

KINGS Part 3: Bible Study Notes and Questions

The Divided Kingdom: 1Kings chapters 12-22; 2Kings chapters 1-25; 2Chronicles 10-36

Overview: After the death of Solomon in about 933 BC, Rehoboam his son was made king of Israel at Shechem. As a result of Rehoboam taking unwise counsel to treat the people harshly, the Kingdom of Israel divided into two, the northern kingdom of Israel of ten tribes under the rule of Jeroboam son of Nebat; the southern kingdom of Judah of two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) under the rule of Rehoboam.

The Northern Kingdom: The Northern Kingdom of Israel had 19 kings who all followed the worship of the golden calf. Jeroboam had made two calves of gold, one set in Bethel and the other in Dan. None of these kings ever attempted to bring the people back to serving the Lord God of Israel. They led the people into much sin and wickedness.

The most evil king was Ahab who worshipped Baal and established Baal worship in Israel. He had been stirred up to do so through his wicked Gentile (non-Jewish) wife Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians. Despite the state of the Northern Kingdom being so depraved spiritually God raised up prophets such as Elijah and Elisha to show something of who He is as seen in the miracles that took place.

God brought his judgment on removing completely royal families such as those of Jeroboam, Baasha and Ahab because of leading people into much wickedness. Eight of these kings were assassinated. The average length of each reign was 11 years.

The wickedness of these kings even from Jeroboam's time would lead eventually to the children of Israel being scattered by being exiled from their promised land (**1Kings 14:15-16**). In about 721 BC God allowed Assyria to take over entirely the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The king of Assyria had carried away most of the Jews into exile and had brought men from various nations to settle in the cities of Samaria (Northern Kingdom of Israel) instead of the children of Israel (**2Kings 17:24**).

The Southern Kingdom: The southern Kingdom of Judah had a mixture of good and bad kings. There was much idolatry including Baal worship. However, there were some of the kings such as Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah and Josiah who were godly men who worshipped the Lord and brought the people back to serve the Lord but only for a temporary period. The reigns of Hezekiah and Josiah teach us lessons of revival where there is a return to obedience to the word of God and true worship to the Lord along with re-opening the temple to establish the priesthood and the sacrifices. Sadly, Judah became so spiritually depraved because of refusing to listen to the prophets sent by God. Such rebellion against God led to king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (606-561 BC) invading Judah and bringing complete destruction of Jerusalem including the temple. Zedekiah the final king had attempted to escape but ended up losing his eyes and being taken to Babylon where he remained until his death.

There was only one dynasty being that of David that all the kings descended from. The only exception was Athaliah the daughter of Ahab who was married to Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah. She reigned over Judah for six years as queen after the death of her son Ahaziah. She had attempted to destroy the line of David. She was deposed and executed by Jehoiada the high priest who put Joash the rightful heir on the throne at only seven years old to be king of Judah.

Questions

There are six sections put together in this bible study material. The dates of the kings have been taken from Halley's Handbook of the Bible. In some cases the kings' reigns overlap because of times of co-regency.

Section 1: 1Kings 12:1-16:28; 2Chronicles 10:1-16:14

Kingdom of Israel: Jeroboam 933-911 BC; Nadab 911-910 BC; Baasha 910-887 BC; Elah 887-886 BC; Zimri 886BC; Omri 886-875BC.

Kingdom of Judah: Rehoboam 933-916 BC; Ahijah 915-913 BC; Asa 912-872 BC.

