



## TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 8 THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

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| PAGE                   | 131   |
| THEME                  | TORN: THE DIVISION OF ISRAEL                  |
| HOMEWORK BIBLE READING | 1 KINGS 12-14                                 |
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### OVERVIEW

Have you ever read Kings and wondered why the writer is speaking about a King in Israel and a King in Judah?

This chapter explores the fallout of Solomon's sin as God divides the nation in two following Solomon's death. As you read the chapters of Kings the writer gives you the divine and human view of the events unfolding. We know that God himself is behind the division but he also takes the time to walk us through the human events that transpire to bring about God's will. First we see that the people of Israel were over-worked by Solomon on his building projects. We also see that Solomon's son has the challenge of multiple advisors who give him two completely different responses to the people's request of him to take it easy on them. Whichever vantage point you are taking on this turn of events, the end result is sobering. The once united kingdom is now torn. The glory days are over...or are they?

Ironically, the first King of the North, Jeroboam, turns out to be a right failure and immediately plunges his kingdom into darkness through his ridiculous yet predictable attempt to make new gods for the 'new' kingdom God has given to him. Now the Bible's story so powerfully makes it's case about the seriousness of the human predicament. As God intervenes the doom of the northern tribes is prophesied before they even seem to get out of the starting gates.

This chapter has plenty of engaging narrative in it and the students should enjoy listening in on Rehoboam's counselors seeking to pull him in their own direction. As always, the challenge is to open up this narrative so that teenagers are willing to enter it and find their place in it.

## OUR TIPS

### **P140 The man of God from Judah, 1 Kings 13**

This particular chapter in Kings can seem particularly random without some thought being given to it. We suggest carefully reading through the chapter and notes before tackling this with the class. There is subtle irony in the account that the writer uses as well as the striking imagery of the man of God lying dead beside the road after a lion attacks him. Ultimately what is in view here for the students is an opportunity to engage with a number of different characters and see how they all respond to each other and God.

### **P143-144 How did the kings fare?**

The activity on these pages is a chance for the students to conduct their own investigation into the kings of the early years of the Northern and Southern kingdoms. The activity also asks the students to look for evidence about how the two kingdoms interacted with each other. This task can be done to varying degrees of depth and has the potential to be either a class, individual or group project.

### **P146 My reflections**

At this stage in the course we want to see students drawing conclusions about what they have learnt and seen so far. This activity asks students to do exactly that. Encourage the students to share their conclusions with each other and discuss them as much as possible. Remind them that we are in the middle of a historical story that is heading somewhere. All of the small stories on the way are contributing to the bigger picture that is unfolding in the Bible and at times we need to poke our heads out of the narrative and ask where it is going. Again, this task could be expanded to be a more substantial reflection/review of the journey so far.

## YOUR TIPS

*We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- Why did the Prophet get killed for doing what the other Prophet told him to do?

*We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

- Kings and Prophets Visual aid

*If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 8

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

*If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## CHAPTER 8

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| p. 135 Activity | <b>Jeroboam and the big “if”</b>   |
|                 | <p><b>Read 1 Kings 11:37-39. What is the big “if” in God’s promise to Jeroboam?</b></p> <p>IF you obey and follow me, I will be with you.</p> <p><b>Think back to God’s calling of Saul and Jeroboam. What do we learn in these accounts about God’s calling and human responsibility to respond to that call?</b></p> |

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| p. 136 Activity | <b>The challenge</b>  |
|                 | <p><b>Read 1 Kings 12:3-4 and fill in the blanks</b></p> <p>So they sent for <b>Jeroboam</b> and he and the whole <b>assembly</b> of <b>Israel</b> went to <b>Rehoboam</b> and said to him: “Your <b>father</b> put a <b>heavy</b> yoke on us, but now <b>lighten</b> the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will <b>serve</b> you.”</p> |

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| p. 138 Activity | <b>Be careful who you listen to</b>   |
|                 | <p><b>Think about the situation Rehoboam faced. Why did he think that the advice of his friends was the way to go?</b></p> <p><b>In 1 Kings 12:21-24, the writer records Rehoboam’s response to the division. Determined to recapture the northern tribes for the kingdom, he musters 180,000 men to go to war against the north. What happens and what is significant about the way Rehoboam responds?</b></p> <p>God speaks to Shemaiah to tell Rehoboam not to fight but to go home – the division is God’s doing.</p> <p>They obey God immediately.</p> <p><b>How do you think the division of Israel will affect the nation?</b></p> <p><b>What will be the biggest challenge for the tribes in the north? (Keep in mind what is in Jerusalem in the south.)</b></p> <p>The temple is located in Jerusalem, so adhering to the laws of worship and sacrifice will involve travelling to the south. It might even seem easier for some to stay, rather than keep travelling. Others may want to do away with sacrifices, or build their own temple.</p> |

