



Grades 4–5 • Lesson 89

Israel Is Divided

Deuteronomy 17:15–17; 1 Kings 11:1–4, 11:11–13, 12:13–15, 12:20–21, 12:24

God divided the nation of Israel as judgment for Solomon's sin. Use the words below to complete the statements then find and circle them in the word search.

Name _____

- Solomon disobeyed God's commands when he collected much silver and _____ for himself.
- Solomon's many _____ turned his heart away from the Lord.
- Solomon worshipped the false _____ of his wives.
- God said he would give the _____ to Solomon's servant.
- Solomon's son _____ spoke harshly to the people.
- The people rebelled and made Solomon's servant _____ their king.
- The southern kingdom under Rehoboam was called _____.
- The northern kingdom under Jeroboam was called _____.
- God was in _____ of the nation being divided.
- God will punish _____ to his commands.

G	Q	B	S	E	R	A	M	U	P	D	K	R	E	J
L	S	Z	F	E	W	E	I	I	G	D	L	C	A	Z
E	N	J	A	T	V	Z	B	R	H	U	N	T	B	Q
Q	M	C	G	W	J	I	V	X	A	E	N	X	K	L
K	I	Y	F	U	Y	G	W	I	I	S	R	A	E	L
X	F	L	D	V	O	R	V	D	X	L	D	E	H	E
J	W	A	S	L	F	T	E	G	T	M	A	F	P	B
Y	H	V	D	M	G	B	R	H	K	G	O	D	S	H
T	T	X	A	X	O	L	T	C	O	N	T	R	O	L
N	T	L	B	S	Q	D	E	P	O	B	T	E	F	U
N	V	D	I	J	Q	C	G	R	X	D	O	S	G	S
E	C	D	H	O	E	V	G	N	C	U	N	A	E	F
V	P	M	D	J	S	X	I	J	I	A	I	J	M	Y
G	Y	K	O	A	N	P	L	F	B	K	S	T	V	L
W	Z	J	E	R	O	B	O	A	M	A	V	V	T	X

CONTROL, DISOBEDIENCE, GODS,
GOLD, ISRAEL, JEROBOAM, JUDAH,
KINGDOM, REHOBAM, WIVES

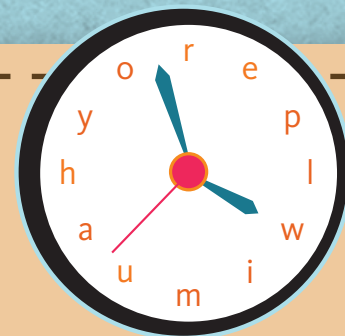
ANSWERS: 1) Gold, 2) Wives, 3) Gods, 4) Kingdom, 5) Rehoboam, 6) Jeroboam, 7) Judah, 8) Israel, 9) Control, 10) Disobedience



Write the letters of the numbers they have replaced on the clock to complete the verse.

If an 10 of you 3 acks w 5 sdom, let him 8 sk God, who gives
gener 11 usl 10 to all with 11 ut re 2 roach, and it 4 ill be given hi 6.

James 1:5



What You Heard *In the Word*

- God became angry with Solomon when Solomon collected wealth for selfish gain and married many wives who led him to the worship of false gods.
- God judged Solomon's sin by dividing the kingdom. The northern kingdom of Israel was ruled by Solomon's servant Jeroboam, and the smaller southern kingdom of Judah was ruled by Rehoboam, Solomon's son.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose your friend makes the statement, "I love the Lord and would never worship an idol. I can't understand how Solomon could have turned to worship the idols of his wives." **What could you say?**

I know you love the Lord, and so do I. But Solomon did, too. Remember, God called him the wisest man ever. There are many people who have been sure of their love for the Lord one day and have found themselves slipping away from God the next. The influence of the people and things around us can be strong—just as it was for Solomon. Everyday things like sports, TV, hobbies, or friends can turn into idols—things we love more than God. It's easy to start taking God for granted. If we don't put God above everything else, we may find ourselves sinning like Solomon, too.



HomeWord *For Parents*

Although Solomon's kingdom started off well, he eventually fell into sin. He disobeyed God and did all the things God had warned kings not to do. This included marrying many women from foreign nations (1 Kings 11:1–3). Solomon's sinful heart led him to violate God's clear commands, and the result was just as God had said—Solomon turned to worshipping the gods of his wives (1 Kings 11:4).

Solomon's disobedience angered the Lord. God announced that the kingdom would be torn away from King Solomon and his family, except for one tribe (1 Kings 11:9–13). God waited until Solomon died to execute this punishment. And when Rehoboam, Solomon's son, became king, God's punishment was achieved. Rehoboam was a wicked king, and he refused to listen to the people's request to lighten the heavy burden Solomon had laid on them. The people rebelled and set up Jeroboam, Solomon's servant, as their king just as God had said would happen (1 Kings 11:11).

From this point forward, the Israelites would be divided and ruled by different kings. Only the tribe of Judah remained under the authority of the line of David, with Jerusalem as Rehoboam's capital (1 Kings 12:20–21). The southern kingdom—consisting of one tribe—is referred to as Judah throughout the rest of the Old Testament. The northern kingdom—consisting of the remaining 10 tribes—became known as Israel. Through this division of a nation, we see that God is in control and that he was working all of these events together in a way that would ultimately lead to the coming of the perfect king, Jesus, who would come from the line of David.