- Q.1)** Why did Rehoboam make such a bad decision that led to the division of the kingdom of Israel? What advice should he have listened to that could have kept the kingdom together at this time? See **1Kings 12:1-19; 2Chronicles 10:1-19**.
- Q.2)** What was known of the characters of: 1) Rehoboam. See **1Kings 12:1-24; 14:21-31; 2Chronicles 10:1-19; 11:1-23; 12:1-2, 5-16**. 2) Jeroboam. See **1Kings 11:26-40; 12:25-33; 13:1-10; 33-34; 14:16-20; 15:29-30**. Show whether these two kings followed the Lord or not.
- Q.3)** Show the four things Jeroboam carried out to establish the northern kingdom of Israel? Why did Jeroboam take this course of action? Read carefully **1Kings 12:25-33**.
- Q.4)** Show what Shemaiah achieved on the two occasions he intervened to give a word from the Lord to Rehoboam. See **1Kings 12:22-24 & 2Chronicles 11:2-4; 12:5-8**. Is there a work for Christians today to have a ministry like that of Shemaiah?
- Q.5)** What was known of the man of God from Judah in **1Kings 13:1-32**? What lessons can we learn from what happened to the man of God? See also **2Kings 23:15-18**.
- Q.6)** What was known about the old prophet in Bethel? Was he a true prophet of God? Read again **1Kings 13:11-32**.
- Q.7)** Show the spiritual state of Judah when Rehoboam did evil in the sight of the Lord. See **1Kings 14:21-28 & 2Chronicles 12:1**.
- Q.8)** What lessons did God bring upon Rehoboam through the invasion of Judah by Shishak king of Egypt? See **1Kings 14:25-28 & 2Chronicles 12:1-13**.
- Q.9)** Show the evidence of the people living in the northern kingdom who wanted to serve the Lord. What did they do to prove their faithfulness to the Lord? Read **2Chronicles 11:13-17**.
- Q.10)** Why did Jeroboam request that his wife disguise herself as another woman on visiting Ahijah the prophet? See **1Kings 14:1-5**.
- Q.11)** What was significant about Ahijah's prophecy to the wife of Jeroboam? See **1Kings 14:1-18; 15:25-30**.
- Q.12)** Why did Abijah king of Judah have such a convincing victory in a war against Jeroboam king of Israel even though he had an army half the size of that of Jeroboam? Read carefully **2Chronicles 13:1-22**.
- Q.13)** What was known of Abijah/Abijah king of Judah? Did he seek to do what was right in the eyes of the Lord? See **1Kings 15:1-8** and read again **2Chronicles 13:1-22**.
- Q.14)** What was known of Nadab king of Israel in his short reign? Read **1Kings 15:25-31**.
- Q.15)** What was known of Baasha king of Israel? See **1Kings 15:16-21, 27-34; 16:1-6; 2Chronicles 16:1-5**.
- Q.16)** What was known of the characters of the following kings of Israel:
1) Elah **1Kings 16:6-10, 13-14**; 2) Zimri **1Kings 15:9-12, 15-20**; 3) Omri **1Kings 16-17, 21-28**.
- Q.17)** Read carefully **1Kings 15:9-24** and compare this record of what is known of Asa king of Judah in **2Chronicles chapters 14, 15 and 16**.
- Q.18)** What did Asa do to strengthen Judah in **1Kings 15:23 & 2Chronicles 14:1-8**?

Section 1 continued

Q.19) Why was Asa able to defeat Zerah the Ethiopian? See **2Chronicles 14:9-15**.

Q.20) Consider carefully the content of Azariah's prophecy in **2Chronicles 15:1-7**. Show what it revealed of the state of Israel and the nations in rejecting God (**verses 3, 5-6**) and what happened when Israel repented (**verses 2, 4, 7**).

Q.21) How did Asa respond to the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded in **2Chronicles 15:8-19**?

Q.22) Show the evidence from **2Kings 15:16-21 & 2Chronicles 16:1-12** that Asa had not trusted in the Lord. Can you see what Asa was doing which was not in the will of God?

Section 2: 1Kings 16:28-2Kings2:18; 2Chronicles 17:1-21:1

Kingdom of Israel: Ahab 875-854; Ahaziah 855-854; Ministry of Elijah.

Kingdom of Judah: Jehoshaphat 874-850.

Q.1) What was known of the character of Ahab king of Israel in **1Kings 16:29-34**?

See also **Joshua 6:26**.

Q.2) Why did Israel suffer a severe drought without rain for three years and six months?

See **1Kings 17:1; James 5:16-17**.

Q.3) Show the background and character of Elijah in reading carefully **1Kings chapters 17 & 18**. How did the experiences at the brook Cherith and at Zarephath prepare Elijah for confronting the false prophets of Baal at Carmel? What do these chapters teach us about prayer? See also **James 5:16-18**.

Q.4) What was known about the widow of Zarephath in Zidon? Why did the Lord allow her son to die to be raised to life again? See **1Kings 17:9-24 & Luke 4:24-26**.

Q.5) Show what was known of the character of Obadiah in **1Kings 18:1-16**. Why was he reluctant to go and tell Ahab "Behold, Elijah is here" (**verses 8, 11, 14**)?

Q.6) Show the difference between the false prophets of Baal and Elijah the true prophet in the way they behaved in prayer. What convinced the people who was the true God and why did Elijah order the people to execute the false prophets? Read **1Kings 18:20-40**.

Q.7) Why could rain come upon Israel at this time in **1Kings 18:41-46**? See also **1Kings 18:1**.

Q.8) Why did Elijah run away to Horeb from Jezebel? See **1Kings 19:1-4**.

Q.9) How did the Lord comfort and restore Elijah to continue his ministry? See **1Kings 19:5-18** and also **Psalms 23:2-3; 103:13-14**.

