

## A Kingdom Torn In Two

*The Story Ch.14 p.p. 193-202*

### VIDEO:

Go to <http://vimeo.com/album/1514042>

When prompted for a password enter: **TheStory** (case sensitive)

Find and watch the video titled "The Story For Groups Chapter 14"

### Summary:

The once strong and powerful Nation of Israel begins to fight against itself and each successive king leads his people farther and farther away from God.

### Think about:

Following the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon, the Nation of Israel divides into two kingdoms. The ten northern tribes retain the name Israel and set up their capital in Samaria. The two remaining tribes in the south (Judah and Benjamin) are referred to as Judah and set up their capital in Jerusalem. It was through the southern kingdom that God kept His promise to David that one from his family would always be on the throne. Israel was on a downturn, having nine dynasties and nineteen kings, all of them evil. Judah had one dynasty, David's, which was interrupted only for five years by Queen Athaliah who usurped the throne. Although better than Israel, Judah had twenty kings, and only seven were good.

- To consider the impact that leaders have over their people, compare King Asa of Judah (1 Kings 15:9-24) with King Ahab of Israel (1 Kings 16:29-33).
- What direction did they set for their country?
- What kind of examples did they provide for their people?
- Who do you have the responsibility of leading?
- What kind of example are you setting for them?
- Who are you following as your example? (See 1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Note the one-sentence description for each king (Asa – 1 Kings 15:11; Ahab – 1 Kings 16:30).
- What one-sentence summary could be made for your life?

### Take away:

Leadership makes a difference! Who is your leader? Take a moment and think about the following verses from the Hymn "Christ Be My Leader" (LSB 861):

*Christ be my Leader by night as by day;  
Safe through the darkness for He is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future His care,  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there*

*Christ be my Savior in clam as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign*

### Prayer:

Father, help me to be fully aware of those after whom I tend to pattern my life. Guide me in finding those who honor you. Give me complete awareness regarding those who are looking to me for leadership. Help me to set a good example. Most of all, keep me following you. In Jesus' name, Amen.