

IN &
OUT®

*God
Searches
For a Heart
Fully His*

IN & OUT[®]
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 2
GOD SEARCHES FOR A HEART FULLY HIS

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW . . .

We are so thrilled that you have chosen to study *God Searches for a Heart Fully His*, the second of our ten courses in the Kings and Prophets Series. It will be such a blessing to your life because the Old Testament places a tremendous emphasis on the holy character and works of God that anticipate fulfillment in the person of Christ in the New Testament. In essence, it lays the groundwork for the only salvation possible—the salvation God provides in His Son “by which we must be saved.” The Bible is a progressive revelation—all sixty-six parts are essential to understanding the whole counsel of God.

As you begin this series, it’s vital to understand the importance of a study like this and some of the differences between studying (primarily historical) Old Testament books and (primarily doctrinal) New Testament epistles.

- In the Old Testament we come to know God—who He is and how He works in the affairs of mankind—and we develop a godly fear of His awesome majesty, holy character, and works.
- The nation that is in the front and center of all God’s dealings is Israel. So as you study Kings and Chronicles, you find yourself immersed in Israel’s history, studying events surrounding the reigns of her kings in an effort to get the *big picture*—to understand how these events affect her relationship to God and how God responds to His covenant people. It’s much like looking at the history of your country through the lives of its leaders, what the times were like under each, the direction each led the country, and how each impacted its future.
- As you observe the texts of Kings and Chronicles, remember observing history is different from observing doctrine. If you’ve done New Testament Precept courses, you’ll find doing Observation Worksheets of historical books is much different from doing one on a doctrinal epistle. You don’t want to get bogged down with details; rather, you want to get a general understanding of the times and God’s dealings. Also, your focus on key words will not be as strong as when you’re observing doctrine.
- It’s not important to remember every detail of a king’s life as long as you understand the essence of it—how lessons from his life and leadership can apply to your life and walk with the Lord.
- If you study the entire series (we pray that you will), you will also hear and understand God’s message to His people through the voices of His prophets during those times.
- According to 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4, what God chose to preserve in the Old Testament is for our example and instruction, “upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The application, the encouragement, and the hope from these historical studies are distinctive.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO IN & OUT LEADERS

We have included “The Who’s Who Optional Review” after the last lesson for you and your students to aid in reviewing the kings and prophets studied in this course.

Here are some suggestions of how this optional assignment can be used:

- In scheduling this course, plan an extra week at the end and have your students complete the optional assignment for that week. You can encourage them to be creative by preparing a song, poem, skit, etc. and/or sharing some of their completed sketches. This is a great way to review the kings of Israel and Judah and some of the main events of their reign. Allow time for students to tell how God spoke to them through His Word in this course.
- If you’re completing this course and then breaking for the summer, you can assign students to complete the optional assignment during the break. Use letters, phone calls, or emails to remind them to review what they’ve done before your first meeting in the fall. At your first meeting, briefly review the kings to help new students understand the context. Let students show some of their sketches. Then help all students get started on their first lesson, making sure the new ones know how to do the assignments.

Asa Sought the Lord

God found David, a man after His heart, but His search was not over. One is not enough. The kingdom of God marches on—advances—on the strength of men and women whose hearts are completely His. A careful study of church history affirms over and over the power of individuals fully committed to serving God’s purpose in their generations. How they are needed in our generation!

This is why, Beloved, each of us needs to come to the point where we consciously choose to serve the Lord.

To whom will you give your heart? Whose purpose will you serve?

TAKING IT IN

If this is your first course with us in this kings and prophets series, you can get an overview of where we are historically by looking at the chart, “Israel’s Division and Captivity” at the end of this lesson. At this point in Israel’s history the twelve tribes of Israel have divided into two kingdoms (ten tribes in the North and two tribes in the South) that conflict not only with their enemies but also unfortunately with each other.

The war between the first kings of the divided kingdom, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, didn’t end with Rehoboam’s death. When his son Abijam (or Abijah, as he is called in Chronicles) took the throne of Rehoboam, it was “like father, like son.” Abijam followed his father’s footsteps in the path of evil, in the course of his war with Jeroboam. Fortunately he reigned only three years. Asa his son succeeded him. This is where our study begins—a study, once again, that will especially benefit you if you long to be a man or woman of God.