Q.10) What can we learn from God's calling upon Elisha to the ministry of being a prophet in **1Kings 19:19-21**?

Q.11) Read carefully **1Kings 20:1-43** and show what was known of Ben-hadad king of Syria.

Q.12) What was God teaching Ahab in the defeat of Ben-hadad king of Syria on two occasions? Read **1Kings 20:13-30**.

Q.13) What can we learn from Ahab's foolishness in making a covenant with Ben-hadad king of Syria? See **1Kings 20:31-43 & 1Samuel 15:8-9**.

Q.14) Show why Naboth was justified in not giving his vineyard to Ahab. See **1Kings 19:1-4; Leviticus 25:23-28; Numbers 36:7-9; Ezekiel 46:8**.

Q.15) Read carefully **1Kings 21:5-16**. List the people who were guilty of Naboth's murder and what part they took in putting him to death. Show the wickedness of this evil act of murder.

Q.16) What can we learn from Elijah's bold stand against Ahab in **1Kings 21:17-24**?

Q.17) Can it be shown that there was a change in Ahab's character from reading **1Kings chapters 20 & 21**? Is there evidence of true repentance in **1Kings 21:27-29**?

Q.18) In **2Chronicles chapter 17** show why Jehoshaphat became prosperous by making a list of all that he accomplished to establish his kingdom. Read also **1Kings 22:41-50**.

Section 2 continued

- Q.19)** Show the difference between Ahab and Jehoshaphat in their approach to the war with Syria. Read **1Kings 22:1-40 & 2Chronicles 18:1-34**.
- Q.20)** Show the difference in character between the prophet Micaiah and the prophets of Ahab. See **1Kings 22:5-28, 37-38; 2Chronicles 18:4-27, 32-34; 1John 4:1-6**. How do we know that Micaiah was a true prophet?
- Q.21)** Show the evidence from **1Kings 22:15-28 & 2Chronicles 18:15-27** that the Lord has used evil spirits to fulfil his purposes in having Ahab king of Israel die in battle. See also **Galatians 6:7**.
- Q.22)** Why did king Ahab want king Jehoshaphat to wear his royal robes in the battle? See **1Kings 22:30-36 & 2Chronicles 18:29-34** and look again at Micaiah's prophecy in **1Kings 22:30-36 & 2Chronicles 18:15-27**.
- Q.23)** Why did the king of Syria command 32 captains to fight only with the king of Israel? See **1Kings 22:31 & 2Chronicles 18:30**. It may be helpful to look back at **1Kings 20:31-43**.
- Q.24)** As a result of Jehoshaphat making peace with Israel (**1Kings 22:44**) he had an alliance with Ahab to fight against Syria and later an alliance with Ahaziah son of Ahab. Why did these alliances prove to be unhealthy? See **1Kings 22:1-4; 2Chronicles 18:1-3; 19:2; 20:35-37; 21:1-6** and see also **2Corinthians 6:14-18**.
- Q.25)** How did Jehoshaphat king of Judah continue to bring his people to serve the Lord in **2Chronicles 19:1, 3-11**? Show the responsibility of: A) the Judges (**verses 5-7**) and B) the priests and the Levites (**verses 8-11**).
- Q.26)** What was known of the character of Ahaziah king of Israel son of Ahab and why did he die from an accident in Samaria? Read **1Kings 22:51-53 & 2Kings 1:1-18**.
- Q.27)** Read carefully **2Kings 1:1-17**. Show in what ways Elijah was a man of God from the reading. It is helpful to read **Psalms 25:4-15; 1Timothy 6:10-12; 2Timothy 3:14-17**.
- Q.28)** Study the content of the prayer of Jehoshaphat in **2Chronicles 20:1-13**. How does this prayer help us to pray?
- Q.29)** Show why God blessed Jehoshaphat after the king had faced impending defeat from three invading armies. See **2Chronicles 20:14-30**.
- Q.30)** What was known of the end of Jehoshaphat's life? See **2Chronicles 20:31-37; 21:1**.
- Q.31)** How did Elijah prepare the prophets when his time to die had come? How did Elijah depart from this life? See **2Kings 2:1-12**.
- Q.32)** Show Elisha's faithfulness to Elijah and what evidence is there to show that the Lord was with him in **2Kings 2:12-18**.
- Q.33)** Why did the sons of the prophets have to search for Elijah? See **2Kings 2:15-18**.
- Q.34)** What does it mean when Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit. Read **2Kings 2:9-11**. Read also **2Kings 2:9** (Good News Version) and **Deuteronomy 21:15-17**.

Section 3: 2Kings 2:18-11:21; 2Chronicles 21:1-23:1

Kingdom of Israel: Jehoram (Joram) 854-843 BC; Jehu 843-816 BC; Ministry of Elisha.

