



# BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade | Unit 4**

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# BIBLE 604

## The Divided Kingdom

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**804 N. 2nd Ave. E.**

**Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

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# The Divided Kingdom

## Introduction

When the kingdom of Israel was established under Saul, God promised the people of Israel that He would continue to bless both Israel and their king, if they obeyed His voice and did not rebel against His commandment. Saul was disobedient and did rebel against the commandment of the Lord. The Lord rejected him as king of Israel and chose David as Saul's successor.

Another promise from the Lord was made to David. The Lord promised that He would build David a "house," a royal family *forever*. This promise was fulfilled in Christ (see Luke 1:32–33). The Lord also promised David that He would establish the kingdom of Solomon *forever*, if Solomon, David's son and successor, continued to do His commandments. Solomon failed to keep the commandments of the Lord. His kingdom was divided under his son, Rehoboam.

God had also made a promise to the people of Israel. He promised the land of Canaan as a permanent possession. He also told them that, if they did not obey His commandments, but worshiped false gods, He would remove them from the land. In this study you will learn that, during the period of the divided kingdom, the people of Israel failed to obey God's commandments. They worshiped and served false gods. Therefore, God removed them from the land. God's Word is true. Today, God promises us many blessings if we will love Him and obey His commandments.

God's desire for His people, Israel, in Canaan was that they would "walk" with Him, that they would be His people and that He would be their God. God's desire for believers today has not changed. He wants us to walk with Him so that we will be His people and He will be our God. He desires our loving obedience. While studying about the division of the kingdom in this LIFEPAK®, remember both the good and bad examples of the kings and people of Israel—how they did or did not walk with God in loving obedience, in worship, and in service. Make all effort in your own life to follow the good examples and to avoid the bad.

The study in this LIFEPAK will involve the history of Israel (and Judah) from the division of the kingdom to the Babylonian Captivity. You will study the major kings and prophets of this period. You will also study briefly nine books classified as minor prophets and related to this period.

## Objectives

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

1. Explain Solomon's role in the division of the kingdom.
2. List two major mistakes made by Rehoboam that contributed to the division of the kingdom.
3. Name the two tribes of the Southern Kingdom.
4. State two conditions God would require of Jeroboam to establish his dynasty in Israel.
5. Describe the "sin of Jeroboam."
6. Name the most wicked king of Israel and identify the false worship he introduced into the kingdom of Israel.
7. Discuss two miraculous demonstrations of God's power to Israel at Carmel in response to Elijah's faith and in answer to his prayers.
8. Identify Elijah's successor.
9. Name the king who destroyed the worship in Israel of the false god Baal and relate God's resulting promise to the king.

10. Name the first and last kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
11. Identify two prophets of Judah and three prophets of Israel who ministered during the period of the divided kingdom and who are classified as minor prophets.
12. Explain the term minor.
13. Relate each of the five *minor* prophets who ministered during the divided kingdom period and whose ministry concerned the political and religious conditions of the two kingdoms.
14. List those Bible references that present the reign of Hezekiah.
15. Discuss revival and reform in Judah under both Hezekiah and Josiah.
16. Identify three kings of Judah who did right in the sight of the Lord and walked in the ways of David.
17. Name the first king and the last king of the Southern Kingdom.
18. Identify six prophets of the remaining kingdom of Judah.

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

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# 1. FROM THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM TO THE ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY

In this section of Bible 604 LIFEPAK, you will study the history of Israel from the end of Solomon's reign to the Assyrian captivity of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. The Old Testament historical books of 1 and 2 Kings, and 2 Chronicles provide the information for this section: 1 Kings chapters 12–22; 2 Kings chapters 1–17; and 2 Chronicles chapters 10–28.

Solomon had received great wisdom, wealth, and honor from God; but he sinned against the Lord. His heart was turned away to false gods. Jerusalem, the city of God, was corrupted

by high places for the worship of false gods (1 Kings 11:1–8). The Lord was angry with Solomon and warned him that his kingdom would be divided under his son (1 Kings 11:9 and 11–13).

The books of 1 and 2 Kings present the histories of both kingdoms, Israel and Judah. Covering the same period as the books of Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles present only the reign of the kings of Judah. As you study this section, refer often to the chart showing the kings and prophets of Israel and Judah.

