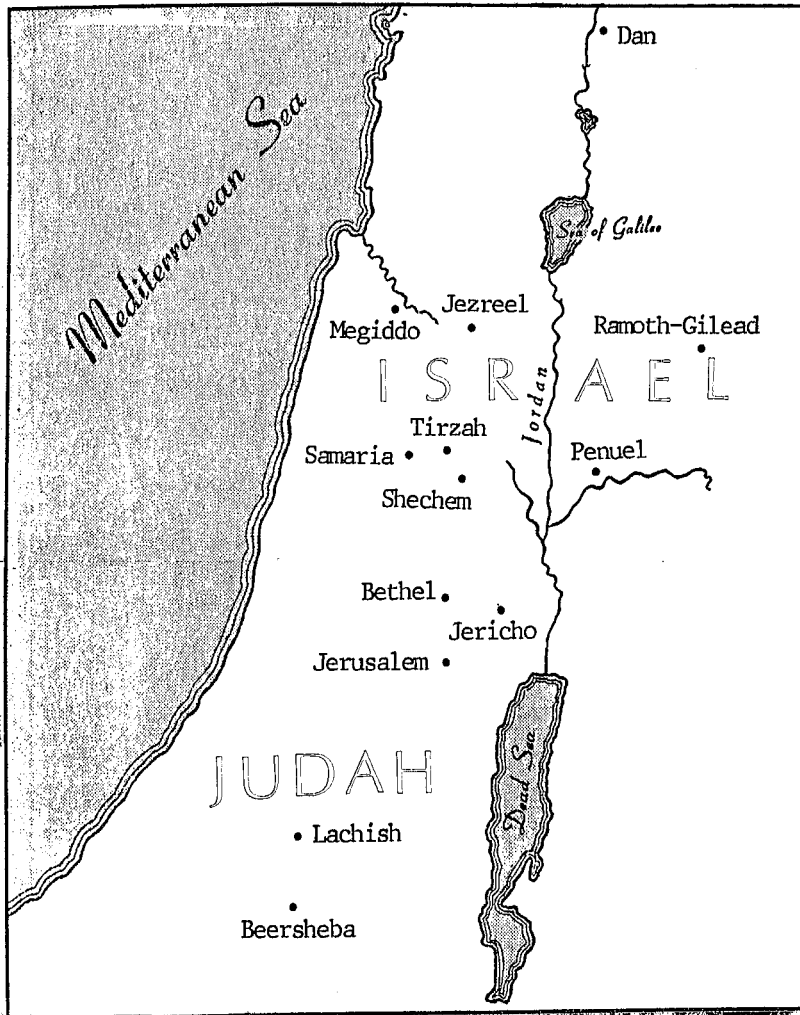


SIMPLE, STIMULATING STUDIES  
IN  
Divided Kingdom History



By  
Donald G. Hunt

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IN

# Divided Kingdom History

By  
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--SEE PAGES 94-104 FOR ASSIGNMENTS--

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## INTRODUCTION

The hearty reception and the wide use of the author's previous study books and booklets, beginning with his "Simple, Stimulating Studies in Christian Stewardship" written when he was 19 and followed by a lengthy list of other productions, have encouraged him to continue to his present age. At the time of this first printing he is 72, so his writing of study works has spanned a full half-century and then some!

This book is planned for a double use: for an individual's personal use and for class use. Where a class uses it, its usefulness is enhanced. But its use is also invaluable to the preacher, the teacher, or the individual Christian who wants to increase his/her knowledge of God's wonderful Word.

You will notice that each event has its special assignments, which are followed by the author's interesting and helpful comments, which in turn lead to the questions to test what has been learned about the event.

In approaching these studies let us realize they are found in the Old Testament, the sacred writings of Israel but which are also sacred to us who live today. Since there are several summaries of such history found both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, we can see that the Jews loved their background history. Kings were very careful to keep records of the happenings of their reigns, and these are referred to in such passages as I Kings 14:19 ("The rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel"), I Kings 14:29 ("Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?"), etc. Since both Israel and Judah had their national lives disrupted by the Assyrian destruction of Israel and by the Babylonian captivity of Judah, foreign invasions that not only destroyed their capital cities but removed the citizenry to their conquerors' lands, these national "chronicles" of both Israel and Judah have long ago perished. This fact made God's briefer record of their history greatly appreciated by the Jews of later times. No doubt God's account found in the Bible was shorter than the kings' accounts. An extreme example would be King Jeroboam II's forty-one year reign being covered in only seven verses (II Kings 14:23-29). God's account of the various kings' reigns told of their ancestries, ages when they began to rule, the lengths of their reigns, whether they were good or bad before

God, and some of the more significant events of their respective reigns.

For us who live today and who are not Jewish, there are several things that interest us about this history. First of all, it is an appreciated continuance coverage of God's Old Testament people without which we would have a great information-void following the death of King Solomon. This material of many chapters and many events contains many valuable lessons for us and yields many true-to-life illustrations for teaching these lessons. These lessons should not be overlooked nor forgotten. They, like other Old Testament narratives, have been written for our admonition (I Cor. 10:11).

Though Divided Kingdom History is history, this book takes you back as though you were reliving this history by presenting it in the present tense, making it flow, making it more interesting, and at times making it hard to lay the book down.

There are three ways this extended history could be presented: (1) The Bible arrangement is to announce a new king, tell what year of the king's reign in the other kingdom he began, and then follow his reign until he dies. Then if the other king is still reigning, the Biblical account takes up the reign of the new king and covers it until its end. And as long as the king in the other kingdom is reigning, the account will bring on new kings and follow their reigns to their ends. Then when finally the other king is dead, then the account will switch over and begin following the dead king's successor(s) in the other kingdom. If you want to make a particular study of this arrangement, carefully study the entire chapter of I Kings 15. (2) Another arrangement for studying the history is to study Judah's history king by king as a separate study and then do the same for Israel's history. (3) But the arrangement followed in this book is the chronological arrangement; that is, to list all the events in both kingdoms' histories and study them in the order of their occurrence. This demands more intensive study, but it is a satisfying arrangement—especially to us who use the English language.

May you who purchase and make use of this book be blessed with the divine knowledge that has blessed your author in its study, compilation, and writing.

KINGS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ERA			
	Father	Reign	Prophecy Reference
Saul	Kish	40 years	Deut. 17:14-20
David	Jesse	40 years	
Solomon	David	40 years	