Kingdom of Judah: Jehoram (Joram) 850-843 BC; Ahaziah 843 BC; Athaliah 843-837 BC.

- Q.1)** Read carefully **2Chronicles 21:1-20** and **2Kings 8:16-24**. What was known of Jehoram (Joram) king of Judah son of Jehoshaphat? Why had Jehoram been such a wicked king? What judgments did God bring upon him during his short reign of eight years?
- Q.2)** What can we learn from Elisha's first miracle in **2Kings 2:19-22**?
- Q.3)** Why were a number of youths of Bethel put to death? See **2Kings 2:23-25**.
- Q.4)** What was known of Jehoram (Joram) son of Ahab king of Israel? See **2Kings 3:1-14**.

Section 3 continued

Q.5) What was known of Mesha king of Moab? See **2Kings 3:4-5, 21-27**.

Q.6) Why were the three kings able to defeat the king of Moab? Read **2Kings 3:6-25**. What could have happened if Jehoshaphat king of Judah had not been involved in this battle?

Q.7) Why did Elisha ask for a minstrel to play before he could give the word of the Lord? See **2Kings 3:14-16**. It is helpful to read **1Samuel 16:14-23**.

Q.8) What was significant about the pot of oil in **2Kings 4:1-7**?

Q.9) Consider carefully the character of the Shunamite women. See **2Kings 4:8-37**.

Q.10) What can we learn from the chamber provided for Elisha by the Shunamite woman in **2Kings 4:10-11**? Is there evidence that she had faith in the Lord?

Q.11) Read through **2Kings 4:1-44** and show how God was at work through Elisha. Can you see the purposes of the miracles that Elisha did in this chapter?

Q.12) Show the effectiveness of the testimony of the little maid in **2Kings 5:1-4**.

Q.13) What lessons can we learn from the conduct of Joram king of Israel when he read the letter from the king of Syria? Show the significance of Elisha speaking to the king.

Read carefully **2Kings 5:5-8**.

Q.14) What did Naaman expect Elisha to do to heal him of his leprosy? Why did Elisha send a messenger to tell Naaman what to do to receive healing of his leprosy? Read **2Kings 5:8-14**.

Q.15) Is there evidence that Naaman's life was changed after he was healed of his leprosy? Read **2Kings 5:1-19**.

Q.16) Show why Gehazi brought God's judgment upon himself. Read **2Kings 5:20-27**.

Q.17) What was known of the way the sons of the prophets lived as seen in **2Kings 6:1-7**?

Q.18) What can be understood from raising the axe head from the water?

See again **2Kings 6:1-7**.

Q.19) Show how the Lord used Elisha to remove the bands from Syria. Can you see the purpose of these miracles? Read carefully **2Kings 6:8-23**.

Q.20) What was happening when there was a famine in Samaria? See **2Kings 6:24-33**.

Q.21) Read carefully **2Kings 7:1-20**. Show the faith of Elisha in bringing the word of the Lord. Is it true to say that the Lord did show judgment for unbelief?

Q.22) What can we learn from the actions of (1) the four leprous men in **2Kings 7:3-11** and (2) the king's response to the news from the Syrian camp in **2Kings 7:12-17**.

Q.23) Show how the Shunamite woman was provided for in **2Kings 8:1-6**.

Q.24) What was revealed to Elisha regarding Hazael when he came to visit in Damascus? See **2Kings 8:7-15**.

Q.25) What was known of Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah?

See **2Kings 8:25-29 & 2Chronicles 22:1-9**.

Q.26) What can we learn from the commission the young man was given to do by Elisha in **2Kings 9:1-10**?

Q.27) How did Jehu respond to being anointed king of Israel. See **2Kings 9:11-37; 10:1-14**. Did he fulfil Elijah's prophecy to destroy completely the house of Ahab in **1Kings 21:20-24**?

Q.28) Why was God's judgment so severe on Jezebel in **2Kings 9:30-37**?

See also **1Kings 21:21:23-25; 2Kings 9:10,22** and **Revelation 2:18-29**.

Q.29) What was known of Jehonadab the son of Parosh? Is there evidence that he truly served the Lord? Read **2Kings 10:15-17, 23**. It is helpful to read **Jeremiah 35:1-19**.

Q.30) What was known of Jehu's character in **2Kings 10:15-36**? Show the evidence that he was not a godly king.

Q.31) Study carefully the character of Athaliah in **2Kings 11:1-3 & 2Chronicles 22:10-12**.

See also **2Kings 8:18; 11:13-16, 18 & 2Chronicles 21:6; 23:12-15, 17**.

