

**Investigating**

**God's Word...**

**YEAR FIVE**

**1 Kings 12-22,  
1 Chronicles 10-20**

**Sunday School Curriculum**

*Winter Quarter*

# Lesson Sequence

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## *Winter Quarter*

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	I Kings 12, II Chronicles 10
Week Two	I Kings 13
Week Three	I Kings 14:1-20, II Chronicles 11
Week Four	I Kings 14:21-31, II Chronicles 12
Week Five	I Kings 15:1-8, II Chronicles 13:1-14:1
Week Six	I Kings 15:9-24, II Chronicles 14:2-16:14
Week Seven	I Kings 15:25-16:28
Week Eight	I Kings 16:29-17:24
Week Nine	I Kings 18
Week Ten	I Kings 19
Week Eleven	I Kings 20, II Chronicles 17
Week Twelve	I Kings 21
Week Thirteen	I Kings 22, II Chronicles 18-20

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Spring Quarter: II Kings 1-12, II Chronicles 21-24,  
Joel, Jonah



## Suggested Schedule

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<i>Proverbs 16:22</i>	
<b>Drill Time</b>	<b>5 min.</b>
<i>Sodom and Gomorrah</i>	
<b>W.O.W!</b>	<b>5 min.</b>
<i>Provoke</i>	
<b>Historical Context</b>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<i>Timeline</i>	
<b>Bible Investigation</b>	<b>20-30 min.</b>
<i>I Kings 15:25-16:28</i>	
<b>Lesson-At-Home</b>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<i>Psalms 103:8-9</i>	

# Lesson Seven

## *I Kings 15:25-16:28*

### Overview

What a cast of characters! In the span of just one Godly king of Judah (Asa), we are introduced to five evil kings of Israel. First up is Nadab, son of Jeroboam. He follows in his father's footsteps, provoking God to anger by leading Israel further into idolatry. He and his family are killed by Baasha, who is the next to ascend the throne of Israel. Baasha also provokes the LORD to anger by his evil ways and idolatry, ruling for a miserable twenty-four years.

Next in line is King Elah, son of Baasha. He also followed his father rather than God, bringing God's wrath upon himself and his family. Elah ruled two short years, and was then killed by Zimri, one of his officials. Zimri only ruled Israel a week before supporters of Elah rose up and killed him for killing Elah. What a royal mess!

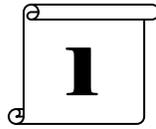
Finally, we read of the political divide in Israel, with one half favoring Omri and the other half, a man named Tibni. Tibni is killed, and Omri ascends the throne. To date, Omri becomes the most wicked king that Israel has ever had. Israel is clearly on a rapid downward spiral into oblivion. They do not appear to be much different than the surrounding pagan nations.

### Preparation

Read and meditate on I Kings 15-16 this week.

### Teaching Encouragement

The repeated theme of today's reading is the righteous anger of God. As the kings of Israel go from bad to worse, the one unchanging fact is that God hates sin! The psalmist tells us repeatedly that God is slow to anger and abounding in mercy. This tells us that the wickedness in Israel had compounded to such a degree that the "slow" anger of God had been aroused! Help the students comprehend that God is right to be angry at sin. Idolatry is worthless and sin is destructive, so it angers God to see His people enslaved to sin. Teach them that God is righteously angry with their sins too, which means that we all have a serious problem. This problem is only remedied in Christ, the one who has removed the anger of God from our lives through His perfect sacrifice!



## Welcome

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Proverbs 16:22.**

<sup>22</sup> Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools.

**Say:** *Have you ever had a drink from a water fountain? It seems like you can drink from one of those forever, as the water just keeps on coming. This proverb says that knowledge and understanding is a fountain of life. As we learn more and more about God, we get more and more life in our souls. Let's drink up today!*



## Drill Time

*Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?*

**Today's questions:** *What were the name of the two cities God destroyed in Genesis 19 (Hint: Abraham's nephew Lot lived there.)? Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Which member of Lot's family was not rescued from God's destruction? Why not?*

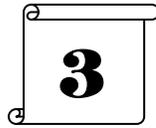
**Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

**Answers:**

1. Sodom and Gomorrah.
2. Because these cities were so very wicked. Not even ten righteous people lived in these cities.
3. Lot's wife.
4. Because she turned around and looked longingly at these cities of wickedness. She disobeyed God.

**Say:** *If you recall, Abraham prayed for God to spare the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God said He would not destroy the cities if He found ten righteous people there. Did he find ten righteous people? No! These were amazingly wicked places. These cities certainly deserved God's righteous anger!*

The answers to today's Drill Time questions come from **Genesis 19**.



## W.O.W!

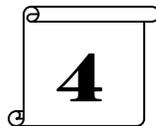
Our *W.O.W!* (*Word of the Week*) this week is **PROVOKE**. Write it on the board. Who can tell me what it means to PROVOKE someone? Allow answers.

To PROVOKE someone is to arouse them to a particular feeling. We most often talk about PROVOKING someone to anger—in other words, drawing out anger in a person.

