

A Divided Heart...
A Divided Nation
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

KINGS & PROPHETS SERIES
Course 1
(1 Kings 1–13; 2 Chronicles 1–15)

A Divided Heart . . . A Divided Nation Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)
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6th Edition (10/2021)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 1–2
- David and Solomon

NOTE: It is difficult to determine an exact chronology and dating of the reigns of kings and their ages, and of events in Old Testament historical books. The authors had information not available to us today. Various schemes have sought to reconcile years and age, such as different calendars and co-regencies, but there are difficulties with all solutions. Don't get sidetracked trying to reconcile years and ages, as there are entire books written on this subject. There are no contradictions or errors in Scripture. Our focus should be on the lessons we learn for our lives from the lives of these characters.

1 KINGS 1

Verses 1-4

How does this chapter begin?

At the end of David's life when he was old and couldn't keep warm, Abishag was brought to serve him. Even though she was a beautiful virgin / young woman and lay close to David, he didn't have sexual relations with her.

There is a simple visual aid at the end of this lesson's guide.

Verses 5-10

Who are these verses about, and what happened?

Adonijah, David's oldest surviving son, exalted himself and tried to seize the kingdom.

1 Chronicles 22:7-10, 17-19

David told all Israel that his son Solomon was to be the next king of Israel as the Lord had said to him.

Joab, David's army commander, and Abiathar the priest joined Adonijah in his attempt to take the throne for himself.

How do the verses in James relate to this?

James 3:13-18

Jealousy and selfish ambition, disorder and evil (ESV—vile practice) describe the situation.

Adonijah was arrogant. So were the ones who joined him because they knew who was named as the next king of Israel.

Who was not invited? And why?

Zadok the priest,
Nathan the prophet to David,
Benaiah and David's mighty men,
and Solomon alone of David's sons.

None of them would have gone against God's and/ or David's expressed will.

Ask your group who they're joined with. Give time for them to discuss application about wisdom.

Verses 11-40

How did David hear of the plot? What did he do?

David was informed by Nathan with the help of Bathsheba, Solomon's mother and one of David's wives.

David gave the orders and they were followed; Zadok and Nathan anointed Solomon as king. There was no mistaking the one David had chosen to rule after him. All the people were rejoicing at the public ceremony so that the earth shook / split at their noise.

Verses 41-53

What happened to Adonijah? Discuss cross-references also.

When those supporting Adonijah heard the report of Solomon being made king and taking his seat on David's throne, they were terrified and left Adonijah.

Verses 50-53 show Adonijah's and Solomon's character.

Adonijah was afraid and ran to the altar for protection from Solomon. He asked that his brother swear he wouldn't kill him.

James 3:13, 17-18

Solomon's wisdom was from above: pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable / open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, and unwavering / impartial, without hypocrisy / sincere.

He would let Adonijah's own future deeds dictate his end.

Adonijah went to his house in fear and shame, and Solomon ruled from the throne.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Adonijah exalted himself; Solomon anointed king and sat on throne

1 KINGS 2

Verses 1-12

Who are these verses about? Discuss the cross-references where relevant.

David and Solomon

David called his son to show himself a man, and he told him how. David charged his son the king to walk in the ways of the Lord so that the Lord would fulfill His promise / word. There were conditions to His promise.

Verse 6 says David considered Solomon wise at that time.

He reminded Solomon of things he needed to do something about. There was Barzillai who had shown kindness / loyalty and needed to be rewarded. But Joab and Shimei needed retribution for wrong deeds.

2 Samuel 17:27-29; 19:31-39

David asked Solomon to show kindness / loyalty to the sons of Barzillai because he had assisted David when he fled from Absalom. Barzillai had declined David's offer of hospitality and exaltation for himself, sending instead Chimham. David continued to remember Barzillai's kindness.

Then David died, and Solomon's kingdom was firmly established.

Verses 13-25

What happened to Adonijah?

Adonijah approached Solomon's mother Bathsheba to request David's former nurse Abishag for his wife.

Abishag was apparently looked on with a similar status to a king's wife, because Solomon understood that this was another attempt by Adonijah to claim the throne.

2 Samuel 16:21-22

Absalom made a similar statement by committing adultery with his father's concubines so all Israel knew about it.

There were similarities between Adonijah and Absalom in that they exalted themselves and tried to steal the kingdom by devious means.

Like Absalom, Adonijah paid the penalty of death for going against the king chosen by the Lord.

Give your group time to discuss relevant application at any point in this discussion.

Verses 26-27

Who and what are these verses about?

Abiathar

Solomon dismissed him from being a priest demonstrating both justice and mercy: justice because of his betrayal of the rightful king and following Adonijah, and mercy in that he was allowed to return to his hometown because of his service and loyalty to David. He had carried the ark of the Lord and had been afflicted alongside David.

1 Samuel 2:22-36; 1 Kings 2:27

As a descendant of Eli, the priest of Samuel's time, Abiathar was associated with the punishment stated; he was evidently the last of Eli's line to be priest.

1 Samuel 22

Abiathar had been the only one who survived when Saul killed all the priests. Abiathar escaped to David and that began their long association. He stayed loyal to David and fled Jerusalem with him during the time of Absalom's betrayal, and then returned to Jerusalem as a spy for David.

His end is a sad one because he departed from what is right to be led astray from the will of God late in his life.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application.

Verses 28-35

Who was the next character Solomon had to deal with? How?

As David's death drew near, he told Solomon to deal with Joab according to his wisdom, and Solomon did. When Joab heard about the punishment for Adonijah and Abiathar, he fled to the Lord's tent and held on to the horns of the altar. The blood of Abner and Amasa were returned on his head when Solomon sent Benaiah to kill him there.

2 Samuel 2, 3, 17, 19 and 20

Joab had been the commander of David's army and was also his nephew.

He committed two murders, Abner and Amasa (his own cousin) for selfish reasons. Then he also killed David's son Absalom against David's command.

Solomon appointed / put Benaiah over the army to replace Joab, and Zadok replaced Abiathar as priest. Some in your group might bring up that Zadok was the priest promised in 1 Samuel 2:35.

Verses 36-46

Who are these verses about? What happened to him?

Solomon confronted Shimei. In his last charge to Solomon, David said that Shimei should not go unpunished / be held guiltless.

Solomon wisely allowed Shimei to bring that punishment upon himself.

2 Samuel 16

When David fled from Absalom, Shimei cursed David.

2 Samuel 19

When David was returning to Jerusalem, Shimei confessed his sin and requested that David not remember his wrongdoing. Therefore, David did not have him put to death.

In this incident Solomon exhibited wisdom, mercy, and justice.

You might ask your group what statement is repeated three times in this chapter. It gives the theme of this chapter.

In verses 12, 45, and 46, it is stated that Solomon's kingdom was established.

A possible theme for this chapter is: David died and Solomon's kingdom was established

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned about justice and mercy. Give time to discuss application or examples of any men in this chapter.

David

Appointed king by God

Solomon

Appointed king by God

Adonijah

exalted self to be king

Joab

Abiathar

**A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 3–4
- 2 Chronicles 1

REVIEW

As in any discussion from this point on in this course, a good brief review will help your group remember the events of the whole course better.

Ask what they remember from 1 Kings 1–2. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts.

The chapters are about the change in the kingdom of Israel from King David to his son King Solomon.

1 Kings 1 Adonijah exalted himself; Solomon anointed king, sat on throne

1 Kings 2 David died and Solomon's kingdom was established

In these chapters Solomon demonstrated wisdom in dealing with several people.

1 KINGS 3 AND 2 CHRONICLES 1:1-13

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin?

The first statement of this chapter is connected with the last one of chapter 2.

The kingdom was established with Solomon as King of Israel.

2 Chronicles 1:1

Solomon's kingdom was established, and it also states the relationship between the Lord and Solomon. God was with Solomon and made him great.

It seems to have been a political move when Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh by marrying his daughter.

NOTE: This might cause some discussion, but limit the time here as this can be discussed in a later lesson.

Verses 3-9 and 2 Chronicles 1:2-10

What are these verses about?

Solomon loved the Lord and followed David's example except that he sacrificed and burned incense / made offerings on the high places.

At this point you might begin a short list of the main points about Solomon in this lesson as a visual aid.

Solomon and the people of Israel made 1,000 sacrifices at Gibeon where the tabernacle and the bronze altar were at that time. Because there was no house built for the Lord.