Why did she attempt to destroy the house of Judah?

Section 3 continued

Q.32) Who was Jehosheba (Jehoshabeath)? Read **2Kings 11:1-3 & 2Chronicles 22:10-12**. How significant was her brave act in hiding Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah in the house of the Lord? See also **1Chronicles 3:10-16**.

Q.33) What was known of Jehoiada the high priest? Make a list of his characteristics and consider why he was very successful in deposing queen Athaliah to put Joash rightly on the throne of Judah. See **2Kings 11:4-21 & 2Chronicles 23:16-21**?

Q.34) Is there a change for the better for the kingdom of Judah spiritually? See **2Kings 11:17-21 & 2Chronicles 23:16-21**.

Section 4: 2Kings 12:1-17:41; 2Chronicles 24:1-28:27

Kingdom of Israel: Jehoahaz 820-804 BC; Joash (Jehoash) 806-790 BC; Jeroboam 790-749 BC; Zechariah 748 BC; Shallum 748 BC; Menahem 748-738 BC; Pekahiah 738-736; Pekah 748-730 BC; Hoshea 730-721 BC.

Kingdom of Judah: Joash 843-803 BC; Amaziah 803-775 BC; Azariah (Uzziah) 787-735 BC; Jotham 749-734; Ahaz 741-726 BC.

Q.1) What was known of Jehoiada's influence upon Joash king of Judah?

See **2Kings 12:1-16 & 2Chronicles 24:1-16**.

Q.2) Show the evidence of Joash's desire to serve the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the high priest. See **2Kings 12:1-16 & 2Chronicles 24:1-14, 27**.

Q.3) What lessons can we learn from the attitude of the priests and Levites towards repairing the house of the Lord? See **2Kings 12:6-7 & 2Chronicles 24:5-7**. See also **Revelation 3:1-6**.

Q.4) What had happened to the temple in the time of queen Athaliah?

See **2Kings 12:5 & 2Chronicles 24:4, 7**.

Q.5) What happened to Joash king of Judah when he turned away from the Lord? Show God's judgment that came upon Joash and the kingdom of Judah.

Read **2Kings 12:17-21 & 2Chronicles 24:17-26**.

Q.6) Show the courage of Zechariah to declare God's word in **2Chronicles 24:20-22**. Is it true to say that Zechariah was a martyr? See also **Matthew 23:35**.

Q.7) What was known of the following characters: I) Jehoahaz, **2Kings 13:1-9; 14:8-16 & 2Chronicles 25:17-25**. II) Jehoash, **2Kings 13:10-25; 14:8-16 & 2Chronicles 25:17-25**.

Show the mercy of God to these kings.

Q.8) Show in what ways Amaziah proved to be a good king of Judah in the early part of his reign. Read carefully **2Kings 14:1-6 & 2Chronicles 25:1-10**.

Q.9) Read carefully **2Kings 17:7 & 2Chronicles 25:11-12**. Is there evidence of Amaziah being unjust in the way he treated Edom (children of Seir).

Q.10) Why did Amaziah turn away from serving the Lord?

See **2Kings 14:8-11 & 2Chronicles 25:14-17**.

Q.11) What ways did God bring judgment on Amaziah?

Read carefully **2Kings 14:11-14, 19-20 & 2Chronicles 25:17-24, 27-28**.

Q.12) Read again **2Kings 14:1-20 & 2Chronicles 25:1-28**. What lessons can we learn from Amaziah's life?

Q.13) What was known of Jeroboam son of Joash king of Israel in **2Kings 14:23-29**? Show how God was merciful to Israel during this time.

Q.14) Can you suggest what Jonah son of Amittai might have prophesied in the time of Jeroboam son of Joash king of Israel? See **2Kings 14:23-27**.

Section 4 continued

Q.15) What lessons can we learn from the reign of Azariah (Uzziah) king of Judah? Read carefully **2Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-7; 2Chronicles 26:1-23**.

Show (I) the influence Zechariah could have had on Azariah to serve the Lord in **2Chronicles 26:5**; (II) how the king did well in doing what was right towards God (**2Chronicles 26:6-15**) and (III) what happened when he was disobedient to the Lord (**2Chronicles 26:16-21**).

Q.16) Show the ways Jotham proved to be faithful in doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord. See **2Kings 15:32-38 & 2Chronicles 26:23-27:9**.

Q.17) Study carefully what was known of the characters of the following kings of Israel in **2Kings 15:3-31**: (I) Zachariah (**15:8-11**); (II) Shallum (**15:10, 13-15**); (III) Menahem (**15:14, 16-22**); (IV) Pekahiah (**15:23-27**); (V) Pekah (**15:25, 27-31**).

