

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This workbook is designed for use in middle to high school Bible classrooms and is intentionally flexible to meet a wide range of ages and maturity levels. Lessons are organized in sections that increase in depth and complexity, allowing teachers to adjust pacing and emphasis based on their students' needs. Each lesson contains enough material to fill a 30–45 minute class period.

Lessons begin with **Rapid Recall**, a brief set of questions to review the previous lesson and connect it to the day's topic. This should take only a few minutes. Next, **The Big Picture** introduces the main focus and goal of the lesson, helping students understand what they will be studying.

The **Content** section forms the core of the lesson. It includes questions tied directly to Scripture. Teachers may assign passages for students to read ahead of time or read/summarize them together in class, depending on age, preparation, and reading ability. Younger or less-prepared students may spend more time here, while older or well-prepared students can move through this section more quickly.

Each lesson also includes a **Gospel Message**, which intentionally connects the lesson to Christ and the gospel. This section encourages discussion and personal application, helping students see Scripture as more than information and guiding them toward Christ-like living.

The **Digging Deeper** section is designed for further application and discussion. This portion works especially well with older or more mature students and can take up a larger part of the lesson when time allows.

Some lessons include additional review activities such as maps or drawings. These tools help reinforce learning and can be used as appropriate for the class level.

Teachers are encouraged to adapt each lesson as needed, emphasizing different sections to best serve their students while keeping the overall goal of biblical understanding and gospel-centered application in view.

THE BIG PICTURE

Solomon is the son of David who did not wholly follow the Lord at the end of his reign (1 Kings 11:4-8). The Lord told Solomon that he would tear the kingdom away from him for his sin (1 Kings 11:11). But for David's sake, the Lord would keep one tribe for Solomon's son, Rehoboam (1 Kings 11:13). That one tribe was Judah and Judah will be the name of the southern nation of the divided kingdom. The northern nation with the remaining tribes is called Israel.

REHOBOAM'S FAILURE (1 KINGS 14:21-31)

- 1 What was the spiritual assessment of Rehoboam's rule (14:22; 2 Chronicles 12:1)? _____
- 2 What sins happened in the land during Rehoboam's reign (14:23-24)? _____
- 3 What happened in the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign (14:25-26)? _____
- 4 What did Rehoboam do in response (14:27-28)? _____
- 5 Why do you think Rehoboam did this? What do you think he is trying to do? _____

MORE OF REHOBOAM (2 CHRONICLES 11-12)

IMPORTANT: The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles are not a continuation of history after 1 & 2 Kings. Rather, 1 & 2 Chronicles are another historical account of David and the lineage of kings that followed after him. The Chronicler focuses on the nation of Judah, showing why they were taken into Babylonian captivity and how they could be restored for their sins. You will study 2 Chronicles at various times in this study to have a fuller picture of the kings of Judah.

- 7 When the kingdom divided, who are the people who moved to Judah from Israel (11:13-17)?

- 8 Why did God not destroy Judah during Rehoboam's reign (12:5-7, 12:12)? _____



ABIJAM'S RULE (1 KINGS 15:1-8)

- 9 How long did Abijam rule and what is his spiritual assessment (15:2-3)? _____
- 10 Why was the kingdom not ripped away from Abijam for his sins (15:4-5)? _____
- 11 What good are we reminded about regarding David (15:5)? _____
- 12 What sin are we reminded about regarding David (15:5)? _____
- 13 What was Abijam's relationship with Jeroboam and the northern nation of Israel (15:6-7)? _____

MORE ABOUT ABIJAM (2 CHRONICLES 13)

- 14 As Abijam prepares to battle Jeroboam, what does Abijam proclaim about Judah (13:8-12)? _____
- 15 Who gave Abijam the victory (13:14-16)? _____
- 16 What was God teaching his people by giving the victory to Abijam and not Jeroboam? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- In 1 Kings 15:4 we see the Lord reminding the reader about a coming light from David's offspring. Jesus would come and be this light to shine in the darkness and show the way to the Father (cf. John 1:1-9; 9:5; 12:46). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 ESV)
- The account of Rehoboam and Abijam reveals that we need a king who will seek the Lord with all of his heart. Jesus is the answer to this need. At Jesus' baptism, the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Jesus said that the Father would not leave him because he always does what is pleasing to the Father (John 8:29).

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Even though Abijam walked in the sins of his father and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord (1 Kings 15:3), the Lord remained faithful to his promise to David (1 Kings 15:5). This a key characteristic about God. God always does what he says. God always keeps his promises. This is an important point that the apostle Paul makes in 2 Timothy 2:13, "If we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself." How does this help you walk with God?
- The faithfulness of God is on its fullest display in Jesus. God sent his Son to save a faithless, sinful world, keeping his promise made through Abraham and David that His Righteous One would come through these men and bless the world (cf. Romans 3:21-26). What is the greatest blessing we receive from the Lord through Jesus?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Though we are not told the specific reasons why Rehoboam and Abijam turned away from the Lord during the time of their rule. What do you think are some reasons why they would turn from the Lord? Are these the same reasons that people turn away from the Lord today? Explain.

- What does it mean to "serve the Lord with your whole heart"? What would this look like in your life?

- Both the Kings account and the Chronicles account notes how Rehoboam replaced the stolen shields of gold with shields of bronze, symbolizing the fading glory of the kingdom because of Rehoboam's sin. The bronze shields were a way to cover up what his sinning had taken away. Do you think it is possible to appear religious but still be far from God? What would this look like?

MAP OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM:

- Color all the tribes that joined the northern nation in one color.
- Color the tribe that remained with Rehoboam as the southern nation in a different color.
- Label the name of the northern nation on the map.

IMPORTANT: The reason the tribe of Simeon is drawn inside of Judah is because of the curse Jacob placed on the tribe in Genesis 49:5-7. Because of the violence of Levi and Simeon (cf. Genesis 34), they would be scattered in the land. Therefore, consider Simeon as part of the tribe of Judah since Judah very quickly absorbed this tribe.



