

THE KINGS

Date: 5.19.24 | Title: Solomon's Sin Divides the Kingdom | Scripture: 1 Kings 10-12

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.



MEMORY VERSE

"Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn." 1 Kings 2:3

THE KINGS

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 provides a specific set of criteria for the king to live by. God states three specific things that kings of Israel must not do. When we read the story of Solomon against these verses, we see a different picture of Solomon.

1) The king must not acquire a great number of horses, especially from Egypt because God has already rescued His people from slavery here. Twice the narrator of 1 Kings states the large number (12,000) of chariot horses Solomon accumulates (4:26; 10:26). The narrator also points out that Solomon obtains many of these horses from Egypt (10:28).

2) The king must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. Solomon's abundance of gold is emphasized (1 Kings 9:28; 10:14).

3) The king must not "take too many wives" (17:17). Solomon had "seven hundred wives of royal birth (many of them foreign) and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1-3).

4) A fourth aspect is implied, but not stated- a warning against any serious relationship with Egypt, the land from which God delivered them (17:16). The narrator telling the story stresses Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter, highlighting the connection to Egypt, which was prohibited (1 Kings 3:1; 7:8, 11:1).

After Solomon builds the temple and Yahweh fills it with His spirit, Solomon goes on to build a huge standing army with large numbers of chariots, the latest in military technology. He builds a fleet of ships to sail on the Red Sea. Wealth pours into the empire. On the surface everything about Solomon's empire is spectacular. Yahweh will dwell with Israel and be faithful to them if they are obedient (6:13). "Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind" (1 Kings 10:24).

THE KINGS

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Throughout 1 Kings 1-10, the reader receives hints that not all is well with Solomon's heart. In 1 Kings 3:1, Solomon "made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt". In Deuteronomy 7:3-4, there is a command not to marry foreigners tied to a warning that such marriages will lead the people to serve other gods. In 1 Kings 3:3, Solomon tolerates worship of the Lord at the pagan altars the Israelites had inherited from the Canaanites. This was forbidden in Numbers 33:52 and Deuteronomy 7:5; 12:3. Since Solomon's prayer in 8:22-53 and God's response to it in 9:1-9 make clear both the importance of keeping the law and the consequences of disobedience, verses 9:10-10:29 sound ominous. There are inevitable consequences because Solomon's sin has led him astray.

In 1 Kings 11:1-4 we read, "Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, 'You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.' Solomon had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines and when he was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God." Solomon loved the Lord, but he also loved many women and he clung to them. The verbs, "loved" and "clung", appear in Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12, 20; 11:1, 22; 13:4; 30:20 where they speak of unswerving human loyalty to God. Solomon's heart however was divided; and in spite of his hope that God would always turn Israelite hearts to himself (8:58), the king's wives, in his old age, turned away his heart in the opposite direction, after other gods. "So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done." (11:6).

"And the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing that he should not go after other gods, but he did not keep what the Lord commanded" (1 Kings 11:9-10). Because of Solomon's actions, the Lord will "surely tear the kingdom away from you (Solomon) and will give it to your servant" (11:12). The Lord promises to do this during the reign of Solomon's son. As we see in 2 Samuel 7, God's covenant with David is irrevocable, so one tribe will be left for Judah, despite Solomon's transgressions (1 Kings 11:11-13, 34, 36). Now the blessing is departing, and the peace is fractured.

THE KINGS

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Two men who had not caused Solomon any problems are raised up by God to oppose the king in his old age. Where the king once had peace on all sides, now he finds enemies (11:14, 23). The most prominent enemy is Jeroboam, whom Solomon seeks to kill (11:28-40). This attempt is futile as Jeroboam, an enemy of Solomon and the head of the forced laborers who constructed in Jerusalem, is later approached by a prophet outside the city. The prophet tears his new garment into 12 pieces and tells Jeroboam to take 10 pieces for himself (symbolizing the northern tribes). One tribe, Judah, is to remain for the sake of David and Jerusalem. Benjamin is not included in the math here (12:21), perhaps because this tribe was regarded simply as Jerusalem's own territory- this territory came with the city and needed no special mention. Jeroboam is promised that he can also have a dynasty like David's if he is obedient (11:38).

Solomon reigns in Jerusalem over Israel for forty years. The rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom are not written down. When Solomon dies and is buried, Rehoboam his son reigns in his place.

Rehoboam goes to Shechem for all of Israel to come make him king. Jeroboam hears of this and comes as well. Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel tell Rehoboam that Solomon made their yoke heavy and that he should lighten their hard service and the heavy yoke on them so they will in turn serve him. Rehoboam sends the people away for three days. During this time he meets with the counsel of old men who had served Solomon. The old men agreed with what the people had told Rehoboam. Solomon abandons their counsel and meets with young men who have grown up with him. They advise Rehoboam to add to their yoke and to discipline them with scorpions instead of whips like Solomon.