1 Chronicles 15:29–16:1, 37-40 and 21:26-30

The ark was at Jerusalem where David had brought it.

Ask your group what they learned about the tabernacle, how it got to Gibeon, where it had been before, etc. From this point on you can refer to the map as a good visual aid.

1 Samuel 1:2-3, 9

The tabernacle (sometimes referred to as the temple) was at Shiloh.

1 Samuel 4:3-4, 17

Israel's idolatry during the time of the judges caused God to abandon that place as the Philistines took the ark. If your group studied 1 Samuel, they'll remember this event.

When the ark returned to Israel, it never went back to the tabernacle at Shiloh.

Jeremiah 7 and 26; Psalm 78:58-60

God abandoned / forsook Shiloh. It seems that Shiloh was destroyed, but the texts don't explicitly say that.

The Scripture doesn't say when or how, but the tabernacle was moved from Shiloh and was at Gibeon during David's and Solomon's time. But the ark wasn't there.

Chronicles tells of David bringing the ark from Obed-edom's house to the tent which he pitched for it in the City of David, Jerusalem.

So during the beginning of Solomon's reign, the tabernacle and altar were at Gibeon and the ark of the covenant was in Jerusalem.

In 1 Kings 1 and 2, we learned that Adonijah and Joab fled from Solomon and held onto the horns of the altar at the tent of the Lord which we now know was in Gibeon.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Kings 3.

What happened according to verses 5-9 and 2 Chronicles 1:7-9? Discuss word definitions.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked what He could give him.

Solomon spoke of God’s lovingkindness / steadfast love toward his father David. He spoke of himself as God’s servant whom God had made king and humbly asked God for an understanding—“literally, a *hearing*”¹—heart / mind to judge / govern God’s people.

understanding—“hear and comprehend information or a situation”²

Solomon wanted to be able to hear the Lord clearly so that he could lead His people according to His guidance.

He asked to be able to discern between good and evil.

discern, discerning—“**look closely**, see with the eyes and have perception and judgment about what is seen”³

He had already demonstrated some of that in the way he dealt with the men of chapter 2, but he knew that he needed more for the awesome task of leading God’s people.

God gave him wisdom. “The essential idea of *hākām* [wisdom] represents a manner of thinking and attitude concerning life’s experiences; including matters of general interest and basic morality.”⁴

David had said that his son was young and inexperienced when he first called Israel to help Solomon with building the temple. But Solomon had experienced some difficulties of ruling by the time the Lord appeared to him.

Proverbs 1 and 4

Both are written by Solomon. Proverbs 4 says that it was his father David who had taught him to acquire / get wisdom and understanding.

What Solomon says about his father shows that David was a good and wise father, at least to Solomon.

You could ask your group what they’re teaching as worthy goals and standards for their children.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (1 Ki. 3:9) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domain: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

³ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domain: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁴ Harris, R. L., Harris, R. L., Archer, G. L., & Waltke, B. K. (1999, c1980). *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), p. 282.

Verses 10-15 and 2 Chronicles 1:11-13

What was God's response to Solomon's request?

It pleased the Lord, and He answered to the degree that Solomon became the wisest man who has ever lived.

Give time for your group to evaluate their requests of the Lord.

What did God give Solomon besides wisdom, discernment, and understanding?

God also gave Solomon riches and honor, according to verse 13 beyond any king of his time.

Second Chronicles 1:12 says that he was the richest king who has ever lived. Some of that great wealth is described in 2 Chronicles 1:14-17.

When Solomon awoke, he returned to Jerusalem and stood before the ark and offered burnt and peace offerings.

Verses 16-28

What is the demonstration of Solomon's wisdom from God?

He had to decide who a child belonged to.
His wisdom in judgment caused the people to fear (ESV—stood in awe of) him.
He administered justice.

Ask what your group learned about wisdom from 1 Corinthians 1, and how it relates to Solomon's.

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16

The wisdom of the world sees God's wisdom as foolishness / folly.
But a person cannot know God through the world's wisdom.

A believer's faith is to rest on God's power, not man's wisdom.
Jesus Christ became God's wisdom to all true Christians.

Ask your group what they noted as the theme of 1 Kings 3 on their At a Glance chart.

Solomon asked for an understanding heart / mind to judge / govern God's people

They should be gaining wisdom for life from their knowledge of God's Word. That's why it is so important for them to be studying the Bible.

1 KINGS 4 AND 2 CHRONICLES 1:14-17

Verses 1-6

Who are these verses about?

Solomon's officials (ESV—high officials)
Azariah and other priests
Secretaries
Jehoshaphat, the recorder
Benaiah, the one over the army
Azariah, over the deputies / officers
Zabud, a priest, the king's friend
Ahishar, over the household / palace
Adoniram, over the forced labor

Verses 7-19

Who are these verses about? How does this compare with 1 Samuel 8?

Solomon had twelve deputies / officers.
Each one was responsible for his provisions for one month.

1 Samuel 8:10-17

When the people asked for a king, God told them that the king would take some of their sons and daughters, crops, servants, flocks, etc., for his work.

Verses 20-21

What is described in these verses?

God fulfilled His promise to make Israel as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sand on the seashore—Genesis 22:15-17.

Tell your group to look at their maps as a visual aid to see all the land Solomon ruled over.

Deuteronomy 12:20; Numbers 34:2-12 and Joshua 1:1-4

These describe the land of promise. During Solomon's reign Israel controlled all of their promised land.

Verses 22-28

What do these verses describe?

The greatness and security of Solomon's kingdom
This tells how much food was required for his household for one day.
Also, food for his 40,000 stalls of horses for chariots and 12,000 horsemen.

Verses 29-34

How was Solomon described?

The description of his wisdom, discernment / understanding, and breadth of mind was like the sand on the seashore. And his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

He spoke 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.

Psalm 72

He prayed for righteousness for himself, vindication / defense and salvation for the needy and oppressed and for abundance and blessing.

He knew where those things came from: God, not himself.

Solomon was the most significant man in the world at that time.

Solomon's kingdom was greater than any other at his time. From the descriptions in 2 Chronicles 1:14-17 and in 1 Kings 4, your group should have gained a view of the magnitude of the kingdom of Israel, the wealth, vastness of people, and great scope of its dominion.

Ask your group what the theme of 1 Kings 4 is.

Solomon's officials, Israel's borders, Solomon's wisdom and wealth

Ask about the theme for 2 Chronicles 1 on the At a Glance chart.

God appeared to Solomon at Gibeon, Solomon asked for wisdom

To close this discussion, you can ask your group where Solomon's wisdom came from. How can believers have wisdom?

1 Corinthians 1 and 2

Wisdom comes from God's Spirit indwelling believers.

Encourage your group to think about the wisdom they have and how to use it.

A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 5–7
- 2 Chronicles 2–4
- Solomon's temple

REVIEW

Ask what your group remembers from 1 Kings 1–4 and 2 Chronicles 1. Tell them to look at their At a Glance Charts if they can't remember.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 Kings 1 | Adonijah exalted himself; Solomon anointed king, sat on throne |
| 1 Kings 2 | David died and Solomon's kingdom was established |
| 1 Kings 3 | Solomon asked for understanding heart / mind to judge / govern God's people
2 Chronicles 1:1-13 is a parallel passage. |
| 1 Kings 4 | Solomon's officials, Israel's borders, Solomon's wisdom and wealth
2 Chronicles 1:14-17 is parallel to the last of 1 Kings 4. |
| 2 Chronicles 1 | God appeared to Solomon at Gibeon, Solomon asked for wisdom |

1 KINGS 5 AND 2 CHRONICLES 2

NOTE: This guide will use the order of 1 Kings for the discussion. 2 Chronicles will be added into the flow of 1 Kings.

Verses 1-12 and 2 Chronicles 2:1-10

What are these verses about?

Comparing the beginning of these two chapters in Kings and Chronicles it seems that Hiram sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that he had been anointed king. Then Solomon initiated the business arrangement of wood for food.

Hiram—spelled *Huram* in Chronicles in the NASB, king of Tyre, had been David's friend (ESV—loved David).and had provided timber for him as David built in the City of David, 2 Samuel 5:1-12.

Solomon said David didn't build the house for the Lord because he had wars with surrounding nations and couldn't build until they were conquered. Solomon's reign had peace because of what David did. But 1 Chronicles 22 says God told David he wouldn't build a temple for Him because he has shed so much blood on the earth.