RAPID RECALL

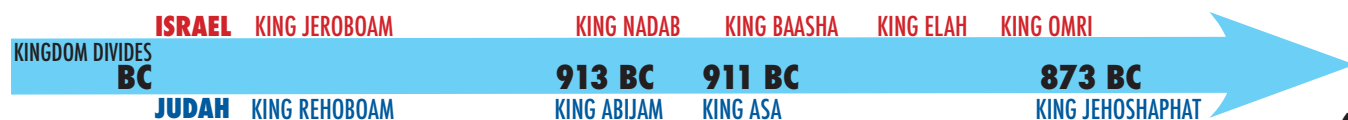
- 1 Was Rehoboam a good king or a bad king? _____
- 2 Was Abijam a good king or a bad king? _____
- 3 Did God remain faithful to his covenant with David in spite of these kings? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

King Asa breaks the trend of the prior kings over Judah. We are going to learn about his efforts for the Lord, where he succeeded and where he failed. Will Asa follow in the footsteps of his father and his grandfather? Or will Asa reverse what he saw in his family and go a different way with his life?

ASA'S REFORMS (1 KINGS 15:9-24)

- 4 What is the spiritual assessment of Asa's rule (15:9-11)? _____
- 5 What reforms does Asa made (15:12-13)? _____
- 6 What does Asa fail to do (15:14)? What does this mean? _____
- 7 What praise does Asa receive from the Lord (15:14-15)? _____
- 8 Look at the timeline at the bottom of page. Fill in the date of when the kingdom divided.



MORE OF ASA'S REFORMS (2 CHRONICLES 15)

9 What message does Azariah have for King Asa (15:1-7)? _____

10 What covenant do the people make with the Lord (15:12-15)? _____

ASA'S FAILURE (2 CHRONICLES 16)

11 What did King Asa do when Baasha, the king of Israel, attacked (16:1-2)? _____

12 Did this stop Baasha's attack (16:3-5)? _____

13 What did God say about what Asa did (16:6-9)? _____

14 How did Asa respond to God's messenger (16:10)? _____

15 How else did Asa fail at the end of his rule (16:12)? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- One of the important works that Asa accomplishes during his reign is to cleanse the land of idolatry. Further, Asa went about restoring proper worship to the Lord. He repaired the altar of the Lord and gathered the people to enter into a covenant with the Lord. The people responded with joy over the oath of the covenant. When Jesus was on the earth we read about him doing the work of cleansing the people. All of the gospel accounts record Jesus cleansing the temple because of the sinful activities that were occurring there. In Mark 11:15-19 Jesus came to Jerusalem and cleansed the temple to restore it to the Lord. Rather than the people joyfully renewing themselves to the Lord, the chief priests and scribes determined to destroy Jesus. They rejected the One the Lord sent to cleanse and restore them.

SEEKING THE LORD

RAPID RECALL

- 1 What good did Asa do during his reign? _____
- 2 How did Asa fail at the end of his life? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Like many of the kings of Judah, Jehoshaphat's rule is going to be a mixture of good ruling qualities along with critical failures. As you study Jehoshaphat's reign, pay careful attention to what the Chronicler twice observes as his failure and what caused the times when he failed to listen to the Lord.

JEHOSHAPHAT'S SUMMARY (1 KINGS 22:41-50)

- 3 What is the spiritual assessment of Jehoshaphat (22:41-45)? _____
- 4 How was Jehoshaphat's rule better than Asa's rule (22:46)? _____

JEHOSHAPHAT'S RULE (2 CHRONICLES 17-18)

- 6 Why was the Lord with Jehoshaphat (17:3-6)? _____
- 7 What did Jehoshaphat send his officials and the Levites to do in the land (17:7-9)? _____
- 8 What do we know about Ahab that would make Jehoshaphat's alliance with him a potential problem (18:1)? _____
- 9 What does Jehoshaphat want to do before going to battle (18:3-6)? _____

You studied the details of this event between Ahab and Jehoshaphat in your class last quarter, The Kings of Israel.



JEHOSHAPHAT'S REFORMS (2 CHRONICLES 19)

10 Why was Jehoshaphat condemned (19:1-3)? What commending does Jehoshaphat receive?

11 What does Jehoshaphat appoint in the cities of Judah (19:5-6)? _____

12 What charge does Jehoshaphat give them (19:9-10)? _____

JEHOSHAPHAT'S PRAYER (2 CHRONICLES 20)

13 What did Jehoshaphat do when nations came up against him for battle (20:1-4)? _____

14 What does Jehoshaphat pray (20:5-12)? _____

15 What is God's answer through Jahaziel, the Levite (20:14-17)? _____

16 What does Jehoshaphat tell the people they must do with this message (20:20)? _____

17 What did the people sing (20:21)? What did God do while they sang (20:22-23)? _____

18 What was the reason that Jehoshaphat's reign was successful (20:27-30)? _____

19 What was the final assessment for Jehoshaphat (20:31-32)? _____

20 What other failure is recorded regarding Jehoshaphat (20:35-37)? _____

WORKING THE TIMELINE:

- On the timeline below, draw a picture showing whether each king was evil or righteous. Be creative in how you draw your pictures so that you can remember which kings were evil and which kings were righteous.



MATCH IT UP:

- Match the name of the king with the actions he performed:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| _____ Rehoboam | a. Went to war against Jeroboam |
| _____ Abijam | b. Made an alliance with King Ahab |
| _____ Asa | c. Son of Solomon |
| _____ Jehoshaphat | d. Sent the treasuries to Ben-hadad, king of Syria |

RAPID RECALL

- 1 Was Jehoshaphat a good king or bad king? _____
- 2 Why was Jehoshaphat condemned? _____
- 3 Was Ahab a righteous king? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

King Jehoshaphat established many spiritual reforms and did not turn aside from doing what was right in the sight of the Lord, in spite of his alliance with King Ahab. We are going to see if the next two kings will follow in the footsteps of Jehoshaphat and Asa, or turn away from their spiritual direction and follow the wicked path of Israel's kings.