1. Since you are studying the words of God preserved for your spiritual understanding and godliness, begin with prayer, asking for the assistance of the blessed Holy Spirit. Remember, if you are a child of God, the Spirit of God lives in you as your resident tutor! Take full advantage of His presence.

Observe 1 Kings 15:1-24, which you will find in the Appendix of this workbook, reading these verses at least twice.

God Searches For a Heart Fully His

Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

As you observe:

- a. It is helpful to make a **Key Word Bookmark**. Cut out the bookmark on the back cover of your workbook. List the key words and mark them the way you will throughout this study.

On the reverse side of the bookmark, you'll see suggested markings for some words used frequently throughout the Bible. We'll indicate those words with an asterisk [*].

- 1) *did right in the sight of the Lord* or *did evil*. Mark each in a distinguishable way.
- 2) references to time.* They show us timing or sequence of events. Note when a king began his reign and how long he reigned.
- 3) geographical locations.* Find places you mark on the map "Israel in the Days of Elijah," located in the Appendix.
- 4) *heart*
- 5) *sin**
- 6) references to death or dying (see *die**)
- 7) *the house of the Lord**

- b. After you list the key words on your Key Word Bookmark, read the chapter, marking them along with the kings of Israel and Judah.

Develop a system for marking the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah so they are easily distinguished. Use either colors and/or symbols. The simpler the symbols the easier it will be unless you have a lot of time to devote to this. Some of you may choose to mark your Bibles instead of the Observation Worksheets.

- c. In the Appendix of this workbook you will find the chart "The Kings of Israel and Judah."
 - 1) Fill this out as you study the kings and it will help you remember who they are. Give a brief description of each king, including how long he reigned and what he was like. Color the heart to the left of each king's name, using one color for the kings whose hearts were devoted to the Lord and another color for those whose hearts were not.

God Searches For a Heart Fully His

Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

- 2) There is also a column on the chart for nations who were enemies of Israel and/or Judah. Read 1 Kings 15:18-20. In the middle column of the chart, fill in the name of the nation who was an enemy and draw an arrow toward the king or kings the nation came against. See the example of Egypt on the chart.
 - d. The heart is very important. Note below what you learn from marking “heart.”
-
2. As you observed, you saw references to **Jeroboam**, such as in verse 6: “There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.” As you proceed through Kings, you will see many references to Jeroboam, the first king of the Northern Kingdom. The ten northern tribes of Israel came under his leadership after Solomon died and his son Rehoboam became king.
 3. Your next assignment is to observe 2 Chronicles 14. Again, read the verses at least twice.
 - a. Mark the words on your Key Word Bookmark. Also mark:
 - 1) *seek, sought* (add to bookmark)
 - 2) *LORD**
 - b. Find geographical locations on the map “Israel in the Days of Elijah.”
 - c. Now before you go any further add the information from this chapter to “The Kings of Israel and Judah” in the Appendix.
 - d. When you finish observing the chapter, summarize the central event of the chapter in as few words as possible using words from the text. This is the chapter theme. Write it on the “2 Chronicles 14–20 at a Glance” chart in the Appendix.