Have you ever been PROVOKED to anger? Maybe someone was mean to you or hurt you, and you responded with anger. Many of us get easily provoked to anger, and our angry response is often sinful.

In our reading today, we will read how God also gets PROVOKED to anger. God's anger is often much different than ours—His anger is ALWAYS righteous. People PROVOKE God's anger by continual sin against His commands. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah certainly PROVOKED God to anger, didn't they?

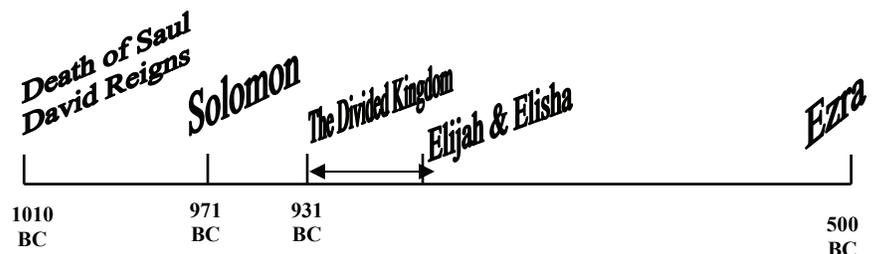
Watch for our Word of the Week and see who PROVOKES God to anger.

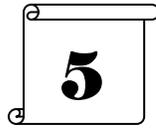


## Historical Context

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board. Always remember that the students need to understand God's Word in its historical context.

*When events in I Kings 12-22; I Chronicles 10-20 took place*





## Bible Investigation

**Have the students open their Bibles to I Kings 15.**

**Introduction:** *What was the name of the king of Judah we studied about last time? [Asa.] Was Asa a king who followed God or did he run after idols? [He followed after God.] Today, we will read about more kings—actually five kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.*

*Let's begin our investigation. Read I Kings 15:25-26.*

<sup>25</sup> Nadab son of Jeroboam became king of Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. <sup>26</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, walking in the ways of his father and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

**Discussion:** *So, while the Godly king Asa was ruling over Judah, Nadab son of Jeroboam ascended the throne of Israel. What kind of king was he? [Just like his father Jeroboam. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.] Jeroboam led the people into idol worship, so Nadab must have continued this idol worship in Israel. How long did Nadab reign? [Two years.]*

**Application:** *You will grow up to be a lot like your parents. But what if your parents do not believe in Jesus or follow God's ways? While it will be tempting to follow this example, God calls you to put your faith in Jesus and not worship idols!*

*Let's see what happened to Nadab. Read verses 27-31.*

<sup>27</sup> Baasha son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar plotted against him, and he struck him down at Gibbethon, a Philistine town, while Nadab and all Israel were besieging it. <sup>28</sup> Baasha killed Nadab in the third year of Asa king of Judah and succeeded him as king. <sup>29</sup> As soon as he began to reign, he killed Jeroboam's whole family. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed, but destroyed them all, according to the word of the LORD given through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite— <sup>30</sup> because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger. <sup>31</sup> As for the other events of Nadab's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

**Discussion:** *Did you catch our Word of the Week? What PROVOKED God to anger? [The sins that Jeroboam and Nadab*

committed, as well as the sins they caused Israel to commit.] *When God was PROVOKED to anger, what happened?* [Jeroboam's whole family, including Nadab, were killed.] *Just as the LORD promised, Jeroboam would never have another son on the throne of Israel again. Jeroboam's family was destroyed because of his sin of idol worship.*

*Let's continue. Read verses 32-34.*

<sup>32</sup> There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their reigns. <sup>33</sup> In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha son of Ahijah became king of all Israel in Tirzah, and he reigned twenty-four years. <sup>34</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, walking in the ways of Jeroboam and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

**Discussion:** *Who was the next king of Israel after Nadab? [Baasha.] We just read that he killed Nadab's entire family. So what sort of king was he? [An evil king, just like Jeroboam.] Yes, Baasha also gets compared to Jeroboam, leading Israel into more idol worship. What a horrible state of affairs in Israel! Do you think they were starting to look more and more like Sodom and Gomorrah?*

*Let's continue into I Kings 16. Read I Kings 16:1-2.*

<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu son of Hanani against Baasha: <sup>2</sup> "I lifted you up from the dust and made you leader of my people Israel, but you walked in the ways of Jeroboam and caused my people Israel to sin and to provoke me to anger by their sins.

**Discussion:** *There's our Word of the Week again! Under Baasha's leadership, Israel also PROVOKED God to righteous anger. How? [By following Baasha instead of the LORD.]*

**Application:** *God told Baasha that He was the one who put him on the throne. The Bible tells us that the LORD puts all rulers and authorities in their positions. It only makes sense that they would honor God in their leadership. Yet many leaders are like Baasha—the disregard God as they rule.*

*Let's continue. Read verses 3-7.*

<sup>3</sup> So I am about to consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat. <sup>4</sup> Dogs will eat those belonging to Baasha who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country." <sup>5</sup> As for the other events of Baasha's reign, what he did and his achievements, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? <sup>6</sup> Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah. And Elah

his son succeeded him as king. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Jehu son of Hanani to Baasha and his house, because of all the evil he had done in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger by the things he did, and becoming like the house of Jeroboam—and also because he destroyed it.