JEHORAM (2 KINGS 8:16-24)

- 4 Why did Jehoram walk in the ways of King Ahab (8:18)? _____
- 5 Why didn't God destroy the nation of Judah for this (8:19)? _____
- 6 Rather than destroying Judah, what happened instead (8:20-22)? _____

JEHORAM'S WORSHIP (2 CHRONICLES 21)

- 7 What other evil did Jehoram commit regarding his family (21:2-4)? _____
- 8 What evil did Jehoram commit regarding worship (21:11)? _____
- 9 What were the consequences for Jehoram's sin (21:12-20)? _____

AHAZIAH (2 KINGS 8:25-29)

10 Who was Ahaziah's mother? Who was she related to (8:26)? _____

11 What is the spiritual assessment of Ahaziah? _____

AHAZIAH (2 CHRONICLES 22:1-9)

12 Who ordained Ahaziah's downfall by Jehu, king of Israel (22:7-9)? What is God showing?

ATHALIAH (2 KINGS 11)

13 Who is Athaliah (11:1)? What did she do? _____

14 Who did Ahaziah's sister hide from Athaliah (11:2-3)? _____

15 What did Jehoiada the priest do to end Athaliah's reign (11:4-16)? _____

16 What covenant did Jehoiada make between the people and the Lord (11:17-20) _____

SEEING CHRIST

- When Athaliah tries to kill all the rivals to her rule over Judah, Joash is hidden in the temple of the Lord. But this is not the first time something like this happened and it will not be the last time we will see this in the scriptures. Moses had to be hidden in a basket to avoid the command to kill the boys born to the Hebrew people (Exodus 2). When we come to the New Testament, Herod is threatened that the king of Jews had been born (Matthew 2:1-18). Joseph and Mary must take Jesus to Egypt to hide him from Herod who commanded all the male children two years old and younger be killed. Why do you think rejection, and even the desire to murder, a common reaction to God and his designated leaders?

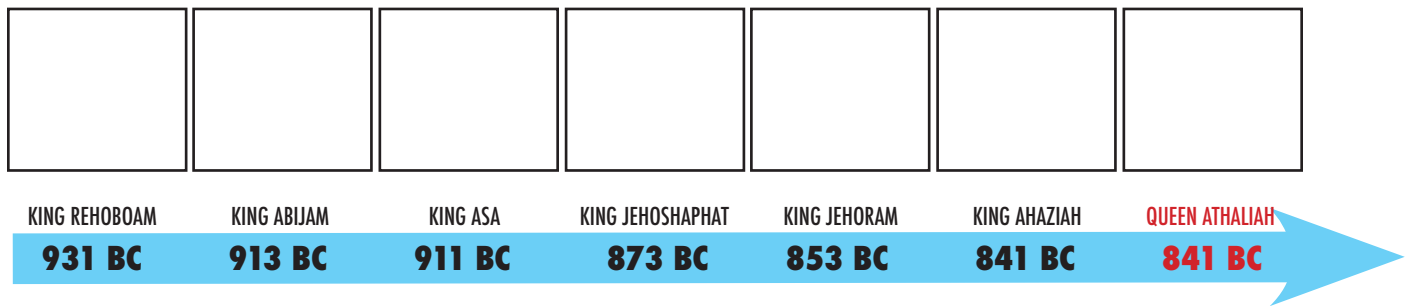
ISRAEL AHAB
873 BC
JUDAH JEHOASHAPHAT

AHAZIAH JORAM
853
JEHORAM

JEHU
841
AHAZIAH ATHALIAH

WORKING THE TIMELINE:

- On the timeline below, draw a picture showing whether each king was evil or righteous. Be creative in how you draw your pictures so that you can remember which kings were evil and which kings were righteous.



RAPID RECALL

- 1 Were Jehoram and Ahaziah good kings? _____
- 2 Who was the wicked queen who seized the throne? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

The last three rulers (Jehoram, Ahaziah, and Athaliah) were all wicked rulers. This means that there have been 18 years of evil leadership over Judah. Is there any hope for the nation to turn back to the Lord? Will a righteous king arise to be able to turn the hearts of the people back and avert the judgment of God that the nation deserves to receive?

JOASH'S RULE (2 KINGS 12)

- 3 How old was Joash when he began to rule (11:21-12:1)? _____
- 4 What is the spiritual assessment of Joash (12:2)? _____
- 5 What did Joash not do during his reign (12:3)? _____
- 6 What does Joash order to be repaired (12:4-5)? _____
- 7 How did Joash go about funding the repair (12:4-18)? _____
- 8 What failure of Joash is recorded (12:17-18)? What should have Joash done when attacked?

ISRAEL	AHAZIAH	JORAM	JEHU	JEHOAHAZ	JEHOASH
853			841	835	796
JUDAH	JEHORAM		AHAZIAH	ATHALIAH	JOASH
					AMAZIAH

JOASH'S TREACHERY (2 CHRONICLES 24:15-27)

- 9 What happens after Jehoiada's death (24:15-19)? _____
- 10 What message does Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, proclaim to the people (24:20-22)? _____
- 11 How did the people respond (24:20-22)? _____
- 12 How did Joash respond (24:20-22)? _____
- 13 How did Joash die (24:23-27)? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- It is important to notice that the change in priesthood brought about a negative spiritual change in the people. When Jehoiada the priest died, Joash now listened to the princes of Judah. This is when they abandoned the house of the Lord and worshiped false gods. Rather than ruling in righteousness, Joash's reign turns evil and God's wrath was ignited against him. An important role for the priesthood was to teach the people God's laws and draw them closer to God. One of the great promises in the scriptures was that God would provide an eternal high priest for the people so that these kinds of changes would not happen (cf. Hebrews 5:5-6; 6:19-20; 7:23-28). With Jesus as our eternal high priest, there will not be a high priest who will lead us away from serving the Lord. Jesus is the perfect example with his perfect teachings who always draws us closer to the Father.

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- While God commanded the tithe (10% of the people's possessions), he always wanted his people to give from the heart, not out of obligation or compulsion. When Joash raises money to pay for the repairs needed to restore temple, Joash leaves it up to the hearts of the people to determine what they would give — "...which anyone's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the Lord" (2 Kings 12:4 NASB). The apostle Paul speaks of the same heart of generosity among the churches of Macedonia:

"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us." (2 Corinthians 8:1-5 ESV)

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Write down the kind of heart God loves. Then write down what God says he does for those who sow sparingly and those who sow bountifully. Finally, write down how God does not want his people to give and how each person is to decide the amount they give.

- Why do you think Joash killed Jehoiada's son after all the good Jehoiada had done for him? Remember that Jehoiada helped keep Joash alive when Athaliah was killing all the sons of Ahaziah. How could Joash do evil after all the good Jehoiada had done for him? What do we learn from this event?

