

This week we will study about the kings of Israel and Judah and why God needed to send the prophet Elijah to His people.



Torchlight

“Yet the Lord did not give Israel up without first doing all that could be done to lead them back to their allegiance to Him. Through long, dark years when ruler after ruler stood up in bold defiance of Heaven and led Israel deeper and still deeper into idolatry, God sent message after message to His backslidden people. Through the prophets He gave them every opportunity to stay the tide of apostasy and to return to Him.”

– Prophets & Kings p. 108



Elijah



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for another new week where I have the opportunity to share You with others. I ask, Lord, that you please give me wisdom so I can make good choices today and for the rest of the week. Thank You for my Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:10

“...For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 12:1-24



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam came to the throne and Jeroboam returned to Israel after his exile in Egypt. Jeroboam and the people went to king Rehoboam to ask him if he would reduce the oppressive taxes that Solomon had placed on the people. During the time of Solomon's reign, when he left God to follow his wives' gods, he lost his kind, compassionate spirit. He had become a hard man who taxed his fellow people heavily to pay for his and his 700 wives' expensive lifestyles! Now that Solomon was dead, the Israelites hoped that his son would reduce the taxes, which had burdened the people. Rehoboam wanted three days to think about it and sent Jeroboam and the people away. The king's older and wiser advisors recommended that Rehoboam be kind to his people and then they would serve him well. The younger advisors told him to tax more heavily than his father. This advice



Rehoboam took unwisely and when Jeroboam and the people came back three days later, he told them that he would be worse than his father. With this news, Jeroboam and the ten tribes split off from Rehoboam and the combined tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Jeroboam became the king of Israel in the north and Rehoboam became king of the southern tribe of Judah. With this split, Rehoboam wanted to make war with Jeroboam but God, through the prophet Shemaiah, told him that he must not fight his fellow Israelites. Older people often have the best and wisest advice to help us in making decisions; so don't dismiss Mum and Dad's advice too quickly! Listen to them.

FIND A WORD

In our reading today, how many times did the words 'yoke' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for blessing me with an education so I can read about You in the Bible. Help me to understand what I read today and then to be able to share it with someone else. Thank You for loving me so much. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:10

“...For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 12:25-33
& 13:1-10



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today sadly tells us that Jeroboam chose not to follow God. Jeroboam feared that his people would continue to travel south to Jerusalem to the temple, so he decided to set up two worship centres for the new nation. One was in the far north at Dan, and the other was further south in Bethel. Jeroboam made two golden calves, one for each worship site, for the people to worship and to bring their sin offerings to. God strictly forbade this, as He is an invisible God. The golden calf was an idol. Jeroboam also put false priests in charge of the worship sites, as the Levites refused to participate in these false services. God sent a 'man of God', or prophet, from Judah to warn Jeroboam about what he was doing. When the 'man of God' arrived at the false altar at Bethel, he prophesied that the altar would split in two and the ashes would pour out. That was exactly what happened and Jeroboam, who happened to be there at the time, became angry and reached out to grab the prophet but his hand withered in the process. Jeroboam begged the prophet to restore his hand, which he did. Jeroboam asked the prophet to come home with him but the prophet told him he was instructed by God to go back home immediately to Judah and not stay in Israel. Jeroboam had a wonderful opportunity to do good in Israel. God promised that He would be with him if he followed His commandments. Look at *1 Kings 11:38*.



FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, how many times did the word 'altar' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for keeping me safe last night when I slept and please be with me today. Help me to be faithful and keep Your commandments. Please send me the Holy Spirit to help me to do this. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:10

“...For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 13:11-34



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today is an interesting one. A false prophet went after the 'man of God' and begged him to come back home with him to have a meal. The false prophet lied to the 'man of God' and told him an angel had spoken to him to tell him to bring him back to his home. Unfortunately, the 'man of God' believed the false prophet and went home with him. If God had changed his mind about the 'man of God' being able to stay in Israel for a meal, God would have told him. A message from God came to the false prophet that the 'man of God' had disobeyed the instructions of the LORD. After the meal, the false prophet saddled a donkey for the 'man of God' and sent him on his way. Not far into his journey a lion killed him and then the lion and donkey stood by the dead body. It was a strange site to behold, as the lion did not eat the 'man of God' nor the donkey. The false prophet went and retrieved the body and buried him in his tomb.

