

Session 13 | The King Who Had it All

Before reading Chapter 13, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1st, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2nd.

Q	1 st Time	2 nd Time
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- Solomon asked the Lord for one thing? What did the Lord give him?
 - Wisdom
 - Honor
 - Wealth
 - All of the above
- Which one of the proverbs below is not found in Solomon's writings?
 - Honor the Lord with your wealth.
 - The Lord helps those who help themselves
 - Every fool is quick to quarrel
 - Haughty eyes and a proud heart produce sin
- When the temple was completed, what was the one thing the Lord wanted?
 - The Lord wanted the humble hearts of his people.
 - The Lord wanted a giant worship service.
 - The Lord wanted large sacrifices of animals.
 - The Lord wanted a huge offering to be taken for the temple.
- What was the cause of Solomon's eventual downfall?
 - He failed to build the temple for the Lord.
 - The armies of the Queen of Sheba attacked him.
 - He loved many foreign women and followed their gods.
 - Hiram of Tyre refused to give Solomon necessary supplies for the temple.

What do you see in the heart of God by the ways he responds to Solomon's request for wisdom?

What, to you, is the most important event in the building and dedication of the temple as you read through the various descriptions of what occurred?

What do you take as your personal warning in the downfall of Solomon?

After reading Chapter 13, what is the one question you wish you could ask God about what you read?

Session 14 | A Kingdom Torn in Two

Before reading Chapter 14, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1st, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2nd.

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1. What group did Rehoboam make the mistake of listening to for counsel?
 - a. The elders who had served his father Solomon
 - b. His wife who had given him good counsel in the past
 - c. The young men who had grown up with him
 - d. A group of kings from the surrounding nations
2. What was the reason for Jeroboam eventual downfall?
 - a. He made other gods for himself.
 - b. He attacked Rehoboam to try to take over the southern kingdom.
 - c. He died of leprosy.
 - d. He was murdered by one of his servants.
3. Which of the following was considered one of the good kings?
 - a. Jeroboam
 - b. Asa
 - c. Abijah
 - d. Ahab
4. Which is the chronological sequence of the kings of Judah?
 - a. Solomon, Jeroboam, Baasha, Zimri
 - b. Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Asa
 - c. Solomon, Rehoboam, Asa Zimri
 - d. Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa.

From where do you seek counsel when you have decisions to make? How do you make decisions when you seek counsel?

What are the things Jeroboam did to reject the Lord leading him as king? What do we learn about the Lord in those interactions with Jeroboam?

In the description of ASA on page 200, what important steps did he take to fully follow the Lord?

How would you explain a good king having a son who turned against the Lord completely? Why is this often difficult for us to understand?

CHAPTER 15 | God's Messengers

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them." Hosea 14:4

Last week we looked at the story of the divided kingdom. Perhaps you were challenged in seeing how the kingdom fell apart when kings did not follow the Lord with all their hearts.

Before reading Chapter 15, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1st, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2nd.

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1. What happened after Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal?
 - a. There was a great celebration and feast with the people of Israel.
 - b. The people attacked Elijah in anger for destroying their gods.
 - c. There was a tremendous rain that came down after a long time of drought.
 - d. The people went out to destroy all of the temples of Baal.
2. How did the Lord make his appearance to Elijah in the wilderness?
 - a. The Lord came in a great and powerful wind.
 - b. The Lord came in a gentle whisper.
 - c. The Lord came in a rumbling earthquake.
 - d. The Lord came in a blazing fire.
3. How did Elijah die?
 - a. Jezebel killed him after he destroyed the prophets of Baal.
 - b. He died at a good old age full of life, wisdom, and blessing.
 - c. Elisha replaced him as Israel's prophet, so Elijah killed himself.
 - d. He was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind on a chariot of fire.
4. In the battle against Aram, how did the Lord use Elisha to defeat them?
 - a. They were struck with blindness and led into their enemy's hands.
 - b. Fear overtook the camp and the men began to fight each other.
 - c. The Lord made the sun stand still in the sky as they fought.
 - d. Whenever Elisha's hands were raised, the Israelites were victorious.

Which part of the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal do you think had the greatest impact on the Israelites? Why?

How would you describe what happened to Elijah when he fled into the wilderness after the encounter with the prophets of Baal?

As you read the descriptions of Elisha on pages 209-213, list all the ways the Lord used him to minister to the people of Israel.

Read the words of Amos and Hosea on pages 213-217. What is the purpose in the words Amos shares with the Israelites? What is the purpose of Hosea's words?

Session 16 | The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel)

"Come , all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!" Isaiah 55:1

Last week we looked at the story of God's messengers challenging the people of Israel. Perhaps you were encouraged to see how the Lord continued to pursue his people even when they were far from him.

Before reading Chapter 16, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1st, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2nd.

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1. How did Hezekiah respond when the Assyrians threatened to attack him?
 - a. He assembled all the fighting men of Israel over the age of twenty.
 - b. He went up to the temple of the Lord to pray.
 - c. He sent word to the king of Cush to come to his aid.
 - d. He made a peace treaty with King Sennacherib to spare his people.
2. What was Isaiah's response when he had a vision of the Lord seated on a throne?
 - a. He said, "Great is the Lord and worthy to be praised!"
 - b. He said nothing, and got on his face in worship before the Lord.
 - c. He said, "Woe is me! For I am a man of unclean lips!"
 - d. He tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes.
3. What were the prophetic words Isaiah spoke to Israel?
 - a. The Lord will have compassion on you and settle you in your own land.
 - b. Destruction is around the corner, and you will be sent in exile to Egypt.
 - c. These are days of freedom and prosperity, but trouble is on the horizon
 - d. All of the above.
4. What are the words Isaiah speaks about a coming Messiah?
 - a. He was led like a lamb to slaughter.
 - b. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him.
 - c. The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 - d. All of the above.

What do you see in the taunts of the leaders of Assyria that are similar to statements you hear or read against Christians today?

What traits do you see in Hezekiah that you would like to practice in your own life?

Briefly describe the Lower Story circumstances of the people of Israel. Now, what is the Upper Story you see prophesied for them?

As you read the description of the Messiah, which verse or description impacts you in the biggest way, and why?