PRIDE PROBLEMS

RAPID RECALL

- 1 What good did Joash do during his reign? _____
- 2 What evil did Joash do during his reign? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Joash was considered a good king as he ruled over Judah. However, toward the end of his life, after Jehoiada died, Joash and the people abandoned the Lord and worship idols. Now the next three kings of Judah are recorded. Will they rule Judah like Joash? Will they do better or worse than Joash?

AMAZIAH'S REIGN (2 KINGS 14; 2 CHRON. 25)

- 3 What is the spiritual assessment of Amaziah's reign (14:1-4)? _____
- 4 What failure is recorded regarding Amaziah's rule (14:5-6)? _____
- 5 After defeating the Edomites, Amaziah wants to attack Jehoash, the king of Israel. What does Jehoash say is Amaziah's error (14:9-10)? _____
- 6 How does Amaziah respond to God's prophet (2 Chronicles 25:14-16)? _____
- 7 What happens when Amaziah does not listen to Jehoash, the king of Israel (2 Chronicles 25:20-28)? _____

ISRAEL	JEHU	JEHOAHAZ	JEHOASH	JEROBOAM II	SHALLUM, ZECHARIAH, MENAHEM	
JUDAH	841	835	796	790	750	
	AHAZIAH	ATHALIAH	JOASH	AMAZIAH	AZARIAH	JOTHAM

AZARIAH'S PRIDE (2 CHRONICLES 26)

Please note that Azariah is also called Uzziah in the Chronicles account.

- 8 What is the spiritual assessment of Azariah's reign and how long did he rule (2 Chronicles 26:1-4)? _____

- 9 When Azariah/Uzziah was seeking the Lord, what was the result during his rule (2 Chronicles 26:5-15)? _____

- 10 What happened when Azariah/Uzziah grew strong (2 Chronicles 26:16-17)? _____

- 11 What was the result of Azariah/Uzziah turning from the Lord (2 Chronicles 26:18-23)? _____

JOTHAM (2 KINGS 15:32-38; 2 CHRONICLES 27)

- 12 What is the spiritual assessment of Jotham's rule (2 Chronicles 27:1-2)? _____

- 13 Why was Jotham successful (2 Chronicles 27:6)? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- Pride is a problem that we are reading about with these kings. Power and success go to their head and they become arrogant and rebel against the Lord. Read Philippians 2:5-8. How is Jesus described? Did Jesus show pride and arrogance even though he is God? Did he use his deity for his own power or selfish purposes? What did Jesus do with his power?

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- The apostle Peter taught: Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:5-7 ESV)
- Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18 CSB)
- 4 You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. 5 Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely?6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. 7 Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:4-7 CSB)

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Jesus taught that to be great in the kingdom of God requires humbling ourselves (Matthew 18:4). How do we humble ourselves? What does this mean? What will this look like in how we speak and act?

- What causes pride? How can pride be prevented?

- How can you practice humility in the home with your parents and siblings? How can you practice humility in school? What would it look like to be proud when at school and when at home?

WORKING THE TIMELINE:

- On the timeline below, draw a picture showing whether each king was evil or righteous. Be creative in how you draw your pictures so that you can remember which kings were evil and which kings were righteous.

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KING REHOBOAM	KING ABIJAM	KING ASA	KING JEHOSEPHAT	KING JEHOAM	KING AHAZIAH	QUEEN ATHALIAH
931 BC	913 BC	911 BC	873 BC	853 BC	841 BC	841 BC

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KING JOASH	KING AMAZIAH	KING AZARIAH	KING JOTHAM
835 BC	796 BC	790 BC	750 BC

RAPID RECALL

- 1 In last week's lesson, were Amaziah, Azariah, and Jotham good kings or evil kings? _____
- 2 What sin problem did we learn about with Amaziah and Azariah? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

The last four kings have been declared as doing right in the eyes of the Lord during their reigns over Judah. Can the righteous rule of the kings continue? Will there be a king who will tear out all the idolatry from Judah and fully turn the hearts back to the Lord?

AHAZ (2 KINGS 16; 2 CHRONICLES 28)

- 3 What is the spiritual assessment of Ahaz' rule (2 Kings 16:1-4)? _____
- 4 Who attacks Judah (2 Kings 16:5-6)? _____
- 5 Who does Ahaz turn to when attacked? Where should he have turned (2 Kings 16:7-9)?

- 6 What does Ahaz do spiritually when in his distress (2 Chronicles 28:22-27)? _____
- 7 What does Ahaz do to the Lord's temple (2 Chronicles 28:22-27; 2 Kings 16:10-18)? _____
- 8 Based on what you have read, what is the condition of the Lord's temple? What will need to happen to restore worship?

ISRAEL	JEHU	JEHOAHAZ	JEHOASH	JEROBOAM II	SHALLUM	PEKAHIAH	PEKAH	HOSHEA
841	835	796	790	750	735	729		
JUDAH	AHAZIAH	ATHALIAH	JOASH	AMAZIAH	AZARIAH	JOTHAM	AHAZ	HEZEKIAH

HEZEKIAH (2 CHRONICLES 29-31)

- 9 What is the spiritual assessment of Hezekiah's rule (29:1-2)? _____
- 10 What is the first thing Hezekiah does when he becomes king (29:3-4)? _____
- 11 What does Hezekiah proclaim? What is Hezekiah's desire? (29:5-11)? _____
- 12 What is the first thing the Levites do (29:15-19)? _____
- 13 What does Hezekiah restore (29:20-36)? _____
- 14 What regulations do the people follow when restoring worship (29:25,26,27,30)? _____
- 15 Scan through 2 Chronicles 30-31. Notice that Hezekiah restores the Passover and restores the work of the priests and the Levites. What is the assessment of Hezekiah's work (31:20-21)?

- 16 Did Hezekiah decide for himself how to worship God once the temple was cleansed or did he follow God's prescribed worship plan? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- When Jesus came to Jerusalem during the Passover, he saw that the religious leaders had turned the temple into a marketplace (cf. John 2:16). Jesus drives them out of the temple. The Gospel of Mark records that the temple was no longer a house of prayer for all the nations but had been turned into a hiding place for robbers (cf. Mark 11:17). The temple, the place where people were to draw near to God, had been turned into a place of wickedness. Jesus cleanses the temple. But then Jesus points to himself as the new and true temple through whom all people will be able to draw near to God (cf. John 2:18-22).

