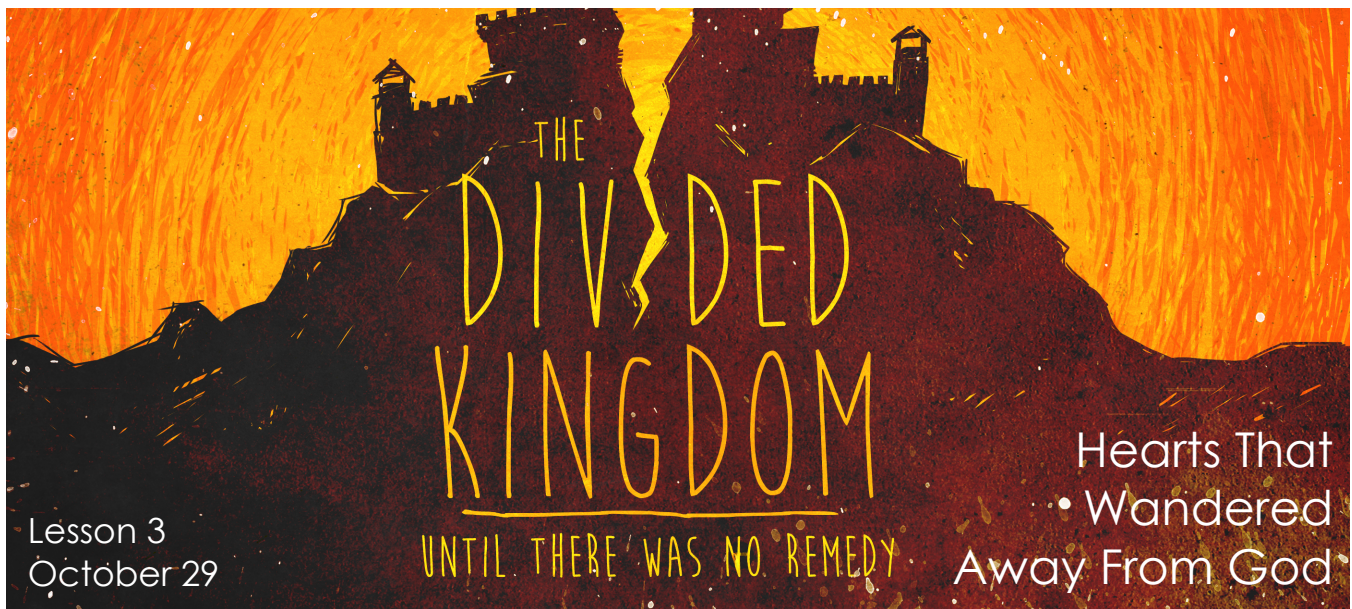


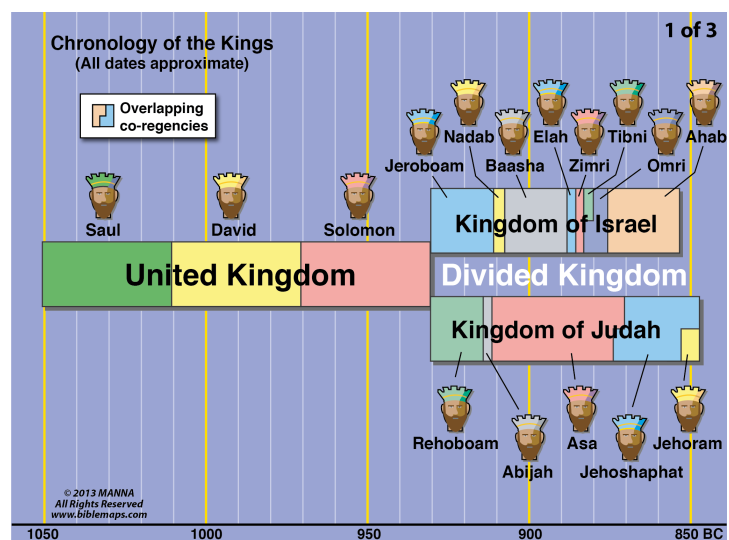


We've already gotten a sense of how things were going to go after the kingdoms of Israel and Judah split. But as we take another step into this sad section of Old Testament history, notice what life was like under the reign of Rehoboam, first king of the southern kingdom of Judah:

And Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to _____ with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the

_____ of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. (1 Kings 14:22-24)

In your own words, what is an idol? Why have people been so tempted to turn to idols throughout human history? Are people still tempted to wander towards idolatry today?



After the reigns of Rehoboam and Jeroboam, we read about:

- ✿ _____, king of Judah (15:1-8): "his heart was not wholly _____ to the LORD his God." (15:3)
- ✿ _____, king of Judah (15:9-24): "the heart of Asa was _____ true to the LORD all his days." (15:14)
- ✿ _____, king of Israel (15:25-32): "he did what was _____ in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin which he made Israel to sin." (15:26)
- ✿ _____, king of Israel (15:33-16:7): "he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of _____ and in his sin which he made Israel to sin." (15:34)
- ✿ _____, king of Israel (16:8-14): "...drinking himself _____..." (16:9)
- ✿ _____, king of Israel (16:15-20): "...he went into the citadel of the king's house and _____ the king's house over him with fire and died." (16:18)
- ✿ _____, king of Israel (16:21-28): "did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did more evil than _____ who were before him. For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in the sins that he made Israel to sin, _____ the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols." (16:25-26)

In this sad stretch, one name was the exception: "the heart of Asa _____ wholly true to the LORD all his days" (15:14). In your own words, what does it mean to have a heart that is "wholly true to the LORD"? What might that look like today?

What do you think? Why does the LORD feel such jealousy when his people give their hearts over to idols? James 4:1-5 might be helpful here...

Of all the things to hear at the end of the New Testament letter of *1 John*, why do you think the apostle of Jesus wrote what he did in 1 John 5:20-21?

What have you seen and heard in 1 Kings 14-16 that makes you appreciate Jesus our King even more?

What should we learn from this chapter in Israel's history?