Lesson 4 · The Divided Kingdom

Person
- Jonah

Scope
- 931–722 BC · 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 10–28, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah 1–19, Micah 1–4
- The Division · 931–874 BC
- Ahab and Elijah · 874–841 BC
- Elisha and Jehu · 852–790 BC
- Jeroboam II and the Prophets · 793–740 BC
- Isaiah and the Fall of Israel · 740–722 BC

Before & after
- Previous: God's promise is greater than “every enemy”
- **This lesson: God's promise is greater than “northern Israel”**
- Next: God's promise is greater than “Assyria”

Discussion
- Jeroboam set up the golden calves so the people would not have to go up to Jerusalem (1 Kgs 12:28). What do we do in church today “for convenience” that drifts from God's way?
- Elijah won a great victory on Mount Carmel, and the next day he wanted to die (1 Kgs 19:4). Have you known a low after a spiritual high? How did God treat Elijah?
- Jonah did not want Nineveh to repent. Are there people we would rather God did not show mercy to?

Main sentence
God's promise is greater than “northern Israel”

Key verse
Hos 11:8

How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?… My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

Five key events

1 · The Kingdom Divided
- Rehoboam ignored wise counsel, and the ten northern tribes made Jeroboam king
- The northern kingdom, Israel, set up golden calves, and all nineteen of its kings did evil
- The southern kingdom, Judah, kept David's line unbroken

2 · Elijah Against Baal
- Ahab and Jezebel brought Baal worship into Israel
- On Mount Carmel Elijah made the people choose: “If the LORD is God, follow him.” God answered by fire, then comforted the fleeing prophet in a low whisper at Horeb

3 · Elisha and Jehu's Revolt
- Elisha worked a double portion of miracles
- Jehu was commissioned to wipe out Ahab's house and purge Baal, yet he still worshiped the golden calves
- In Judah, Athaliah nearly wiped out David's house, but one infant, Joash, was hidden in the temple, and David's lamp was not put out

4 · The Prophets' Cry
- The prosperity of Jeroboam II masked injustice
- Amos cried, “Let justice roll down like waters”
- Hosea acted out God's love for Israel in his own broken marriage
- Jonah was sent to Nineveh
- What God wants is not sacrifice but justice and mercy

5 · Isaiah and the Fall of Israel
- Isaiah was called by a vision in the temple
- He foretold to Ahaz that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,” and to Galilee in its darkness that “to us a child is born.” In 722 BC Assyria captured Samaria, and the northern kingdom fell