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Consider the following New Testament scriptures about worship and write down your observations to the right:
 - Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28-29 ESV)
 - God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24 ESV)
 - "You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'" (Matthew 15:7-9 ESV)

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- When Ahaz was in distress, he became even more unfaithful to the Lord (cf. 2 Chronicles 28:22). Write down some reasons why people turn further away from the Lord, rather than turning to the Lord, when life becomes difficult.

- The religious world frequently teaches that God will accept any kind of worship we offer to him. Therefore, we get to choose the form and method of worship. Many have introduced mechanical instruments into their worship. When Hezekiah restores the temple worship, we learned that he returned to the instructions that God gave to David for worship. Please consider that it had been approximately 300 years since God gave those worship instructions. Why do you think Hezekiah went all the way back to the instructions given to David rather than establishing a new worship for the people? What do we learn about God's expectations for our worship? Does God care how we worship him? Does it matter how much time has passed since God's worship instructions were given? Read Leviticus 10:1-3 and consider if God cares if we worship him the way he has instructed.

RAPID RECALL

- 1 What did Ahaz do to the temple of the Lord? _____
- 2 What did Hezekiah do to the temple of the Lord? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

In the last lesson you studied Hezekiah's reforms and temple cleansing, reversing the sinful policies of his father, Ahaz. Hezekiah's faithfulness will now be put to test. When Ahaz was attacked, he became unfaithful to the Lord, turning to Assyria for help and dismantling the temple. What will Hezekiah do when he is attacked by Assyria? Will he make the same error?

HEZEKIAH (2 KINGS 18-19)

- 3 What was the spiritual assessment of Hezekiah (18:1-6)? What is said about Hezekiah in relation to the prior kings? _____
- 4 What nation destroys Israel during Hezekiah's reign (18:9-12)? Why did this happen? _____
- 5 Write down the challenges and mockery the Rabshakeh of Assyria announces against Hezekiah and the people of Judah (18:19-37). _____
- 6 What does Hezekiah do when he hears the words of the Rabshakeh (19:1-4)? _____
- 7 What is God's response to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah (19:5-7)? _____
- 8 How does the king of Assyria challenge Hezekiah's faith (19:8-13)? _____
- 9 What does Hezekiah pray (19:14-19)? _____

10 What is God's answer to Hezekiah's prayer through the prophet Isaiah (19:32-34)? _____

11 Did God fulfill his word (19:35-37)? _____

HEZEKIAH'S FAILURE (2 KINGS 20)

12 What does Isaiah tell Hezekiah (20:1)? _____

13 What does Hezekiah do (20:2-3)? _____

14 What was God's response (20:4-11)? What was the sign? _____

15 What was Hezekiah's failure (20:12-21)? What is the consequence? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- It is easy to overlook, but the gospels record Jesus' prayer life. Not only did Jesus teach his disciples to pray (cf. Matthew 6:7-15), but he prayed for his disciples and all who would later believe in him (cf. John 17). Read Luke 5:16; 6:12 and 9:28. What do we see Jesus doing? When would he do this? Where would he do this? What do you learn?

ISRAEL	JEHU		JEHOAHAZ	JEHOASH	JEROBOAM II	SHALLUM	PEKAHIAH	PEKAH	HOSHEA	
	841			835		796	790	750	735	729
JUDAH	AHAZIAH	ATHALIAH	JOASH		AMAZIAH	AZARIAH	JOTHAM	AHAZ	HEZEKIAH	

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Read the following scriptures and write out your observations about God’s purpose in testing us and our need to test ourselves:
 - You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith – more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire – may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:6-7 CSB)
 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4 ESV)

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read 2 Chronicles 32:24-26. What does the scripture say Hezekiah did not do after the Lord answered his prayer when he was at the point of death? Explain what this means and how Hezekiah failed.

- Read 2 Chronicles 32:24-26. What does the scripture say was the reason for Hezekiah’s failure? Why was Hezekiah vulnerable to this sin? What do we learn and how we can we keep from committing the same sin?

- Read 2 Chronicles 32:27-31. What was God doing by bringing the Babylonian envoys to Babylon? What does this teach us about God’s purpose in hardships and testings?

RAPID RECALL

- 1 What good did Hezekiah do? _____
- 2 How did Hezekiah fail? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Hezekiah is noted as one of the best kings that Judah had in its history (cf. 2 Kings 18:5). He reversed the wickedness of his father, Ahaz, and restored the temple and its worship. Now Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, is the new king of Judah. Will he follow in his father's righteous footsteps or turn away from his father's spiritual direction?

MANASSEH (2 KINGS 21; 2 CHRONICLES 33)

- 3 What is the spiritual assessment of Manasseh (21:1-2)? _____
- 4 What did Manasseh do differently from his father, Hezekiah (21:3-6)? _____
- 5 What did Judah do during Manasseh's reign (21:9)? _____
- 6 What is going to happen because of Manasseh's sinful rule (21:10-18)? _____
- 7 What does the Lord do because Manasseh and the people did not listen (2 Chronicles 33:10-11)? _____
- 8 What does Manasseh do in his distress (2 Chronicles 33:12)? Are you surprised at this response? _____
- 9 What was God's response (2 Chronicles 33:13)? Are you surprised by this? _____

ISRAEL JEHOASH JEROBOAM II SHALLUM PEKAHIAH PEKAH HOSHEA ISRAEL DESTROYED

	796	790	750	735	729	695	642
JUDAH	AMAZIAH	AZARIAH	JOTHAM	AHAZ	HEZEKIAH	MANASSEH	AMON

AMON (2 KINGS 21:19-26)

10 What is the spiritual assessment of Amon (21:19-22)? _____

11 How does Amon's reign end (21:23-26)? _____

UNDERSTANDING REPENTANCE

12 What is the definition of repentance? _____

13 Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-12. Write down how Paul saw the fruits of true repentance in the Corinthian Christians. _____

14 Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-12. What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? What are the different results? How can we see the difference? _____

15 What do we see Manasseh doing that shows repentance in 2 Chronicles 33:12-13? _____

16 What do we see Manasseh doing that shows repentance in 2 Chronicles 33:15-16? _____

17 Read Matthew 3:7-8. What was John preaching for the Pharisees and Sadducees to do when he told them to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance?" _____

SEEING CHRIST

- When Jesus began his ministry, the message he preached was for people to repent. "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14-15 ESV). Jesus expected people to listen to his good news and change their lives to conform to the will of his Father.

