deal mainly with the history of Judah, the southern kingdom. The northern kingdom of Israel is mentioned only when its events are related to those in the southern.

Following are two illustrations. The first shows the time span covered by these books. The second shows the differences in the themes of Kings and Chronicles.

THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL, KING, CHRONICLES



Kings	Chronicles
History of both Israel and Judah Emphasizes the prophets Deals with the kingdom and the kings Ends when the people go into captivity	History mainly of Judah Emphasizes the priests Deals with the temple and the priests Ends when the people come back out of captivity

Application

- 8** Circle the letter of each TRUE statement.
- a)** Kings and Chronicles both record the history of Judah.
 - b)** Chronicles deals mainly with the lives of the prophets.
 - c)** Kings emphasizes the history of the northern kingdom and its priests.
 - d)** The books of Chronicles cover about the same time span as the books of Samuel and Kings together.
 - e)** Chronicles ends when the people go into captivity.
 - f)** The prophecy concerning David's kingdom is found in 2 Samuel.
 - g)** Both Samuel and Kings deal with the reign of Saul.
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The Kings

Read 2 Kings 20–24; 2 Chronicles 29–35

Objective 4. *Using a chart, list facts concerning the kings of Israel and Judah.*

The character of Israel and Judah, in one sense, was seen in their kings, because the role of the king in the spiritual destiny of the nation was crucial. What the king was, the people eventually became. This was true both for the good, or, as was usually the case, for the bad.

After Solomon the story of kings gives a sad picture of decline and backsliding. In the northern kingdom Jeroboam had set up the worship of golden bulls. As the first king, his example corrupted the nation and ultimately led to its destruction (1 Kings 16:7; 22:52; 2 Kings 10:31). In the southern kingdom Rehoboam permitted the Israelites to build places in which to worship false gods. They followed the wicked practices of the people that God had ordered them to drive out of Palestine (1 Kings 14:22–24).

But though most of the kings were bad, there were some that were good. The reign of Hezekiah in Judah, for example, was a wonderful time of faith and glory (2 Kings 18:1–20:21).

In the appendix at the end of this book you will find a chart entitled “Kings and Prophets of the Divided Kingdom.” This chart gives the following information about each of the kings of Israel and Judah:

1. The year the king came to power, his name, and the Bible references telling where information concerning his reign is recorded. In the northern kingdom, kings who began dynasties are printed like this: JEROBOAM. The names of some of the kings are the same. This is because the royal families of both kingdoms intermarried and used the same names.
2. How the king gained his throne (by inheritance, assassination, or other means) and about how long he ruled. In some cases, two kings reigned at the same time, so the years do not always add up exactly.
3. A short description of his spiritual character.
4. The names of any prophets who were active during his reign. Prophets who have a book in the Bible by their name are printed in full capitalization; they are also called “writing prophets.” Some prophets, like Amos, had a ministry in both kingdoms.

Now turn to the chart and find the name BAASHA in the list of the northern kingdom. As you will notice, the chart tells us: a) that Baasha came to power in the year 909, b) that he began a dynasty, c) that information about his reign is found in 1 Kings 15:32–16:7, d) that he gained his throne by assassination, e) that he ruled for 24 years, f) that he was a bad king, and g) that Jehu prophesied during the reign. (Remember that the years numbered before Christ count backwards, or become smaller, until the time of Christ which is numbered 0. The years before Christ are usually marked with the letters “B.C.” meaning “before Christ.” All the years in this chart are B.C.)

Application

- 9** In your notebook, answer the following questions by using the information given in the chart.
- a)** What was the name of king Jehoshaphat's son (he married Athaliah, the daughter of king Ahab of Israel)?
 - b)** Now, what was the name of the next king of Judah, the son of Jehoram and Ahab's daughter Athaliah?
 - c)** Who succeeded king Ahab in the northern kingdom?
 - d)** To which dynasty did Jeroboam 2 belong?
 - e)** Who came to power in Judah in 750?
 - f)** Which kings of the southern kingdom might be considered very good? Where in the Bible would you read about them?
 - g)** Which prophet was active at both the fall of Samaria and the reign of Hezekiah of Judah? Is there a book in the Bible by his name?
 - h)** How many kings of the northern kingdom gained their power by assassination?
 - i)** How long did king Amaziah of Judah reign?



You may want to study the lives of each of these kings in greater detail. If so, use the chart to help you in your study. The evil ways of the kings and the people ultimately brought destruction to both kingdoms. The northern kingdom fell in 722 B.C. and the southern in 586 B.C. God had foretold this 800 years earlier through Moses. Captivity and brokenness became the payment for rebellion and idolatry.