## Section Objectives

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

1. Explain Solomon's role in the division of the kingdom.
2. List two major mistakes made by Rehoboam that contributed to the division of the kingdom.
3. Name the two tribes of the Southern Kingdom.
4. State two conditions God would require of Jeroboam to establish his dynasty in Israel.
5. Describe the "sin of Jeroboam."
6. Name the most wicked king of Israel and identify the false worship he introduced into the Kingdom of Israel.
7. Discuss two miraculous demonstrations of God's power to Israel at Carmel in response to Elijah's faith and in answer to his prayers.
8. Identify Elijah's successor.
9. Name the king who destroyed the worship in Israel of the false god Baal and relate God's resulting promise to the king.
10. Name the first and last kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

## Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

**Baal-zebul** (bā' ul ze' bub). The name given to Baal by the Philistines in Ekron.

**blaspheme** (blas fēm'). To speak about God or sacred people or things with abuse; to curse.

**dynasty** (dī' nu stē). A series of rulers of the same line or family.

**grove** (grōv). A translation of the Hebrew word *asherah*; Asherah was worshiped as the goddess of fertility.

**succession** (suk sesh' un). The coming of one person or thing after another; a series.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## FROM JEROBOAM TO AHAB

The Lord had told Solomon that his kingdom would be divided under his son. When Rehoboam (rē' u bō' um), Solomon's son, became king in Solomon's place, he made two major mistakes that caused the kingdom of Israel to be divided. First, he rejected a plea by the northern tribes to receive less oppression by the new king. Solomon had placed heavy burdens upon the people. The northern tribes wanted Rehoboam to be easier on them—to make their responsibilities to the king lighter. Second, Rehoboam rejected also the good counsel of the old men and followed the bad advice of the young men. The old men counseled Rehoboam to be a servant of the

### Read 1 Kings Chapters 12-14



people and to speak good words to them—to be kind to the people. The young men advised Rehoboam to increase the burdens of the people, to be much harder on them than even Solomon had been. Rehoboam rejected both the plea of his people and the counsel of the old men, and the kingdom was divided as God had said it would be. The ten northern tribes rebelled against Rehoboam and made Jeroboam (jer uh bō' um) king. The Northern Kingdom became known as Israel. The two tribes that remained loyal to Rehoboam became known as the Southern Kingdom, the kingdom of Judah.



#### Answer true or false.

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ The books of Chronicles present the histories of both kingdoms, Israel and Judah.
- 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord had told Solomon that his kingdom would be divided under his son.
- 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ Rehoboam, Solomon's son, had nothing to do with the division of the kingdom, except to accept it.
- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ The southern tribes requested Rehoboam to be easier on them than Solomon had been.
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ Solomon's reign had been oppressive on the people.
- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ The old men counseled Rehoboam to be a servant of the people and to speak good words to them.
- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ The young men advised Rehoboam to increase the burdens of the people.
- 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_ Rehoboam rejected both the plea of his people and the advice of the young men.
- 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_ Ten northern tribes of Israel rebelled against Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king.
- 1.10 \_\_\_\_\_ The Northern Kingdom became the kingdom of Judah.



**Jeroboam.** Before becoming king of Israel, Jeroboam had met Ahijah (u hi' juh), the prophet in Jerusalem. Catching his own new garment, Ahijah tore it into twelve pieces. He gave ten pieces to Jeroboam telling Jeroboam that God would divide the kingdom of Solomon's son and give ten tribes to him. The prophet also told Jeroboam that his "house" or **dynasty** would be established in Israel like the "house" of David, if he would do these two things: (1) keep God's commandments and (2) walk in His way.

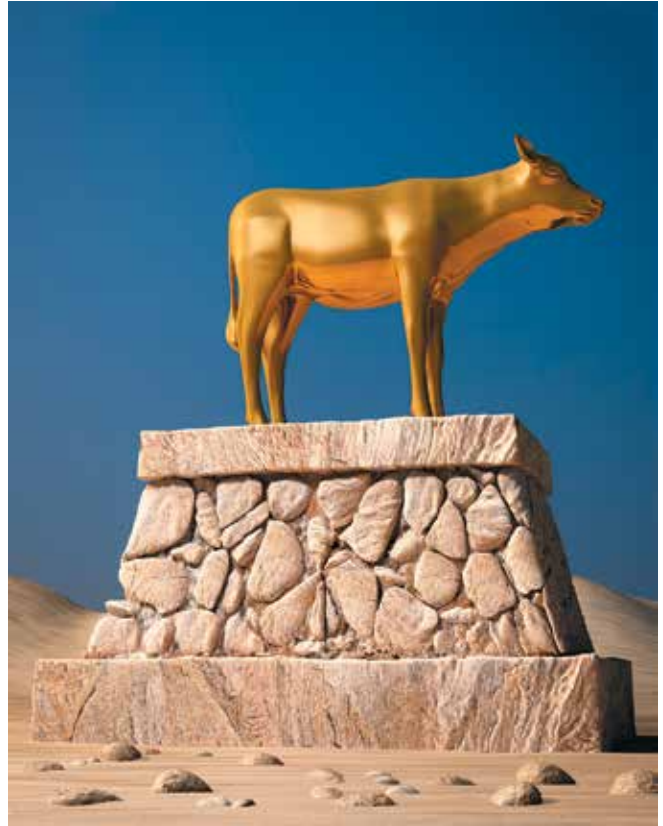
Jeroboam did not do either one. He neither kept God's commandments nor walked in God's way. He made two golden calves and declared them to be Israel's gods. He placed one of the false gods in Bethel, on the southern border of Israel, and one in Dan, on Israel's northern border. Because of Jeroboam's sins and his refusal to repent, the prophet Ahijah pronounced this judgment upon Jeroboam: Jeroboam's son would die, and his dynasty would be destroyed.