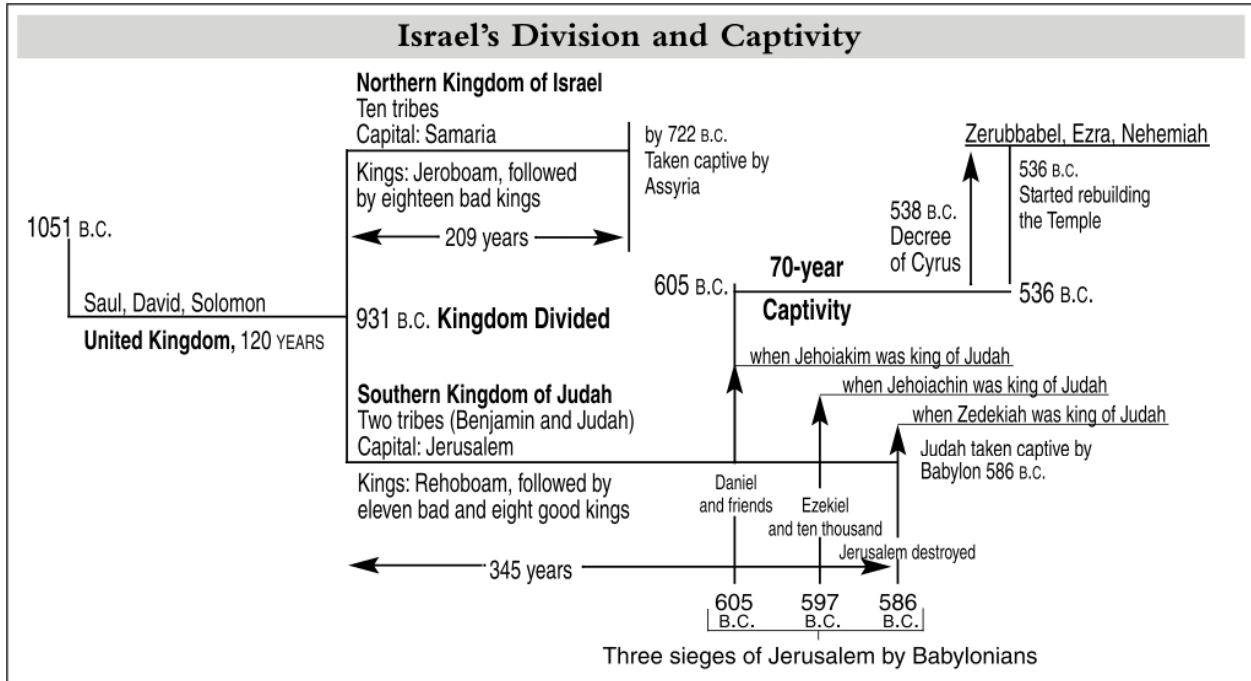
4. Now observe 2 Chronicles 15.
 - a. Mark the words on your bookmark, along with the following:
 - 1) *courage*
 - 2) *covenant, *oath* (add to your bookmark)
 - b. Record the theme for 2 Chronicles 15 on the “2 Chronicles 14–20 at a Glance” chart.
5. On “The Kings of Israel and Judah” chart, there is a column for the prophets to Israel and to Judah. Find Azariah’s name on the chart and record a summary of his message from 2 Chronicles 15:1-8.
6. We move into the final chapter on Asa, 2 Chronicles 16. Observe the text. It will help you follow what happens during his forty-one-year reign—a reign covered in four chapters in the Bible, one in Kings and three in Chronicles.
7. Now record any information from 2 Chronicles 16 on the chart, “The Kings of Israel and Judah.”

LIVING
IT OUT

1. God does nothing, says nothing, records nothing in His Book without a purpose. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4. What do you think God’s purpose is for including this account of Asa in His holy Book? Think about it and then thoughtfully write your answer. You don’t want to miss the lesson(s) God preserves for our generation.

God Searches For a Heart Fully His
Lesson 1, 1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 14–16

God Searches For a Heart Fully His
Lesson 1, Israel's Division and Captivity



1 KINGS 15

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah.

- 2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.
- 3 He walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, like the heart of his father David.
- 4 But for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, to raise up his son after him and to establish Jerusalem;
- 5 because David did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.
- 6 There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.
- 7 Now the rest of the acts of Abijam and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.
- 8 And Abijam slept with his fathers and they buried him in the city of David; and Asa his son became king in his place.
- 9 So in the twentieth year of Jeroboam the king of Israel, Asa began to reign as king of Judah.
- 10 He reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.
- 11 Asa did what was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father.
- 12 He also put away the male cult prostitutes from the land and removed all the idols which his fathers had made.

- 13 He also removed Maacah his mother from *being* queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah; and Asa cut down her horrid image and burned *it* at the brook Kidron.
- 14 But the high places were not taken away; nevertheless the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the LORD all his days.
- 15 He brought into the house of the LORD the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver and gold and utensils.
- 16 Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.
- 17 Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent *anyone* from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.
- 18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold which were left in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,
- 19 “*Let there be* a treaty between you and me, *as* between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you a present of silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me.”
- 20 So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah and all Chinneroth, besides all the land of Naphtali.
- 21 When Baasha heard *of it*, he ceased fortifying Ramah and remained in Tirzah.
- 22 Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah—none was exempt—and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had built. And King Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin and Mizpah.

