

# Adventure Number 43

## 1 Kings 11-14

**Story Line: The sins of Solomon led to the division of the nation.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Besides a king being forbidden by God to increase the number of his horses (Deuteronomy 17:16), a king was also forbidden by God to marry many wives “*or his heart will be led astray*” (Deuteronomy 17:17). This is precisely what happened to Solomon. Solomon did not abandon Yahweh but he worshiped other gods as well. His heart was not fully devoted to the Lord; he compromised his affections.
- Jeroboam was a skilled supervisor for building projects. A prophet named Ahijah came to Jeroboam to reveal God’s word. Ahijah told Jeroboam that he was going to divide the nation of Israel. The northern kingdom would consist of ten tribes that were north and west of Benjamin and Judah, the most southern tribes.
- Ahijah acquired a garment and divided it into twelve different pieces. He handed ten of those garment pieces to Jeroboam to show that he would rule ten of the tribes. Rehoboam, son of Solomon, would rule the other two tribes. Ahijah assured Jeroboam that if he was faithful to Yahweh, then his reign would be secure for many generations. Jeroboam soon revealed that he was more concerned about political power than faithfulness to Yahweh. His faithless approach to Yahweh resulted in every king from the northern kingdom following his example or worse. Most people followed the leadership of these kings.
- In the southern kingdom, Rehoboam worshipped Yahweh for three years and then led the southern kingdom into idol worship. Under the leadership of Rehoboam, they built high places for worship, sometimes for Yahweh and sometimes for other gods. Rehoboam’s reign lasted only 17 years.

### Teacher Helps

The teacher’s guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



## 2) Begin the Lesson

Lay out a game board for review that looks something like this:

Time Line	Story Line	Songs	Memory Verses
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points

Go back for each of the last 10 lessons and let the children name the time line for each lesson (100 points), the story line for each lesson (200 points), the song for each lesson (300 points), and the memory verse for each lesson (400 points).

A prize should be given to the winning team. Usually, competition is a fun thing for the children. So, keep them all involved. Depending on the size of your class, you may want to limit each child to only 1 or 2 answers. The reason for this is that a few children will answer all the questions, if you let them.

There will be a total of 10,000 points, 1000 points for each lesson (100 for the time line, 200 for the story line, 300 for the song, and 400 for the memory verse).



## 3) Teach the Lesson

It is never fun to have something that you thought was yours taken from you. To have something taken from you does not mean you lost it, it means somebody else gets what should have been yours; at least, that is what you thought.

Today's lesson talks about something that was taken. What are one or two things that have been taken from you that you were not happy about when they were taken? Did you understand why they were taken? How did you respond?

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: Bible Jeopardy

Divide the class evenly into two teams. The teams could be:

- 1) whoever has the most brothers and sisters
- 2) whoever has the fewest brothers and sisters

This game will be continued with the review at end of the lesson.



## Tell the Story

Solomon's life ended poorly and his conclusion to life was that everything under the sun was meaningless. Because of his turning away from God, Yahweh sent a punishment that resulted in two kingdoms.

Jeroboam was the son of a widow and was a talented construction supervisor. Ahijah, a prophet, brought the word of the Lord to Jeroboam with a visual aid that would be hard to forget. One would think that this visual aid would make a life long impression on Jeroboam. Ahijah showed Jeroboam a newly purchased garment or piece of clothing. Then, he tore it into twelve strips and told Jeroboam that ten of the strips of clothing would belong to him. The reference was clear: each strip of clothing represented the twelve tribes of Israel. Because of their unfaithfulness to Yahweh and their pursuit of other gods, the kingdom would become divided. Ten tribes would go with Jeroboam. A clear job was given to Jeroboam from Ahijah. Ahijah's instructions from Yahweh were very clear. Jeroboam was to lead the northern nation of Israel into worship of Yahweh. If he did so, then Jeroboam would be like David, his ancestor. All Jeroboam had to do was obey the commandments of Yahweh. When Solomon heard about this meeting, he threatened to kill Jeroboam. So, Jeroboam fled to Egypt until Solomon died. Jeroboam had plenty of time to think about the newly purchased garment that Ahijah tore into twelve pieces. He knew the significance of the ten pieces of clothing and he knew the significance of the two pieces of clothing. Obeying Yahweh had great reward but turning his back on Yahweh would have awful consequences.

After Solomon died, Rehoboam took charge and thought he would be the leader of the whole nation. His first decision was to make the taxes and forced labor even worse than Solomon had done at the end of his life. Meanwhile, Jeroboam returned from Egypt and the northern ten tribes voted him as their leader. They didn't want any more higher taxes or any more forced labor. Rehoboam, the leader of Judah, wanted to go to war against Jeroboam, the leader of Israel. He would have except for a clear word from God that warned him not to do so.

