

Grade 4—Unit 5

The Divided Kingdom

In this unit, students will be introduced to the 40 kings that reigned during the divided kingdom period. Twenty kings reigned over Israel before it finally was forced to become a province of Samaria. Twenty kings, descendants of David, reigned over Judah, with exile as the final result of their ungodly living. The unit study continues with one of Christ's parables about foolish living and ends with Jesus' teaching for godly living.

LESSONS

1. The Results of Human Leadership
2. The Human Way vs. God's Way

Unit 5: The Divided Kingdom

Unit Information

SUMMARY

Because of Solomon's sins, God declared that he would divide the kingdom of Israel into two parts, Israel and Judah. He kept his promise to David by allowing the descendants of David to rule Judah. Few of the 40 kings that ruled during this time of history were faithful to God. Eventually, Israel became a province of Samaria, and Judah was taken into exile.

As with many of these kings, the rich fool from Jesus' parable in Luke is a good example of godless living, demonstrating selfishness and greed. However, this parable is followed with Jesus' teaching for godly living. Jesus asks us to do away with worry and fear, share our wealth with the poor, and lay up treasures in heaven.

KEY BIBLE TEXTS

Lesson 1

1 Kings 12–22
2 Chronicles 10–36

Lesson 2

Luke 12:13–34

Memory Text: Luke 12:22b–34

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

A Nation Divided

With Solomon's death came the disintegration of the powerful empire David and Solomon had ruled. For over 200 years, the north and south were divided into two kingdoms. Twenty kings ruled each kingdom during this time. Some kings were followers of God. They listened to the prophets and worked to bring the people to faithfulness. Other kings were quite evil. They disobeyed God and ignored God's messages through the prophets.

These were tumultuous times for Judah and Israel. Because they had become small, second-rate nations, they were plagued by aggression from neighboring nations. They also spent many years engaged in battle with one another.

Finally, Israel succumbed to pressure from Assyria and became a province of Samaria, under rule of an Assyrian governor. Judah continued to wrestle with Assyrian and Armenian aggression, only to fall prey to Egypt's king Neco, and after that, Babylon. The city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, and the Israelites forced into exile.

This unit provides an overview of key events spanning the period of 200 years following Solomon's death. It is intended to help students understand that: (1) the kingdom was divided; (2) there was a succession of many kings, some who followed God and some who did not; (3) God kept the promise to David; (4) idol worship was prevalent; and (5) both kingdoms were dispersed and the people forced into exile.

The following paragraphs provide background information on each king and

his reign. For easy reference, the kings of Israel are printed in **bold type**, with Judah's kings printed in **bold italics**.

Jeroboam of Israel/Rehoboam of Judah

After Solomon's death, there seemed little question that his son **Rehoboam** would replace him as king of the nation. Rehoboam was accepted as king in Judah immediately, but when he traveled to the north, he was met with great animosity.

Leaders in the northern portion of the kingdom (Israel) wanted a king from the north. They would, however, accept a king from Judah under certain conditions. If Rehoboam promised to end the practice of *corvees*, in which people would be forced to provide free labor to the kingdom for a period of four months each year, he could be king. They also wanted the king to reduce the heavy taxes that had been levied on the people during Solomon's rule.

Against the advice of wise people around him, Rehoboam refused to make the requested changes. **Jeroboam** was called by the prophet Ahijah to become king of Israel, thus dividing the nation.

During this time, both Judah and Israel fought against neighboring nations in small skirmishes. They had been reduced to small, unimportant nations. Egypt wanted to annex this geographic region. Egypt conquered portions of Judah, but Rehoboam paid the king of Egypt a large sum of money to prevent further invasions. This began Judah's era as vassals to the Egyptian king.

The people began building idols to foreign gods. There was much fighting between Judah and Israel. These were difficult times. When Rehoboam died, his son **Abijah** took over. Abijah followed God and encouraged the people of Judah to return to godly living. He defeated Jeroboam in battle, but the victory was short-lived.

On Abijah's death, his son, **Asa**, became king of Judah. Asa worked to keep peace among aggressive neighbors. He established a peace treaty with the king of Damascus, a territory no longer held by Israel, and discouraged idol worship among the people.

During his reign in Israel, Jeroboam established a religious cult to rival that of Jerusalem. This would keep the people of Israel from going to Jerusalem for annual celebrations. He established two shrines—one at Bethel and one at Dan. The people also were called to an annual feast as part of this idol worship. Baal worship became quite prominent in Israel during this time.

When Jeroboam died, his son **Nadab** took the throne. He ruled for only one year. While on the battlefield, one of his officers assassinated him. This left the throne open for **Baasha** to claim. Baasha's son **Elab** succeeded him and was assassinated by one of his officers, **Zimri**. Within a week, the general of the army, **Omri**, brought his warriors to fight for the throne. Zimri killed himself, and Omri became the king.

Omri remembered Solomon's attention to peaceful relations, both internally and externally. Omri worked toward developing an alliance with Judah and established an alliance with Tyre through the marriage of his son Ahab to the king's daughter, Jezebel. Omri gained great power. He built a capital city in Samaria to rival that of Jerusalem in the south. In many historical records, the Assyrians referred to Israel as the "house of Omri," long after the end of his dynasty.

Ahab of Israel/Jehoshaphat of Judah

When Omri died, his son **Ahab** took over the crown in Israel. Ahab gave his sister Athaliah to Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, to seal an alliance with Judah. Ahab

refused to listen to the prophets, Elijah and Elisha. He allowed his wife Jezebel to influence his thinking and built lavish altars for Baal worship. The Arameans in Damascus eventually became allies, to rid the area of the threat of Assyrian invasion.

Ahab died and his son **Ahaziah** took the throne. Ahaziah fell and died soon after. His brother **Joram** took his place and ruled for several years. Joram sensed the tension between people who were following God and those who worshiped Baal, and tried to remove many of the pagan altars.