Q.18) Examine the character of Ahaz king of Judah by reading **2Kings 16:1-20 & 2Chronicles 28:1-27**: A) Show the ways Ahaz proved to be an idol worshipper. See **2Kings 16:3-4, 10-18 & 2Chronicles 28:2-4, 22-25**;

B) How did God bring judgment on Ahaz? See **2Chronicles 28:5-8, 16-21**;

C) In what ways was God merciful to Ahaz? See **2Chronicles 28:9-15 & Isaiah 7:1-15**;

D) What information do we have on the spiritual state of the kingdom of Judah in the time of Ahaz? See **2Chronicles 28:19, 24**;

E) Show the consequences of Ahaz being unequally yoked with the kings of Assyria. See **2Kings 16:7-16; 2Chronicles 28:16-21; 2Corinthians 6:14-18**.

Q.19) What was known of Hoshea the last king of Israel? See **2Kings 15:30; 17:1-6**.

Q.20) Show the spiritual condition of the northern kingdom of Israel in **2Kings 17:1-41**.

Q.21) How had the children of Israel sinned greatly against the Lord?

Read **2Kings 17:6-17, 19, 22, 34, 40**.

Q.22) How did God deal with the northern kingdom of Israel?

See **2Kings 17:13, 18, 20-21, 23, 25-26**.

Q.23) What did Assyria do to the northern of Israel? See **2Kings 17:4-6, 24, 26-33**.

Q.24) What did all the nations have in common regarding religion? See **2Kings 17:29-41**.

Q.25) What was the covenant God had made with Israel in **2Kings 17:35-39**?

Section 5: 2Kings 18:1-20:21; 2Chronicles 29:1-32:33; Isaiah 36:1-39:8

Hezekiah king of Judah

Q.1) Show the evidence from **2Kings 18:1-8 & 2Chronicles 29:1-11** that Hezekiah did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord.

Q.2) Show the response from the Levites and the priests when Hezekiah told them to serve the Lord in the temple. See **2Chronicles 29:12-19**.

Q.3) What further things were put in place to restore religious life in the temple? See **2Chronicles 29:20-36**.

Q.4) What was so significant about the Feast of Passover being kept? Who were invited to keep the Passover and why did it have to take place in the fourteenth day of the second month? Read **2Chronicles 30:1-27 & Numbers 9:6-14**.

Q.5) Read **2Chronicles 30:13-21**. Why were people allowed to eat the Passover even though they were unclean?

Q.6) Read carefully **2Chronicles 31:1-21**. Show how Hezekiah had restored thoroughly the service of the priests and Levites to the house of the Lord.

Q.7) What was known of how far Assyria had invaded the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah in reading **2Kings 18:8-18; 19:8-9; 2Chronicles 32:1-2; Isaiah 36:1-2; 37:8-9**.

Section 5 continued

Q.8) What was Rabshakeh leader of the Assyrian army attempting to convince the people to do in response to his speech? Read **2Kings 18:19-37; 19:10-13; 2Chronicles 32:9-18; Isaiah 37:10-13**.

Q.9) Read again carefully the speech of Rabshakeh in **2Kings 18:19-37** and also the letter in **2Kings 19:10-13**. Can you see how the devil is at work through this speech? See also **Isaiah 36:3-22**.

Q.10) What ways did Hezekiah respond:

A) To the speech of Rabshakeh (**2Kings 19:1-5 & Isaiah 37:1-15**);

B) The letter from the messengers (**2Kings 19:14-19; 2Chronicles 32:20; Isaiah 37:14-20**)?

Q.11) What encouragement did the Lord give to Hezekiah regarding the king of Assyria? See **2Kings 19:6-7, 20-34 & Isaiah 37:6-7, 21-35**.

Q.12) Read carefully **2Chronicles 32:1-8**. Show Hezekiah's true faith in the Lord in what he said and did at that time in facing the enemy.

Q.13) Show the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecies to Hezekiah in **2Kings 19:35-37 & Isaiah 37:36-38**. See also **2Chronicles 32:21-22**.

Q.14) What ways did Isaiah prove to be such an encouragement to Hezekiah and his servants during the siege of Jerusalem from Assyria? Read carefully **2Kings 19:6-7; 20-34 & Isaiah 10:5-16; 37:6-7, 21-35**.

Q.15) What can we learn from Hezekiah's response to Isaiah's message when he was critically ill at 39 years of age? See **2Kings 20:1-11** and also **Psalms 104:24 & Isaiah 38:1-22**.

Q.16) Show the blessings Hezekiah received for being faithful to the Lord. Read **2Chronicles 32:22-23, 27-30**.