- 23** Now the rest of all the acts of Asa and all his might and all that he did and the cities which he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.
- 24** And Asa slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father; and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.
- 25** Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.
- 26** He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin which he made Israel sin.
- 27** Then Baasha the son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against him, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon.
- 28** So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place.
- 29** It came about as soon as he was king, he struck down all the household of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam any persons alive, until he had destroyed them, according to the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite,
- 30** *and* because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.
- 31** Now the rest of the acts of Nadab and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
- 32** There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.
- 33** In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel at Tirzah, *and reigned* twenty-four years.
- 34** He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel sin.

2 CHRONICLES 14

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- SO Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and his son Asa became king in his place. The land was undisturbed for ten years during his days.
- 2 Asa did good and right in the sight of the LORD his God,
 - 3 for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the *sacred* pillars, cut down the Asherim,
 - 4 and commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment.
 - 5 He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah. And the kingdom was undisturbed under him.
 - 6 He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land was undisturbed, and there was no one at war with him during those years, because the LORD had given him rest.
 - 7 For he said to Judah, “Let us build these cities and surround *them* with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side.” So they built and prospered.
 - 8 Now Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows; all of them were valiant warriors.
 - 9 Now Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and he came to Mareshah.
 - 10 So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

- 11 Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, “LORD, there is no one besides You to help *in the battle* between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You.”
- 12 So the LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.
- 13 Asa and the people who *were* with him pursued them as far as Gerar; and so many Ethiopians fell that they could not recover, for they were shattered before the LORD and before His army. And they carried away very much plunder.
- 14 They destroyed all the cities around Gerar, for the dread of the LORD had fallen on them; and they despoiled all the cities, for there was much plunder in them.
- 15 They also struck down those who owned livestock, and they carried away large numbers of sheep and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

2 CHRONICLES 15

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded,

- 2 and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the LORD is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.
- 3 “For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law.
- 4 “But in their distress they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.
- 5 “In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.
- 6 “Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress.
- 7 “But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work.”
- 8 Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He then restored the altar of the LORD which was in front of the porch of the LORD.
- 9 He gathered all Judah and Benjamin and those from Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.
- 10 So they assembled at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa’s reign.

- 11 They sacrificed to the LORD that day 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep from the spoil they had brought.
- 12 They entered into the covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and soul;
- 13 and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.
- 14 Moreover, they made an oath to the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets and with horns.
- 15 All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.
- 16 He also removed Maacah, the mother of King Asa, from the *position of* queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah, and Asa cut down her horrid image, crushed *it* and burned *it* at the brook Kidron.
- 17 But the high places were not removed from Israel; nevertheless Asa's heart was blameless all his days.
- 18 He brought into the house of God the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver and gold and utensils.
- 19 And there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

2 CHRONICLES 16

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

IN the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent *anyone* from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.

2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house, and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

3 "*Let there be* a treaty between you and me, *as* between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me."

4 So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim and all the store cities of Naphtali.

5 When Baasha heard *of it*, he ceased fortifying Ramah and stopped his work.

6 Then King Asa brought all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had been building, and with them he fortified Geba and Mizpah.

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand.

8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand.

9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

- 10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time.
- 11 Now, the acts of Asa from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.
- 12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.
- 13 So Asa slept with his fathers, having died in the forty-first year of his reign.
- 14 They buried him in his own tomb which he had cut out for himself in the city of David, and they laid him in the resting place which he had filled with spices of various kinds blended by the perfumers' art; and they made a very great fire for him.

2 CHRONICLES 14–20 AT A GLANCE



Chapter Themes

14
15
16
17
18
19
20




God Searches For a Heart Fully His
Israel in the Days of Elijah



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
980					 David 1011-971 Son of: Jesse Man after God's own heart. Lord appointed as king & made covenant—D. Will not lack a man on Israel's throne. Repentant when sinned. God gave him pattern for Temple.	980
970					 Solomon 971-931 Son of:	970
960						960
950						950

THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
940						940
930	 Jeroboam 931-910 Son of:	Ahijah 931-906 Man of God from Judah Iddo 921-902	Egypt →	Shemaiah 931-901	 Rehoboam 931-913 Son of:	930
920					 Abijah or Abijah 913-911 Son of:	920

THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
910	 Nadab 910-909 Son of:				 Asa 911-870 Son of:	910
900	 Baasha 909-886 Son of:			Azariah 900-875		900
890	 Elah 886 Son of:	Jehu 891-865		Hanani 895-870		890
880	 Omri 885-874 Son of:  Tibni 885-880 Son of:					880

