

A Kingdom Divided

Israel (North) - Judah (South)



1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 7

Lesson 14: A Kingdom Divided

Israel (North) - Judah (South)

BIBLE

Book	Chapters	Author	Date
1 Kings	12 - 22	Uncertain	550 B.C.
2 Kings	1- 7	Uncertain	550 B.C.

SUMMARY

After Solomon, Israel splits into two kingdoms that spiral into moral and spiritual decline, ignoring prophets like Elijah and Elisha. The northern kingdom is ultimately destroyed by Assyria due to persistent idolatry and injustice.

NOTES

Division of the Kingdom

- Solomons son, Rehoboam's harsh policies lead to the division of Israel into two kingdoms - 1 Kgs. 12:1-2
- Jacob prophesied that from Judah 'the sceptre will not depart' and that from this tribe will come the Messiah - Gen 49:10

The Two Kingdoms

Location	Name	Capital	Tribes
Southern Kingdom	Judah	Jerusalem	Judah and Benjamin
Northern Kingdom	Israel or Ephraim	Samaria	Asher, Dan, Ephraim, Gad, Issachar, Manasseh, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun

Descent Into Idolatry and Immortality

- Jeroboam (Northern kingdom) sets up golden calves in Bethel and Dan, leading Israel into idolatry - 1 Kgs. 12:25-33
- God sends a prophet from Judah condemns Jeroboam's idolatry, and his hand withers but is later healed - 1 Kgs. 13:1-6
- Rehoboam's reign in Judah, marked by warfare with Jeroboam - 1 Kgs. 14:21-31
- Various kings rule in Israel, often leading the people into idolatry and sin - 1 Kgs. 15:25-16:28

Ahab & Elijah

- King Ahab and wife Jezebel promote Baal (false) worship in Israel; prophet Elijah challenges them - 1 Kgs. 16:29-19:21
- Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel - 1 Kgs. 18:20-40
- Jezebel arranged Naboth's murder so that Ahab the king could seize his vineyard - 1 Kgs. 21:1-16
- Ahab dies in battle as prophesied by Micaiah - 1 Kgs. 22:29-40

Elisha

- Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind; Elisha succeeds him 2 Kgs. 2:1-18
- Elisha performs miracles, including purifying water and raising the Shunammite's son 2 Kgs. 2:19-4:37
- Naaman, a Syrian commander, is healed of leprosy by washing in the Jordan River 2 Kgs. 5:1-19
- Elisha predicts and facilitates the end of a siege on Samaria 2 Kgs. 6:24-7:20

KEY POINTS

1. As a leader we need to seek wise counsel and stay humble —prideful decisions can fracture relationships and futures.
2. Guard your heart from compromise—small acts of unfaithfulness can lead to moral decline.
3. Respond to God's grace with change. God's patience is not permission to stay the same.