Israel's King Jeroboam got off to a good start but built idols of worship. He violated the first and second commands given by Yahweh to Moses. Judah's King Rehoboam also got off to a good start but built places for worship which were sometimes used for Yahweh and sometimes for other gods. He violated the first command given by Yahweh to Moses.

### Teacher Helps

#### **Tell the Story Activity: Good Start and Poor Finish**

Add two more to the Bible people who started well and finished poorly. Why did Jeroboam and Rehoboam do this?

Others:

- Cain (jealousy)
- Lot (wealth)
- Satan (pride)
- Israelites in the wilderness (complaining)
- Rehoboam (idolatry)
- Jeroboam (other gods)



## Memory Verse

1 Kings 11:38 (ESV) - And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.



## Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com). However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Salvation Belongs to Our God” by Eric Quiram is recommended for this lesson.



## Bible Activity

“Guess who I am” – Allow children to volunteer to “act out” one of the Bible people who started well and finished poorly from the list on the “Tell the Story” page. They should portray the person’s life without speaking, just by actions. The class has to guess who they are.

For example, Cain could walk up with hands outstretched, as if presenting an offering. He would then look angry when his offering was not accepted. He might even pretend to hit Abel (Abel can be invisible, or two kids could act it out together). Depending on the time you have available, you could use all 6 examples. It might even be fun to give a small prize to whoever is able to guess the right answer first. If you offer a prize, make sure to have an organized system for guessing the answer! If your class is younger children, the teacher could be the one to act out the person, and let the kids try to figure it out.

## Teacher Helps

### Memory Verse Activity: The Telephone Game

Memorize this verse using The Telephone Game. Have your class form one line, then whisper into the first person in line a phrase of this verse, have that person repeat the phrase to the next person. Do this until all have quoted the first phrase. Then do the same thing with the second phrase, the third phrase, and so on until you have memorized the verse.



## 4) Review the Lesson

Continue your review game for points that you began at the start of the lesson.

- For 100 points, how many tribes of Israel were there? (12)
- For 200 points, who led the northern kingdom? (Jeroboam)
- For 300 points, who led the southern kingdom? (Rehoboam)
- For 400 points, what did the prophet Ahijah command Jeroboam to do? (obey the Lord God)
- Bonus question worth 500 points: What is the theme of this lesson? (The sins of Solomon led to the division of the nation.)

### Review the Lesson Activity: Bible Jeopardy

This review activity is a continuation of the review game at the beginning of the lesson.



## 5) Apply the Lesson

The Bible is filled with people who were clearly commanded to do something and they did not do it. Selfishness, stubbornness, and pride often caused them to abandon God.

Today, if you were warned to follow God and there would be great reward, would you follow Him with all of your heart?

Today, if you were warned to not follow false gods because there would be tragic consequences, would you avoid those false gods?

**Story Line: The sins of Solomon led to the division of the nation.**

# Adventure Number 44

## 1 Kings 16-18

**Story Line: Elijah and Elisha were bright lights in a time of darkness.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- The ministry of Elijah and Elisha was a very special ministry. Their task was formidable as they resisted the worship of Baal.
- Elijah and Elisha performed the following miracles: stopping the rain and causing a drought, praying and bringing rain to end the drought, calling lightning from a clear sky repeatedly, raising the dead, making a small supply of food replenish for several years, multiplying oil from a jar, multiplying food, stopping the flow of a river and immediately drying the river bed, departing earth to be with God without dying, removing poison from food and water, healing incurable skin disease, blinding an enemy army until he had captured them, making an iron axe head resurface and float, and exposing a distant king's secret plans.
- Baal was the god of rain and dew, the storm god who controlled the weather. Elijah challenged Ahab to a contest. It was reminiscent of Egypt's gods being defeated by Yahweh 600 years earlier when Moses confronted Pharaoh. Of course, Baal was powerless and Yahweh showed who was God.
- Yahweh directed Elijah to mentor a young understudy named Elisha. Elisha wanted to further the ministry of Elijah so he asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Interestingly, it is recorded that Elisha did twice as many miracles as Elijah.
- From around 850 B.C. and for over 50 years, Elisha served Yahweh and Israel. However, the nation continued to rebel against Yahweh.

