

A Study Of
The Divided Kingdom

-- Part 1

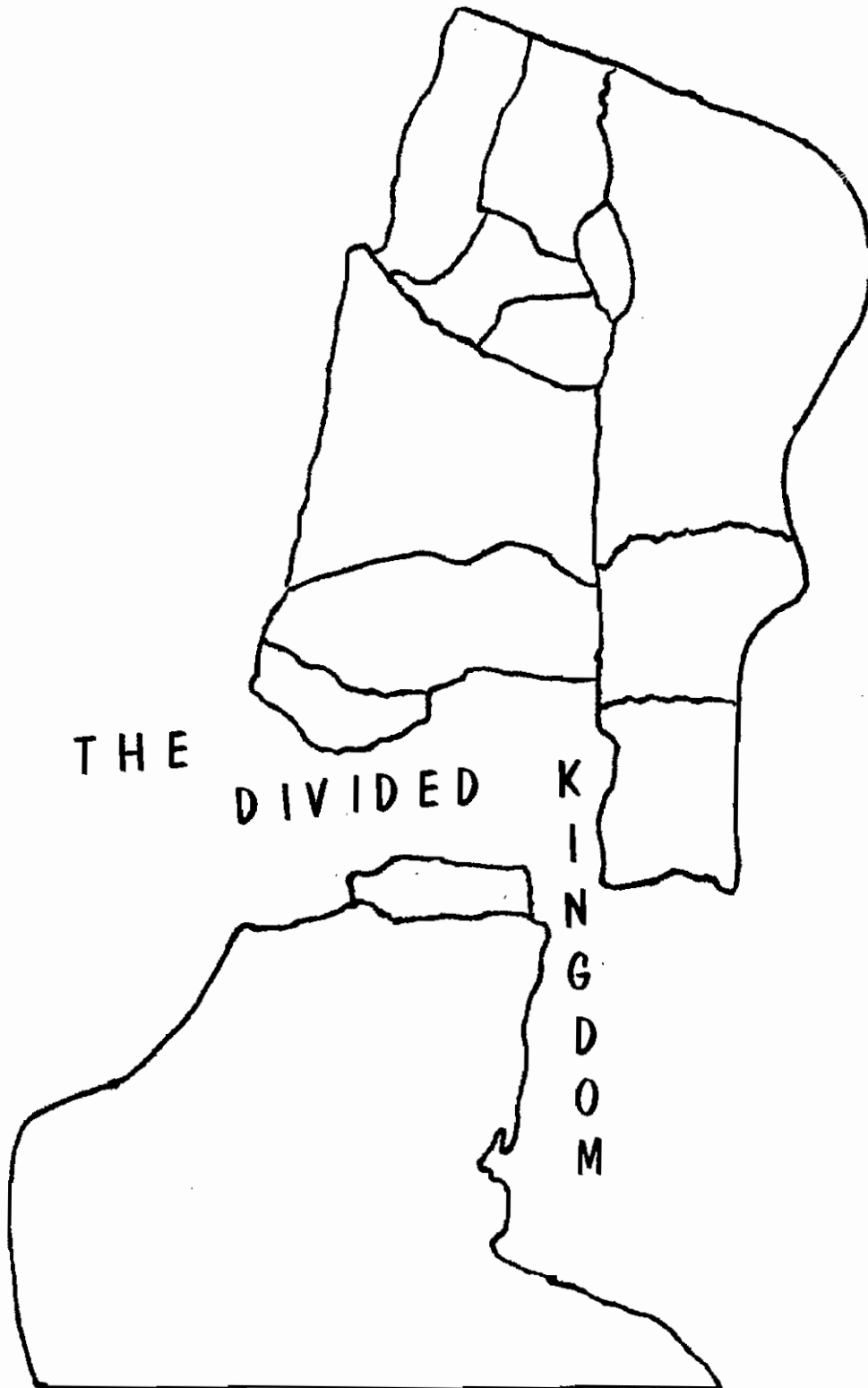


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Introduction:
THE DIVIDED KINGDOM — PART ONE

Remember first of all in our study of The Divided Kingdom of Israel that the true reason for the kingdom's schism was the sins of King Solomon (1 Kings 11:29-40). Through providential means, Rehoboam's fateful decision to maintain and increase the heavy tax burden led to Israel's rebellion. From 1 Kings 12 onward, we have a study of the various kings of the two nations, Israel and Judah, and the historical information left us by Divine revelation. Many good, applicable lessons are available from a study of these times (Rom. 15:4), and it is up to both teacher and student to discern them. Therefore we enter into this study expectantly, and with two chief reasons in mind: (1) To learn from past mistakes that we might not make them ourselves; (2) To improve our own lives and the church from what we understand in God's Word.