Application

10 Read Deuteronomy 28:33, 36. In your notebook, write what God said would happen if His people disobeyed Him.



The Prophets

Their Message; Read 1 Kings 17–19; 2 Kings 1–8, 19–20

Objective 5. *Distinguish between prophetic messages predicting future events and prophetic messages giving principles of right and wrong that can be applied to life today.*

During the dark days of the northern and southern kingdoms God raised up many prophets to warn His people. Of these, twelve have books by their names in the Old Testament. As prophets, their messages were not only about the events of the future but also about God's will for the present. They often had insight into the current affairs of their nation. In 2 Kings 17:13 we read that God sent His prophets to warn Israel and Judah: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets." These men were fearless in speaking to kings and people alike about their sins and the coming judgment.

The prophet was a specially-chosen man. He did not inherit his position as did the king or priest. God's choice of him was not influenced by his family, tribe, or intellectual training. The prophet had two major responsibilities. He was called upon to 1) receive something from God and to 2) produce or speak on behalf of God. The prophet's message thus came from God, not from his own thoughts. Only the false prophets announced what they thought. As God's messenger speaking on His behalf, the prophet was to fearlessly bring God's word to the people.

Application

11 Look again at the chart of the divided kingdom in the back of this study guide. In your notebook, write the name of each prophet during this time who has a book by his name in the Bible.



The prophet's message was received and given out under God's inspiration. But at the same time his own mental ability, personality, and way of speaking were not lost. He was an instrument in God's hand, not a machine. This is a most important distinction, for the results of God's inspiration were in no way like the results of the influence of evil spirits who actually control people.

The source of the prophet's message was important, and so was the message itself. The message of the prophets had three parts:

1. A message to *their own age* or generation directly from God.
2. A message of *predicted future events* such as the following:
 - a) the failure of God's chosen people and God's judgment on them and the nations around them;
 - b) the coming of the Messiah and His rejection and final glory;
 - c) the establishment of the Messiah's kingdom here on earth.
3. A living message to *us who live today* containing principles of right and wrong.

The message the prophet gave to his own generation was often a combination of predictions of future events and principles of right and wrong. We can learn much from these messages, both about the Messiah and His kingdom and about the principles of right and wrong which we can apply to our lives today. Habakkuk 1:6, for example, is a prediction of a future event, whereas 2:4 and 2:18 contain principles of right and wrong. Take a moment now to read and consider the meaning of these verses of Scripture.

Application

12 Read the following verses from the book of Micah (left side). Write 1 in front of each one which represents a definite prophecy about the future and 2 in front of each one which gives principles of right and wrong that we can follow today.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ... a Micah 1:6–7 | 1) Future events |
| ... b Micah 2:1–3 | 2) Principles of right and wrong |
| ... c Micah 3:8–11 | |
| ... d Micah 5:2 | |
| ... e Micah 6:6–8 | |
-

Their Ministries

Objective 6. *Match verses representing the themes of the prophetic books to the book to which they belong.*

To the Northern Kingdom

The writing prophets to the northern kingdom during the time before the Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C. were Jonah, Amos, and Micah. In addition, the northern kingdom was ministered to by Elijah, Elisha, Ahijah, Jehu, Micaiah, and Oded. Each prophet had a special ministry given to him by the Lord. Elijah and Elisha, for example, performed many miracles (see 1 Kings 17 and 2 Kings 4). Jonah was sent to a foreign city, Nineveh, to warn its people of the coming judgment. Read Jonah 1–4 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Application

13 Read each Scripture given below. Then in your notebook, write it down and next to it give the name of the prophet it tells about and a short description of what he did.

- a)** 1 Kings 14:1–17
b) 1 Kings 16:1–7

- c) 1 Kings 18:20–39
 - d) 2 Kings 5:9–16
 - e) 2 Chronicles 28:9–11
-

The following is a brief summary of the messages God gave the northern kingdom through the writing prophets. Each would be a wonderful subject for you to study on your own.

Hosea: Hosea's love for and restoration of his own sinful, adulterous wife was a picture of God's forgiving love for sinful Israel. Chapters 1–3 are the account of Hosea's personal experience which are like God's dealings with spiritually adulterous Israel. Chapters 4–14 are the same message given in greater detail. Read Hosea 1–14 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Amos: Amos preached that a nation is responsible for its national sins. The heathen nations surrounding God's people were condemned to experience judgment for their national sins. Israel, however, received a more severe condemnation for its sins since Israel had greater light. Read Amos 1–9 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Micah: Micah preached to both the northern and southern kingdoms regarding the coming judgment and future restoration and blessing. Chapters 1–3 show a dark picture, chapters 4–5 a bright one, and chapter 6 more judgment. Then from 7:7 on, the book gives a glorious picture of Israel's future. Read Micah 1–7 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Application

14 Read the Scriptures about each of the prophets given below (right side). Then match each prophet to the sentence which tells about his message or activities (left side).

- | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| ... a | Successfully challenged the prophets of Baal | 1) Ahijah, 1 Kings 14:1–18 |
| ... b | Said Judah would be attacked by Shishak of Egypt | 2) Huldah, 2 Kings 22:12–20 |
| ... c | Correctly identified the disguised wife of Jeroboam | 3) Shemaiah, 2 Chronicles 12:5–8 |
| ... d | Told Josiah that he would not see God’s judgment on Jerusalem | 4) Elijah, 1 Kings 18:20–39 |
-

To the Southern Kingdom

The writing prophets to the southern kingdom during this time were Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah. In addition, Shemaiah, Iddo, Azariah, Hanani, Eliezer, and Huldah gave God’s messages to the people. Following is a brief summary of the messages of the writing prophets.

Joel: The country had been threatened with destruction because of devastating swarms of locusts and excessive drought. Though the plague was removed through fasting and prayer, Joel’s prophecy used it as a picture of the terrible day of final judgment for all nations. The faithful will be rewarded while evil doers will be punished. Read Joel 1–3 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Isaiah: Isaiah was a nobleman and prophet of king Hezekiah’s day who warned, comforted, and advised his rulers. He prophesied the captivity of Judah’s kingdom but foretold the dawn of the new kingdom. He prophesied both the sufferings

and the glory of the coming Messiah. Read Isaiah 1, 6–7, 39–44, 52–66 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Micah: Micah prophesied to both kingdoms. Review his message in the previous section.

Application

15 Compare Isaiah 43:5–7 with Micah 4:6–7. In both of these prophecies, God said that He would

- a)** scatter Israel among the nations.
 - b)** gather His people from the nations.
 - c)** judge His people and punish them.
-

Nahum: The foreign nation of Assyria was the subject of Nahum’s prophecy. Assyria had oppressed Judah for a century: the doom of Nineveh, Assyria’s capital, was pronounced, explained, and described by Nahum. Read Nahum 1–3 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Zephaniah: The “Day of the Lord” was stressed by Zephaniah. This day brings destruction to the false remnant who worship Baal (Chapter 1), and it brings purification and blessing to the true remnant of God’s people. Read Zephaniah 1–3 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Jeremiah: Many have named him “the weeping prophet.” He was from a priestly family. While still a boy he was called to be a prophet. For his loyalty to the preaching of God’s word for half a century he was despised, feared, hated, and persecuted. Because he predicted the overthrow of Jerusalem and seventy years of captivity he was called a traitor and suffered much cruel treatment. Read Jeremiah 1–9, 18–19, 36–39, 52 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Lamentations: This book records Jeremiah’s poetic expression of his grief at the destruction and desolation of

Jerusalem and the temple and at the captivity and miseries of the people. Read Lamentations 1–5 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Habakkuk: Habakkuk’s message was that right would win. Judah was being punished by the wicked Babylonians, but the Babylonians would in turn be punished. Read Habakkuk 1–3 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Obadiah: The land of Edom would be judged for its mistreatment of God’s people. Israel would be blessed. Read Obadiah 1 before continuing. Make a check mark here when you have completed your reading:

Application

16 Match each verse (left side) to the name of the prophetic book (right side) to which it belongs.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| ... a | You must love her just as I still love the people of Israel, even though they turn to other gods. | 1) Isaiah
2) Jeremiah
3) Hosea
4) Joel |
| ... b | An army of locusts has attacked our land; they are powerful and too many to count. | |
| ... c | But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. | |
| ... d | The city of Zion [Jerusalem] is beautiful, but it will be destroyed. | |
| ... e | His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. | |

Our study of the divided kingdom has helped us to see the decline of God’s people. Finally, as the prophets had warned, first Israel and then Judah collapsed and were led into captivity. Yet, God revealed through the prophets a glorious future when the Prince of Peace will rule (Isaiah 9:6–7) and the nations will seek the Lord (Micah 4:2).

self-test

1 Which statement best describes the reason why the kingdom was divided?

- a)** The prophet Ahijah prophesied that ten tribes would be given to Jeroboam.
- b)** The people had been severely taxed by Solomon.
- c)** Solomon turned away from God to worship idols.

2 Circle the letter of each TRUE statement.

- a)** The northern kingdom had more land than the southern.
- b)** Ephraim was another name for the southern kingdom.
- c)** The southern kingdom possessed centers of worship at Dan and Bethel.
- d)** The name Israel was used to refer to the northern kingdom.
- e)** Once they were divided, the two kingdoms never formed any alliances.

