

Kingdoms at War: Israel vs. Judah

Scripture Focus: 1 Kings 14:30; 2 Chronicles 13:1-20; 1 Kings 15:16-22; 2 Kings 14:8-14

THE BIG STORY

After Solomon died, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms. Rehoboam ruled the **Southern Kingdom of Judah**, while Jeroboam ruled the **Northern Kingdom of Israel**.

Instead of living as brothers, the two kingdoms fought each other again and again. The conflicts included border wars, the **Battle of Mount Zemaraim**, the **Ramah blockade**, and the **Battle of Beth Shemesh**.

FOUR BATTLES TO KNOW

Border conflicts: Jeroboam I vs. Rehoboam • Zemaraim: Jeroboam I vs. Abijah
Ramah: Baasha vs. Asa • Beth Shemesh: Jehoash vs. Amaziah

WHY WERE THEY FIGHTING?

Pride: Rehoboam refused to humble himself or compromise with his brothers.

Fear: Jeroboam feared losing his people if they worshiped God in Jerusalem, so he relied on human tricks instead of God's promise.

False worship: Jeroboam's golden calves in Bethel and Dan turned worship into a political strategy and created a lasting spiritual rift.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

 NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL (10 Tribes)	 SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH (2 Tribes)
Capital - Samaria Tribes 10 northern tribes (Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, Asher, Dan, Manasseh, Ephraim) Founded 930 B.C. (after the division of Solomon's kingdom) Rulers - First king: Jeroboam I - Last king: Hoshea (722 B.C.) Major Events - Idolatry and spiritual decline - Many prophets (Elijah, Elisha, etc.) - Conquered by Assyria in 722 B.C. - The 10 tribes were taken into exile Key Verse "And the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away into Assyria..." 2 Kings 17:6	Capital - Jerusalem Tribes 2 southern tribes (Judah and Benjamin) Founded 930 B.C. (remained after the division of Solomon's kingdom) Rulers - First king: Rehoboam - Last king: Zedekiah (586 B.C.) Major Events - Continued the worship of the true God (with periods of faithfulness and sin) - Rebuilt the temple (under Solomon, but continued in Judah) - Conquered by Babylon in 586 B.C. - The people were taken into exile Key Verse "But ye shall be my people, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people." Jeremiah 31:33

Two Kingdoms • One People • God's Plan

WEEKLY BIBLE CHALLENGE

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Testing your knowledge of Israel, Judah, and the kings who fought

BIBLE DETECTIVE

Use your Bible to solve the case!

1. In 2 Chronicles 13, who challenged Jeroboam at Mount Zemaraim?

Answer: _____

2. In 1 Kings 15:16-22, why did Baasha stop building at Ramah?

Answer: _____

3. In 2 Kings 14, what happened to Jerusalem after Amaziah was defeated?

Answer: _____

Bonus: Find one verse that shows God was still protecting Judah.

BIBLE MYSTERY CHALLENGE

Who am I?

Mystery #1

I was a king of Judah. I challenged Jeroboam and spoke boldly about worshiping the true God before a battle. Who am I?

Answer: _____

Mystery #2

I was a king of Israel. I defeated Amaziah and broke down part of Jerusalem's wall. Who am I?

Answer: _____

Mystery #3

I was a king of Judah who asked Syria to attack Israel during the Ramah conflict. Who am I?

Answer: _____

BIBLE CODE

Crack the code! Each number stands for a letter: A=1, B=2, C=3 ... Z=26.

Decode this Bible message:

2-5 / 1 / 16-5-1-3-5-13-1-11-5-18

Message: _____

Then answer: Why is being a peacemaker important when people disagree?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When pride, fear, or anger starts a disagreement, what is one thing you can do to be a peacemaker?

UPCOMING DATES

October 12 · October 24 (Costume Night) · November 9