Q.17) Show the weaknesses in Hezekiah particularly over the visit of the Babylonian princes recorded in **2Kings 20:12-19 & Isaiah 39:1-8**. See also **2Chronicles 32:24-26, 31**.

Q.18) What was known in the conclusion of Hezekiah's life? Read **2Kings 20:20-21 & 2Chronicles 32:32-33**.

Q.19) Show the evidence of King Hezekiah's invaluable contribution towards preserving the scriptures. See **2Kings 18:6; 2Chronicles 31:21 & Proverbs 25:1-2**.

Section 6: 2Kings 21:1-25:30 & 2Chronicles 33:1-36:23

The kings of Judah until the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC

Manasseh 697- 642 BC; Amon 641-640 BC; Josiah 639-608 BC; Jehoahaz 608 BC; Jehoiakim 608-597 BC; Jehoiachin 597 BC; Zedekiah 597-586 BC.

Please note: The exile for the Jewish people (children of Israel) was 70 years (**608-536 BC**). The Jews were exiled in **606 BC (2Chronicles 36:6-7 & Daniel 1:1-3); 597 BC (2Kings 24:14-16); 586 BC (2Kings 25:8-12 & Jeremiah 52:28-30); 581 BC (Jeremiah 52:30)**. The captivity of Judah by Babylon had been foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Micah at least 100 years beforehand (**2Kings 20:17; Isaiah 39:6; Micah 4:10**). The duration of the exile was revealed to the prophet Jeremiah to be 70 years (**Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10; Daniel 9:2**).

A few other facts are worth mentioning briefly: I) Gedaliah made governor by the king of Babylon to rule over the remaining Jewish people in the land of Judah (**2Kings 25:22-25**).

II) A Jewish remnant fled to Egypt in disobedience to the word of God through the prophet Jeremiah (**2Kings 25:26 & Jeremiah 43:1-7**).

III) Jehoiachin released from prison by Evil-merodach king of Babylon in **560 BC (2Kings 25:27-30 & Jeremiah 52:31-34)**

IV) Decree made by Cyrus king of Persia in **536 BC**. It allowed the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (**2Chronicles 36:22-23 & Ezra 1:1-11**).

Section 6 continued

Q.1) What was known of Manasseh's great wickedness against the Lord? Make a list of his evil deeds of idolatry. Read **2Kings 21:1-11 & 2Chronicles 33:1-10**.

Q.2) What are we told of God's judgment on Judah and Jerusalem in **2Kings 21:12-15**?

Q.3) Show the significance of Jerusalem. See **2Kings 21:7-8 & 2Chronicles 33:4, 7-8**.

Q.4) What ways did the Lord deal with Manasseh as a result of his great wickedness?

Read **2Kings 21:19-26 & 2Chronicles 33:11-12**. Is it true to say that the Lord can use suffering to draw people to himself?

Q.5) Show the evidence of genuine repentance from King Manasseh in turning to serve the Lord in reading **2Chronicles 2:12-16**.

Q.6) What was known of king Manasseh in the remaining verses in **2Kings 21:17-18 & 2Chronicles 33:17-20**?

Q.7) What was known of the character of Amon king of Judah? Why was he only able to rule for two years? See **2Kings 21:19-26 & 2Chronicles 33:21-25**.

Q.8) What do we understand of the character of Josiah king of Judah in **2Kings 22:1-2; 23:25; & 2Chronicles 34:1-3; 35:25**?

Q.9) What took place in the first purge that Josiah made on idolatry in **2Chronicles 34:3-7**?

Q.10) What was known of Josiah repairing the house of the Lord?

See **2Kings 22:3-10 & 2Chronicles 34:8-18**.

Q.11) Show the response of King Josiah when he heard the word of the Lord read to him?

See **2Kings 22:11-14; 2Chronicles 34:19-22, 29-31; James 1:19-25**.

Q.12) What was foretold through the prophetess Huldah in her message brought to Josiah?

See **2Kings 22:15-20 & 2Chronicles 34:23-28**. Note: Huldah was regarded as one of seven prophetesses according to the Talmud (Jewish rabbinical commentary of the Old Testament scriptures). The other women are Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail and Esther.

Q.13) Is there evidence that in King Josiah's time the vast majority of the people never really turned their hearts to serve the Lord even though there had been a reformation to obey God's word? Read carefully **2Kings 22:14-20; 2Chronicles 34:23-28; Jeremiah 3:6-11**.

Q.14) What was the purpose of Josiah gathering all the people together? See **2Kings 23:1-3 & 2Chronicles 34:29-32**.