Jehoshaphat, son of Asa, was a good and just king. He ruled Judah for 25 years and joined Israel in successfully fighting against foreign aggression. Jehoshaphat was a faithful follower of God. He died one year after Ahab lost his life. His son **Jehoram** succeeded him. Once established as king, Jehoram killed his brothers to ensure his claim to the throne. During Jehoram's reign, portions of Judah were conquered by neighboring nations, such as the Philistines.

Athaliah, Jehoram's wife, introduced Baal worship to the people in Jerusalem. She had a powerful influence over his reign and the subsequent reign of **Ahaziah**, their son. When Ahaziah was killed in battle, **Athaliah** tried to get rid of all rightful descendants to the throne, seizing the throne for herself. For six years she sat on the throne as an ineffectual leader. Her most significant contribution lay in building the temple of Baal next to God's temple in Jerusalem.

Unknown to Athaliah, Ahaziah's infant son had been hidden away when she was trying to kill all of David's descendants. When **Joash** was seven years old, Jehoida, chief priest and uncle of the child, brought him to the temple and crowned him king. Athaliah came to stop the ceremony, but she was taken outside and executed. Jehoida, the chief priest, acted as Joash's advisor until his death. The people welcomed a true descendant of David to the throne.

Jehu of Israel/Joash of Judah

Jehu became king of Israel by killing everyone in Ahab's family and claiming the throne after "purging" the nation of such wicked rulers. Jehu rid Israel of Baal worshipers. He was interested in gaining as much power as he could during his reign of 28 years, but had great difficulty defending Israel's borders. Assyria and Damascus continued to be a major threat.

This threat continued through the reign of Jehu's son, **Jehoahaz**. Things became so unbearable for Israel that Jehoahaz begged God to intervene. Such an act was uncharacteristic of the king. Jehoahaz had not shown much interest in the actions of Yahweh before.

In Judah, **Joash** was busy repairing the temple and ridding Jerusalem of Athaliah's pagan altars and idols. Jehoida, the chief priest, was a godly influence on the young king. When Jehoida died, however, Joash changed his ways.

It is believed that Joash had Jehoida's son killed soon after the chief priest died. In the later years of Joash's reign, when Jehoash was king of Israel, Damascus lost its power due to the incompetency of a new ruler. Israel and Judah were once again free from Aramean tyranny.

Jehoash of Israel/Amaziah of Judah

During this time, both Israel and Judah prospered greatly. **Jehoash** was able to reclaim all the territories that had been lost when his father was king. The alliance between the two nations was severely tested when **Amaziah**, Joash's son, hired some Israelites to help reconquer Edom. When they reported for duty, Amaziah changed his mind and sent them home. Because of this action, old tensions flared.

Jehoash captured Amaziah at Beth-Shemesh, and also captured Jerusalem. He broke down sections of the city walls and returned to Israel with many hostages. Although Jehoash could easily have incorporated Judah into the Northern Kingdom, he did not do so. Instead, he allowed the humiliated King Amaziah to return to his throne in Judah. Amaziah was assassinated and his son Ussiah, often called Asariah, took his place.

Jeroboam II of Israel/ Uzziah of Judah

Jeroboam II was one of the most powerful and capable military leaders in Israel's history. He gained enough military strength to expel the Moabites and Ammonites from Israelite territory and keep them under his control for his entire reign.

Uzziah was quite aggressive in repairing the walls of Jerusalem, reorganizing and strengthening Judah's army and implementing innovative weaponry and strategies for use in case of another siege on Jerusalem. Uzziah fortified some of the weaker cities and opened previously closed trade routes. He also erected cities in Philistine territory. Uzziah contracted leprosy toward the end of his reign. His son **Jotham** reigned alongside him until his death.

Israel and Judah had become almost as vast and prosperous as they had been in the days of Solomon. They were at peace with one another at last. God's chosen people flourished. This was a time of great confidence and optimism in God's plan for the future.

During this time of prosperity, God's people turned to outward sources of pleasure. There was a great deal of immorality. People oppressed one another. Jeroboam II patterned the economic structure of Israel on the previous structure that Solomon had implemented.

People worshiped Baal freely. The people built many shrines to foreign gods. God used prophets during this time to speak to the people and try to bring the kings of Israel and Judah back to faithfulness.

Tumultuous Times

When Jeroboam II died, five kings took the throne of Israel within a period of ten years. It was a period of rapid transition, both internally and externally. Assyria had regained its power and became an ominous threat to Israel.

Zechariah, Jeroboam II's son, was assassinated after only six months as king. His murderer, **Shallum**, reigned only one month. Shallum was killed and replaced by **Menahem**. It appears that Menahem had an alliance with Assyria and was merely a puppet of that powerful political force.

Menahem ruled for ten years. Menahem's son **Pekahiah** took the throne and ruled for two years before being assassinated by one of his officers. **Pekah** appears to have been opposed to Assyrian rule and to have launched a campaign to remove Assyria from its dominance in the region. The Northern Kingdom was in trouble! Assyria was too powerful for Israel and its allies. They asked Judah to join them in alleviating the strain Assyria imposed.

Judah, under the rule of **Jotham** by this time, wanted to remain independent. King Jotham refused to join in an alliance with Israel against the Assyrians.

Upon Jotham's death, the allies, Damascus and Israel, decided to invade Judah in an attempt to conquer that part of the region and gain the benefit of their powerful military. King **Ahaz**, son of Jotham, was plagued with a variety of battles from the allies and from the Edomites, who used his weakened position to regain their land.

The Philistines had been watching the situation in Judah with great interest, and took advantage of Ahaz's plight to reconquer their former land region. In other words, Judah was attacked on three sides! King Ahaz went to Assyria for help. Assyria subdued Israel, Damascus, the Philistines, and the Edomites.

Assyria conquered and took over all of Israel, with the exception of the territories previously held by the tribes of Ephraim and a small portion of Manasseh. The king of Israel, Pekah, was killed by **Hoshea**, who decided to switch his alliance from Assyria to Egypt.

The Assyrian king, Shalmanesar, attacked Hoshea's forces in Israel and took Hoshea as a prisoner to Assyria. This marked the end of Israel's political history. Assyria ruled the region of Israel by means of a governor for many years. The Assyrian descendants became the New Testament Samaritans.