### Teacher Helps

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## 2) Begin the Lesson

One of the goals for review is for children to see the Bible's big story. Today, we want to ask children to give us some of the recurring themes we see so far in that story. For instance, let children volunteer their answers, but you might use the following examples as recurring themes in the Bible's one big story:

### God's Amazing Power:

- Creation
- Worldwide Flood
- Red Sea Crossing
- Entering the Promised Land

### Animal Substitution:

- Adam and Eve
- Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah
- God's Provision for Forgiveness
- The Day of Atonement

### Faith that Pleases God:

- Noah
- Abraham
- The Passover
- Ruth and Samuel
- King David

### God Punishes Sin:

- Adam and Eve
- Unbelief at Kadesh Barnea
- Saul, Israel's First King
- King Solomon
- The Divided Kingdom

## Teacher Helps

### Begin the Lesson Activity: One Big Story

The teacher may want to give the class the topics such as: God's Amazing Power, Animal Substitution, Faith that Pleases God, and God Punishes Sin. Then, let the children tell Biblical examples of those stories that we have previously studied.

The purpose of this activity is for children to see recurring themes in the Bible's one big story.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

What is one of the greatest challenges you have ever seen? Was one person a great underdog and the other person a heavy favorite? Was one team supposed to win and the other team supposed to lose?

In today's lesson, we will learn about one of the greatest challenges ever. It came from one of the prophets of God as he faced 450 challengers. Do you know who this one prophet of God is and what he did?



## Tell the Story

Jeroboam showed lots of potential. He worked very effectively as a construction supervisor for some of the work that Solomon had wanted done. He was so effective that Yahweh sent a prophet named Ahijah to declare him the next leader of the northern kingdom. Oh yes, the northern kingdom which never had one king that Yahweh described as good. The southern kingdom had eight of the “good” kings, but the north was different. There was a lack of spiritual leadership amongst the northern kingdom kings.

However, that does not mean God left the northern kingdom without a witness. To be specific, Yahweh raised up two very special witnesses for Himself. First, there was Elijah and he was succeeded by Elisha. They were known for their awesome miracles.

One of those awesome miracles featured a challenge by the man of God, Elijah. He challenged King Ahab’s and Queen Jezebel’s prophets. Ahab had 450 prophets of Baal and Jezebel had 400. There was a total of 850 prophets. For some reason, Jezebel did not let her 400 prophets participate in this duel. Elijah gave the rules for the duel. First, Ahab’s prophets and Elijah would each butcher an animal and place it on separate altars. Then Ahab’s prophets and Elijah would call down fire from their gods to consume the animal. Whichever god responded with fire must be the ultimate Deity. Baal’s prophets went first. When nothing happened after several hours, Elijah began mocking Ahab’s prophets. Maybe their god was asleep. Maybe he was busy. Maybe he was travelling or out on business. Nothing happened. Then, it was Elijah’s turn. In an unusual move, Elijah dug a trench around the altar and poured water on the sacrifice, the altar, and the wood! Elijah made sure that there would be no doubt about who was the absolute Deity. Elijah prayed a 34 word prayer. Then, BOOM! No sooner had Elijah prayed and there was lightning from the sky that consumed the sacrifice, the altar, the wood, and even the water. The people were so impressed that they even said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.” It was a spectacular sight.

Sometime after that, Yahweh directed Elijah to mentor another prophet who was younger. His name was Elisha. Elisha wanted to continue the good things that Elijah had begun and asked for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. He wanted to be just like his leader, Elijah. God enabled Elisha to continue the work that Elijah had begun. For over 50 years, Elisha did the work of prophet in a place where there was not much spiritual leadership in the land.

## Teacher Helps

### **Tell the Story Activity: Contrast Two Kinds of Prophets**

Bring two items with you to class today.

1) Bring one thing that is very reliable with you to class (maybe a solid chair).

2) Bring one thing with you that is not very reliable (something that looks broken down).

After describing each item, have the class tell you which one would you rather trust. Why?

Such was the case with the people choosing the prophet of God or the prophets of Baal.





## Memory Verse

1 Kings 18:39 (ESV) - And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”



## Praise and Worship

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## Bible Activity

**Dramatization** – Let’s pretend that we were there that day so long ago, when God proved Himself to the people of Israel through Elijah the prophet. The teacher will be the “narrator” and the students will have different roles. Choose one child to be Elijah, several to be the “Mockers” that make fun of the prophets of Baal, and the rest will shout “The Lord He is God!!” Ahead of time, print Elijah’s prayer from I Kings 18:36-37 for Elijah to read at the appointed time. Give the mockers some ideas of what to say from I Kings 18:27 – “Shout louder!” “Maybe he is daydreaming!” “Maybe he had to go to the bathroom!” “He might be away on a trip!” “He is asleep and needs to be awakened!” Have the rest of the kids practice saying all together: “The LORD He is God; The LORD He is God!”