The house for the Lord had to be great and wonderful because God is.

Solomon realized that he was only a man and not capable of building such a house for the name of the Great God who could not even be contained by the heavens. Even though he was the wisest man who ever lived, or maybe because he was, Solomon knew that he was just a man.

He knew that the only thing he was capable of doing was burning incense / making offerings before the LORD in the house.

Solomon's request to Hiram was for cedars of Lebanon and servants to cut it. 2 Chronicles gives more information about this.

The mountainous area of Lebanon was great for growing trees, but not for producing food. Solomon had plenty of food and needed timber for building. So they entered into a covenant / treaty with each other.

Verses 13-18 and 2 Chronicles 2:11-18

Who does Chronicles tell about?

Hiram also sent Hiram-abi who was skilled and had understanding of how to work in precious metals, engravings, design, etc.

NOTE: Your group might have some questions about Hiram as his name is spelled differently in 1 Kings 7:14 and Chronicles in the NASB, and his mother's tribe seems to be contradictory. One possible explanation is that his mother was born in Naphtali's territory and was of that tribe, but lived in Dan's land. Just don't let this become a debate or lead the discussion away from the main points.

What is the comparison between Hiram-abi and the men who worked on the tabernacle?

Exodus 35:30-35

Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God. The description of his skills sounds like that of Hiram-abi.

Ask your group how they're using the skills, the gifts, God gave them. Are they glorifying Him in the use of their skills and talents?

You could also ask about the labor force and how it was organized if you have time.

Solomon's forced laborers worked in Lebanon for a month and were home for two, then back and forth.

NOTE: 1 Kings 5:16 says 3,300 chief deputies, while 2 Chronicles 2:18 says 3,600 supervisors. If the 550 in 1 Kings 9:23 and the 250 in 2 Chronicles 8:10 are added to the original numbers, the total number for both Kings and Chronicles is 3,850.

Concerning the difference in the amount of food in 1 Kings 5:11 and 2 Chronicles 2:10, 1 Kings indicates that this was the amount of food given each year to Hiram, while 2 Chronicles could be what was provided at the initial transaction or could be an incomplete listing.

Ask what your group noted as the theme of these two chapters on their At a Glance charts.

1 Kings 5—Solomon and Hiram made a covenant / treaty; Solomon's forced laborers
2 Chronicles 2—Solomon and Hiram/Hiram, cedars and a skilled workman

1 KINGS 6 AND 2 CHRONICLES 3

Tell your group to look at the diagram of the temple in the lesson as a visual aid.

Verses 1-10 and 2 Chronicles 3:1-3

What are these verses about?

Building the great and wonderful house for the name of the LORD took Solomon 7 ½ years, from his 4th year, 2nd month until the 11th year, 8th month of his reign. Therefore, the first four years of his reign were taken up with establishing his kingdom and the preparations for building the house in 1 Kings 2–5.

The temple was begun 480 years after Israel came out of Egypt. God is faithful to His promises; He multiplied the people and gave them security and peace in their land.

Deuteronomy 12:1-14

It was in the place where God chose for His name to dwell / inhabit, the resting place at the end of Israel's journeys.

The house was four times the size of the tabernacle.

Its foundation was of quarried stone, with no iron tools used at the building site.

Verses 11-13

What did the Lord tell Solomon?

A conditional promise—if Solomon kept God's commands, God would live among His people Israel and not forsake them.

At this point you could ask what happened first in the temple building process and how Ephesians 2 relates to it.

The foundation of stones perfectly fitted together

Ephesians 2:19-22

The foundation of the house God is now building is the apostles and prophets. They have to do with speaking the Word of God.

The corner stone is mentioned in these verses, but not in Kings and Chronicles. Jesus Himself is the corner stone, the most important and first of the foundation of a building.

Believers are God's household, built on the corner stone of Jesus Christ and the foundation of the apostles and prophets—representing the combined Word of God. All believers are together growing into a holy temple in the Lord. They're being built into a dwelling of God in / by the Spirit.

Verses 14-38 and 2 Chronicles 3:4-17

What is described?

The inside was overlaid with cedar and/or cypress, then with pure gold.

It was to be God's permanent dwelling among His people, if they obeyed Him.

If a cubit is 18 inches, then its dimensions were 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high.

The holy of holies (ESV—Most Holy Place) was a 30-foot cube inside the house—the central place of the temple, the very presence of God Himself where the ark of the covenant was placed.

Two gold cherubim guarded the ark, each being 15 feet high and with a combined 30-foot wing span.

Help your group to imagine the magnificence of such a building!

What are the themes of these chapters? Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance charts.

1 Kings 6 7 years to build the temple
2 Chronicles 3 Solomon began to build temple in his 4th year

At any point in this discussion, give your group time to discuss relevant application.

1 KINGS 7 AND 2 CHRONICLES 4

Verses 1-12

What are these verses about?

Solomon was building his house for 13 years, then finished it.
His palace was 100 cubits in length compared to 60 cubits for the temple, width 50 cubits compared to 20 and height of 30 cubits compared to 30 for the temple.

He had a great hall for his throne to judge / govern God's people.
He also built a house like his hall for his wife, Pharaoh's daughter.

Verses 13-22

Who and what are these verses about?

Hiram sent Hiram-abi, who is also referred to in 2 Chronicles 4. Verses 13-15 are what Hiram made. In fact, all the references to what Solomon made were really at the hands of Hiram as you can see by the "also" in 2 Chronicles 4:11.

He made the two pillars of bronze on the front of the outside,
one named Jachin—"he shall establish"⁵
and the other named Boaz—"in it is strength."⁶

Verses 23-51 and 2 Chronicles 4

What do these verses tell about?

The furnishings of God's house are described.

The outside furnishings

Bronze altar

Only mentioned in 2 Chronicles 4:1

It was almost the same size as the holy of holies (ESV—Most Holy Place), but only 10 cubits high—about 15 feet. The altar's place was in front of the house, not in it.

Cast metal sea

It was held up on 12 large oxen, and its place was also outside of the house in the court on the southern side.

The eastern entrance to the court was through bronze doors. The sea was close to the altar. The sea was for the priests to wash, ritual cleansings.

⁵ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (1 Ki 7:21) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

⁶ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (1 Ki 7:21) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

They also made 10 wash basins which would be for rinsing animal parts before burnt offerings were made on the altar. The basins were placed on stands on each side of the house.

All of the utensils for the above were too weighty for measure.

NOTE: 1 Kings 7:26 mentions that it could hold 2,000 baths and 2 Chronicles 4:5 says 3,000. This might be due to a scribal error or a different method of calculation—whether the shape hemispherical or cylindrical.

The inside furnishings / vessels, verses 48-50 and 2 Chronicles 4:19-22

Golden altar for incense
Golden table for the bread of the Presence
10 pure gold lampstands, 5 on each side
Gold utensils

Ask about the themes of these chapters on the At a Glance charts.

1 Kings 7 Solomon's house; Temple furnishings and utensils
2 Chronicles 4 Solomon made things and utensils in the temple

At this point you can ask what your group learned from the cross-references on Day Five.

Matthew 16:13-18 and 1 Peter 2:4-8

Both teach about Jesus as the cornerstone of the church. The church—a spiritual house of those who believe—is built on the Christ, the Son of the living God.

1 Peter 2:9-12

Believers are referred to as living stones who are to proclaim His excellencies and have excellent behavior (ESV—honorable conduct) before the people of the world.

Hebrews 3:1-6

Moses was a faithful servant in the house God built of Israel, but Jesus is the faithful Son over the house of God, the church. And verse 6 is very clear in its condition—"if" we hold fast until the end, we're of His house. (ESV does not say "until the end.")

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

This parallels with Ephesians in that each individual in the church is indwelt by the Holy Spirit making each one's body a temple of God.

The responsibility of the believer is to glorify God in his body. Relate this to how Solomon wanted the house for God's name to be great and wonderful because God is. He is also holy.

Then to close your discussion, you might ask what the most important thing was that anyone learned from this lesson or discussion.

A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 8
- 2 Chronicles 5–7

REVIEW

Ask for the events leading up to 2 Chronicles 5 and 1 Kings 8.

God made Solomon the wisest man and wealthiest king who ever lived.
Solomon worked on building the temple for 7 ½ years.