Prior to entering the Biblical study at 1 Kings 12, we need to learn basic facts and recall to mind the history leading up to this division. Be sure you study and learn the following information:

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM:

1. <u>Names of 2 Kingdoms:</u>	Israel	Judah
2. <u>Number of Tribes:</u>	10	2
3. <u>Area Included:</u>	North & East	South
4. <u>First Kings:</u>	Jeroboam	Rehoboam
5. <u>Total Number of Kings:</u>	19	30 + 1 usurper
6. <u>Number of Dynasties:</u>	9	1 (House of David)
7. <u>Character of Kings:</u>	All bad	Some good; some bad
8. <u>Capitals:</u>	Samaria	Jerusalem
9. <u>Kingdom's Fate:</u>	Conquered by Assyria, 722 B.C.	Babylonian Captivity, 586 B.C.

ENEMIES OF KING SOLOMON:
1 Kings 11:

1. An Edomite prince who received favor from Egypt's Pharaoh, 1 Kings 11:14ff:

2. Eliadah's son who fled the King of Zobah, 1 Kings 11:23ff:

3. A servant of Solomon, son of Nebat, and the one of whom Ahijah prophesied would rend ten tribes from Solomon's kingdom:

THE DIVINE CAUSE FOR THE KINGDOM'S DIVISION:

1. Why did God say that Solomon would lose a great part of his Kingdom? 1 Kings 11:33.

2. Why did God spare any of Solomon's kingdom? 1 Kings 11:32, 34, 36.

3. How does your answer to #2 above affect the number of "Dynasties (Ruling Families)" in **Judah**?

CHRONOLOGY OF THE TWO KINGDOMS:

(From the upcoming study you will discern problems in chronology. Answer the following questions based upon the class lecture on the Introduction to The Divided Kingdom study. If you still have questions, ask them before you go further.)