The Plight of Judah

Judah's desire to remain independent kept it from the same demise as that of Israel. Yet Judah was not without troubles. The alliance with Assyria under the rule of King Ahaz made Judah a vassal of Assyria. Judah was expected to worship the gods of the Assyrians. Because of this, King Ahaz was forced to build an altar to the Assyrian gods and place it in the temple for the Assyrian king's use.

Pagan religious practices flourished in Judah during this time. When Ahaz died, his son **Hezekiah** took the throne. Hezekiah struggled to free Judah of Assyrian rule, and worked diligently to rid the nation of religious practices that were offensive to Yahweh. He began to slowly reform Judah.

During this time, Egypt had become a great power and was preparing to conquer Assyria. Egypt's king asked Hezekiah to join in a coalition to defeat Assyria. The prophet Isaiah was opposed to this, and it appears that Hezekiah listened to Isaiah's advice. Egypt and Assyria became embroiled in a devastating war, which also affected the Philistines, Edomites, and Moabites, who were involved. Judah remained intact, because of its neutral stance. The Assyrians soundly defeated the Egyptians.

Hezekiah used the death of the Assyrian king to assert Judah's independence, but the new king began enforcing a plan to regain Assyria's hold on Judah. Hezekiah worried about a possible enemy attack on Jerusalem. He dug the Siloam tunnel, which brought fresh water from an underground spring to the pool at the center of Jerusalem. In the event of battle, the people of Jerusalem would have ample water.

Assyria moved across the region, conquering all small territories that stood in the way. Judah, however, was able to withstand the force of Assyria's army. Egypt met Assyria in battle, and was again defeated. Finally, Assyria conquered Jerusalem and held King Hezekiah as a prisoner in his own city.

Assyria forced Judah to pay a large sum of money as tribute. Judah's finances were so weakened that Hezekiah was forced to strip the temple and empty the treasury to pay the king of Assyria. Babylon marched against Assyria a few years later. Once again, Assyria laid siege upon Judah. This time, Hezekiah refused to surrender, with assurances from Isaiah that Jerusalem would never be taken. Hezekiah soon died. His son **Manasseh** made peace with Assyria and ended the rebellion.

Again Judah had promised its allegiance to Assyria. Manasseh ruled for 55 years. During this time, Assyria and Egypt continued to war with one another. Under Manasseh's rule pagan worship flourished. He re-established shrines and altars to Assyrian gods. During Manasseh's rule, Assyria became over-extended.

Despite being the greatest and most expansive power, Assyria found it took a great deal of money and energy to keep all the subjugated people under Assyrian rule.

The Egyptians and the Babylonians continued to rebel. The Medes from the north moved closer to Assyria's borders, with intent to conquer. Finally, Assyria was broken and soundly defeated by the Egyptians and Babylonians.

Judah was now free and under the rule of young **Josiah**, son of Amon. King Josiah's reforms included repairing the temple. During temple repair, someone found the Book of the Law, present-day Deuteronomy. Josiah read the scroll privately and then read it to the people. Together they entered into a covenant with Yahweh, to obey as they had been instructed. All worship of other gods was forbidden.

Josiah centralized all public worship in Jerusalem, with prophets helping to spur religious reform. He also annexed portions of northern Israel. Josiah reigned for 31 years, until his death. When Egypt marched through the Carmel mountain range to invade Babylon, Josiah's troops tried to stop them. Josiah was killed in battle. His son **Jehoahaz** suddenly found himself in the role of king.

Within three months, Egypt overpowered Judah. Jehoahaz was removed from the throne by the Egyptian king, Neco. Jehoahaz's greedy brother **Jehoiakim** was appointed king. Judah had become a vassal of Egypt. King Jehoiakim was interested in power and prestige for himself. He squandered Judah's treasury to build a new palace. He also reinstated the practice of forced labor. Pagan practices again found their way into the religious lives of the people. Josiah's reforms had been totally destroyed.

Jehoiakim became disillusioned with Judah's dependence on Assyria. When Egypt and Babylon once again became embroiled in battle, Jehoakim rebelled. During this conflict, Jehoakim died. **Jehoachin**, his son, became king and ruled for only three months before the court was taken to Babylon. **Zedekiah**, an uncle to the king, and the third son of Josiah to reign as king, was placed on the throne.

The people of Judah weren't quite sure how to respond to the latest political events. Jehoachin was still king, but had been exiled to Babylon. Zedekiah acted as their king and was physically visible in Jerusalem. The people planned a revolt against Babylon and asked Egypt for assistance. When Egypt refused, Zedekiah himself sent officers to Babylon to assure them of his loyalty.

Within a few years, Judah revolted against Babylon with the promise of aid from Egypt. The Babylonians soundly resisted Egypt's forces and completely captured the land of Judah. Within a month, the Babylonians returned to Jerusalem, torched the city, and leveled its walls. All of Judah's leading citizens and people of promise, plus the spoils of material wealth, were taken to Babylon. The remaining people were left to flee to any location that seemed safe.

Both Judah and Israel had become political states of the past. The prophets' warnings had come true.

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- God kept the promises to David.
- The nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms: the north (Israel) and the south (Judah).
- David's descendents ruled the southern kingdom, Judah.
- God wants us to follow God's instructions for living.
- Sharing our wealth with those in need is an important aspect of godly living.

WORSHIP

1. Decorate the worship center to display the concepts in this unit. Use Scripture texts, pictures, charts, posters, and maps. Contrast the end result of godless living, as shown by Israel and the rich fool, with that of godly living, following Jesus' instructions.

2. Include the class Bible and prayer basket or jar in the setting. Prayers might include petitions for learning how to be humble, obedient servants.

3. Theme: the results of both godless and godly living. The following song, Scripture, and reading are suggested to enhance this theme.

Song:

- "We give thee but thine own" (*Hymnal: A Worship Book*, #384)

Scripture:

- The memory texts, Luke 12:22b-34 and Exodus 20:1-17 (the Ten Commandments) are a road map for godly living.