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31 ESV)
- The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 ESV)
- Why is it so important for people to repent? What is God trying to prevent? Why has so much time passed since God called for the world to repent and the final return of Christ?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Consider the damage that sin causes. Read 2 Chronicles 33:15-17. Even though Manasseh repented, restored the altar, and removed the idolatry, did the people repent also? Think about how many relationships you have. If you sin, who are the people that are affected? Is there a way for people to be affected that you do not know, have not met, or never seen? Explain.

- Consider all the evil Manasseh did during his reign. Then consider God's response to Manasseh's repentance (2 Chronicles 33:13). Read 1 John 1:9. Based on how God responded to Manasseh, can we believe this promise that John makes regarding our sins? Explain.

WORKING THE TIMELINE:

- On the timeline below, draw a picture showing whether each king was evil or righteous. Be creative in how you draw your pictures so that you can remember which kings were evil and which kings were righteous.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

KING REHOBOAM	KING ABIJAM	KING ASA	KING JEHOSEPHAT	KING JEHOAM	KING AHAZIAH	QUEEN ATHALIAH
931 BC	913 BC	911 BC	873 BC	853 BC	841 BC	841 BC

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

KING JOASH	KING AMAZIAH	KING AZARIAH	KING JOTHAM	KING AHAZ	KING HEZEKIAH	KING MANASSEH
835 BC	796 BC	790 BC	750 BC	735 BC	729 BC	695 BC

RAPID RECALL

- 1 What was the spiritual assessment of Manasseh? _____
- 2 What happened at the end of Manasseh's rule? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Manasseh ruled Judah for 55 years, most of which were described as the most wicked acts by a king in Judah's history. Hezekiah, his father, is called one of the best kings Judah ever had. Now Manasseh's grandson, Josiah, begins his reign. Will he follow in the steps of his grandfather or his great-grandfather?

JOSIAH (2 CHRONICLES 34)

- 3 How old was Josiah when he became king? What is the spiritual assessment of Josiah (34:1-2)? _____
- 4 What does Josiah do during his rule (34:3-7)? _____
- 5 What other important work does Josiah undertake (34:8-13)? _____
- 6 What happens while the temple is being repaired (34:14-18)? What does this indicate about what the people knew about the Lord? What does this tell us about what was or was not happening in the temple? _____
- 7 What is Josiah's response when he hears the Book of the Law read (34:19-22)? What conclusion does Josiah draw? What does he fear? _____
- 8 What was God's message through the prophet Huldah (34:23-28)? _____

9 What does God commend about Josiah (34:26-28)? _____

JOSIAH'S REFORMS (2 KINGS 23; 2 CHRONICLES 35)

10 What covenant does Josiah make with the Lord (23:1-3)? _____

11 What reforms does Josiah make with the temple and with the worship (23:4-14)? _____

12 Why does Josiah preserve the bones of the prophet (23:16-18)? Look back to 1 Kings 13:1-30 and remind yourself about what happened to the young prophet and what he prophesied and what promise was made about him.

13 What else did Josiah restore (23:21-27)? _____

14 What important spiritual assessment is made about Josiah (23:25)? What other king did you recently study who was also commended in this way? _____

15 How does Josiah die (2 Chronicles 35:20-27)? How was Josiah warned against going to war? _____

16 Which prophet mourns the death of Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:25)? _____



SEEING CHRIST

- Josiah makes a covenant with the Lord that the people join, proclaiming that they will keep the commands of the Lord with all their heart and soul (2 Kings 23:3). Jesus came with the same proclamation, calling people to love the Lord with all their heart and soul (cf. Matthew 22:37). Jesus makes a new covenant through his blood on the cross (Hebrews 9:15-22; 10:9-10).

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (Romans 1:18-19 ESV)
- Josiah knew that the wrath of God was great against the people because they had not known nor obeyed what was written in the Book of the Law. The same message is true today. The wrath of God is revealed against all unrighteousness. Please notice that ignorance is not an excuse. It was not an excuse in the days of Josiah and it was not an excuse today. How should the world know there is a God and to seek him (cf. Romans 1:18-21)?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Romans 6:1-6. When we enter into the covenant of Christ through baptism, what does this mean in regards to how we live our lives? Can we keep living for ourselves and living for sin? What does Paul say is to happen to the old self and the life of sin in Romans 6:6? What are we saying to God when we choose to be baptized?

- Read 2 Chronicles 35:22. Josiah was a righteous king but at this moment he did not listen to the word of the Lord that came through Pharaoh Neco and it cost him his life. Why do you think Josiah did not listen when he has listened to God's word before? What does this teach us about listening to God? Are there ways that you are tempted to not listen to God even though you are trying to seek and obey him in your life? Explain.

RAPID RECALL

- 1 What good did Josiah do? _____
- 2 When did Josiah not listen to the word of the Lord? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Josiah was one of the best kings that Judah ever had. He humbly turned to the Lord, repaired the temple, reformed the worship, and made a covenant with the people to obey the Lord with all their heart and soul. Will these reforms take root and the hearts of the people be fully devoted to the Lord? Or has sin taken root and the people will not follow the Lord with all their heart? In this lesson we read about the final kings of Judah.

JEHOAHAZ (2 KINGS 23:31-35)

- 3 What is the spiritual assessment of Jehoahaz? How long did he rule (23:31-32)? _____
- 4 What happened to Jehoahaz because of his reign (23:33-34)? _____

JEHOIAKIM (2 KINGS 23:36-24:7)

- 5 What is Jehoiakim's family relationship to Jehoahaz (23:34)? _____
- 6 What is the spiritual assessment of Jehoiakim (23:36-37)? _____
- 7 What happened to Jehoiakim because of his reign (24:1-2)? _____
- 8 What other reason is given for the invasion of Judah by the Babylonians (24:3-4)? _____

ISRAEL ISRAEL DESTROYED

695	642	640	609	597	586
JUDAH	MANASSEH	AMON	JOSIAH	JEHOAHAZ JEHOIAKIM	JEHOIACHIN ZEDEKIAH
					JERUSALEM DESTROYED

JEHOIACHIN (2 KINGS 24:8-17)

- 9 What is the spiritual assessment of Jehoiachin's rule? How long did he rule (24:8-9)? _____
- 10 What did Babylon do during Jehoiachin's rule (24:10-13)? _____
- 11 Who and what was taken away to Babylon (24:13-17)? _____
- 12 Read Ezekiel 1:1-3. Who was taken to Babylon during this invasion? _____

ZEDEKIAH (2 KINGS 24:18-20)

- 13 How old was Zedekiah when he began to rule? How long did he reign (24:18)? _____
- 14 Who is Zedekiah (24:17)? _____
- 15 What is the spiritual assessment of Zedekiah (24:19-20)? _____
- 16 How else did Zedekiah fail (2 Chronicles 36:12-13)? _____
- 17 What is the spiritual assessment of the people during Zedekiah's rule (2 Chronicles 36:14)?

