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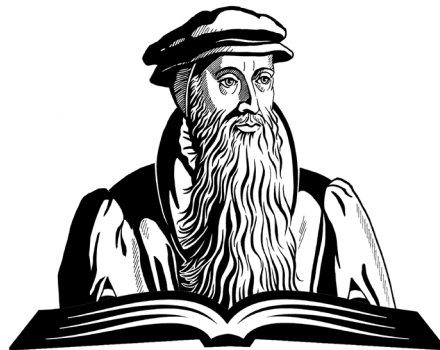
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 71:

A Wicked Divided Kingdom

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

77 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
- 71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom**
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah

Lesson 71

A Wicked Divided Kingdom

The First Book of the Kings, chapters 15 thru 18
and the Second Book of Chronicles, chapters 13 thru 16

Memory Verse

"Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again."

1 Kings 18:37

Historical Summary

The kingdom has now been divided into two kingdoms, Judah and Israel. One kingdom called "Judah" and was made up of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, who stayed with King Rehoboam. The other ten tribes were called "Israel," and they all followed Jeroboam. Sadly, there was war between these two kingdoms during all the days of these leaders. This was a result of the sin of these leaders and their people. Even Rehoboam allowed idols to be worshipped in Judah, and this sin was repeated by his son Abijah.



Happily, Abijah's son Asa called the people of Judah back to serving and obeying God again. During Asa's reign, a very large army from Ethiopia invaded the land and threatened to overthrow the kingdom of Judah. This caused Asa to cry unto God for help. The Lord heard him and struck the Ethiopian army with fear, and they were completely driven out of Canaan. Asa took many spoils of war from them.

Meanwhile, Jeroboam's successors all followed his wicked example in leading Israel in the sin of idolatry. Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri and Omri, one after another, were all wicked kings of Israel. The Lord sent the prophet Jehu to prophesy against the kings of Israel, to warn them of their wickedness. But they would not obey, and tragedy followed. Baasha conspired against Nadab and killed him. Later, Elah was killed by Zimri. Zimri reigned only seven days before he was killed by Omri. Omri was more wicked than all the kings before him. When Omri died, his son Ahab ascended to the throne of Israel.

The days of Ahab were very sad days for Israel. Not only was Ahab wicked himself, he also married a wicked woman named Jezebel, who was the daughter of a pagan king. Through her, Baal worship was introduced in Israel. Ahab even had an altar and a house built for Baal in the

land of Samaria. It was also during Ahab's reign that Jericho was rebuilt—a city that God had warned should not be rebuilt.

God's judgement came upon Israel because of their sin. He sent the prophet Elijah to tell Ahab that a famine would come upon the land which would be very severe. This made Ahab very angry, and he wanted to kill Elijah. But Elijah fled, and he went to live near a brook where the Lord sent ravens to feed him with meat every morning. And when the brook dried up, a widow woman of Zarephath cared for him from a barrel of meal and a jar of oil that could not be used up. During his stay there, the widow woman's son died. But God used Elijah to raise him up again, and he lived.

After many days of famine, God told Elijah to return to Ahab with a message that He would send rain again in the land. But before it rained, Elijah made it clear who is the real and true God. He called all Israel to Mount Carmel, and called the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves to come there to make an offering to Baal. Elijah challenged them that he would build an altar there also before the LORD God, and they would both offer sacrifices and call on their god. The god that answered by sending down fire on the offering would be the real God. Baal's prophets tried and tried all day, but could not bring down fire. Elijah even poured large amounts of water on his offering to make it harder, and God sent fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice, the altar, and dried up all the water around it. It was very clear to everyone who the real God was! All the people fell on their faces and cried out, "The LORD, he is the God!" Elijah then killed all the prophets of Baal. Soon after, God sent rain again upon Israel.

The Gospel in the Old Testament

The kings of Israel and Judah had a very important task. It was their responsibility to rule the people in the fear of God. They were supposed to guide the people according to God's law and to be an example to the nations around them. Sadly, many of the kings failed miserably in their duties. Many lived openly in sin and they led the people in sin also. But the godly people in Israel and Judah longed for a king who would lead in the way of righteousness. It was not until Jesus Christ came that this longing was fulfilled. But sometimes they could see a type of him in Judah's good kings. Today too the godly people desire a King of Righteousness to reign in their wicked hearts. That King is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. May his kingdom come in many places and in many hearts today.

Questions

1. After the division of Israel into two parts,
 - a. Rehoboam ruled Israel in the fear of God.
 - b. Israel was led by God-fearing kings.
 - c. Jeroboam set up a golden calf in Jerusalem.
 - d. There was war and trouble in both lands.

2. Which of the following was Rehoboam's grandson who tried to turn Judah back to the God of their fathers?
- a. Asa
 - b. Abijah
 - c. Nadab
 - d. Baasha
3. What warning did Jehu the prophet bring to the kings of Israel?
- a. That the Lord would cut off their posterity.
 - b. That a foreign king would take them captive.
 - c. That they should build altars in different cities where people could come to worship.
 - d. That Jericho should be rebuilt as soon as possible.
4. Where did Elijah go to live during the time of the great famine in Israel?
- a. By the brook Cherith.
 - b. With a widow woman and her son in Zarephath.
 - c. Back to his own home in Gilead.
 - d. Both a and b.
5. What was the purpose of Elijah's contest that was set up on Mount Carmel?
- a. To show that Baal was not the true god.
 - b. To show that the armies of Israel were very strong.
 - c. To prove that God had preserve the life of Elijah during the famine.
 - d. To see if they could find some food for the hungry people there.

Essay Questions

1. How can you tell that the Lord's hand of judgement was upon Israel and upon Judah during the reign of many of their kings?

2. How was Baal worship introduced into Israel?

3. Show from the life of Elijah that the Lord never forsakes his own children even in times of great national adversity.

4. In what ways did the Lord make it very clear to all Israel that the words of Elijah were true, and that He alone was the true God, and that Baal was merely an idol?

5. What did the godly in Israel long to see in their nation and in their kings? When was that desire sometimes fulfilled? When was it completely fulfilled?