1. Give one or two evidences of chronology problems in the accounting of the two kingdoms' rulers:

2. List six rules needed to understand the Bible chronology of Israel's and Judah's kings:

(1) -----

(2) -----

(3) -----

(4) -----

(5) -----

(6) -----

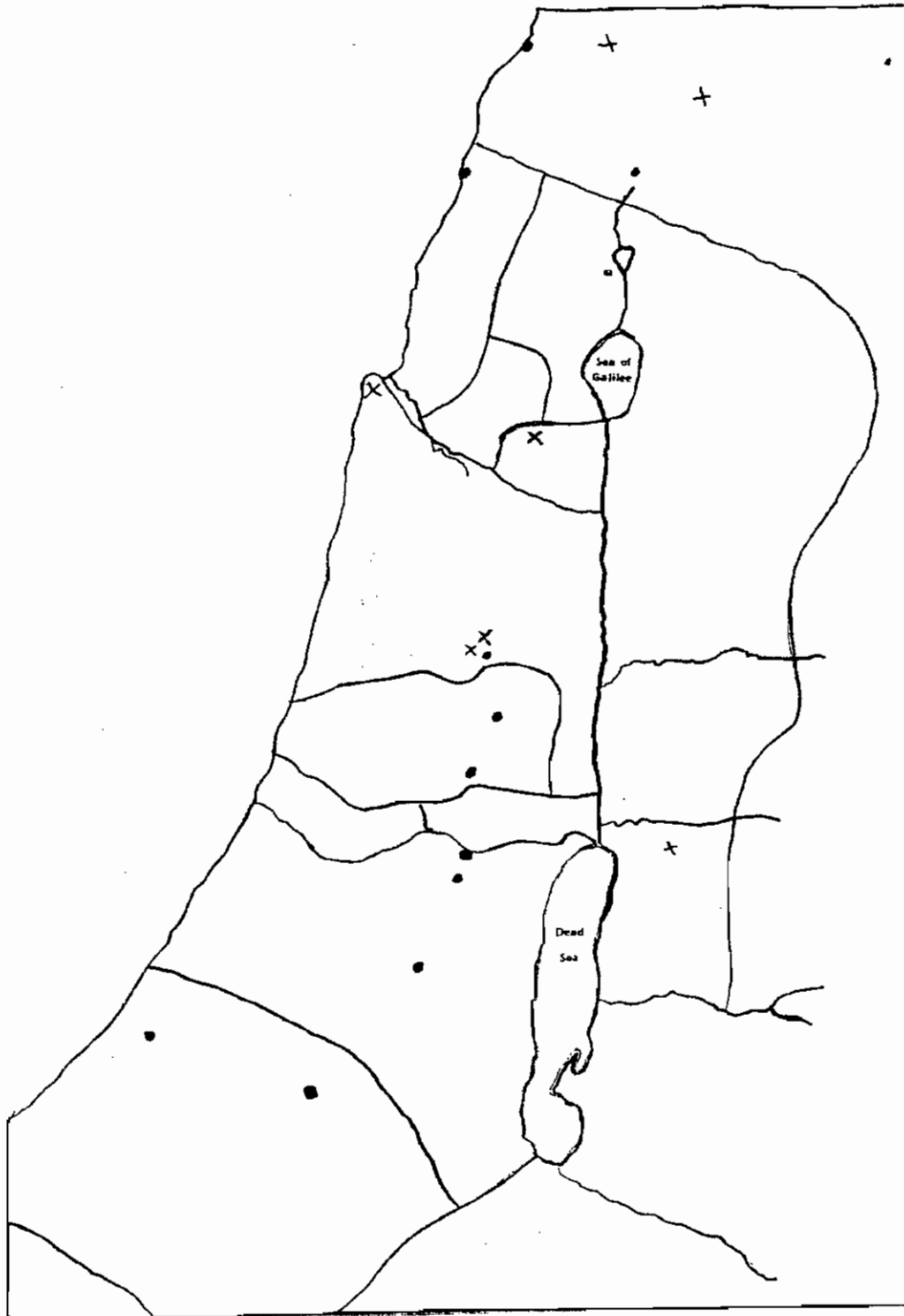
(More study of this subject is found in the book A Chronology of the Hebrew Kings, Edwin R. Thiele, [Academie Books, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.])

OTHER BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS STUDY:

Crockett, William Day. A Harmony of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles, reprint. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Book House, 1985.

Smith, James E. I & II Kings. Joplin, MO.: College Press, 1975.

Map #1:
THE TWELVE TRIBES:
[Locate and identify the twelve tribes]



Lesson One
1 KINGS 12: THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM
[2 CHRONICLES 10 & 11:1-17]

This study contains the material which enlightens us on the providentially-created division of Solomon's kingdom, the feeble effort of Rehoboam to regain what was lost, and Jeroboam's sinful efforts to unify his kingdom.

The objectives of this lesson are to understand and master the major points of this lesson, to make application to ourselves, and to see the overall effects upon God's people.

1. The counsel of the elderly men given to Rehoboam sought to encourage what kind of attitude in the king toward his subjects?

2. The counsel of the younger men given to Rehoboam encouraged another attitude in the king. What was it?

3. What important comment is placed in this narrative explaining **why** the division occurred?

4. Explain the meaning of Israel's response in verse 16:

5. How many warriors did Rehoboam assemble to fight the rebellious tribes, and why did they not go?

6. What happened to the Levites? 2 Chron. 11:13-16.

7. List the four things Jeroboam changed pertaining to Divine Worship, and discuss his motive for doing so.

(1)-----

(2)-----

(3)-----

(4)-----

8. What was the religious significance of using "golden calves"?

9. At the end of the existence of Israel (northern 10 tribes), the inspired historian attributes the nation's demise to what person? 2 Kings 17:18-23.

10. As time permits, discuss the consequences of people's actions on others, especially those of people in positions of power and authority.

11. When called upon, be able to identify the role of the following men: Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Ahijah, Shemaiah, Adoram.

