

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

TILL [Get the soil ready]

Ever hear the old joke, "Do they have fourth of July in France?" Many answer, "No" because they are thinking of our Independence Day. But, the correct answer is "Yes...what else comes after the third of July?"

The gag is funny because we understand the history. We flew over the divided kingdom to the exile! There is much more history for us to understand.

We can cover more here.

SOW [What God wants us to hear]

Reminder: after Solomon, Israel split into two kingdoms, North & South. The northern kingdom was still called Israel. The southern kingdom was called Judah (and it also included Benjamin). The reign of kings then overlap as you read Kings and Chronicles.

Each king was given a commentary of their reign. Look at these examples and see if you see some repeated ideas. 1 Kings 15:3, 11, 25-26, 33-34; 16:25, 29-30. And, the most descriptive, 2 Chron. 21:18-20

All the kings are not included above, but you can see it was not a high point in Israel's history. In total, Judah had 19 kings & Israel had 20. Of those, Judah had eight good kings, and Israel had none!

The divided kingdom also includes the ministries of most of the prophets:

- Elijah, 1 Kings 17:1, 24
- Micaiah, 1 Kings 22:14
- Elisha, 2 Kings 6:16-17
- Isaiah, 6:8-10
- Jeremiah, 1:5
- And, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk all preached before and up to the exile.



Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

Israel's & Judah's big problem: Failing to respond to the discipline of God. Skim over Deuteronomy 28. God gave his people a clear choice.

What was that choice?

How well did either kingdom choose? How well did the king lead in that choice?

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

God does not abandon us, but he does discipline. See Heb. 12:7-11

- Why does he do this?
- What's in it for us?
- In Israel/Judah's history, it's almost like God kept shouting louder and louder as they abandoned him worse and worse.
- How loudly does God need to shout at us?

Did you notice that the king took the lead in following the Lord?

- What does this imply for the responsibility of leaders?
- What does this imply for the responsibility of followers?

Preview: Judah had ups and downs, but one king sealed the fate of going into exile. Who is he? See 2 Kings 21.