2 CHRONICLES 5 AND 1 KINGS 8:1-11

Tell your group to look at the drawing of the temple at the end of the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-10 and 1 Kings 8:1-9

What happened in these verses?

Solomon had the ark brought into the temple. It had been in a tent in the City of David. So it was only transported a short distance.

It was the seventh month, at the time when Israel was commanded by the Lord to celebrate two feasts, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths.

Since 1 Kings 6:38 says that the temple was completed in the eighth month of the eleventh year, it was eleven months later that the ark was brought in.

During the eleven months between the completion of the temple and the feasts, its furnishings were made. So everything was ready in the seventh month.

Second Chronicles 7:10 says that the people were there until the 23rd of the seventh month. If they had celebrated 7 days and another 7 days with the 8th day being a solemn assembly, then they began all of the celebration on the 8th day of the 7th month. The Day of Atonement is on the 10th day of that month and would have been included in this celebration.

Ask your group what they learned about the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths and why it's significant that Solomon brought the ark into the temple at that time.

Tell them to look at the Feasts of Israel chart as a visual aid. They might also look at their maps to see where all the people came from for the Feast and temple dedication.

This feast was to remind Israel of the time when they lived in temporary dwellings called booths and tents, in the wilderness. But it also was to remind them that the Lord lived in their midst during that time in a temporary dwelling. The tabernacle was His “tent,” His dwelling in the midst of His people.

It must have been a very exciting time for Solomon and the people of Israel to bring the ark into the great and wonderful temple at the Feast of Tabernacles. While they were celebrating the feast by living in their tents for seven days, the ark of the Lord was put into its permanent dwelling.

You might ask about the main details of the ark being brought to the temple.

The priests, descendants of Aaron from the tribe of Levi, carried the ark.

Solomon and the leaders were making sacrifices too numerous to count.

The priests put the ark in its place between the huge cherubim of gold within the most holy place, the holy of holies. The poles they carried it with protruded behind the veil. That part is what could be seen in the holy place.

What were the contents of the ark? Discuss the cross-references.

Both Kings and Chronicles say the tablets of the old covenant were the only things in the ark.

Hebrews 9:3-4

This passage says that at some point when the ark was in the tabernacle it contained not only the tablets of the covenant, but also a golden jar / urn holding manna and Aaron’s rod / staff which budded.

Deuteronomy 10:2-5; Exodus 16:33-34; Numbers 17:8-10

These references tell of the individual pieces placed in the ark. The jar holding the manna and Aaron’s rod / staff were placed “before” the testimony or covenant.

The only passage saying the jar and the rod were *in* the ark is Hebrews. Therefore, at some point between the time all three were put into the ark and the time of the temple, all but the tablets of the covenant were removed.

Verses 11-13

What happened before the house was filled with the cloud?

There were singers accompanied by 120 trumpets and other musical instruments praising the Lord when the priests came out of the temple after putting the ark inside. Encourage your group to imagine the praise at that time.

“lovingkindness / steadfast love,” *chesed*—“The basic idea is that of an act of kindness, love or mercy shown to someone . . . usually that reserved for close friends and family members”⁷

Everlasting lovingkindness / steadfast love is part of who God is; He abounds in it. He extends *chesed* to those in His family.

Verses 13-14 and 1 Kings 8:10-11

What was the next event? Discuss cross-references.

The cloud filled the temple.

The cloud was the visible representation of the LORD’s glory.

Exodus 24:16-17

The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai in the form of the cloud. But to all Israel His glory on top of the mount appeared like a consuming / devouring fire.

Exodus 34:5-7

When the LORD appeared to Moses, He was in the cloud.

Exodus 40:33-38

When Moses finished constructing the tabernacle, the LORD’s glory filled it in the form of the cloud. Verse 35 is almost the same terminology as in 1 Kings 8:11 and 2 Chronicles 5:14—when the Lord’s glory entered in the form of the cloud, there was no one else who could enter or stand to minister before Him in the holy of holies.

The cloud of the LORD led Israel throughout all of their wilderness wanderings. It was the visible presence by which He led them during the day, but at night His presence was seen in fire.

John 1:1-2, 14

When Jesus, the Word, became flesh (appeared to all men), He was the embodiment of the glory of the LORD as His only begotten Son (ESV—the only Son from the Father). And He dwelt among men, just as God had in the tabernacle and in the temple.

Give time for your group to discuss relevant application at any point in this discussion.

John 14:18-20, 23; Colossians 1:27; and Hebrews 13:5-6

The Father and the Son make their abode / home, dwelling, within all believers in the person of the Holy Spirit. That is how the world sees Him now.

He will never desert / leave or forsake His people. His permanent dwelling is within them.

⁷ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), #2617.

Luke 21:25-28

When Jesus returns, it will be in glory.

Revelation 21:1-3, 22-27

The new Jerusalem will have no temple in it, but God's glory will be there.

What is a possible theme for 2 Chronicles 5?

Solomon finished temple, brought in ark; God's glory filled temple

2 CHRONICLES 6 AND 1 KINGS 8:12-53

Verses 1-11 and 1 Kings 8:12-21

What are these verses?

The blessing

Solomon's statement about the house tells his and God's plans for it. It was to be God's dwelling forever, His permanent place on earth. Relate this to Hebrews 13:5-6.

Solomon blessed the Lord because He had fulfilled with His hand what He had spoken with His mouth. He still fulfills with His hand all of His Word.

Solomon rehearsed God's promise to David about building the house for His name in the place where He chose.

Verses 12-42 and 1 Kings 8:22-53

What is in these verses? Discuss word definitions.

Solomon's prayer

“Prayer” is the general Hebrew word for speaking to God or making requests, while “supplication” / “pleas” is more specific for requesting kindness, mercy, or favor from Him.

How did Solomon begin his prayer? What were his specific requests?

He began with praise of who God is and what He had done.

Then He made supplication / pleas based on what he evidently knew from the Law.

What were some of the situations Solomon presented to the Lord?

sin against a neighbor, taking an oath

He asked God to act by punishing / repaying and justifying / vindicating appropriately.

the people defeated by an enemy because of sin

If they return, confess / acknowledge, and make supplication / plead at the temple, then he asked God to hear, forgive and bring them back to the land.

no rain on the land because of sin

If they prayed toward this house, confessed / acknowledged His name, and turned from sin, then he asked God to hear, forgive, and teach them, then send / grant rain.

famine, pestilence, enemies in the land

If they prayed, made supplication / pled with hands toward this house, he asked God to hear, forgive, and render to each according to his ways. Because God knows what's in each man's heart.

a foreigner praying toward this house

Solomon asked God to hear and do according to his call, what he asks.

The reason is so that all the peoples will know God's name and that the temple is called by His name.

Isaiah 56:3, 6-7

Foreigners were welcome to come to the Lord, to join themselves to Him.

when Israel is in battle and they pray toward this house

Solomon asked the LORD to hear and maintain Israel's cause.

when they sin, and God is angry and sends them captive to another land

If they repent, make supplication / plead, return with all their heart, and pray toward this house, then he asked that God hear, maintain their cause, and forgive.

Since the temple was His dwelling on earth, then they should come to it to pray or pray toward His presence.

Matthew 21:12-13

Jesus considered the temple a house of prayer, and even today the Jews come to the Western Wall in Jerusalem to present their supplications / pleas to the LORD.

Solomon's prayer offers hope—even when believers sin, they can come to the Lord in prayer and find forgiveness and lovingkindness / steadfast love from Him.

Is it still necessary for believers to pray toward the temple?

John 4:19-23

Jesus told the woman at the well that a time was coming when true worship would not have to take place in Jerusalem at the temple. God is spirit and seeks those who will worship in spirit and truth.

Ask what your group noted as the theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Solomon's blessing and prayer

2 CHRONICLES 7:1-10 AND 1 KINGS 8:54-66

Verses 1-3 and 1 Kings 8:54-61

What happened after Solomon prayed?

NOTE: There are two things that happened, one told in 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 and the other in 1 Kings 8:54-61. It's not clear from either text which event took place first. So you can just discuss them in the order they're mentioned by your group.

Chronicles says that fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the glory of the Lord filled the temple, again or still. As in Exodus, all the people saw the fire of the Lord's appearance.

The people praised the Lord for His everlasting lovingkindness / enduring steadfast love as they fell on their faces in worship before Him.