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| p. 139 Activity | <b>King Jeroboam wastes little time in making a mess</b>   |
|                 | <p><b>Read 1 Kings 12-26-30</b></p> <p><b>At the very beginning of his reign, what is Jeroboam’s main concern?</b></p> <p>His popularity. He thinks the people will align with Rehoboam when they go to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices.</p> <p><b>What should he have been concerned about?</b></p> <p>Faithful obedience and worship of God.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>Describe the steps Jeroboam takes to deal with the situation that is distressing him?</b><br/>He makes two golden calves, and tells the people that these calves are their gods.</p> <p><b>Does this remind you of anything else in the Bible's story?</b><br/>Aaron built a golden calf while waiting for Moses to come down the mountain.</p> <p><b>Did Jeroboam have any alternatives? What else could he have done?</b><br/>He could have formed a treaty with Rehoboam for the sole purpose of travel to and from the temple.</p> |
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| <b>p. 140 Activity</b> | <b>The man of God from Judah</b>  |
|                        | <p><b>Read 1 Kings 13</b><br/><b>What is the prophet's mission?</b><br/>To confront Jeroboam about idolatry.</p> <p><b>Where does he confront Jeroboam and what response does he get?</b><br/>He confronts Jeroboam as he was standing by the altar making a sacrifice.</p> <p><b>Describe the supernatural events that take place at the confrontation.</b><br/>Jeroboam's hand shrivels up<br/>The altar splits apart</p> <p><b>When Jeroboam pleads with the prophet to pray to God on his behalf, how does he refer to God and why is it so significant?</b><br/>The Lord your God.</p> |
|                        | "The word of the Lord" is mentioned <b>9</b> times.   |

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| <b>p. 141 Activity</b> | <b>Jeroboam's legacy: doom for Israel but food for the dogs</b>   |
|                        | <p><b>Jeroboam's failures were...</b><br/>He appointed priests from all sorts of people, not just Levites.<br/>He built alters outside of Jerusalem.</p> <p><b>God was particularly unhappy with the way Jeroboam...</b><br/>Did more evil than all who lived before him.<br/>Made other gods and idols for himself.<br/>Provoked God to anger and thrust God behind his back.</p> <p><b>Through Jeroboam's leadership, the following things happened to the northern tribes of Israel...</b><br/>Disaster came on the house of Jeroboam.<br/>Cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel.<br/>Burn the house of Jeroboam.<br/>Dogs and birds will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die.<br/>God will raise up a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam.<br/>God will uproot Israel from this good land.</p> |

| <b>p. 143 Table</b>  | <b>How did other kings fare in the early years of the North?</b> |  |   |
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|  | <b>Nadab</b>   | <b>Baasha</b>                            | <b>Elah</b>   |
| <b>How did he come to power?</b>                             | Son of Jeroboam  | Plotted against Nadab and killed him.    | Son of Baasha   |
| <b>What kind of king was he?</b>                             | Did evil in the eyes of the Lord                                 | Did evil in the eyes of the Lord         | Evil  |
| <b>What did he do?</b>                                       | Reigned for 2 years. Walked in his father's ways.                | Reigned 24 years.                        | Reigned 2 years.  |
| <b>Was the prophecy against Jeroboam's family fulfilled?</b> | Yes  | Yes. He killed all of Jeroboam's family. | Yes. Whole family killed.   |
| <b>How did he lose power? Death or conspiracy?</b>           | Killed by Baasha.  | Died.                                    | One of his officials, Zimri, plotted against him and killed him and his family. |

| <b>p. 144 Table</b>                                       | <b>How did other kings fare in the early years of the South?</b> |   |  |
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|   | <b>Abijah</b>  | <b>Asa</b>  | <b>Jehoshaphat</b>                         |
| <b>How did he come to power?</b>                          | Son of Rehoboam  | Son of Abijah   | Son of Asa                                 |
| <b>What kind of king was he?</b>                          | Heart not fully devoted to the Lord                              | Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord                                      | Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord |
| <b>What did he do?</b>                                    | Committed all the sins his father had                            | Expelled male shrine prostitutes. God rid of idols. Did not remove high places. | Did not remove high places.                |
| <b>What was his relationship with the northern kings?</b> | War throughout his lifetime.                                     | War throughout reign.   | At peace                                   |
| <b>How did he lose power? Death or conspiracy?</b>        | Died   | Died  | Died                                       |