Q.15) Make a list of all the abominations that Josiah removed in a further purge on idolatry as a result of reading God's word. Read **2Kings 23:4-16, 19-20, 24; 2Chronicles 34:33**.

Q.16) Why did Josiah show respect for the sepulchre of the man of God in **2Kings 23:17-18**?

Q.17) Why did the Passover in Josiah's time prove to be the greatest since the time of Samuel the prophet (last of the judges)? See **2Kings 23:21-23 & 2Chronicles 35:1-19**.

Q.18) Why did the Lord not turn from his wrath against Judah? See **2Kings 23:26-27**.

Q.19) What lessons can we learn from Josiah's mistake that cost him his life in going out to war against the Egyptian ruler Pharaoh Necho? Read **2Kings 23: 29-30 & 2Chronicles 35:20-25**.

Q.20) Show the evidence of a reliable record of what we know of Josiah king of Judah.

See **2Kings 23:28 & 2Chronicles 35:26-27**.

Q.21) What is known of the characters of the final four kings of Judah?

I) Jehoahaz (Shallum): **2Kings 23:31-34; 2Chronicles 36:1-4; Jeremiah 22:10-12**.

II) Jehoiakim (Eliakim): **2Kings 23:35-24:6; 2Chronicles 36:4-8; Jeremiah 22:13-19**.

III) Jehoiachin (Coniah or Jeconiah): **2Kings 24:6-16; 25:27-30; 2Chronicles 36:9-10; Jeremiah 22:24-28; 52:31-34**.

IV) Zedekiah (Mattaniah): **2Kings 24:17-20; 25:1-7; 2Chronicles 36:11-16; Jeremiah 32:1-5; 34:1-7; 37:1-21; 38:1-28; 52:1-11; Ezekiel 12:8-13; 17:11-21**.

Section 6 continued

Q.22) Show why Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon was allowed by the Lord to bring such a severe judgment on Jerusalem including the temple.

See **2Kings 25:8-21; 2Chronicles 36:17-21; Jeremiah 52:12-30.**

Q.23) How did the king of Babylon treat the Jewish remnant left in the land of Judah after most of the Jews had been exiled? Read **2Kings 25:22-24.**

Q.24) Why did the Jewish remnant flee to Egypt after the assassination of Gedaliah the governor of Judah? Read **2Kings 25:25-26.** Why was it a foolish move to go to Egypt? It is helpful to read **Jeremiah 42:7-22; 43:1-13.**

Q.25) What hope do we find at the end of the book of **Kings** and the **Chronicles**? See **2Kings 25:27-30; 2Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-11; Jeremiah 52:31-34.**

See also **Leviticus 26:27-45 & Matthew 1:11-12.**

Miscellaneous Questions

These questions require considerable study and maybe best left to individual study although collective or corporate study is still possible depending on whether the small group desires to do in-depth study into the questions asked below.

Q.1) Compare the books of Samuel and the Kings alongside what is written in the Chronicles. Can you see the difference in emphasis between the books?

Q.2) Make a list of any prophecies in the time of the divided kingdom of Israel. Show their fulfilment where possible.

Q.3) What was known about the ministry of the prophets throughout the time of the divided Kingdom of Israel (933-586 BC)? It is helpful to study the ministries of Elijah and Elisha in **1Kings 17:1** through to **2Kings 9:37.**

Q.4) Read through the scriptures during the time of the divided kingdom of Israel. Attempt to find out who God is and in what ways is he at work in this time period (933-586 BC).

Q.5) What can be learnt about revival during the reigns of King Hezekiah and King Josiah in the kingdom of Judah. It is helpful to read **2Kings 18:1-20; 22:1-23:30; 2Chronicles 29:1-32:33; 34:1-35:27; Isaiah 36:1-39:8.** What does the Church of Jesus Christ need to see happen if revival is to take place?

Q.6) Show the ways the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah turned away from the Lord leading to the exile of God's people from their land.

Q.7) How did God bring judgment on the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah throughout the period of the divided kingdom from 933 BC to 586 BC.

Q.8) Read through the scriptures during the time of the divided kingdom from **2Kings 12-25 & 2Chronicles 10-36.** Study the evidence of idolatry practised amongst the children of Israel.

Bibliography

See the list of resources for **Kings Parts 1 & 2.** Please note the author does not necessarily agree with the views held by the writers of the reading material.

Copyright: Richard A. Peacock 2015

Under the terms of this copyright readers are permitted and encouraged to replicate and distribute this material so long as the original authorship is acknowledged and is accepted that the author is not liable for any damage incurred by such activities nor is liable for the conduct, the doctrinal stance or financial affairs of those parties engaged in those activities.