**Discussion:** *Those are some horrible things that will happen to Baasha and his family. Does it pay to PROVOKE God to anger? Baasha will pay with his own life and the lives of all those who belong to him. How tragic it is to follow false gods!*

*Let's read on. Read verses 8-10.*

<sup>8</sup> In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah son of Baasha became king of Israel, and he reigned in Tirzah two years. <sup>9</sup> Zimri, one of his officials, who had command of half his chariots, plotted against him. Elah was in Tirzah at the time, getting drunk in the home of Arza, the man in charge of the palace at Tirzah. <sup>10</sup> Zimri came in, struck him down and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah. Then he succeeded him as king.

**Discussion:** *Who was the next king of Israel? [Elah.] How long did King Elah reign? [Two years.] How did Elah die? [Zimri, one of his officials, killed him.] Why did Zimri kill him? [So he could be king.] Israel is in a mess, isn't it?*

*Let's finish reading about Elah. Read verses 11-14.*

<sup>11</sup> As soon as he began to reign and was seated on the throne, he killed off Baasha's whole family. He did not spare a single male, whether relative or friend. <sup>12</sup> So Zimri destroyed the whole family of Baasha, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken against Baasha through the prophet Jehu— <sup>13</sup> because of all the sins Baasha and his son Elah had committed and had caused Israel to commit, so that they provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their worthless idols. <sup>14</sup> As for the other events of Elah's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

**Discussion:** *Now we learn why Zimri killed Elah. Elah, son of Baasha, committed such great evil that he also PROVOKED God to righteous anger. What PROVOKED the anger of God? [The worship of worthless idols.]*

**Application:** *Boys and girls, the idols that we choose to worship really are worthless. People idolize money, power, other people, and fame. None of these things will bring true joy or contentment. None of these things will bring salvation. Only Jesus is worthy of our worship. Our idols are worth nothing!*

*Let's read on. Read verses 15-20.*

<sup>15</sup> In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned in Tirzah seven days. The army was encamped near Gibbethon, a Philistine town. <sup>16</sup> When the Israelites in the camp heard that Zimri had plotted against the king and murdered him, they proclaimed Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that very day there in the camp. <sup>17</sup> Then Omri and all the Israelites with him withdrew from Gibbethon and laid siege to Tirzah. <sup>18</sup> When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the royal palace and set the palace on fire around him. So he died, <sup>19</sup> because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD and walking in the ways of Jeroboam and in the sin he had committed and had caused Israel to commit. <sup>20</sup> As for the other events of Zimri's reign, and the rebellion he carried out, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

**Discussion:** *Why did Zimri die? [Because of all the evil he had committed.] The Israelites killed Zimri because of the great rebellion he had caused. Israel was quickly becoming just like all the other pagan nations surrounding them—establishing kings based on murder and warfare instead of seeking the LORD.*

*Let's read about one more king. Read verses 21-23.*

<sup>21</sup> Then the people of Israel were split into two factions; half supported Tibni son of Ginath for king, and the other half supported Omri. <sup>22</sup> But Omri's followers proved stronger than those of Tibni son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri became king. <sup>23</sup> In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned twelve years, six of them in Tirzah.

**Discussion:** *More division in Israel. Half of the people wanted one king, so they ended up killing Tibni who was supported by the other half. What sort of king do you think Omri will be?*

*Let's find out. Read verses 24-25.*

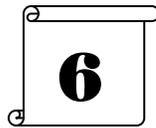
<sup>24</sup> He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver and built a city on the hill, calling it Samaria, after Shemer, the name of the former owner of the hill. <sup>25</sup> But Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD and sinned more than all those before him.

**Discussion:** *What did God think of Omri? [He was worse than all the other kings before him.] Wow! Each Israelite king just keeps getting worse. So while the people of Judah (Southern Kingdom) enjoyed a long reign by good King Asa, Israel kept going from bad to worse. What will God do with His people as they continue to PROVOKE Him to anger?*

*Let's finish up for today. Read verses 26-28.*

<sup>26</sup> He walked in all the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit, so that they provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their worthless idols. <sup>27</sup> As for the other events of Omri's reign, what he did and the things he achieved, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? <sup>28</sup> Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. And Ahab his son succeeded him as king.

**Conclusion:** *We end with yet another king leading Israel to PROVOKE God to anger. The truth is that we are just like the Israelites: we regularly PROVOKE God to anger by our sin and idolatry. As a holy and righteous God, He always is angry at sin! Thankfully, there is a way to avoid PROVOKING God to anger—through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus took the anger of God for His people's sins when He died on the cross. You and I can enjoy the love of God when we come to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!*



## Lesson-At-Home

**Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 103:8-9) together.**

**Psalm 103:8-9 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

**Say:** *What beautiful words about our God! He is truly slow to anger because of His marvelous grace and compassion. He does not harbor anger towards His people because Jesus Christ died for our sins!*

**Repeat the verses a few times.**

**Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**