Reading:

"Christ has no body" #164, *Sing the Journey*

4. Spend some of your worship time in memorizing the memory text and turning it into a choral presentation (*see Lesson 2, Extend the Lesson*). Using motions, such as sign language enhances the presentation.

MEMORY PASSAGE

The memory text, Luke 12:22b-34, is the basis for Lesson 2. It is suggested that this important passage be committed to memory, and that your class present it in a chapel or assembly (*see Lesson 2*).

ASSESSING TEACHING / LEARNING

This unit's activities include data collecting, research, comparing and contrasting, and drawing conclusions. You can decide which activities are learning experiences and which should be used as assessment. A unit assessment completes the unit.

The Divided Kingdom

LESSON 1: THE RESULTS OF HUMAN LEADERSHIP

Objective

Students will be introduced to the 200+ years of the divided kingdom ruled by human kings, the majority unfaithful to God, which resulted in captivity for both nations.

Key Concepts

- Judah and Israel were separate kingdoms; sometimes peaceful, sometimes warring.
- After Solomon, human kings ruled in Judah and Israel for more than 200 years.
- A few kings followed God’s leading; most did not.
- God provided a way to keep the covenant with David. The line of David prevailed in Judah.
- Both nations were finally taken into captivity.

Text: 1 Kings 12–22; 2 Chronicles 10–36

Estimated Lesson Time: 40-45 minutes

Materials

- Bibles
- Review chart (*see Introducing the Lesson*)
- Transparency/Projection of “Time Line of Rulers” (p. 181)
- “Rulers of Israel and Judah” (pp. 182-183)
- “Collect the Data” (p. 184)

Teacher Preparation

- Read the Scripture texts for this lesson. Both 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles give accounts of the divided kingdom period. 2 Chronicles deals mostly with the story of Judah.
- The Biblical Background (pp. 172-177) highlights the kings, and is meant to support preparation for this unit. As you read it, mark the kings you want to talk about when you tell the story. Queen Athaliah’s story is told in step 3 of the lesson.
- Make copies of “Rulers of Israel and Judah” and “Collect the Data,” one of each per student. These should be kept in student binders.
- Follow the directions in Introducing the Lesson to create the review chart.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Review the leaders. On the board or on chart paper, write the lists below. Do not fill in the names until students reveal them through a review discussion.

ONE KINGDOM

1. Samuel
2. Saul
3. David
4. Solomon

TWO KINGDOMS

- JUDAH
ISRAEL

You might say, “Who was the priest that anointed Saul as king?” When students identify Samuel, put his name on the chart. Then ask them to give other highlights about Samuel. Continue the discussion, reviewing each leader and adding the name to the chart.

Ask students to recall what happened right at the end of Solomon’s reign. (*Solomon was unfaithful to God in his worship, so God divided the kingdom, leaving only a small portion of the kingdom for the descendants of Solomon.*) Point out the names of the two nations. Ask “What do you think?” questions, but do not give answers. Rather, allow students to find answers in the lesson.

Examples: How many years do you think the kingdom was divided? How many kings do you think each nation had? How many of the kings do you think followed God? What do you think happened in the end?

Explain that you will share some information about these tumultuous times, but you can’t possibly share all there is to know, so later they will be asked to gather and share information (*see Extend the Lesson*).

LESSON STEPS

1. Israel’s story. Display the “Time Line of Rulers.” Explain the time line from Jeroboam I until the time when Israel was completely ruled by Assyria. You might pick out one of the kings whose story is especially interesting to you and include more details about that king in your story.

2. Judah’s story. From the time line, explain Judah’s history. Again, select the story or stories of one or more kings to share in greater detail.

3. “Collect the Data.” Hand out the “Rulers of Israel and Judah” chart. Cut off the bottom edge of Chart 1. Overlap chart 1 to chart 2, covering the heading on the second chart. Glue, tape, or staple the two charts together to make one continuous chart. Help students know how to read the chart correctly.

Hand out the activity sheet, “Collect the Data.” Discuss the directions, then have students work in pairs or small groups to complete the activity.

