



# Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

## Lesson 44.1

## Old Testament Survey: Divided Monarchy, Part 1, Judah

### Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today  
*In this lesson, our goal is to work through a time of Israel's history with a focus on the Southern Kingdom of Judah. We will take the historical writings of Kings in the Bible, and integrate it with other historical data we have in our analysis. As we do so, we are doing a second level historical analysis.*
- Prayer for Discernment and Understanding
- Video (39 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

### Points for Home

- ❖ “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes” (2 Ki. 17:13).  
When we read the tragic events that followed bad decisions and sinful leaders, do we think that God reached down and miraculously caused those bad results? The Scripture teaches yes and no to that. The results are the results from actions of the people involved. Yet the Prophetic Historian saw that God was at work, behind the scenes as it were, to see that the tree bore its proper fruit. This is a principle that is no less valid today. Paul warned his Galatian readers, “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life” (Gal. 6:7-8).<sup>17</sup> God is the one who will not be mocked, yet the flesh produces the corruption. In other words, God does not necessarily sit with a laser gun ready to fire out at anyone choosing sinful disobedience. Still that sinful disobedience results in bad things. Bad judgments bring bad results. Sin breeds sin. It is as simple as putting one's finger in a fire produces a burn. For some reason, we often try to avoid this as recipients of God's grace, but grace is God's eternal gift of forgiveness. It is not muting his principles of sin's tragic consequences. “God is not mocked...”
- ❖ “O Lord, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on you.” (2 Chron. 14:11).  
I love to read of those who are so beaten down, so desperate, that they have nowhere to turn. People who see only closed doors and no way out. People who have put their trust in God, but find the world stomping out their best hopes and needs. These cry out to God, they fast and seek him, they know deliverance can come from no other place. Then, God comes in victory. Where are your areas of challenge? Where do you need divine intervention? Where are you desperate for the help of the Almighty? Cry out to him. Seek him. Put your best praise before your battle scheme and army and watch the God who inhabits praise come to your rescue. If he does not come immediately, then keep your faith and keep seeking him and his will. He will not let you down! Even the martyrs had a vision of God as they left the earth in joy! (Acts 7:55).
- ❖ 3. “Abijam... Asa...” (2 Chron. 13-14). Abijam and Asa, father and son—two men with diametrically opposite reactions to the mercies and grace of God. Both needed God and received his aid in battle. Abijam took the success and let it go to his head. He added a dozen wives and worked to grow personally strong, allowing idolatry and offensive worship. Asa took the success and it renewed his faith and vigor. He cleaned house, destroying all offensive to the Heavenly Father, even removing his mother from her position of power and authority. As God's blessings come, how do we react? Do we revel in them and soak them up? Or do we see his blessings as our opportunity to bless others? Abijam or Asa? These were real people living real history.

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