When Jeroboam and all the people come to Rehoboam on the third day, the king answers the people harshly and ignores the counsel of the old men. He speaks to them according to what the young men have advised him. He starts his reign by threatening to make life harder for the people than it was under Solomon's reign (12:1-13). Rehoboam tells the people he will add to their yoke, making it heavier (harder labor and higher taxes) and discipline them with scorpions. This is the spark needed to propel the ten tribes to crown Jeroboam as king over the Northern tribes (12:16-20). Amid this human decision, God's decision is being carried through. Now there will be continual war between north and south throughout the period after the division of the kingdoms (14:30; 15:6, 16). The dissolution of the kingdom under Solomon, which the Lord threatened has become a reality.

The rest of the book of Kings is a running parallel account of the two kingdoms and their kings: 8 from the north and 4 in the south- all of whom are also mentioned again in the Chronicles. The two sides continue to fight each other regularly, and all of Israel's kings are horrible- rotten leaders and spiritual apostates. The 8 kings of Israel in the north were Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, and Ahaziah. All of them were idolaters and pagan worshippers. In the southern king of Judah, the kings were Rehoboam, Abijam, Asa, and Jehoshaphat. Only the last two did right in God' eyes.

THE KINGS

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders and The Biggest Story Storybook Bible: The Kingdom Cracks to tell the story.

Last week we learned about how Solomon completed the temple and spent time praying to God, and dedicating the temple. Solomon allowed his heart to be led astray from full devotion to God. His sin not only affected his life but the whole nation.

**TELL
THE
STORY**



King Solomon was wiser and richer than any other king on earth. He loved God and God blessed him, but Solomon wanted more. He had many wives from different nations. Before long, Solomon's wives were able to turn him away from God. Solomon began to worship the false gods that his wives worshipped. He built altars on a hill near Jerusalem to worship idols. Then the people in Israel began to worship the false gods too.

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

When this happened, God was angry. God said to Solomon, "Since you have done this, I will take the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. You will be king the rest of your life, but when your son becomes king, he will lose everything except for one tribe." And that is exactly what happened.

Solomon had a servant named Jeroboam. One day, a prophet named Ahijah met Jeroboam as he was coming down the road. Ahijah took off his coat and tore it into 12 pieces.

Re-Tell

The Bible
Story

Ahijah told Jeroboam, "Take 10 pieces for yourself. God is going to take the kingdom of Israel away from Solomon. He will let Solomon and his family keep a small part, but you will get the bigger part- 10 tribes."

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

Ahijah said God was going to punish King David's descendants for their unfaithfulness, but their punishment would not last forever.

THE KINGS

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. The people did not want to serve a king like Rehoboam because he treated them so harshly, so they made Jeroboam king. The kingdom of Israel was now divided. Jeroboam ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Solomon's son only ruled over the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Solomon allowed his heart to worship false gods. Solomon married women from tribes that the Lord told the Israelites not to marry. Solomon's wives worshipped idols and their idolatry influenced Solomon. He did not fully love the Lord. His sin divided the kingdom. God takes sin seriously. Sin separates us from God and always has consequences. Solomon's sin suffered a consequence: God divided the kingdom. Because of God's promise to David, God would show mercy to Solomon. The Lord would not divide the kingdom during Solomon's reign. However, after Solomon's reign, God would split the kingdom and leave only one tribe to David's family.

Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL: King Solomon's sin led to the division of the kingdom. God's people needed a better king. Through David's family, God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

THE KINGS

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

THE KINGS

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

THE KINGS

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students support their answers by sharing evidence they took from Scripture.

1. What did Solomon ask God for?
2. According to Deuteronomy, what things did God state that kings must not do?
3. How did Solomon go against these things?
4. What are the consequences of Solomon’s sin?
5. Describe Solomon’s son’s reign as king.
6. Describe what happened during the meeting between Ahijah the prophet and Jeroboam. What visual did the prophet use to tell Jeroboam about the future?
7. Describe the Southern Kingdom. How many tribes make it up? Who is the leader?
8. Describe the Northern Kingdom. How many tribes make it up? Who is the leader?
9. How can the company we keep affect our walk with God?
10. How is Jesus better than an earthly king?

THE KINGS

PRAYER PROMPTS

God thank you for your compassion and mercy when we, like Solomon, sin. Thank you for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. Help us to trust you alone!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Bible Skills Practice: Encourage your students to not only know the order of the books of the bible but also the different divisions they come in.

The Torah: Genesis - Deuteronomy | **History:** Joshua - Esther | **Poetry:** Job - Song of Solomon | **Major Prophets:** Isaiah - Daniel | **Minor Prophets:** Hosea - Malachi | **Gospels:** Matthew - John | **Acts** | **Paul's Letter:** Romans - Philemon | **General Letters:** Hebrews - Jude | **Revelation**

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will have no mission focus for the remainder of the school year. As we pray through what our next focus will be, please continue to give generously.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this week's verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

BSASYAMAKTCOTLYGWIHWAKHSHCHRAHTAIWITLOMTYMPIATYDAWYT - 1 Kings 2:3

THE KINGS



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

THE KINGS



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?