- 18 What prophet is preaching to Zedekiah that the king ignored (2 Chronicles 36:12)? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- The history of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah show us that a human king cannot give us the hope and leadership that we need. Even the best of the kings had points in their lives where they failed the Lord. Unrighteous kings led the people away from the Lord. God was showing us that our only hope for a king who will rule in justice, righteousness, and faithful can only be God himself. God promised through Isaiah that he would come in the flesh to be king (cf. Isaiah 9:6-7). The angel tells Mary that the son she will bear will be the king who will rule in righteousness forever (Luke 1:31-33).

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- This chapter and this book reveals the consequences of sin. Sin always brings judgment and God's wrath. The apostle Paul proclaimed, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).
- "For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for God's wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things. Therefore, do not become their partners." (Ephesians 5:5-7 CSB)

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- The scripture says something that could be surprising for us to read. We read in 2 Kings 24:1-4 that the Lord would not forgive the sins committed in Jerusalem. Why would God not forgive these sins? How can we reconcile this statement with God receiving Manasseh's repentance and God's desire for no one to perish but all to come to repentance (cf. 2 Peter 3:9)? Explain.

- A key point that has been made regarding many of these kings is that God is looking for humility, not rebellion, when hearing his word. Even when God was disciplining his people for their sins, God was looking for the people to return to him, not continue deeper into their sins. How can we respond to God's word and God's discipline with humility and not rebellion? What will this look like on a daily basis?

WORKING THE TIMELINE:

- On the timeline below, draw a picture showing whether each king was evil or righteous. Be creative in how you draw your pictures so that you can remember which kings were evil and which kings were righteous.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

KING REHOBOAM	KING ABIJAM	KING ASA	KING JEHOASHAPATH	KING JEHORAM	KING AHAZIAH	QUEEN ATHALIAH
931 BC	913 BC	911 BC	873 BC	853 BC	841 BC	841 BC

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KING JOASH	KING AMAZIAH	KING AZARIAH	KING JOTHAM	KING AHAZ	KING HEZEKIAH	KING MANASSEH
835 BC	796 BC	790 BC	750 BC	735 BC	729 BC	695 BC

--	--	--	--	--	--

KING AMON	KING JOSIAH	KING JEHOAHAZ	KING JEHOIAKIM	KING JEHOIACHIN	KING ZEDEKIAH	586 BC
642 BC	640 BC	609 BC	609 BC	597 BC	597 BC	586 BC

586 BC



JERUSALEM DESTROYED

RAPID RECALL

- 1 What happened with the final four kings of Judah? _____
- 2 What did Babylon do during that time? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

This final chapter records the end of the nation of Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian armies. Look at the ending and see if the people appear to have learned God's message through this judgment. Also look to see if there are any pictures of hope provided now that the nation has been taken into exile.

A NATION DESTROYED (2 KINGS 25)

- 3 How long was the siege against Jerusalem (25:1-2)? _____
- 4 What are the people experiencing during this long siege (25:3)? _____
- 5 What happened to Zedekiah, king of Judah (25:4-7)? _____
- 6 What happened to the temple of the Lord (25:8-10)? _____
- 7 Who was left in the land of Judah (25:11-12)? _____
- 8 What was taken to Babylon (25:13-21)? _____
- 9 Who was made governor over Judah (25:22)? _____
- 10 What happens to the governor (25:23-26)? What did the people do? _____

A FUTURE HOPE (2 KINGS 25; 2 CHRONICLES 36)

- 11 What happens to the prior king, Jehoiachin, after he was taken as exile to Babylon (2 Kings 25:27)? _____
- 12 Write down all the good Jehoiachin experienced (2 Kings 25:27-30)? _____
- 13 Why is this a message of hope for Judah's future? _____
- 14 Read 2 Chronicles 36:20-23. What hopeful words are proclaimed? _____
- 15 Read Ezra 1:1-4. What will be the future for the exiled people of Judah? _____

SEEING CHRIST

- The people thought that having the physical building, the temple of the Lord, would protect them from danger and disaster (cf. Jeremiah 7:4)? Were the people right?
- This situation would repeat itself in the days of Christ. Before describing the destruction of Jerusalem in Matthew 24, Jesus gave a warning at the end of Matthew 23 that God was not in the physical temple even though the temple was in Jerusalem:
- "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Matthew 23:37-39 ESV)
- The warning remains for us. Do we rely on physical buildings or physical actions that cause us to believe we are serving the Lord when we are actually rebelling against him?

GOSPEL MESSAGE

- Read Matthew 1:10-12. Note the kings listed in Jesus' genealogy in this section. Jeconiah is another name for Jehoiachin. By Jehoiachin not being killed in the exile, but being treated well leaves open the hope of a future king who will restore the kingdom and rule as the son of David. Read John 1:49 and John 12:13. What were people confessing Jesus to be? Since this is who Jesus is, then what is required of us since he holds this office and rules over the world?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Jeremiah 34:1-5. How was Jeremiah's prophecy regarding Zedekiah fulfilled?

- The failure of these kings led to the failure and destruction of the kingdom in both the northern nation of Israel and the southern nation of Judah. Therefore, having a righteous, perfect king in Jesus will bring a different result. Read Hebrews 12:28-29. What are we receiving because of the superior kingship and priesthood of Christ? What are we to do because of this? Why is this important?

