



The kingdom divides into Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Most kings are bad and the good kings eventually die. They need God to raise up the promised king and establish his eternal kingdom.

Video Summary

Immediately after King Solomon, civil war tears Israel in two. The kingdom divides into ten northern tribes and two southern tribes. The north continues to be called 'Israel'. The south is called 'Judah', taking its name from one of its tribes — the tribe King David's family belongs to.

There is a king problem. All kings of Israel and most kings of Judah are bad — they don't reflect and represent God's rule well. A few kings are good but good kings still die.

The people need God to keep his promise that through David's family he will raise up a good king and establish his kingdom permanently.

Discussion Questions

- 1** How do the successes and failures of leaders impact those they are responsible for? Can you think of examples today where leadership has divided people instead of uniting them?
- 2** How do you think the people felt watching king after king fail to be the kind of king God is? How might it impact their view of God? How might it impact their belief in his promise?
- 3** Have you experienced the fallout of failed leadership? How has your experience of leaders influenced your view of God?
- 4** God commits to keeping his promise even after the kingdom splits apart. What does this show us about God's character and how he responds to human failure?

Bible Passages for Further Study

1 Kings 11:1-13 — Solomon's heart turns from God

1 Kings 11:26-40 — God says his promises will stand even though the kingdom will split ★

1 Kings 12:16-24 — The kingdom splits