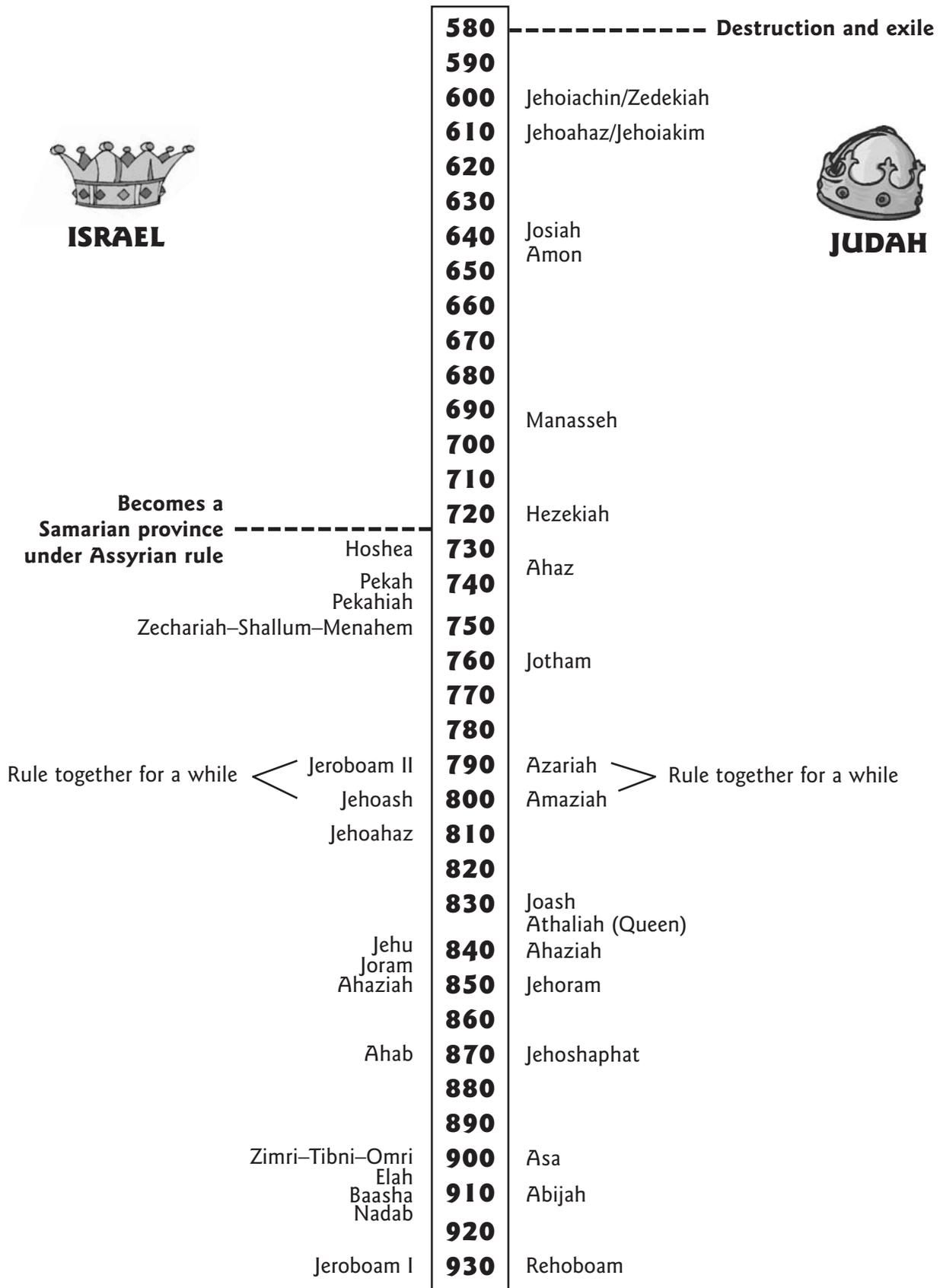
EXTEND THE LESSON

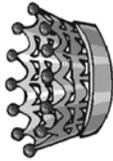
(This activity will extend the lesson to longer than 40-45 minutes.)

• **Research a king.** Ask students to select a king to research, and have them write a short report. Set a date when the research is due. The lesson Scriptures, the chart of rulers, and Bible commentaries are places to look for information.

If you go to the website www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0197620.html and type in “Kings of Judah and Israel,” you will find a list of all the kings. If you click on the name of a king, a brief biography will appear. You may want to give students the writing frame from Unit 1, Lesson 2 (p. 66), to do this activity.

Time Line of Rulers



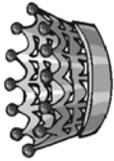


Rulers of Israel

Rulers of Judah

KING	Father	Age	Reign	Events	Characteristics	KING	Father	Age	Reign	Events	Characteristics
JEROBOAM	Nebat		22 yrs.	Kingdom was divided. Foreign idols built. Much fighting between Judah and Israel.		REHOBOAM	Solomon	41	22 yrs.	Kingdom was divided. Foreign idols built. Much fighting between Judah and Israel.	Refused to listen to prophets of God. Disobeyed God.
NADAB	Jeroboam		1 year	Assassinated		ABIJAH	Rehoboam		3 years	War between Judah and Israel. Got Judah to return to God. Defeated Jeroboam.	Faithful to God
BAASHA	Ahijah		24 yrs.			ASA	Abijah		41 yrs.	Removed idols. 35 yrs. of peace. Made treaty with king of Damascus.	Trusted God at first. When old, put trust in money. Refused to ask God for help when ill.
ELAH	Baasha		2 years	Assassinated by Zimri		JEHOSHAPHAT			25 yrs.	Married King Ahab's daughter for alliance with Israel. God fought battles.	Faithful to God
ZIMRI			7 days	Killed himself in battle with Omri		JEHORAM	Jehoshaphat	32	8 years	Killed all his brothers. Philistines invaded Judah. Died of bowel disorder.	Evil! Walked in ways of kings of Israel
TIBNI			1 year	Ruled with Omri 1 year		AHAZIAH	Jehoram	22	2 years	Killed in battle with Israel.	Listened to mother and disobeyed God
OMRI			12 yrs.	Built alliance with Judah and Tyre by marriage. Made capital city of Samaria.	Quick, powerful	ATHALIAH (Queen)	Ahab (was wife of Jehoram)		8 years	Tried to kill all David's ascendants. The people of Judah killed her.	Evil
AHAB	Omri	35	25 yrs.	Established Baal worship. Had wicked wife, Jezebel. Didn't listen to Elijah.	Walked in ways of kings of Israel (disobedient)	JOASH	Ahaziah	7	40 yrs.	Priest Jehoida helped him take the throne. Restored the temple.	Faithful while the priest lived, then disobeyed God. Stoned Jehoida's son.
AHAZIAH	Ahab			Had a bad fall and died soon after.		AMAZIAH	Joash		29 yrs.	War with Israel. Israel broke down wall of Jerusalem.	Listened to whom-ever suited him at the time.
JORAM	Ahab			Sensed tension between pagan and God worshippers. Removed idols.		UZZIAH	Amaziah	16	52 yrs.	Built towers in Jerusalem. The nation is unfaithful to God.	Faithful until he became powerful. Got leprosy.