12. Be able to clearly distinguish the two kingdoms created from the division: kingdom's name, capital, and first king.

Lesson Two
1 KINGS 13: Jeroboam & The Young Prophet

This study presents God's efforts to restore Jeroboam and Israel to true worship and faithfulness. It also includes a tragic lesson learned from the Young Prophet regarding who we should listen to in spiritual matters.

The objectives of this lesson are to learn the history that leads to Israel's downfall, to learn great lessons regarding true worship and authority, and to beware of the danger of deception.

1. What prophecy was spoken by the Young Prophet against the idolatrous altar?

2. When was this prophecy fulfilled, if ever?

3. What signs accompanied the Young Prophet's words? (Find at least 3).

4. Can you see a **just reason** for God forbidding the Young Prophet to go home with the King?

5. How did the old prophet persuade the Young Prophet to go home with him? What lesson can we learn from this?

6. How did the Young Prophet die, and do you think this was fair?

7. What lesson can we learn from this example regarding being deceived spiritually? Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12.

8. Did the old prophet escape punishment?

9. What admirable qualities do you see in the Young Prophet?

10. Did Jeroboam listen to the warning of the Young Prophet and repent?

11. Be able to identify the following if called upon: Bethel, Samaria, Josiah.

Lesson Three
1 KINGS 14:1-20 : JUDGMENT & DEATH OF JEROBOAM
[2 CHRONICLES 13]

Some time has apparently lapsed between chapters, and the reign of Jeroboam is coming to a close. The capital has been transferred from Shechem (12:25) to Tirzah (14:17). Jeroboam's son, Abijah, falls ill in this lesson. This leads Jeroboam to suspect that it is a punitive measure from God, and thus sends his wife disguised to the prophet Ahijah to determine the child's future. A tremendous judgment by God against the entire household of Jeroboam was spoken by the prophet. The death of King Jeroboam is recorded in this chapter, ending his 22 year reign. His son, Nadab, reigns in his place.

1. Why did Jeroboam have his wife disguise herself before going to the prophet Ahijah? Read ch. 11:38.

2. State the three parts of Ahijah's prophecy against Jeroboam:

(1)-----
(2)-----
(3)-----

3. Jeroboam's religion was part truth and part error. In what way did this make his brand of idolatry worse than that of the pagans'?

4. What wars was Jeroboam involved in during his lifetime? See 1 Kings 14:30; 15:6 and 2 Chron. 13.

5. Be able to make the proper identifications of the following when called upon: Shiloh, Tirzah, Abijah, Ahijah.

Lesson Four
1 KINGS 14:21 — 15:24 : REHOBOAM, ABIJAM, & ASA REIGN
[2 CHRONICLES 11:17 – 12:16]

The kings of **Judah** who reigned from 931 – 870 B.C. are covered in this study. Due to the schism in 931 B.C. there is a great deal of hostility between Israel and Judah. The objective of this lesson is to learn what is available about these kings and their reign so that we might have a kind of spiritual barometer of the nation of Judah. Be sure to distinguish clearly between these kings of Judah, and the kings of Israel in the last lesson!

1. How long was Solomon's son, Rehoboam, faithful to God? 2 Chron. 11:17?

2. What was the spiritual condition of Judah afterwards? 1 Kings 14:21–31 & 2 Chron. 12.

3. What king invaded Judah and what did he take away?

4. What was the prophet Shemaiah's explanation for this event? 2 Chron. 12:6.

5. How did King Rehoboam and the people respond?

6. How did the nation fare after their response to Jehovah?

7. List the pertinent facts of Rehoboam's life (age at beginning and end of reign, length of reign, mother):

8. Why does Chronicles list Rehoboam as an evil king, and what does this tell us about us today?

9. Who reigned after Rehoboam and what were his two names?

10. What was the spiritual condition of this king and what one favor was done in his behalf because of his relationship to David?