3 Circle the letter in front of each correct completion. The books of 1 and 2 Kings

- a)** describe the reign of Solomon.
- b)** give most of their attention to the priests and the temple.
- c)** follow the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles in order in the Bible.
- d)** record the ministry of Elijah and Elisha.
- e)** cover a time span not included by 1 and 2 Chronicles.

4 Match each statement (left side) to the kingdom whose history it most closely describes (right side).

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| . . . a | This kingdom has a series of rulers among whom were both good and bad kings. It fell in 586 B.C. and the people were taken captive to Babylon. | 1) Northern | 2) Southern |
| . . . b | This kingdom's first ruler was Jeroboam, who set up idols for the people to worship. The prophet Elijah had a ministry to this kingdom during the reign of king Ahab. | | |
| . . . c | Six of the rulers of this kingdom obtained the throne by assassination. It was ruled by nine different dynasties. | | |

- 5** What is the best explanation for the fact that both the southern and northern kingdoms eventually fell?
- a)** The prophets announced that God would bring judgment upon those who disobeyed Him.
 - b)** The surrounding nations became stronger and were able to conquer Israel and Judah.
 - c)** The people and most of the kings did not faithfully follow God.
- 6** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement about the prophets of the divided kingdom and their message.
- a)** Since the prophets' main messages concerned the future of Israel and Judah, they are of no interest to us today.
 - b)** In some prophecies, natural events were used as an illustration of what would take place in the future.
 - c)** Because the prophets were called by God to minister to His people, none of them were given messages for foreign nations.
 - d)** One of the prophet's two main responsibilities was to choose the person who became the next king.
 - e)** A prophet's message often contained principles of right and wrong that we can apply to our lives today.

Before you continue your study with Lesson 9, be sure to complete your student report for Unit 2 and return Answer Sheet 2 to your instructor.

answers to study questions

- 9** a) Jehoram
b) Ahaziah
c) Ahaziah (this is an example of how the same names were used.)
d) Jehu
e) Jotham
f) Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1–20:21) and Josiah (2 Kings 22:1–23:30 and 2 Chronicles 34:1–35:27).
g) Micah, yes
h) Six
i) 29 years
- 1** a) Solomon's rejection of the Lord, his worship of other gods, and his disobedience of the Lord's commands (or a similar answer).
b) Ten tribes would be given to Jeroboam; one would remain with Solomon's son (Judah and Benjamin were counted as one).
- 10** He said that a foreign nation would take their crops and oppress them. They and their king would be taken captive to a foreign land and serve idols.
- 2** c) send all the people home because the division was His will.
- 11** Zechariah, Joel, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Jonah, and Hosea (in any order).
- 3** a) 1) Cause
b) 2) Result
c) 2) Result
d) 1) Cause
e) 2) Result
- 12** a) 1) Future events
b) 2) Principles of right and wrong
c) 2) Principles of right and wrong
d) 1) Future events
e) 2) Principles of right and wrong

4 He set up two golden bulls, one at Dan and one at Bethel for the people to worship (or a similar answer).

13 a) Ahijah; he gave a message to Jeroboam's wife that her son would die. Later the son died.

b) Jehu; he gave a message of judgment to Baasha that he and his family would be destroyed because of his sin.

c) Elijah; he built an altar to God and prayed for God to send fire down from heaven. God answered his prayer.

d) Elisha; he told Naaman to wash in the Jordan to be healed. Naaman obeyed and was healed.

e) Oded; he rebuked the northern army for taking prisoners from Jerusalem and Judah.

(Your answers should be similar to these.)

5 b) had two religious centers.

c) lasted less time than the southern.

14 a) 4) Elijah, 1 Kings 18:20–39.

b) 3) Shemaiah, 2 Chronicles 12:5–8.

c) 1) Ahijah, 1 Kings 14:1–18

d) 2) Huldah, 2 Kings 22:12–20.

6 a) 1) Northern **g)** 2) Southern

b) 2) Southern **h)** 1) Northern

c) 1) Northern **i)** 2) Southern

d) 1) Northern **j)** 2) Southern

e) 2) Southern **k)** 1) Northern

f) 1) Northern

15 b) gather His people from the nations.

7 Because according to God's point of view it is a person's spiritual character that is important, not his outward gain or accomplishments (or a similar answer).

16 a) 3) Hosea 3:1

b) 4) Joel 1:6

c) 1) Isaiah 53:5

d) 2) Jeremiah 6:2

e) 1) Isaiah 9:7

- 8 a)** True
- b)** False
- c)** False
- d)** True
- e)** False
- f)** True
- g)** False

for your notes



Unit

Destruction and Rebuilding

Lessons

9 Judgment and Captivity

10 Return and Restoration