**Rehoboam, Abijah, and Asa.** The first three kings of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) in their order of **succession** were Rehoboam, Abijah (uh bī juh), and Asa (ā' suh).

Rehoboam, son of Solomon, succeeded Solomon as king of the united kingdom. The kingdom was divided, and Rehoboam reigned in Jerusalem over the tribes of Judah



| Ahijah tore his own garmet into twelve pieces



| Golden Calf

and Benjamin for seventeen years. Judah and Benjamin became the two tribes of the Southern Kingdom, which became known as Judah. Rehoboam failed to seek the Lord. He did not keep the Law of the Lord and he permitted the practice of idolatry in Judah.

Upon the death of Rehoboam, his son Abijah reigned in Jerusalem for three years. Abijah's heart did not please the Lord, but the Lord continued the line of successors through Abijah for David's sake (1 Kings 15:4).

Asa, Abijah's son, reigned in Judah forty-one years. His reign began during the reign of Jeroboam, Israel's first king, and continued until Ahab, Israel's seventh king. Asa opposed idolatry in Judah. He did right in the eyes of the Lord (1 Kings 15:16).



**Complete the following statements.**

- 1.11** Before becoming king of Israel, Jeroboam met Ahijah, who was the \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem.
- 1.12** When he met Jeroboam, Ahijah caught up his own new garment and tore it into \_\_\_\_\_ pieces.
- 1.13** Having torn his garment, Ahijah gave Jeroboam a. \_\_\_\_\_ pieces, telling him that God would divide the kingdom and give him b. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.14** Ahijah told Jeroboam that his “house” would be established in Israel like the “house” of David, if he would do these two things:
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ and
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.15** Because of Jeroboam’s sins, Ahijah pronounced \_\_\_\_\_ upon his house.
- 1.16** Another word for “house” is \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Write the correct letter and answer on each blank.**

- 1.17** Rehoboam, Abijah, and Asa were the first three kings of the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom.  
 a. united                              b. southern                              c. northern
- 1.18** Rehoboam succeeded Solomon, his father, as king of the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom.  
 a. united                              b. southern                              c. northern
- 1.19** The first king in Judah to oppose idolatry was \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Abijah                              b. Asa                              c. Rehoboam
- 1.20** Asa, Abijah’s son, reigned in Judah for \_\_\_\_\_ years.  
 a. forty-one                              b. thirty-one                              c. twenty-one



| Nadab, son and successor of Jeroboam

**Nadab and successors.** The brief reign of Nadab (nae' dab), son of Jeroboam, ended the dynasty of Jeroboam in Israel. Nadab began to reign in Israel during the second year of Asa, king of Judah. Nadab reigned only two years. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. Like his father, Jeroboam, he caused Israel to sin.

Nadab was slain by Baasha (bā' ah shah), who took his throne. Baasha destroyed all the descendants of Jeroboam, as the prophet Ahijah had predicted. Baasha reigned in Israel

for twenty-four years. Because Baasha walked in the ways of Jeroboam, his descendants were also destroyed. Elah, Baasha's son, succeeded him and was slain by Zimri. Zimri slew not only all of Baasha's descendants but also all of his friends. Zimri reigned only seven days in Israel. The people of Israel rejected Zimri and made Omri king. Omri was captain of Israel's army before he was made king.

Of all the sinful kings in Israel before him, Omri was the most wicked. He reigned in Israel for twelve years. After six years as king of Israel, Omri bought the hill of Samaria and built on it a city. He called the city *Samaria* and made it the capital city of Israel. Samaria remained the capital of Israel until the Assyrians made slaves of the Israelites. Omri reigned his last six years in Samaria. He was the father of Ahab. Ahab was to become a king who was even more wicked than Omri.