11. What speech and battle occurred during this king's reign and what was its outcome? 2 Chron. 13.

12. List the pertinent facts of Abijam's reign? (Length, wife, children, etc.)

13. Who was the next king of Judah and what reforms did he accomplish?

14. Give a brief account of the battle of Asa against the Ethiopians and its result: (2 Chron. 14)

15. What prophecy spurred the reforms of King Asa? (2 Chron. 15)

16. Relate the sacrifice and covenant made in the 15th year of Asa's reign:

17. How long was King Asa without war, who then started a war against him, and what did he do to defend Judah? (1 Kings 15:16ff & 2 Chron. 16)

18. What rebuke did King Asa receive from Hanani the prophet? (2 Chron. 16:7-10)

19. What two mistakes did King Asa make as a result of this rebuke? (2 Chron. 16:10-14)

20. List the pertinent facts of King Asa's reign:

21. How can we reconcile 1 Kings 15b with all we know about King Asa?

Lesson Five

1 KINGS 15:25 – 16:34 : NADAB, BAASHA, ELAH, ZIMRI, OMRI & AHAB REIGN

The six kings of this lesson all ruled in Israel from 910 B.C. to 853 B.C., and were therefore co-extensive in their reign with King Asa of Judah. All of these Israelite kings were wicked, with Ahab being the worst of the lot. The objective of this study is to learn about their reigns and to see the spiritual degradation of the nation, with application being made to our own lives by means of warning!

1. Describe the brief account of the life, death and reign of King Nadab:

2. What prophecy was fulfilled in the annihilation of the family of Jeroboam?

3. What kind of king was Baasha, and how long did he reign?

4. Relate the prophecy of Jehu against Baasha:

5. Describe the brief reign of Elah, son of Baasha:

6. How did Elah die, and what prophecy did this event accomplish?

7. Who reigned after Elah, for how long, and what happened to him?

8. How did Omri become king of Israel, and how long did he reign?

9. Why did Omri make Samaria his new capital?

10. What kind of king was Omri and in whose way did he walk? Discuss what this means.

11. Several of the northern kings were said to have provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger. How was this done? Can we do the same today?

12. Who succeeded Omri to the throne, and how long did he reign over Israel?

13. What kind of king was he, and what one deed sets him forth as the worst of all Israel's kings? 1 Kings 16:31.

14. Who rebuilt the city of Jericho and what prophecy was fulfilled in its building?

15. How can you account for the political tumult in Israel and the relative peace in Judah?

16. Be prepared to state the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah in their proper order when called upon. (Memorize them if you can.)

Lesson Six
1 KINGS 17: THE GREAT DROUGHT IN ISRAEL

This lesson introduces the great prophet Elijah, sent by God to punish Ahab and Israel for their tremendous evil. It is said that great men arise to answer great challenges, and this is certainly true in the case before us. The objective of this lesson is to learn and avoid the evils of Ahab, to learn and appreciate the great work of the prophet Elijah, and to be encouraged by the overriding providence of God both then and now.

1. Elijah is doing what when first introduced to us?

2. In what two ways were Elijah's needs met during the drought? Are these events ever mentioned in the New Testament? If so, where?

3. What happened to the widow's son, and what was her reaction regarding Elijah?

4. To whom did Elijah appeal, what question did he ask, and how did the widow respond this time?

5. What possible explanation can be given for the events that happened to this widow while Elijah was with her?

6. Be able to locate the following: Brook Cherith, Zarephath in Sidon.

Lesson Seven
1 KINGS 18: THE GREAT CHALLENGE ON CARMEL

Certainly this chapter has been the inspiration of many sermons, some of which you have heard. It is indeed the challenge of God versus evil men -- even Satan. It is one great contest that reminds us again that Jehovah is the one, true God and there is none other! The objective of this lesson is to observe the challenge and understand the purpose for such at this particular time in Israel's history. Undoubtedly a great deal of good came from this event. It reminds us today that we cannot afford to fight against God or be found opposed to His way. God does not lose!