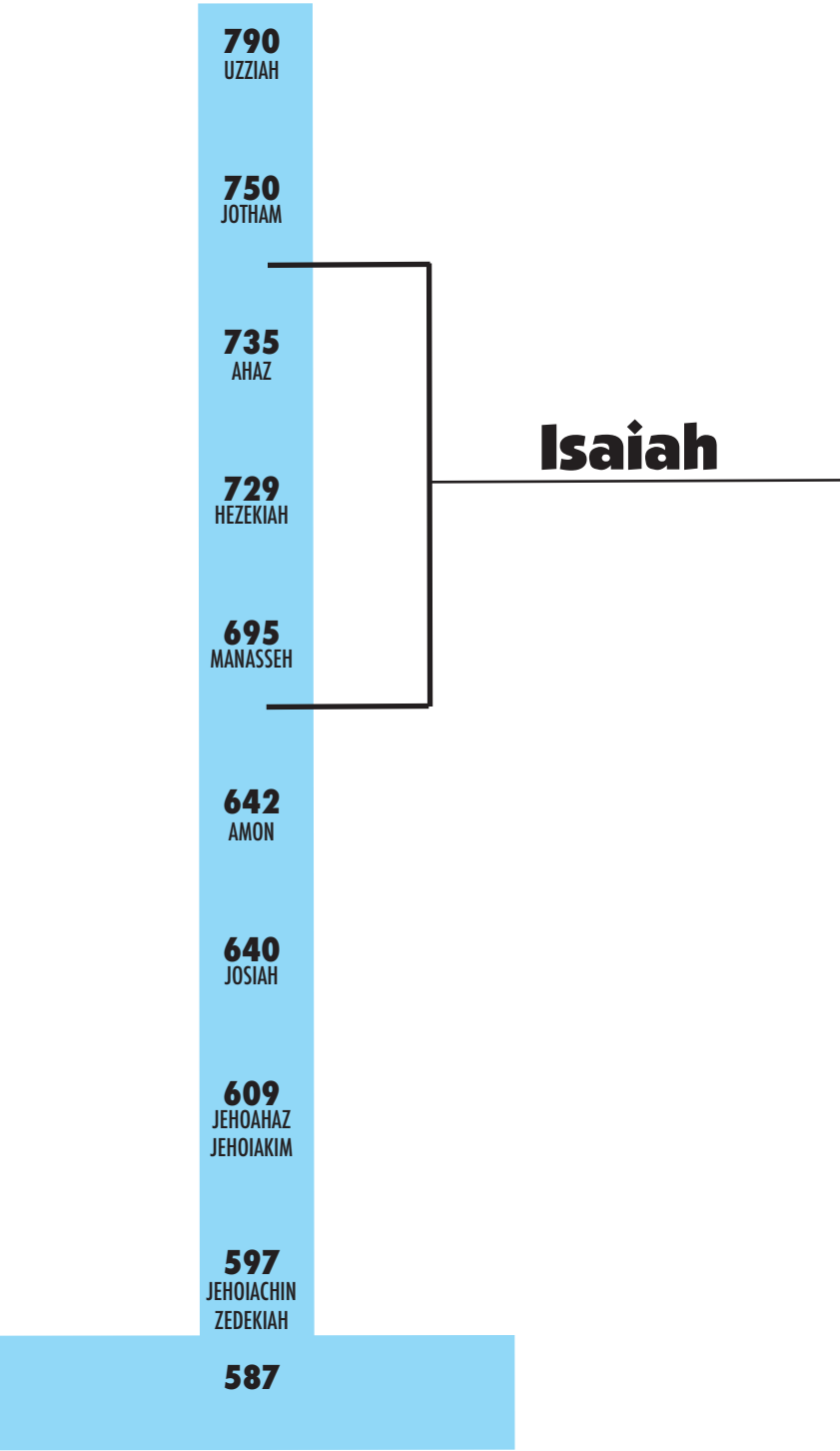
- Read Revelation 19:11-21. How is Jesus pictured? What is Jesus pictured doing? What title is given to Jesus? Who is being judged?

- The temple was the place where God was worshiped and where God's people could repent, pray, and find forgiveness (cf. 1 Kings 8). The destruction of the temple was significant because access to God had been removed. Read John 2:18-22. What did Jesus call himself and why is this so important?

CLASS COLLABORATION

Work together as a class to draw on the timeline of the kings of Judah the following prophets. The first one is done for you as an example. Please note that Hosea, Amos, Jonah are not included because they are prophets to Israel or Ninevah.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Isaiah 740-681 BC | Jeremiah 627-586 BC | Ezekiel 597-571 BC | Daniel 605-530 BC |
| Joel 740 BC? | Obadiah 586 | Micah 740-700 BC | Nahum 650 BC |
| Habakkuk 609-597 BC | Zephaniah 640-609 BC | Haggai 520 BC | Zechariah 520-480 BC |
| Malachi 430 BC | | | |



REVIEWING THE QUARTER

- 1 What year did the kingdom divide? _____
- 2 Were Rehoboam and Abijam good or bad kings? _____
- 3 What is the repeated reason in the book for why God does not immediately destroy Judah for its sins? _____
- 4 Who is Athaliah and what did she do? _____
- 5 Who were the best kings of Judah? _____
- 6 Who was the worst king of Judah? _____
- 7 Which kings repaired the temple of the Lord? _____
- 8 How did Hezekiah show his faith in the Lord when Assyria surrounded Jerusalem? _____
- 9 How did Hezekiah show his faith in the Lord when he was ill to the point of death? _____
- 10 What did Hezekiah do to displease the Lord? _____
- 11 What kind of king was Manasseh and what did he lead the people to do? _____
- 12 Which king made a covenant with the Lord and the people to obey the Lord with all their heart and soul? _____

- 13 What was found in the temple during Josiah's reign? _____
- 14 What nation conquered Judah and destroyed the temple? _____
- 15 Which king had his eyes gouged out after watching his children killed? _____
- 16 How does 2 Kings end? _____
- 17 Who was the governor of Judah after Babylon conquered Judah? _____
- 18 After Zedekiah, who will be the next king of Israel? _____
- 19 Why did Judah fail even though they had God's prophets warning of judgment? _____
- 20 How do you see God's faithfulness in spite of Judah's unfaithfulness? _____
- 21 What messages did you learn from the study of the kings of Judah? _____

SEEING THE GOSPEL



THE KINGS OF JUDAH

by: Brent Kercheville

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