

## **“The Story” Study – Kings and Prophets**

### **Class 8: Chapters 14-15**

#### **Chapter 14: A Kingdom Torn in Two**

1. DVD – Session 14
2. Chapter 14 Highlights: This chapter includes the time of the divided kingdom.
  - a. During the reigns of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, there was a united kingdom, so all twelve tribes were together as one nation.
  - b. After Solomon died, the kingdom was divided because “Solomon failed to keep pagan worship outside the realm” (195).
    - i. Rehoboam was over the south, over the tribe of Judah (and Benjamin).
    - ii. Jeroboam was over the north, over the other tribes.
  - c. See the Kings and Prophets of Judah and Israel handout:
    - i. There were many who reigned in the south and in the north.
    - ii. Only Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah are labeled as good kings.
  - d. Jeroboam, fearing that his people would travel to Jerusalem for the appointed festivals, setup false gods in the north:
    - i. One in Dan – to the far north.
    - ii. One in Bethel – to the far south.
  - e. The LORD sent a true prophet of God from Judah to speak against Jeroboam; furthermore, even though his hand was shriveled up and healed, he did not change his evil ways.
  - f. When Jeroboam’s wife tried to trick Ahijah, the prophet, God intervened to tell Ahijah exactly what was going on. We should never try to fool God!
  - g. Many kings came and went, but most did much evil – even more than those before them. Ahab, and especially his wife Jezebel, were among some of the very wicked ones.

## Chapter 15: God's Messengers

1. DVD – Session 15
2. Chapter 15 Highlights: This chapter includes the time of the prophets.
  - a. Elijah:
    - i. Regarding the northern kingdom, Elijah was a prophet during the reign of Ahab. By the Word of the LORD he said there would be no rain for three years; then there was not. Can you imagine how that would devastate the land; so naturally Ahab was very angry!
    - ii. Elijah challenged Ahab to a battle; “**If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him**” (204). Two altars were prepared with a sacrifice:
      1. One by the 450 prophets of Baal (and the 400 prophets of Asherah).
      2. One by Elijah, the prophet of the LORD.
    - iii. Those who trusted in Baal called for him to come and consume what was on the altar, but nothing happened – *even after hours, nothing happened!*
    - iv. Then Elijah called on the LORD; “**the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench**” (205). Then the prophets of Baal were put to death. Let us never be confused about the identity of the LORD!
    - v. Then, when Ahab was pursuing Elijah to kill him, and Elijah thought he was the only one who had not turned away from the LORD, the LORD made it known to Elijah that there were “**seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees [had] not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths [had] not kissed him**” (207).
  - b. Elisha: He followed Elijah as the prophet and was blessed with “**a double portion of [his] spirit**” (209).
    - i. The LORD used Elisha to provide what a widow needed; she was given *according to her faith in collecting empty jars for the promised oil*. Do we trust that God will do whatever He says in His Word?
    - ii. The LORD used Elisha to provide a barren woman with a son; then, when the son died, the LORD used Elisha to raise the boy back to life!
    - iii. Elisha is also the one who told Naaman, the foreign army commander, to dip seven times in the Jordan River to cure his leprosy; at first he refused, but then he did and was miraculously healed!
    - iv. Elisha was also used by the LORD to lead the army of Aram into Samaria; then, when treated with kindness, they stopped invading Israel.
  - c. Amos:
    - i. The LORD spoke through Amos to call Israel to repentance.
    - ii. But, sadly, the people of Israel did not listen. Let us be different!
3. Assignment: Read chapters 16-17, **we will meet in two weeks** – due to Ascension – on Thursday, May 12 at 7:30.