1. Briefly tell the event in Obadiah's life that showed he "feared the Lord greatly".

2. Under what conditions did Obadiah meet Elijah, and what request did Elijah make of him?

3. Why was Obadiah so reluctant to do this for him?

4. With what guarantee did Elijah convince Obadiah to go tell Ahab he was coming?

5. What question did Ahab ask Elijah, and what was his famous reply?

6. What challenge did Elijah make to the people of Israel? 1 Kings 18:21.

7. What challenge did Elijah present to the false prophets of Baal?

8. How did these prophets fare in pleading with Baal, and how did they appeal to their god?

9. When Elijah's turn came, what did he do, and what were the results?

10. What was done with the prophets of Baal? Do you think this was the right thing to do?

11. Tell the account of how the drought in Israel ended. What can we learn from this event?

12. What was this contest designed to teach to Israel?

Lesson Eight
1 KINGS 19: ELIJAH, JEZEBEL, GOD & ELISHA

Perhaps this lesson, more than many others, shows us the humanity of the prophet Elijah. Discouragement is the lot of every preacher, elder, teacher, or other spiritual leader. It was no different with Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jesus, or Paul, for they all fought discouragement in their lives and work. Indeed, in this lesson we do see that Elijah "was a man with a nature like ours" (James 5:17a) who not only reached the heights of ecstasy in his great accomplishments but also suffered deep depression when he thought he stood alone. Therefore, the objective of this lesson is to see what caused Elijah's depression and how God stood by Him and helped him overcome it. In later lessons we will see that Elijah was ultimately victorious, because he was a man of God, and God does not lose! Let us learn much from this study and make application in overcoming our discouragement.

1. Even though Elijah won the challenge over the false prophets of Baal, and ended the drought, we find him depressed in chapter 19. What caused that depression?

2. What encouragement did Elijah receive from an angel?

3. Discuss Elijah's viewpoint seen from his response to the question, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

4. How did this compare to the true situation, as revealed in verse 18?

5. For what purpose did God reveal His power to Elijah, 1 Kings 19:11-13?

6. What three appointments did God promise Elijah, and how did this encourage him?

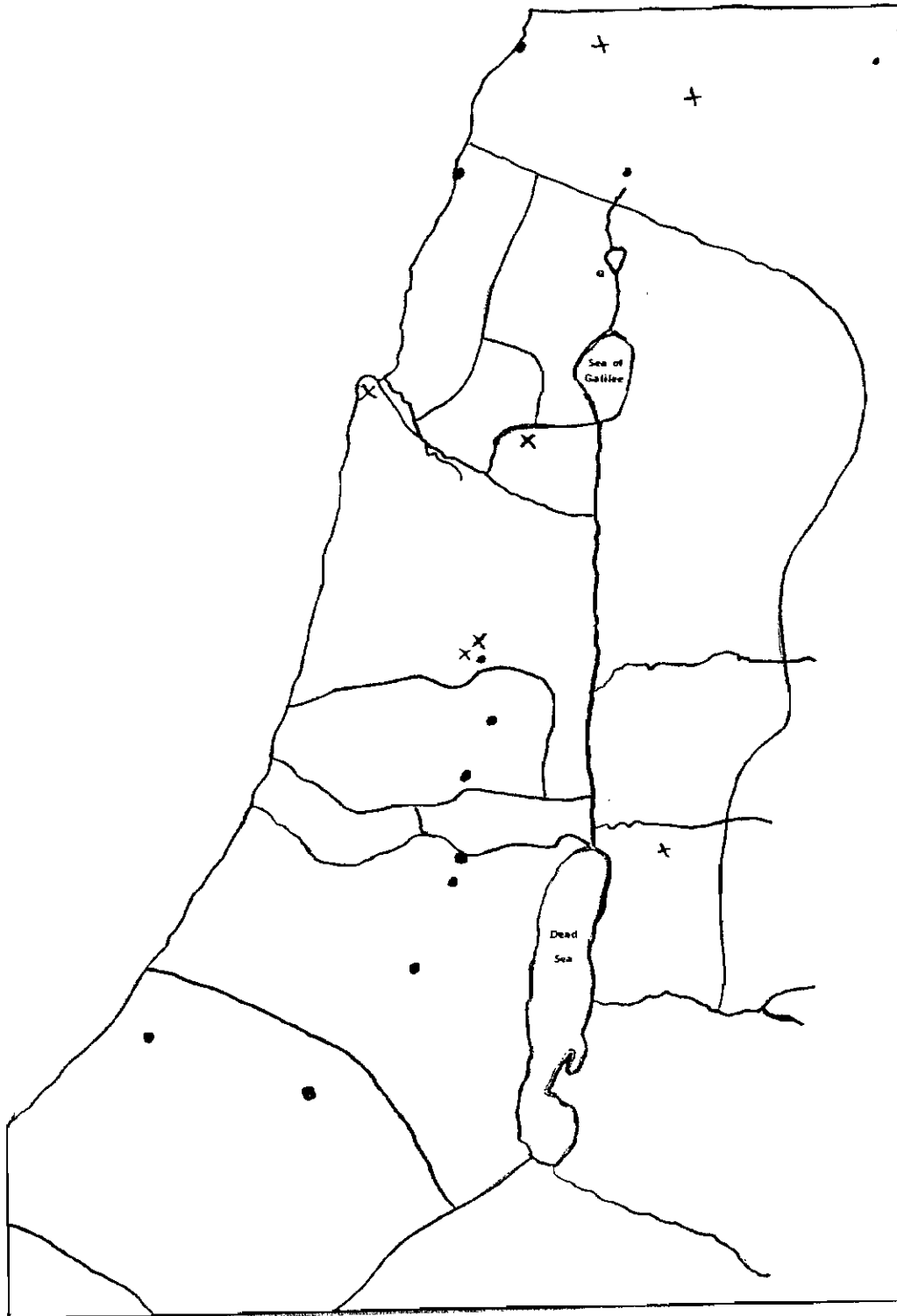
7. Relate the appointment of Elisha as prophet:

8. What was the meaning of Elijah's words in 1 Kings 19:20?

9. Be able to identify and locate Beersheba, Horeb, Wilderness of Damascus.

10. Elijah's spirit is comparable to what New Testament individual? Matthew 11:12-14; Luke 1:17.

Map #2:
THE LAND OF CANAAN
[For use with Lessons 8 & 9]



Lesson Nine
1 KINGS 20:1-34 : AHAB'S WAR WITH SYRIA

Syria was Israel's number one enemy during this period of time. They besiege Israel's capital, Samaria, and make certain demands that are agreed upon by King Ahab. Greedily, Ben-Hadad responds by demanding more things which Ahab will not accept. War breaks out and Jehovah gives Ahab and Israel the victory. The next year the scenario is repeated, and Ben-Hadad is captured. However, Ahab's willingness to free the Syrian king results in his own condemnation. The objectives of this lesson are to learn the historical facts revealed, and to understand God's intentions behind the events as He patiently deals with a wicked Ahab. Ahab's ultimate condemnation came in spite of God's longsuffering!

1. Describe the force that came up against Israel and the original demands made to King Ahab:

2. What disagreement on the conditions of surrender took place, and why was Ahab unwilling to comply?

3. Write down the brave advice King Ahab gave to Ben-Hadad that led to war:

4. Why did God give victory to the wicked King Ahab?

5. What Syrian rationale led to a second battle in the spring?

6. Why did God give Ahab the second victory as well?

7. Discuss the treaty made between Ahab and Ben-Hadad and what you think of it:

8. Be able to locate on a map the following: Syria, Damascus, Samaria, and Aphek.

Lesson Ten
1 KINGS 20:35 – 21:29 : AHAB CONDEMNED & NABOTH KILLED

After God's patient dealings with Ahab in trying to produce faith in his heart and obedience in his life, Ahab shows himself to be self-willed, stubborn and unyielding. Due to his disobedience, God pronounces destruction upon Ahab. Ahab's depravity deepens as he stoops to killing innocent Naboth to gain his vineyard by the instrumentality of wicked Jezebel. Such evil earned them a reputation for wickedness that has made their personal names synonymous with the worst evil imaginable. The objectives of this lesson are to learn these truths in the lives of Ahab and Jezebel, and to avoid such an end in our own lives. Additionally, let us see how God's dealings can be refused to our own harm, as in the life of Ahab.

1. What symbolic gesture was used by a certain prophet in speaking to Ahab?

2. What difficulty occurred while the prophet tried to obtain his symbolic "injury"? Was it fair?

3. Relate the message of the prophet to King Ahab:

4. Why was Naboth unwilling to sell or trade his vineyard to King Ahab?

5. Relate how Jezebel obtained the death of Naboth:

6. What condemnation did the Lord promise to Ahab by the prophet Elijah?

7. State the additional condemnation on Ahab's house because of his great wickedness that provoked God:

8. What was Jezebel's predicted future?

9. Jehovah was yet longsuffering to Ahab because he humbled himself before Him. What resulted from it, and state what you think about it.