In the account in 1 Kings after Solomon's prayer is that he blessed all the people and the Lord. Again the blessing toward God was because of Him keeping His Word. Verse 57 is another supplication / plea. Relate it to Hebrews 13:5-6.

His request continues for hearts wholly devoted / true to God; then he urges the people to see to it that their hearts are just that.

Verses 4-10 and 1 Kings 8:62-66

What did the king and the people do?

They offered an enormous amount of offerings to the Lord, so that the middle of the court was used as well as the altar. And there was music for praise. When the people went to their tents at the end of the feast it was with rejoicing and happiness of heart because of the Lord's goodness. Encourage your group to do the same.

What is a possible theme for 1 Kings 8?

Solomon prayed and dedicated the Lord's house

A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 9
- 2 Chronicles 7–8

REVIEW

You could ask your group to review by looking at their At a Glance charts. Ask about segment divisions of these books up to this point.

1 Kings 1–4 Solomon’s kingdom was firmly established
2 Chronicles 1

1 Kings 5–8 Solomon built the temple
2 Chronicles 2–6

As a transition from the brief review into the discussion of Lesson 5, you could ask about the first time the Lord appeared to Solomon.

1 Kings 3 and 2 Chronicles 1 record the event.

The Lord asked what Solomon wanted, and granted his request for an understanding heart / mind to discern and judge / govern God’s people.

God was pleased with Solomon’s request and granted him what he didn’t ask—wealth and honor above any other king.

There was one conditional promise which God made to Solomon: if he walked in God’s ways as David did, then God would prolong / lengthen his days.

You could start a simple timeline at this point with the first appearance and building the temple on it. A sample is at the end of this guide.

1 KINGS 9 AND 2 CHRONICLES 7:11-22

Verses 1-9 and 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

When did the Lord appear to Solomon the second time?

It was about 12 years after the completion of the temple.

First Kings 9:10 says that it took 20 years for Solomon to build the temple and his own house. The temple took 7 ½ years, and the rest was evidently the time to build his own palace complex (1 Kings 7:1). 2 Chronicles 8:1 says the same thing.

First Kings 9:1 and 2 Chronicles 7:11 both give the timing of the second appearance as being after Solomon completed not only the temple, but his house too.

God first appeared to Solomon close to the beginning of his reign before he began building the temple—sometime during the first four years of his rule.

Therefore, there were at least 20 years between God’s two appearances to him. And there were about 12 years between the prayer in 1 Kings 8, 2 Chronicles 6, and God’s statement in 1 Kings 9:3, 2 Chronicles 7:12, that He had heard the prayer.

Now, with that established, you could ask about the content of what the Lord said to Solomon in His second appearance to him. Chronicles gives the more detailed account.

The first part of what the Lord said had to do with the house and hearing the prayer.

Ask about the context of the promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Is it relevant to the Church now?

Second Chronicles 7:13-15 presents the immediate context of verse 14 which is many times taken out of its context. The reference in these verses is specifically regarding Israel in their land.

God spoke to Solomon about “this place” which He had chosen for a house for His name. He gave Solomon hope that even if He caused no rain, etc. because of sin on Israel’s part, He would heal that land if the people humbled themselves, prayed, sought His face, and turned from wickedness.

Remind your group of when and for whom Chronicles was written. It was after the exiles returned from 70 years of Babylonian captivity, exile because of continuous sin. Chronicles was written for the hope of those people in Israel. They were having to rebuild everything because of suffering the consequences of not following God fully.

Ask about 2 Chronicles 7:17-22; what else did God say?

The next part of what God said was for Solomon himself, then for all Israel. It was a restatement of the promise and the warning for him to walk as David had done.

The warning was also for the whole nation because it says that “they” forsook the Lord.

So the setting is 24 years into Solomon’s rule when the Lord appeared to him a second time and not only restated His promise, but also gave him warning.

Part of the warning was about the house he built for the Lord—it would become a heap of ruins if Israel forsook the Lord (1 Kings 9:8).

Verses 10-28 and 2 Chronicles 8

Ask about the main points in these verses.

Both accounts give the time as the end of twenty years of building the temple and Solomon's own house.

1 Kings 9:11-12 tells an interesting point—Hiram didn't think much of the cities which Solomon gave him in Galilee. They "were not right in his sight."⁸ The text doesn't say why, but they were no good to Hiram.

Evidently he returned them to Solomon, according to 2 Chronicles 8:2. He probably bought them from Solomon as 1 Kings 9:14 tells of 120 talents—about 4 ½ tons—of gold given to Solomon by Hiram.

They must have been on the border of Israel and Tyre in the Galilee area, as Solomon would not have sold cities specifically belonging to the promised land.

What were Solomon's other building projects?

Tell your group to look at the map for this part of the discussion.

His other building projects were after the temple and his house were complete.

The Millo

The wall of Jerusalem

Other cities, some of which were storage cities

He used forced labor for builders. They were descended from the nations which inhabited Canaan before Israel possessed it, but none of them were from Israel.

Pharaoh had given his daughter, Solomon's wife, as her dowry the city of Gezer which he had taken from the Canaanites, many years previous.

Solomon rebuilt it as one of the cities in his building projects.

He also built a house for Pharaoh's daughter to live in before building the Millo, etc. 2 Chronicles 8:11 indicates that Solomon and his wife didn't live together, she had her own house. He knew that she wasn't holy and didn't want her in the places where the ark had been.

⁸ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (1 Ki 9:12) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Ask what they learned from the cross-references about this.

Exodus 23:31-33; Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Solomon knew God's Law, and in the Law there were commands not to intermarry with the people of surrounding nations. Those were the seven nations which Israel had defeated when they took their land from them—the Canaanites is a term for most of those nations.

There was also a law that a king was not to multiply horses or wives to himself. He was specifically not to cause the people to return to Egypt for horses.

Solomon's marriage alliance with Pharaoh's daughter did not break any of the commands in Exodus or Deuteronomy. In the next lesson, your group will study more about this.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Believers themselves are the temple of the living God and should not be bound / unequally yoked with unbelievers, for instance in marriage.

NOTE: 2 Corinthians 7:1 is not telling anyone married to an unbeliever to divorce.

How do these chapters end?

Solomon's offerings and appointments

Not only are the three feast times each year mentioned, but so are the daily and weekly sacrifices which Solomon made. He kept the Lord's religious commands.

Solomon also kept the ordinances / ruling passed to him from David regarding the appointments of the priests' and Levites' duties.

Solomon followed the Lord faithfully.

The end of each of these chapters begins the descriptions of Solomon's wealth—which was promised by the Lord.

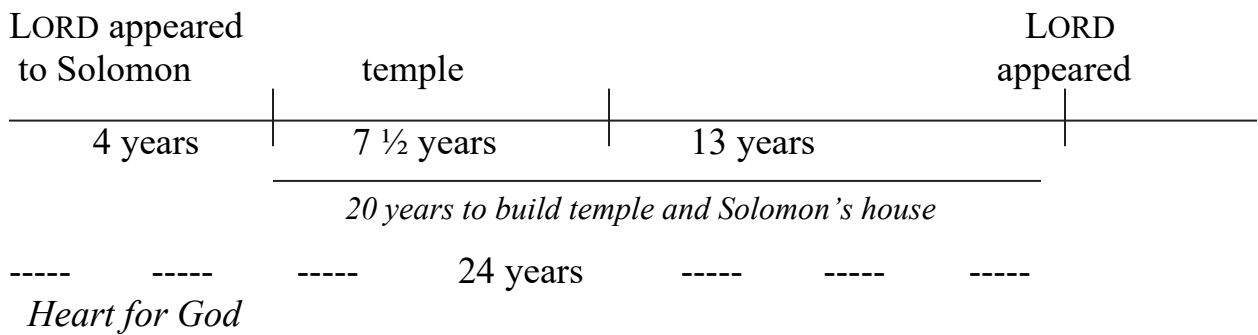
As Solomon obeyed the Lord, keeping His commands, the Lord made him the wealthiest king on earth according to His promise.

Ophir was possibly part of or near the area of Sheba.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance charts as the themes for these chapters.

1 Kings 9	God appeared 2 nd time to Solomon; Solomon built cities
2 Chronicles 7	God's glory filled the house; He appeared to Solomon 2 nd time
2 Chronicles 8	Solomon's building and work completed

To close this discussion, ask what your group learned about the Lord and Solomon's example.