Rulers of Israel



Rulers of Judah

KING	Father	Age	Reign	Events	Characteristics	KING	Father	Age	Reign	Events	Characteristics
JEHU	Jehoshaphat (not the king of Judah)		28 yrs.	Killed everyone in Ahab's family. Got rid of Baal worshippers.	Once he was king, he ignored God. Wanted political power.	JOTHAM	Uzziah	25	16 yrs.	Conquered the Ammonites. The people were unfaithful.	Faithful to God all of his life
JEHOAHAZ	Jehu		17 yrs.	Arameans were oppressing the nation. Asked God to help get rid of the oppression.	Evil, but did intercede on behalf of the people.	AHAZ	Jotham	25	16 yrs.	Built huge altars for worship of Baal.	Unfaithful. Sacrificed to many gods.
JEHOASH	Jehoahaz		16 yrs.	At war with Judah. Broke Jerusalem wall. Captured Amaziah. God delivered people from Arameans.	Evil	HEZEKIAH	Ahaz	25	29 yrs.	Repaired temple. Celebrated Passover. Destroyed idols; people faithful again. Saved from Syria due to faith.	Faithful to God. A bit proud at times.
JEROBOAM II	Jehoash		41 yrs.	Restored northern kingdom. Fortified boundaries. Settled dispute with Aram.	Evil	MANASSEH	Hezekiah	12	55 yrs.	Rebuilt idols and high places. Led nation astray.	Unfaithful
ZECHARIAH	Jeroboam II		6 mos.	Assassinated by Shallum.	Evil	AMON	Manasseh	22	22 yrs.	Killed by his own people.	Unfaithful, evil
SHALLUM	Jabesh		1 mo.	Assassinated by Menahem.	Evil	JOSIAH	Amon	8	31 yrs.	Destroyed idols and high places. Found Book of the Law in temple. Died in a battle with Egypt.	Faithful!
MENAHM	Gadi		10 yrs.	Killed Shallum to become king. Paid large sum of money to avoid trouble. Taxed people heavily.	Evil	JEHOAHAZ	Josiah	23	3 mos.	Egypt took over; de-throned by King Neco. Replaced by his own brother.	
PEKAHIAH	Menahem		2 yrs.	Killed by own chief officer.	Evil	JEHOIAKIM	Josiah	25	11 yrs.	Appointed by King Neco. He and people taken to Babylon.	Evil
PEKAH	Remaliah		20 yrs.	Assyria took land and exiled people. Killed by Hoshea, loyal to Assyria.	Evil	JEHOIACHIN	Jehoiakim	18	3 mos.	Taken to Babylon. Articles from temple taken to Babylon.	Evil
HOSHEA	Elah		9 yrs.	Became king by assassinating Pekah.	Evil	ZEDEKIAH	Josiah	21	11 yrs.	Didn't listen to Jeremiah. Jerusalem and temple destroyed. Nation in exile	Evil

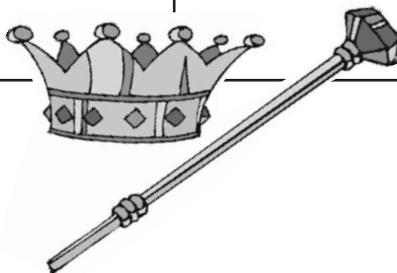
Name _____

Date _____

Collect the Data

Use the “Rulers of Israel and Judah” chart to help you answer the following questions. Put each answer in the empty box to the right of the question.

Question	Answer	Question	Answer
How many rulers were there in Israel?		How many rulers were there in Judah?	
Who was the youngest king? Which kingdom did he rule?		Who reigned the shortest time? Which kingdom?	
Who was the oldest king? Which kingdom did he rule?		Who reigned the longest time? Which kingdom?	
Who was the only woman ruler? Which kingdom?		Which kingdom survived the longest? How long?	
Which kingdom’s rulers were descendants of David?		How many kings of Judah followed God?	
Who found the Book of the Law in the temple? Which kingdom?		What idol was worshiped, at times, in both Israel and Judah?	

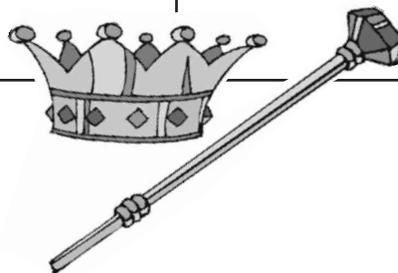


ANSWER KEY

Collect the Data

Use the “Rulers of Israel and Judah” chart to help you answer the following questions. Put each answer in the empty box to the right of the question.

Question	Answer	Question	Answer
How many rulers were there in Israel?	20	How many rulers were there in Judah?	20
Who was the youngest king?	Joash (7 years old)	Who reigned the shortest time?	Zimti (7 days)
Which kingdom did he rule?	Judah	Which kingdom?	Israel
Who was the oldest king?	Rehoboam (41 years old)	Who reigned the longest time?	Manasseh (55 years)
Which kingdom did he rule?	Judah	Which kingdom?	Judah
Who was the only woman ruler?	Athliah	Which kingdom survived the longest?	Judah
Which kingdom?	Judah	How long?	188.9 years
Which kingdom’s rulers were descendants of David?	Judah	How many kings of Judah followed God?	8 kings, at least part of their reign
Who found the Book of the Law in the temple?	King Josiah	What idol was worshiped, at times, in both Israel and Judah?	Baal
Which kingdom?	Judah		



The Divided Kingdom

LESSON 2: THE HUMAN WAY VS. GOD’S WAY

Objective

Students will compare humans’ way to God’s way, and relate this to the kings of the divided kingdom and their own daily living.

Key Concepts

- A life of greed and disobedience leads to destruction.
- God provides for us.
- We don’t need to worry and be afraid when God is in charge.
- Trust in God, not earthly treasures.

Text: Luke 12:13-34

Memory text: Luke 12:22b-34

Estimated Lesson Time: 40-45 minutes

Materials

- Bibles
- “Rulers of Israel and Judah” (from Lesson 1—should be in student binders)
- “The Human Way vs. God’s Way” (pp. 188-189)
- Transparencies/projections of memory texts: Luke 12:22b-26; Luke 12:27-31; Luke 12:32-34 (pp. 192-194)

Teacher Preparation

- Read Luke 12:13-34. This lesson ties the memory text into the story of Judah. It also shows how Jesus contrasted the ways of humans with the ways of God. This can be applied to the students’ own living.
- Make sure each student has a copy of the “Rulers of Israel and Judah” chart from Lesson 1.
- Make copies of both pages of “The Human Way vs. God’s Way, one set per student. *Note: Do not copy back to front because you will distribute these activities at two different times.*

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Discussion. If your class finished the “Collect the Data” activity in Lesson 1, spend a few minutes discussing their findings. If they did not complete this activity, look at the Rulers of Israel and Judah charts. Spend a few minutes orally finding the answers to the questions on the activity sheet. Ask the students to find evidence that many of these kings were not followers of God (*idol worship, greed, selfish living*). Explain that today’s lesson will introduce them to a New Testament character who was not a follower of God. However, they will also discuss some of Christ’s teachings about godly living.