God in his mercy sent the prophet, or 'the man of God', from Judah to warn Jeroboam of his sin but Jeroboam chose not to repent. Even the incident of his withered hand and the strange death of the prophet did not persuade him to repent. If, after disobeying God, 'the man of God' was able to return home unharmed other people would also be encouraged to not believe God's warnings, including Jeroboam. So God had to let the lion kill 'the man of God' for his choice to disobey God's Word. Check out *Matthew 7:15* and *Matthew 24:24*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading, how many times does the word 'bread' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You so much for Jesus' sacrifice of dying on the cross for my sins so I can have eternal life with You. Help me to be faithful until Jesus comes to take us to heaven. I love you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:10

“...For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 14:1-20



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us about Jeroboam's son Abijah. Abijah became sick and his father Jeroboam sent his wife and son to Shiloh to visit the prophet Ahijah for help. Ahijah was the prophet who originally told Jeroboam that he would be the king of Israel. Jeroboam told his wife to disguise herself so no one would know that she was the king's wife, but Ahijah knew, as God told him. The prophet sent Jeroboam's wife back home with a warning of doom. Jeroboam had proved he was not faithful to God as he had chosen to worship idols instead. He had also led many of the Israelites to do the same. God was going to cut off the house of Jeroboam so none of his descendants could rule. Jeroboam's son died and sometime later Jeroboam also died after twenty-two years of rule as the first king of the northern tribes of Israel. Six more kings followed him but the Bible tells us they all did 'evil in the sight of the LORD'.



For optional reading, you can read *1 Kings 15:25 – 16:28* that tell you about the six kings that came after Jeroboam. They were Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Tibni and Omri. Their duration of rule as kings ranged from 7 days to 24 years and altogether spanned approximately 40 years.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading, how many times did the word 'wife' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for my family. Help me to be kind to my brothers and sisters and listen and obey my parents. Please forgive me for my sins and help me to be more like Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:10

“...For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

2 Chronicles 11:13-17 & 12:1-16



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today we read about what was going on in the southern kingdom of Judah. The priests and Levites from the northern kingdom of Israel moved down to the southern kingdom of Judah because of the false worship that Jeroboam had set up. Verse 17 tells us that, for the first three years of Rehoboam's reign, he followed God. But as time went on, Rehoboam started to worship idols and king Shishak of Egypt came up to Jerusalem to make war with him. God sent the prophet Shemiah to warn Judah of their apostasy. This time the king and the people repented. God heard this and caused the king of Egypt not to destroy them but instead to take away all the beautiful treasures which Solomon had gathered over the years, from the temple and palace. King Rehoboam did humble himself, for a while, but before he died, he returned to his evil ways. Rehoboam ruled for seventeen years and his son Abijah, or Abijam as he was known, came to the throne.

Being humble before God is a good thing. Have a look at this verse in *2 Chronicles 7:14*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times was the name 'Shishak' mentioned? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for the sunshine and the rain. Thank You for the food You provide for me to eat. Help me to be faithful to You just as You are faithful to me in providing all my needs. I love you Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:10

“...For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 15:1-8 &
2 Chronicles 14:1-15



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us about two of the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah. After Rehoboam died his son Abijah became king. Abijah, as we said yesterday, was also known as Abijam. He only ruled for three years and the Bible tells us that he did 'evil in the sight of the LORD'. He was reigning in Judah when Jeroboam was reigning in the north and they went to war with each other. 2 Chronicles 13 describes one of the battles they had and God gave Abijah the victory from which Jeroboam never recovered. After Abijah died, his son Asa came to the throne and he ruled for forty-one years. The Bible tells us that he did 'what was right in the sight of the LORD'. King Asa removed all the idols from the land. He commanded the people of Judah to worship God and obey His commandments. Our reading also tells us of a battle that happened between Judah and the Ethiopians. When Judah saw that the Ethiopians had one million soldiers they cried out to the LORD and God delivered them from the Ethiopians. There was a great reformation in Judah and God blessed king Asa because of his faithfulness in worshiping God alone. King Asa, though, was not immune to mistakes. He made two mistakes in his later years of life and you can read about them in *2 Chronicles 16* and *1 Kings 15:9-24*.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times did the name 'Judah' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for blessing me with another Sabbath day. Help me to learn something new about You today. Help me to understand what I read in the Bible today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - MATTHEW 4:10

“...For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 16:29-34
& 17:1-7



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Finally we get to study about Elijah! We needed to look at the history of Israel to see why God needed to send Elijah in the first place. Our reading today tells us about the eighth king of the northern tribes of Israel. King Ahab was a wicked king. He and his wife Jezebel brought Baal and Ashtoreth worship into Israel in a 'big way'. Everywhere you looked in Israel there were temples and idol images scattered across the land and most of the people in Israel chose to follow them. Israel went into a dark period of its history. God is longsuffering, or very patient, and He had compassion on His people and sent a prophet named Elijah to the kingdom of Israel to turn the people's hearts back to God. The reason God chose to use a drought to punish Israel was that the people believed Baal provided the dew and the rain to water the earth. They worshipped the creation not the Creator. God wanted to show them it was He alone who provided all their needs, not a stone statue. When Ahab and Jezebel heard the message from Elijah they were furious, so God sent Elijah to an isolated spot in a valley, or ravine, called Brook Cherith where he would be safe. It was here that Elijah would have water to drink and God would send ravens to feed him bread twice a day. God supplied Elijah's daily needs in an amazing way!



SABBATH QUIZ

1. What topic was discussed between Jeroboam and Rehoboam?

2. What idol did Jeroboam provide for the people to worship?

3. Who took the treasures away from Rehoboam? _____
4. Who was the king that asked God to deliver Judah from the Ethiopians? _____
5. What type of bird did God send to feed Elijah? _____