A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 10–12
- 2 Chronicles 9

REVIEW

Begin your discussions with a review of the chapters and themes of 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles at a Glance charts.

1 Kings 1–4 Solomon’s kingdom was firmly established
2 Chronicles 1

1 Kings 5–8 Solomon built the temple
2 Chronicles 2–6

1 Kings 9 God appeared to Solomon a 2nd time / Solomon’s other building projects
2 Chronicles 7–8

You might specifically ask about the end of these chapters.

Tell your group to look at their maps and the timeline as visual aids for this discussion.

Solomon’s ships had gone to Ophir which might have been close to the area of Sheba.

1 KINGS 10 AND 2 CHRONICLES 9

Verses 1-13 and 2 Chronicles 9:1-12

Ask what they learned from their study of these verses.

The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon because she had heard a report about him in her country, but she didn’t believe all of it.

Solomon’s kingdom was the greatest of all. Solomon was the wisest man who had ever lived and the wealthiest king—both of which directly related to his kingdom of Israel. He used both to rule God’s people and magnify the Lord who had given it to Him.

After hearing Solomon and seeing his kingdom and his temple for God, she was breathless. She hadn’t even heard half of the magnificence of it all.

Verses 14-29 and 2 Chronicles 9:13-31

Ask your group what stood out to them about Solomon's wealth and give time for them to discuss.

Help them remember that it was God who made Solomon the wealthiest king who ever lived—and it was to glorify the Lord God.

Ask what they learned from the cross-references about the dangers of wealth. Discuss relevant application.

Deuteronomy 8:1-18

This was a warning to Israel when they came into their land, and God provided what they needed. They were not to forget that it all came from Him.

When one is satisfied / full and has wealth, then he might become proud of heart (ESV—his heart might be lifted up) and think that he had made himself wealthy.

God is the one who gives power to make wealth.

Mark 4:1-9, 13, 18-19

Jesus gave a warning in this parable. The deceitfulness of riches can choke out the Word of God from a person's life so that there is no fruit from it. In other words, the worry of riches can keep one from being saved.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24-33

Jesus said that where one's treasure is, there his heart is too.

Focusing on riches can divide one's heart—God is to have one's whole heart.

1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19 and 1 John 2:15-16

These are warnings against the love of money and the world. These are things which show that one is not saved: wandered away from the faith, the Father's love is not in him.

The wealthy are to share what they have with those who don't have.

Colossians 3:1-5

This presents the solution—for those who are wealthy and those who are not—set your mind on the things above, not on the earth.

Relate this to what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6. Store up / lay up treasure in heaven.

It's not wrong to be wealthy—it comes from God.

But it's wrong, deadly wrong, to put one's focus on it.

Ask how 2 Chronicles 9 ended, and what was left out of the Chronicles account of Solomon's life.

It ends with his death.

Chronicles leaves out the whole account of Solomon's sin just as it does with David's sin.

Ask what they noted as the themes for these chapters on their At a Glance charts.

Sheba visited Solomon, he became greater than all kings in riches and wisdom

1 KINGS 11

Verses 1-13

What did Solomon do?

Against the clear commands of the Lord in Exodus 23; Deuteronomy 7 and 17, Solomon married many foreign women from the forbidden surrounding nations. He multiplied wives for himself, and he knew better as he was to have written a copy of the Law for himself and read it constantly.

This chapter can be a puzzle to some, how the wisest man who ever lived could do such things.

As he loved and married those thousand women, allowed their false worship, and built places for their gods, his heart was turned away from loving the Lord.

"When Solomon was old," his heart was not wholly devoted / true to the Lord as David's had been. Verse 9 is especially sad.

Psalms 30

This is a psalm in which David extols God at the temple dedication. The musicians probably sang this then. David says that he cried to the Lord and was helped, healed because the Lord's anger with him was for a moment. It's a psalm of recovery from sin, of God's favor after forgiveness and restoration.

There is not a record of Solomon's repentance in Kings.

NOTE: Ecclesiastes was written at the end of Solomon's life.

Ask about the results of Solomon's sins.

A divided heart resulted in a divided kingdom, instead of the promise of one to sit on his throne forever.

God tore the kingdom from Solomon, but not during his lifetime.

Verses 14-25

Who are these verses about?

The Lord raised up two adversaries to Solomon because of his disobedience.

Hadad, of the royal line in Edom.

He hated David for what Joab had done in Edom, harbored resentment.

He also had connections with Pharaoh, and went back to Edom after David died.

Rezon of Damascus, reigned over Aram

He also harbored resentment because of David.

Verses 26-43

Who was the other adversary the Lord raised up against Solomon?

The third adversary was Jeroboam, one of Solomon's own servants. He was a valiant warrior / very able, an industrious man appointed as a leader over forced labor.

After rebelling / lifting up his hand against the king, Ahijah the prophet told Jeroboam that the Lord would give him ten tribes to rule over after Solomon's death.

A similar conditional promise was made to him as had been to David and Solomon—if he obeyed the Lord, then his descendants would rule Israel always.

David had obeyed, but Solomon had not—Jeroboam was part of the consequences.

Verse 33 indicates that it was not Solomon alone who turned to the other gods, but many people.

When Jeroboam rebelled against the king, Solomon tried to have him put to death, but he also fled to Egypt—to Shishak the king at that time. And he was there until Solomon's death.

Solomon reigned forty years over the greatest kingdom of all, God's chosen people Israel at their height. For most of those years he was a great king, until he was old and his heart was not wholly God's.

Then his son Rehoboam reigned over Israel.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Solomon's wives, adversaries, idols, death

1 KINGS 12

Verses 1-15

What happened?

All Israel went to Shechem to make Rehoboam king.

Jeroboam heard about it in Egypt. Then he and the assembly called Rehoboam and spoke to him. They requested a lighter yoke than Solomon had put on them. He was to answer them in three days.

Rehoboam consulted with the elders / old men who served Solomon. They advised him to serve the people, but he forsook / abandoned their counsel. He then consulted the younger men who grew up with him. They said to make the yoke harder.

That was the answer he gave the people in three days. He didn't listen to his people. But it was of the Lord to accomplish His prophecy given by Ahijah.

God tore the kingdom from Solomon's son Rehoboam because of his unwise choice not to listen to the elders of Israel.

Verses 16-20

What was the result?

Israel rebelled against the house of David, so that Rehoboam only reigned over the ones who lived in the cities of Judah.

After his representative was stoned by the people, Rehoboam fled back to Jerusalem.

Jeroboam became the king of Israel.

The greatest kingdom on the earth came to an end with division.

God kept His promise—as He always does.

Verses 21-24

What did Rehoboam do?

He assembled 180,000 men of Benjamin and Judah to fight against Israel.
But God sent His word to stop it before it began.
They listened to the Lord and didn't fight.

Verses 25-33

What did Jeroboam do?

Built and lived in Shechem, then Penuel.

He was afraid his kingdom would return to the house of David because of going to worship the Lord at the temple in Jerusalem.

So he made two gold calves for them to worship in Bethel, the southern part of his kingdom, and in Dan, the northern part.

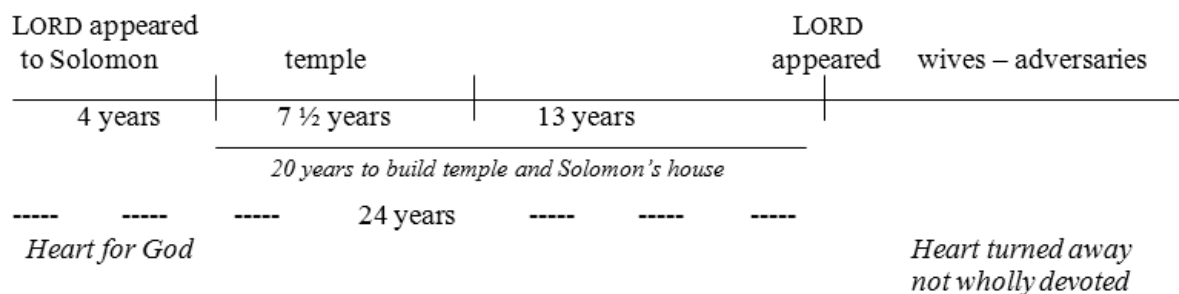
He formed his own religious system modeled after God's.

He made temples and appointed priests from the tribes other than Levi.
 He instituted / appointed a feast in the eighth month.

What is the theme of this chapter?