LESSON STEPS

- 1. Read Luke 12:3-34** with the class. Then discuss the contrast between the “rich fool” and Christ’s teachings. Also point out the transitional word “therefore” in verse 22. Jesus is saying that there is another way.
- 2. Scripture search.** Divide students into groups of two or three. Hand out page 1 of “The Human Way vs. God’s Way,” Luke 12:13-34. Ask students to search each listed verse and write down the behavior or attitude the rich young ruler demonstrated. Then they should write, in their own words, the behavior God wants us to exhibit.
- 3. Discuss the activity.** Discuss the students’ findings to ensure understanding. Talk about where the kings of Israel and Judah would stand on this chart. Incorporate some of the questions from the second page of “The Human Way vs. God’s Way.”
- 4. Draw conclusions.** Hand out page 2 of “The Human Way vs. God’s Way.” Have students complete this activity individually. They should answer the questions based on what they learned from studying this passage.

EXTEND THE LESSON

(These activities will extend the lesson to longer than 40-45 minutes.)

- **Write a parable.** In this unit, students have been introduced to 40 Israelite kings, the majority of them disobedient and self-indulgent. They have also been introduced to the rich fool, who lost his life because of greed. On the other hand, they have read the teachings of Jesus concerning the blessings and security that can be obtained from trusting God and selfless living.

Have students write a short parable entitled “The Rich Servant,” in which the rich man responds in a godly way to his wealth.

Example:

A certain rich man’s farm produced a fantastic crop of corn. He wondered what to do with all this food, because he had no place to store it.

Then he said, “I know what I’ll do. I’ll take the corn to the mill and have it ground into cornmeal and packaged into 10-pound sacks. Then I’ll ship it to the organization that makes a special meal with complete nutrition. They will use my cornmeal to make this food, and then they will send it to third world countries to help feed starving children.”

Then God said to the rich man. “You have honored me with your gift, and I will now call you my wise servant. Your treasure is in heaven, where no thief or moth can destroy it. Because you have given of your abundance to the poor, you can trust that I will take care of you.”

- **Memorize the text.** This would be an appropriate text to memorize. Consider putting the entire piece together in a choral reading, along with sign language or class-created motions. Perhaps you could present this in an assembly, morning chapel, or program. Websites such as <http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm> are helpful for using sign language.

Following is an example of how you might divide a choral piece. Using motions such as sign language enhances the presentation:

Teacher: “Do not be afraid little flock,

Girls: for your father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Boys: Sell your possessions and give to the poor.

Girls: Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out,

Two Girls: a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted,

Boys: where no thief comes near

Two Boys: and no moth destroys.

All: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Human Way vs. God's Way

Page 1—Luke 12:13-34

The Human Way (The rich fool)		God's Way (Disciples of Jesus)	
Verse	Attitude or Behavior	Verse	Attitude or Behavior
15		15	
18		22-23	
19		24, 27	
20		28	
21		29	
25		30	
30		31-32	
		33-34	

The Human Way vs. God's Way

Page 2

In this unit, you have met the 40 Israelite kings who ruled Israel and Judah during the period of the divided kingdom. You have also read the parable of the rich fool, and the advice Jesus gave to his disciples that is in contrast to the rich fool's behavior and attitude.

Directions: The following questions ask you to draw conclusions about humans' way of living vs. how God would like us to live. Think carefully and then answer in words, phrases, or complete sentences.

1. What one word describes the rich fool's type of living? _____

2. Would you use this word to describe the ancient kings? _____ Why or why not?

3. Look at the chart you just completed. What did the rich man care about most?

4. Think about the ancient kings. What did they care about most?

5. What did the rich man lose when he decided to build bigger barns?

6. What things did the ancient kings lose when they didn't live according to God's commands?

7. When the kings did follow God, what did God give them?

8. Reread Luke 12:22-34. In a short paragraph, in your own words, explain what Jesus is saying in these verses about godly living.

The Human Way vs. God's Way

Page 1—Luke 12:13-34

The Human Way (The rich fool)		God's Way (Disciples of Jesus)	
Verse	Attitude or Behavior	Verse	Attitude or Behavior
15	<i>Be greedy.</i>	15	<i>Life is not about the things we have.</i>
18	<i>Keep getting more and more stuff.</i>	22-23	<i>Don't worry about food and clothes, because life is about more than that.</i>
19	<i>Have a good time; take life easy.</i>	24, 27	<i>God takes care of the ravens and the lilies.</i>
20	<i>Death can come suddenly, and all the stuff will mean nothing.</i>	28	<i>God will clothe you, just as God clothes the grass of the field.</i>
21	<i>Keep getting more things for yourself and forget about God.</i>	29	<i>Don't keep thinking and worrying about what to eat and drink.</i>
25	<i>Worry about yourself.</i>	30	<i>God knows what you need.</i>
30	<i>The world runs after food and drink, and worries about it.</i>	31-32	<i>Work to know God, and God will take care of your needs. God wants to give you the kingdom.</i>
		33-34	<i>Sell the stuff you don't need and help the poor and homeless. Put your treasure in heaven, because your heart is where your treasure is.</i>

The Human Way vs. God's Way

Page 2

In this unit, you have met the 40 Israelite kings who ruled Israel and Judah during the period of the divided kingdom. You have also read the parable of the rich fool, and the advice Jesus gave to his disciples that is in contrast to the rich fool's behavior and attitude.

Directions: The following questions ask you to draw conclusions about humans' way of living vs. how God would like us to live. Think carefully and then answer in words, phrases, or complete sentences.

1. What one word describes the rich fool's type of living? **Greed**

2. Would you use this word to describe the ancient kings? **Yes** Why or why not?
 The kings were selfish and wanted to be powerful, instead of leading in God's way.