Tell the story again, this time act as a narrator to the story, and have the kids participate in their assigned roles. As you are reenacting the story, try to help the kids feel the emotion that would have been a part of this amazing scene. Emphasize the miraculous way that God showed His mighty power, and how He used the faithful prophet Elijah to accomplish His work.

### Teacher Helps

#### Memory Verse Activity: Graffiti

Graffiti can also be used to help children memorize this verse. Write each word of this verse on a separate piece of paper. Then divide the children into groups of 2 or 3 and have them put the words in order. When each group can put the verse together in order, they will probably have this verse memorized.



## 4) Review the Lesson

Review the lesson and see which of these you can find.

- Name someone who showed lots of potential. (Jeroboam)
- Name one kingdom that had no good kings. (Israel)
- Name one kingdom that had eight good kings. (Judah)
- Name the two successful prophets of God (Elijah and Elisha)
- How many prophets did Baal have? (450)
- How many prophets did Jezebel have? (400)
- How many years did Elisha work for the Lord? (50 years)



## 5) Apply the Lesson

God used two ordinary people in a very special way at a very difficult time. Elijah and Elisha worked together to honor God when not a lot of other people did.

Find one friend who will encourage you to honor God. It may be one of your parents, it may be one of your friends at school, or it may be a grandma or a grandpa. Who is that person?

Now, ask the person to be a godly friend and serve the Lord together.

**Story Line: Elijah and Elisha were bright lights in a time of darkness.**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review the Lesson Activity: Scripture Search

The teacher should have the class break up into groups of 2 or 3. Have them find each of the 7 main ideas in the lesson which are listed to your left. For younger children, or non-readers, the teacher should help them.

# Adventure Number 45

## Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 53; and Micah 5:2

**Story Line: Prophets told about Jesus 700 years before He came to earth.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Although Ahaz did not want a sign, God gave him one anyway through the prophet Isaiah. The sign was that a boy would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), he would be raised in a time of national trouble (v. 15), and while he was still a boy, a two-king alliance would be broken (v. 16).
- The Hebrew word speaks of a young unmarried woman. But the Greek of the New Testament and the rabbi's translation in the LXX uses a word which definitely means "virgin."
- The coming Messiah would rule over God's people (*"the government shall be upon his shoulders"*).
- The coming Messiah would have names that describe His character or who He is. Names such as *"wonderful"* meaning He would be distinguished; *"counselor"* meaning He would be authoritative. He would also be *"mighty God"* meaning He would be a powerful God. He would also be the *"prince of peace"* meaning He would bring peace.
- In his book, Isaiah tells us that the Messiah would suffer for the sins of all people. Isaiah tell us of a lamb who would offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin.
- The prophet Micah tells us in Micah 5:2 that the birthplace of the Messiah would be in Bethlehem of Ephrathah. This was a tiny town not far from Jerusalem and very unlikely to have someone important born there. Ephrathah was the village in which Bethlehem was located.

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*Timeline:*

*A Divided Kingdom*



## 2) Begin the Lesson

Ask children to help you with previous memory verses. Maybe say something like, “**Who remembers what (verse) says?**”

- Adventure Number 31: Leviticus 17:11
- Adventure Number 32: Leviticus 16:30
- Adventure Number 33: Numbers 13:31
- Adventure Number 34: John 3:14
- Adventure Number 35: Deuteronomy 6:5
- Adventure Number 36: Joshua 1:8
- Adventure Number 37: Judges 21:25
- Adventure Number 38: 1 Samuel 3:19
- Adventure Number 39: 1 Samuel 16:7
- Adventure Number 40: 2 Samuel 7:16
- Adventure Number 41: Psalm 22:1
- Adventure Number 42: 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Adventure Number 43: 1 Kings 11:38
- Adventure Number 44: 1 Kings 18:39



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Have you ever met someone who knew a lot? Have you ever met someone who knew a lot that would happen in the future? He had the ability to predict the future? Well, the Old Testament has prophets and prophets of the true God had to be right one hundred percent of the time when they predicted the future.

Now, your friend may be right a lot but I doubt if he is right all the time. In this lesson, we will learn that several prophets told about the coming Messiah and they were all right.

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: Memory Verse Review

The last 14 memory verses are given here. Divide the children up into two teams and see which team can tell you the most memory verses. Bonus points should be given if they can recite more than the last 14 memory verses.

Give the teams five minutes and they must work together.

The teacher can provide a few helps.