Upon the death of Omri, his son Ahab became king in Israel. Ahab was the seventh and most wicked king of Israel. He became king in Israel during the thirty-eighth year of Asa, king of Judah. Ahab reigned twenty-two years in Samaria. He married Jezebel of Sidon and became a follower of her false god, Baal. He built a house and an altar for Baal and introduced Baal worship into the kingdom of Israel. The study of Ahab will continue with more detail in the following section.



**Match the following items.**

- |                   |        |    |   |
|-------------------|--------|----|---|
| <b>1.21</b> _____ | Nadab  | a. | son and successor of Baasha                   |
| <b>1.22</b> _____ | Baasha | b. | builder of the city of Samaria                |
| <b>1.23</b> _____ | Elah   | c. | son and successor of Jeroboam                 |
| <b>1.24</b> _____ | Zimri  | d. | son and successor of Omri                     |
| <b>1.25</b> _____ | Omri   | e. | destroyer of Baasha's descendants and friends |
|                   |        | f. | destroyer of Jeroboam's descendants           |

**Answer the following questions.**

**1.26** Who was the seventh and most wicked king of Israel and how long did he reign?

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**1.27** How was Baal worship introduced into the kingdom of Israel?

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## SELF TEST 1

Match the following items (each answer, 2 points).

- |       |                               |    |   |
|-------|-------------------------------|----|---|
| 1.01  | _____ the books of Kings      | a. | destroyed Baal worship in Israel                          |
| 1.02  | _____ Rehoboam                | b. | became the Southern Kingdom                               |
| 1.03  | _____ Elisha                  | c. | was the fourth and final king in Ahab the dynasty of Jehu |
| 1.04  | _____ Ahab                    | d. | Solomon's son and successor                               |
| 1.05  | _____ Judah and Benjamin      | e. | present only the history of the Jeroboam Northern Kingdom |
| 1.06  | _____ the books of Chronicles | f. | present the histories of both kingdoms                    |
| 1.07  | _____ Jeroboam                | g. | became prisoner of king of Assyria                        |
| 1.08  | _____ Jehu                    | h. | was Elijah's successor as prophet in Israel               |
| 1.09  | _____ Hoshea                  | i. | was first king of the Northern Kingdom                    |
| 1.010 | _____ Zechariah               | j. | introduced Baal worship into Israel                       |
|       |                               | k. | present only the history of the kingdom of Judah          |

Complete the following items (each answer, 4 points).

- 1.011 Under King Solomon, Jerusalem was corrupted by high places for the \_\_\_\_\_ of false gods.
- 1.012 The Lord was angry with Solomon and warned him that his kingdom would be \_\_\_\_\_ under his son.
- 1.013 Rehoboam reigned in Jerusalem over the tribes of Judah and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.014 Rehoboam (did, did not) \_\_\_\_\_ keep the Law of the Lord.
- 1.015 Jeroboam made two golden calves and declared them to be Israel's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.016 Jeroboam was told by the prophet Abijah that God would establish a "house" in Israel like the "house" of David, if he would (a) keep God's commandments and (b) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.017 Ahab was the seventh and most \_\_\_\_\_ king of Israel.

- 1.018** Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to put their god to the test of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.019** When Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel to pray, the first evidence that God was about to fulfill His promise to send rain was the appearance in the sky of a  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ the size of b. \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Write the letter and the correct answer on each blank** (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.020** Elijah's successor as prophet in Israel was \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Ahijah                                      b. Elisha                                      c. Micaiah
- 1.021** Jehu, king of Israel destroyed both the house of Ahab and the worship of \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel.  
a. Baal                                      b. calves                                      c. trees
- 1.022** The first king of the Northern Kingdom was \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Rehoboam                                      b. Jeroboam                                      c. Jehoram
- 1.023** The last king of the Northern Kingdom was \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Zechariah                                      b. Azariah                                      c. Hoshea
- 1.024** Although the kingdom of Israel had frequent dynasty changes, the kingdom of Judah maintained the house of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Jeroboam                                      b. Joash                                      c. David
- 1.025** God promised Jehu that his dynasty in Israel would last \_\_\_\_\_ generations.  
a. three                                      b. four                                      c. five
- 1.026** The histories of both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom are presented in the books of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Samuel                                      b. Kings                                      c. Chronicles
- 1.027** The Northern Kingdom became the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Israel                                      b. Judah                                      c. David
- 1.028** When he met Jeroboam, Ahijah caught up his own new garment and tore it into \_\_\_\_\_ pieces.  
a. twelve                                      b. ten                                      c. two
- 1.029** Rehoboam, son of Solomon, succeeded Solomon as king of the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom.  
a. Northern                                      b. United                                      c. Southern



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.  
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070  
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BIB0604 - Apr '15 Printing

ISBN 978-0-86717-154-9



9 780867 171549