Lesson Eleven
1 KINGS 22:1-40 : AHAB WARNED & KILLED
[2 CHRONICLES 18]

This lesson teaches about the undoing of Ahab that led to his death. It also is a great lesson regarding the responsibility of a prophet of God to speak what God wishes and not what man wishes. We see that numbers and crowds do not alter God's Will, and that true men of God do not change God's message to please men. Righteous men will listen to God and obey, while unrighteous men will reject God and disobey. Ahab's character has already been clearly revealed, and he simply acts predictably according to his personality. Attitude of heart, and habits early in life mold the man to what he will become and generally remain later in life. These are the lessons which are our objectives to learn in this study. A personal application to our lives should be clear and obvious.

1. What led to the unusual alignment together of Israel and Judah? What does this say about political conditions of the time?

2. What was the unified voice of the many prophets of Israel, and why did Jehoshaphat seek another voice?

3. Who was Micaiah and what did he prophesy? Why?

4. How was it that Ahab discerned deceit in Micaiah's first prophecy? What is the true prophecy concerning Ahab?

5. What outstanding lesson do we learn about the voice of the false prophets!? See 2 Thess. 2:8-12; 2 Tim. 4:3-4 on this subject and discuss.

6. How did Zedekiah and Ahab respond to Micaiah? How would Israel know which prophet to believe?

7. What did Ahab try to do to protect himself in battle? Did it work?

8. What prophecy was fulfilled in the death of King Ahab?

9. Was the arrow that killed Ahab one of "chance" or "providence"? Discuss.

10. What characteristics of the prophet Micaiah are worthy of imitation by God's spokesmen today?

Lesson Twelve
1 KINGS 22:41-53 : JEHOSEPHAT & AHASIAH REIGN
[2 CHRONICLES 17 - 20]

This lesson presents one king from Judah, Jehoshaphat, and one from Israel, Ahaziah. Jehoshaphat is seen as a good king generally, with a few faults stated. Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, is obviously a wicked king like his father and reigns only briefly. These two kings bring us to the end of the book of 1 Kings. The objectives of this lesson, as usual, are to study the lives of these men and see how good is blessed and rewarded and how evil is cursed and punished.

1. List the pertinent facts of the life and reign of King Jehoshaphat (age, length of reign, relatives, character, etc.):

2. What two complaints are stated against Jehoshaphat?

(1)-----

(2)-----

What information does 2 Chronicles 18:1 give on this fault? -----

3. What great spiritual accomplishment is attributed to Jehoshaphat? 2 Chron. 17.

4. How did King Jehoshaphat fare financially as king?

5. How did the prophet Jehu view the alliance of Jehoshaphat with Ahab? 2 Chron. 19.

6. State the judicial improvements made in Judah at this time. 2 Chron. 19:4–11.

7. What nations came to fight against Judah and Jehoshaphat and on whom did they call?

8. How did God help them against their enemies?

9. What sea expedition had a tragic end and why was that so? 1 Kings 22:48–49 and 2 Chron. 20:31–37.

Lesson Thirteen
1 KINGS 12 – 22: REVIEW OF 1 KINGS 12-22

This brief review will center around the key events and information necessary to keep clear the Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. It is important to memorize as much of the basic information as possible, or to have quick notes of reference to keep them clear in your mind. We hope that you have enjoyed this study of 1 Kings 12 – 22!

1. State from memory the Kings of Israel in their proper order that we have studied so far.
2. State from memory the Kings of Judah in their proper order that we have studied so far.
3. What was the greatest obstacle the nation of Israel had to face repeatedly in this phase of their history?

4. What one thing angered Jehovah repeatedly in this study, and what can we learn from it?

5. State what you believe were the high and low points of Elijah's work in our past study:

6. What great lesson was learned about false prophets in this section?

7. What truths did we learn from the Young Prophet of 1 Kings 13?

8. "The sin of Jeroboam" became a synonymous phrase with what identifiable sin?

9. What was the greatest wrong committed by a king of Judah during this period?

10. What evidence of God's longsuffering can be seen in His dealings with Ahab?

Chart #2:

THE KINGS OF ISRAEL & JUDAH

[List the kings of both nations that have been studied to date, in their proper order.]

Israel:	↓	Judah: