

## EXPLORING GOD'S WORD TEACHER'S GUIDE: LESSON 5B

[Assigned Reading: 1 Kings 3-11, Daniel 1, Ezra 1]  
[Themes to Teach: God's Discipline & Restoration]

### I. THE THIRD KING OF ISRAEL: SOLOMON

1. He prayed for wisdom: (Read 1 Kings 3:9-12)
2. He built the temple: (Read 1 Kings 9:1-7)
3. He wrote the books of Proverbs, Song of Solomon & Ecclesiastes
4. However, Solomon compromised with idolatry: (Read 1 Kings 11:1-4)
5. Because of this, God judged Solomon: (Read 1 Kings 11:9-13)

### II. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL BECAME A DIVIDED KINGDOM: (Read 1 Kings 12:20-24)

1. These two kingdoms were called the Kingdom of Israel & the Kingdom of Judah.
2. The Kingdom of Israel was led by Solomon's general, Jeroboam.
3. The Kingdom of Judah was led by Solomon's son, Rehoboam.
4. The Kingdom of Israel would never again truly follow God. Their kings committed idolatry, and they were eventually destroyed by the Assyrian Empire.
5. The Kingdom of Judah had both good kings and bad kings. Because of the promises made to David, this kingdom would live on.

<b>Kingdom:</b>	<b>Northern (Israel)</b>	<b>Southern (Judah)</b>
Number of Tribes:	Ten	Two
Capital City:	Samaria	Jerusalem
Ruling Family:	House of Jeroboam	House of David
Destruction:	722 BC by the Assyrians	586 BC by the Babylonians
Inhabitants were called:	Samaritans	Jews
Major Prophets:	Elijah & Elisha	Isaiah & Jeremiah
Religion:	Worshiped in High Places	Worshiped at the Temple

### III. THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE BY BABYLON: (Read 2 Kings 25:1-11)

Because of Judah's backsliding, God used the Babylonian army to discipline them. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed. The temple was burned. The instruments of worship were carried away, along with many of the people.

#### **Daniel 1:1-2 (KJV 1900)**

**1** IN the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

**2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

1. The Prophet Jeremiah prophesied that Judah would be in captivity for seventy years.

**Jeremiah 25:11–12 (KJV 1900)**

**11** And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

**12** And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

2. During their captivity, God raised up prophets like Ezekiel & Daniel.
3. These prophets encouraged Judah and spoke prophetically of the restoration of Jerusalem.

**IV. THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM:**

1. At the end of seventy years, Babylon was defeated by Persia.
2. In 538 BC, Cyrus, king of Persia, allowed exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Work was completed in 515 BC. (Read Ezra 1:1-7)
3. God used Zerubbabel to lead the effort to rebuild the temple.
4. God used the scribe, Ezra, to instruct the people in the Law of Moses.

**Ezra 7:10 (KJV 1900)**

**10** For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

5. God raised up prophets like Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi to encourage and guide the people as they returned from captivity and rebuilt the temple.

**Malachi 3:1 (KJV 1900)**

**1** Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: And the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, Even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

This is the Second Temple – this temple would be remodeled and expanded by King Herod shortly before the time of Jesus. It is the temple to which the Messiah would come.

6. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in 444 BC. (Read Nehemiah 2:2-6)

The Old Testament ends about 400 years before the birth of Jesus.