Rehoboam—Judah and Jeroboam—Israel

To end this discussion, you might ask your group if people devise their own religious system in their hearts now. How does this compare with the worship at Solomon's temple dedication?



A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 12–13
- 2 Chronicles 10–11

REVIEW

Begin your discussions with a review of the chapters and themes of 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles at a Glance charts.

1 Kings 1–4 Solomon’s kingdom was firmly established
2 Chronicles 1

1 Kings 5–8 Solomon built the temple
2 Chronicles 2–6

1 Kings 9–11 Solomon’s reign and death
2 Chronicles 7–9

1 Kings 12 Rehoboam—Judah and Jeroboam—Israel
The kingdom divided

What led up to the events of 1 Kings 12?

Because of Solomon’s turning from wholehearted devotion to the Lord, God raised up three adversaries during the latter part of his reign. Two of them were Hadad of Edom and Rezon of Aram.

A prophecy was made to another of his adversaries, Jeroboam of Ephraim. Ahijah the prophet told him that God was going to give him ten tribes of Israel to rule over. He was going to tear the kingdom from Solomon’s son, Rehoboam.

Jeroboam had fled to King Shishak in Egypt since Solomon had tried to kill him.

Solomon died, and Rehoboam his son reigned as king of Israel.

As your group discusses this chapter it will be review of 1 Kings 12:1-20.
Also, tell them to look at their maps and charts in the lesson as visual aids for this discussion.

2 CHRONICLES 10

Verses 1-11

What are these verses about?

All Israel went to Shechem to make Rehoboam king.

Jeroboam heard about it in Egypt. Then he and the assembly called Rehoboam and spoke to him. They requested a lighter yoke than Solomon had put on them. He was to answer them in three days.

Rehoboam consulted with the elders / old men who served Solomon. They advised him to serve the people, but he forsook / abandoned their counsel. He then consulted the younger men who grew up with him. They said to make the yoke harder.

That was the answer he gave the people in three days. He didn't listen to his people. But it was of the Lord to accomplish His prophecy given by Ahijah.

How do the cross-references about good counsel relate to this?

Proverbs

It is interesting to note that Solomon wrote many of the Proverbs, and his son Rehoboam should have read and heeded them when he wanted counsel.

The counsel of the Lord is the only wise counsel. True wisdom comes from Him.

Proverbs 8:13 says the fear of the Lord is to hate evil.

Wisdom hates pride and arrogance, the evil way, and a perverted mouth / perverted speech.

Godly wisdom, knowledge, and discretion are so needed in the body of Christ today. Many believers are running to counselors when they should be running to the Word of God and simply obeying what He says. This discussion could be the beginning of doing that very thing for some in your group. Others will be the wise ones who can give godly counsel.

Rehoboam should have listened to the elders' wise counsel, but he chose the advice of fools.

Psalms 119

Wisdom comes from knowing and obeying the Lord's word. Rehoboam didn't.

Isaiah 9:6

God the Son is the Wonderful Counselor, and believers have Him dwelling within them in the Person of the Holy Spirit. He gives guidance, but Christians have to listen to Him. And His guidance is never contrary to God's written Word.

Verses 12-19

What happened after the three days of waiting?

First Kings 12:15 gives the reason for the whole event. It was God’s plan—which Jeroboam already had heard from the prophet Ahijah.

What the Lord says will happen. His Word, His prophecies are completely trustworthy.

Israel left Rehoboam; they rejected him from being king over them. Of the twelve tribes, only Judah and Benjamin remained as part of his kingdom. He had accepted foolish counsel, and it cost him greatly.

Israel rebelled against the house of David and made Jeroboam their king. So he ruled over the ten tribes which were prophesied. He was from the strongest of those northern tribes, Ephraim.

Ask what your group noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Rehoboam and Jeroboam; Israel rebelled against house of David

2 CHRONICLES 11

As your group discusses this chapter it will be review of 1 Kings 12:21-33.

Verses 1-12

What happened in these verses?

When Rehoboam had gathered his army to restore his kingdom, the Lord sent His word to him and all the people. They listened to the counsel from the Lord that time and didn’t go against his brothers in battle.

It was then when the Lord told Rehoboam that the division was from Him. Solomon had been told before, and Jeroboam had been told, but unless Solomon told Rehoboam that was the first time he learned the division was from God.

Second Chronicles tells that even though Rehoboam didn’t go to battle against Israel, he fortified his cities and weapons. He prepared his kingdom for future attacks.

First Kings 12:25-30 record Jeroboam’s fear of his people going south to Jerusalem to worship at the temple and not returning to his kingdom. He feared that they might rebel and kill him. All of this shows that he really didn’t believe what the Lord had told him about giving him an enduring house if he obeyed the Lord.

He made two gold calves, placing one just north of Jerusalem in Bethel and the other in the northern part of Israel in Dan. Thus, he made it easy for his people to get to one or the other of the idols which he said had brought them out of Egypt.

His fear destroyed any belief he might have had in what God said to him and caused him to lead others away from the Lord. Fear is a powerful emotion.

Verses 13-17

Who and what are these verses about?

All the priests and Levites who lived in the northern ten tribes went to Jerusalem. Also all who sought the Lord moved to the southern kingdom where the temple was. They strengthened Rehoboam's kingdom.

There is a time reference in verse 17 which is worth mentioning for future discussion. Rehoboam's kingdom was strengthened for three years because they followed the Lord for those three years.

But the northern kingdom of Israel was devoid of anyone who followed the Lord. Jeroboam made priests of whomever he wanted according to 1 Kings 12:31. His kingdom was practicing cultic worship from a system he made for them. Not only did he appoint priests, but he also made a feast day for them, like the feast in Jerusalem. He instituted a false religious system to worship false gods.

Ask what your group learned about the other golden calf incident in Israel's history and the consequences of it.

Exodus 32

Aaron, the priest chosen by God, made a calf of gold when Moses stayed on the mountain with God for 40 days and nights and the people of Israel didn't know what had happened to him. They asked Aaron to make a god to go before them, and he made a gold calf from the gold they gave him.

Then Aaron told them that it was their God. Jeroboam's statement to the kingdom of Israel when he made two golden calves was very similar.

God had told Israel not to make any graven image for worship in Exodus 20, just as the people of Israel in Jeroboam's day knew not to worship idols. The people were responsible for their own actions of false worship. The ones who sought the Lord left Jeroboam's kingdom to follow the priests and Levites to Judah where there was the true worship of the true God.

There was also a division of the people in Aaron's and Moses' day. Whoever was for the Lord, which was the sons of Levi (from whom came the Levites), carried out the judgment of the Lord against those who did not repent toward the Lord. About 3,000 were killed in one day alone. Death is the result of sin, of false worship.

Deuteronomy 13:6-11

God told Israel in the Law that if a person tried to lead others to worship false gods, then that one was to be stoned to death.

If the ten tribes of Israel had done that to Jeroboam, then they would have done what was right. But instead they followed him into idolatry.

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus told people that they should count the cost of following a particular person.

Lead the discussion back to the end of 2 Chronicles 11.

Verses 18-23

Who is this about, and why is it not in the Kings account?

This is about Rehoboam's family, specifically the heritage of his son who was to reign after him, Abijah. He married at least two women from Judah, specifically those from David's family.

To strengthen his kingdom, he put his sons in cities of his kingdom other than Jerusalem and he sought many wives for them to have many children.

Chronicles focused on David's line, the kings of Judah.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Rehoboam, king of Judah and Benjamin in Jerusalem

1 KINGS 13

Verses 1-10

Ask who and what this is about.

A man of God from Judah went to Bethel and prophesied against Jeroboam's altar there. He named Josiah, a king who would rule Judah about 300 years in the future. Josiah would burn the bones of the false priests of Israel on that altar.

The prophecy was judgment from God for idolatry. The sign of the altar splitting (ESV—torn down) happened as the prophet said—God's judgment would happen as he said.

Jeroboam himself suffered judgment, but also God's mercy.

The man of God had specific directions from the Lord which he obeyed even when King Jeroboam invited him for refreshment and reward.

He left Bethel as directed.

Verses 11-32

Who else gave foolish counsel?

This is another example of listening to foolish counsel—this time from a prophet.

NOTE: Your group might have questions about the old prophet in Bethel. Why was he still there as all who sought the Lord had left Israel? How could God have spoken through him after he lied to the man of God from Judah? The text doesn't answer either of those, and it's best left at just discussing what the text says and not speculating further.