## Tell the Story

### Teacher Helps

God's prophets were given the special ability to warn people about the times in which they lived. They were prophets like Elijah and Elisha who we just studied. Some prophets would tell about the future. The earliest of this kind of prophet from God were Isaiah and Micah. In all, there were 16 prophets who wrote about the future. Isaiah and Micah lived about 700 years before Jesus Christ was born, yet they both told about Him. They were the earliest of God's writing prophets.

Seven hundred years before Christ was born, Isaiah wrote about the special way in which Jesus Christ would be born. He told that one of the descendants of David would give birth to a son. The descendant of David would be a young lady who had never slept with a man. That was very unique because a lady would have to sleep with a man to have a baby. But Isaiah told about this unique birth a long time before it ever happened.

Isaiah also foretold that this future Messiah would bring great light to the people of Galilee who lived a long way north of Jerusalem. The people of Galilee were upset because a foreign nation, Assyria, had conquered that area.

Isaiah prophesied that this Messiah would be oppressed and afflicted. He would even be crushed. He would be wounded for the sins of the people and He would carry the iniquity of all of us. Yet in spite of this, the Lord God would prosper Him.

Isaiah also told about the Messiah's future kingdom. The government would be on His shoulders and there would be peace that would never end. His eternal throne would be established.

So, Isaiah wrote about the birth, life, purpose, death, and future life of the coming Messiah.

Micah also wrote about this Messiah at about the same time. Micah wrote about the place where Messiah would be born. It was a very small village just outside of Jerusalem called Bethlehem.

None of these prophets contradicted each other. They told about the coming Messiah as God showed them what to say. And everything they said about the Messiah would eventually come true.

### Tell the Story Activity: Story Chairs

Give each of the kids, except one, a word in the story that is used often. With the kids seated in a circle, give each one a word in the story. As you tell the story, the children who hear "their" word must get up and find a new seat. This activity is kind of like the game "musical chairs" only the teacher will use this story instead.

Words to give to children could include:

- Messiah
- 700 years
- prophets
- prophecy
- Micah
- Isaiah



## Memory Verse

Isaiah 53:6 (ESV) - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.



## Praise and Worship

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## Bible Activity

“Prophecy match” Print the following verses on cards or pieces of paper to pass out to your class. Each Old Testament verse (prophecy) has a corresponding New Testament verse (fulfillment of the prophecy).

### Old Testament Prophecy

Genesis 12:3

Isaiah 7:14

Numbers 24:17

Micah 5:2

Hosea 11:1

Genesis 49:10

Malachi 3:1

Jeremiah 23:5

Jeremiah 31:15

Isaiah 53:10-11

### New Testament Fulfillment

Matthew 1:1

Matthew 1:18-23

Matthew 1:2

Luke 2:1-7

Matthew 2:13-15

Luke 3:33

Luke 2:25-27

Matthew 1:6

Matthew 2:16

Luke 23:33

## Teacher Helps

### Bible Memory Activity

Review the verse a few times then divide the children into two or more teams. Have the teams form lines across from a chalk or white board or piece of paper on a chair. Place something to write with at the board in front of each team. Have the first child of each team run to the board and write the first word of the verse, then run back to the line. The next child of the team will write the next word and it will continue until the verse is completed. Allow all teams to finish before playing again.

### Bible Activity

For older children, you might only print the scripture reference on the card and they can look up the verse in their own Bible.

After the OT verses have all been read, the NT people should stand beside the one they think matches their card. They will have to work together to figure out which one best matches.





## 4) Review the Lesson

Have children simplify the lesson into 10 words or less using their own words. What are their answers? When children simplify the story of the lesson into ten words or less, they will probably say something like these possibilities:

- Two prophets told about the Messiah.
- Seven hundred years before Messiah came, Isaiah wrote.
- Seven hundred years before Messiah came, Micah wrote.
- The prophets told where Messiah would be born.
- The prophets told that Messiah would suffer.
- The prophets told that Messiah would have an eternal kingdom.



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Promise Seekers. From the following verses, find promises that the prophets wrote about that you think came true. Thank God that He is a faithful promise Giver.

- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Isaiah 53:5-6
- Micah 5:2

**Story Line: Prophets told about Jesus 700 years before He came to earth.**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review the Lesson Activity: Simplify

Simplify can be a useful game for the children. The teacher can give each team of 2 or 3 kids about 1-2 minutes to come up with the most significant 10 words of this lesson.

#### Apply the Lesson Activity: Promise Seekers

The goal of "Promise Seekers" is to identify promises from God to the prophets about the coming Messiah. The class can work on this together or in groups of 3 or 4.