3. Look at the chart you just completed. What did the rich man care about most?
 He selfishly kept his money for himself, so he could eat, drink, and be merry.

4. Think about the ancient kings. What did they care about most?
 They cared about women, power, palaces, eating, drinking, and merriment.

5. What did the rich man lose when he decided to build bigger barns?
 He lost his life.

6. What things did the ancient kings lose when they didn't live according to God's commands?
 They lost parts of their kingdoms.
 They lost their lives and, finally, their freedom.

7. When the kings did follow God, what did God give them?
 God showed mercy to them.
 God protected them from their enemies and kept them safe.

8. Reread Luke 12:22-34. In a short paragraph, in your own words, explain what Jesus is saying in these verses about godly living.
 (Accept reasonable answers.)



He said to his disciples,
"Therefore I tell you, do not worry
about your life, what you will eat,
or about your body, what you will wear.

For life is more than food, and
the body more than clothing.

Consider the ravens:
they neither sow nor reap,
they have neither storehouse nor barn,
and yet God feeds them.

Of how much more value
are you than the birds!

And can any of you by worrying
add a single hour to your span of life?
If then you are not able to do so small a thing
as that, why do you worry about the rest?"

Luke 12:22-26



Consider the lilies, how they grow:
they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you,
even Solomon in all his glory
was not clothed like one of these.
But if God so clothes the grass of the field,
which is alive today and tomorrow
is thrown into the oven, how much more will
he clothe you—you of little faith!
And do not keep striving for what
you are to eat and what you are to drink,
and do not keep worrying.
For it is the nations of the world
that strive after all these things,
and your Father knows that you need them.
Instead, strive for his kingdom, and
these things will be given to you as well.

Luke 12:27-31



Do not be afraid, little flock,
for it is your Father's good pleasure
to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions, and give alms.

Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out,
an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:32-34

The Divided Kingdom

Unit 5 Assessment

Part 1—Place the letter of the description before the person or word it describes. Use the Rulers of Israel and Judah chart to complete this section.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. ____ Athaliah | A. king for 55 years (the longest) |
| 2. ____ Josiah | B. the oldest king when crowned |
| 3. ____ Judah | C. the only queen |
| 4. ____ Baal | D. the idol many people worshiped |
| 5. ____ Joash | E. the youngest king |
| 6. ____ Rehoboam | F. was king only seven days |
| 7. ____ Zimri | G. found the Book of Law in the temple |
| 8. ____ Manasseh | H. the kingdom that lasted the longest |

Part 2—Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with words from the list below.

exile Judah Solomon kingdom descendants Baal Israel

(9) When _____ was king, he angered God by worshiping idols. Because of his sinfulness, God divided the (10) _____ into two parts, (11) _____ in the north and (12) _____ in the south. God had promised David that his (13) _____ would continue to reign, so they ruled in Judah. Many of the kings in both nations were evil and allowed the worship of (14) _____. Finally, both kingdoms ended up in (15) _____.

Part 3—Jesus taught a lesson in the parable of the rich fool, Luke 12:16-21. Complete the statements by filling in the blanks with words from the list. Then explain the lesson Jesus wanted to teach.

eat life possessions barns drink greedy rich merry

The rich fool was (16) _____ because he wanted to keep all of his (17) _____ for himself. He decided to build big (18) _____ to store his grain so he would have plenty of good things for many years to come. He was going to (19) _____, (20) _____, and be (21) _____. Instead, God told him that he was going to lose his (22) _____ that very night, because he was not (23) _____ toward God.

24. What lesson did Jesus want the crowd to learn when he told them the parable of the rich fool?

Part 4—In Luke 12:22-34. In this passage, Jesus gives rules for godly living. Carefully reread these verses. Then complete the rules below.

25. Do not _____. _____ his kingdom. Do not be _____. _____ your possessions. Give to the _____. Provide for yourself a treasure in _____, because your treasure and your _____ will be in the same place.

ANSWER KEY

The Divided Kingdom

Unit 5 Assessment

Part 1—Place the letter of the description before the person or word it describes. Use the Rulers of Israel and Judah chart to complete this section.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. <u>C</u> Athaliah | A. king for 55 years (the longest) |
| 2. <u>G</u> Josiah | B. the oldest king when crowned |
| 3. <u>H</u> Judah | C. the only queen |
| 4. <u>D</u> Baal | D. the idol many people worshiped |
| 5. <u>E</u> Joash | E. the youngest king |
| 6. <u>B</u> Rehoboam | F. was king only seven days |
| 7. <u>F</u> Zimri | G. found the Book of Law in the temple |
| 8. <u>A</u> Manasseh | H. the kingdom that lasted the longest |

Part 2—Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with words from the list below.

exile Judah Solomon kingdom descendants Baal Israel

(9) When Solomon was king, he angered God by worshiping idols. Because of his sinfulness, God divided the (10) kingdom into two parts, (11) Israel in the north and (12) Judah in the south. God had promised David that his (13) descendants would continue to reign, so they ruled in Judah. Many of the kings in both nations were evil and allowed the worship of (14) Baal. Finally, both kingdoms ended up in (15) exile.

Part 3—Jesus taught a lesson in the parable of the rich fool, Luke 12:16-21. Complete the statements by filling in the blanks with words from the list. Then explain the lesson Jesus wanted to teach.

eat life possessions barns drink greedy rich merry

The rich fool was (16) greedy because he wanted to keep all of his (17) possessions for himself. He decided to build big (18) barns to store his grain so he would have plenty of good things for many years to come. He was going to (19) eat, (20) drink, and be (21) merry. Instead, God told him that he was going to lose his (22) life that very night, because he was not (23) rich toward God.

24. What lesson did Jesus want the crowd to learn when he told them the parable of the rich fool?

Jesus wants us to be generous and share our blessings with others.

Part 4—In Luke 12:22-34. In this passage, Jesus gives rules for godly living. Carefully reread these verses. Then complete the rules below.

25. Do not worry. Seek his kingdom. Do not be afraid. Sell your possessions. Give to the poor. Provide for yourself a treasure in heaven, because your treasure and your heart will be in the same place.