When the man of God from Judah heard that the old man of Bethel was a prophet, then he listened to him even though he knew that God had told him clearly what to do and not do.

There are many false prophets out in the world according to 1 John, and too many people are listening to them instead of the clear Word of God.

Listening to the wrong person cost the man of God from Judah his life. It can do the same for many. Proverbs said that the counsel of the Lord is the only counsel to listen to.

God spoke through the old prophet of Bethel even after he had lied to the man of God from Judah. He spoke His punishment on the man of God for not obeying Him. There is no excuse for not listening to and obeying God. There will always be consequences, even death, for disobedience to His Word.

Evidently the old prophet of Bethel felt bad because he had caused the death of the man of God from Judah, so he mourned and buried him. He also knew that the prophecy which the man of God from Judah had made at the altar would come to pass.

Verses 33-34

How does this chapter end?

This is the result of Jeroboam being confronted by the Word of God from the man of God from Judah. He didn't repent, turn from evil. It seems that he even increased in it.

The result of his sin would affect his whole house or family line. God would blot it out, destroy it from the earth.

Ask your group what they noted as the theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Prophecy against Jeroboam's altar

Ask your group how their sin affects others.

A DIVIDED HEART . . . A DIVIDED NATION
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Kings 14–15:8
- 2 Chronicles 12–14:1

REVIEW

Begin your discussions with a review of the chapters and themes of 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles at a Glance charts.

1 Kings 1–4 Solomon’s kingdom was firmly established
2 Chronicles 1

1 Kings 5–8 Solomon built the temple
2 Chronicles 2–6

1 Kings 9–11 Solomon’s reign and death
2 Chronicles 7–9

The kingdom divided

1 Kings 12–13 Rehoboam and Jeroboam
2 Chronicles 10–11

1 KINGS 14

Tell them to look at their maps and charts in the lesson as visual aids for this discussion. There is also a chart at the end of this guide.

Verses 1-20

Who and what are these verses about? What happened?

When Abijah, Jeroboam’s son became sick, Jeroboam sent his wife in disguise to Ahijah, the prophet at Shiloh. This was the prophet who told Jeroboam that he’d be king of Israel in 1 Kings 11.

Ahijah sent a prophecy to Jeroboam from the Lord. God had told him that He would make of him an enduring house if Jeroboam followed the Lord. But in this chapter, He tells that just the opposite will happen to his house.

Ask your group what they learned about God in these verses.

He is the one who exalted Jeroboam to be ruler of Israel.
He keeps His promises: to David, to Jeroboam, to present-day Christians.

He promised to cut off Jeroboam's house instead of make it endure.
He promised to raise up another king over Israel who would cut off Jeroboam's house.

He gets angry at sin, at disobedience.
His judgment is severe.
In His judgment there is mercy.

There is a question in the lesson which asked what they thought about the death of Jeroboam's son, Abijah.

Because something good toward the Lord was found in the child, God showed mercy toward him in letting him die and be buried.

The other males of Jeroboam's house would either be eaten by dogs or birds, none buried.

All of Israel mourned for Abijah when he died, just as God had said through Ahijah the prophet. All the rest of what He had said would take place, too.

Who else was affected, would suffer judgment, because of Jeroboam's sin?

The Lord's anger was also against all of Israel. Because of their sin, initiated by Jeroboam, He promised to uproot them from their land. He promised to scatter them beyond the River, the Euphrates. You could call attention to the map.

At this point you might ask what your group learned from their study of "high places," "sacred pillars," and "Asherim." If they didn't consult any study helps on this, they can still discuss what Exodus 34:11-17 says.

It all had to do with idolatry which was strictly and clearly forbidden by the Lord.

high places—From the time of the Canaanites' pagan worship, idol worship took place on mountains or hills. When Israel took possession of the land, they were to worship the true God at the temple in Jerusalem. They were to destroy all of the pagan high places.

sacred pillars—These shrines, sometimes graven images, were erected to false gods at the places of their worship. In Exodus 23:24, God commanded Israel to break these down.⁹

Asherim—These were sacred pillars or idols of the female goddess, Asherah. She was supposedly Baal's mother, the fertility goddess.

⁹ Trent C. Butler, general ed., *Holman Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), p. 1113.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Kings 14.

Verses 19-20

What are these verses about?

These verses summarize the rest of Jeroboam's 22-year reign as king of Israel, and name his son Nadab as the next king.

2 Chronicles 13:20 says Jeroboam died because the Lord struck him. He didn't die of old age or natural causes.

NOTE: You might need to remind your group that the book of chronicles of the kings of Israel mentioned in 1 Kings 14:19 is not the same as Chronicles in the Bible. Chronicles in the Bible was written much later, after the Babylonian captivity, and it is about the kings of Judah, not Israel, after the division of the kingdom.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Prophecy against Jeroboam's house

2 CHRONICLES 12 AND 1 KINGS 14:21-31

Verse 1 and 1 Kings 14:21-24

What happened?

When Rehoboam and Judah became strong, they turned away from the Lord and did the same thing that Israel had done with the idol worship. Even though Rehoboam's father was Solomon, his mother was an Ammonitess. Relate this to 1 Kings 11:1-8.

Verses 2-16 and 1 Kings 14:25-31

Ask what happened as a result of Rehoboam's and Judah's sins of idolatry.

The Lord forsook them to Shishak, the king of Egypt, in the fifth year of Rehoboam's 17-year reign. This was the same Shishak to whom Jeroboam had fled when he left Israel, 1 Kings 11:40.

He took the cities which Rehoboam had fortified in Judah, went to Jerusalem, and took all of the treasures from the house of God. Remind your group what they learned about all the gold, etc., which was in the temple. Shishak also took the treasures from the king's house which Solomon had also built.

When Rehoboam made bronze shields, he protected them, putting them in the possession of the guards.

Chronicles tells that when Shemaiah the prophet confronted Rehoboam and the princes, they humbled themselves saying that the Lord was righteous in bringing Shishak against them as judgment for turning away from Him.

That humbling caused the Lord not to destroy Judah by Shishak, but to bring temporary deliverance to Judah. But He left them as slaves to Shishak so that they would know the difference between service to other countries and service to Him.

God's judgment always has purpose.

Conditions in Judah were good after that.

Rehoboam did evil because he did not seek the Lord.
His son Abijah became king after him.

What is the theme of 2 Chronicles 12?

Rehoboam forsook the Law, unfaithful to the Lord

2 CHRONICLES 13 AND 1 KINGS 15:1-8

Verses 1-12 and 1 Kings 15:1-8

How does this chapter begin?

There had been war between Jeroboam and Rehoboam all during the life of Rehoboam's son Abijah(m). He was the next king of Judah and reigned only three years. He also warred with Jeroboam during his rule.

When Abijah went to battle against Jeroboam with only half as many valiant warriors, he tried to reason with Jeroboam. His reasoning was based on the covenant God made with David, and Jeroboam's idolatrous sins.

One interesting point is what he said about his father Rehoboam at the beginning of his reign. He was young, timid, and couldn't hold his own against the worthless men who were with Jeroboam who had confronted him at Shechem. Yet his father had been 41 years old at the time.

Abijah said that Judah had not forsaken the Lord as Israel had done. He referred to the ministry of the priests and Levites in the proper worship of God.

He said that if Israel went against Judah, they'd be fighting against God and His kingdom and could not succeed. That's a powerful and true statement about the Lord.

Verses 13-20

What happened in the battle?

God gave Israel with their 800,000 valiant warriors into Judah's hand with only their 400,000 valiant warriors. Judah killed 500,000 of Israel's men.

At that time Judah trusted in the Lord.

Jeroboam's strength was gone, and he never recovered it after that defeat.

On the other hand, Abijah(m) became powerful.

Kings says that his heart was not wholly devoted/true to the Lord.

“wholly devoted/true”—complete with¹⁰
It's the opposite of being divided.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance charts as the theme of 2 Chronicles 13.

War between Abijah King of Judah and Jeroboam King of Israel

Who was the last king of Judah in this study?

2 Chronicles 14:1

Asa was Abijah's son, and the land was undisturbed for ten years.

Ask your group to contrast David's heart toward the Lord with the hearts of Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam and Abijah(m). Ask what they've learned about a divided heart in this course.

¹⁰ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (1 Ki 15:3) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

