

Name _____

Date _____

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith & Justice

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 6, *The Journey Takes a New Direction*

Directions: Read carefully through Chapter 6 and then use the text as a reference to locate answers for the questions. All questions in this *Directed Reading Worksheet* are taken in sequential order from the chapter – first questions from the early sections of the chapter; last questions from the end of the chapter, etc. Answer **True or False** questions by circling the word True or False at the beginning of the question. **Fill-in-the-Blank** questions must often be answered with one than one word per blank. (Refer to your text often!) Write your own **Short Answers** for other questions.

Pages 132-134 Introduction

1. Israel's request for a king had immediate, _____ consequences—the most important of which was that Yahweh considered the request a rejection of his _____ over the people.
2. The prophet _____ warned Israel about the negative long-term consequences of having a king.
3. List the seven things Samuel predicted a human king would require of the people
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
 - f) _____
 - g) _____
4. What was the primary reason the people would not give in and kept demanding a human king?
5. True or False. The monarchs Saul, David, and Solomon are among the most revered heroes of the Old Testament.
6. True or False. Living under the monarchy was an overall positive experience for Israel.
7. The message in 1 Samuel is clear: "We are not meant to have any king but _____ and we are better off with God alone."
8. What incident immediately precedes Israel's request for a king? _____
9. How is there any irony in the timing of Israel's request for a king?
10. The request for a king serves only to highlight the religious significance of the stories, that _____, yet time and again, they _____.
11. What were three positive aspects of the monarchy in Israel's history?
12. One of King David's failings was his romantic and illicit affair with _____ during which he abused his powers and made sure her husband was killed in battle to cover his sin.
13. The most damaging criticisms of the kings of ancient Israel are from two main sources. These are:

14. The criticism from the Historical Books is that the kings encouraged _____ worship, a theme repeated by the prophets who also criticized the king for allowing an economic system to develop that _____.

15. The authentic heroes of the Chosen People were actually not the kings of Israel or Judah, but rather the _____ who were God's messengers who call the people back to the Law of _____.

Pages 134-138 *Religious Developments During the Monarchy*

16. _____ was considered a righteous king because of his determination to purify the religion of the state and return it to a faith more _____ to Yahweh.

17. The twenty-third chapter of Second Kings reveals how the Israelites disobeyed the _____ commandment by worshipping Canaanite _____ and _____.

18. List five pagan Canaanite religious practices mentioned in the reading.

19. True or False. Josiah is the only Israelite king, of Israel's forty-two kings, who received praise from the biblical authors.

20. The two books of _____ form a unified historical work that represents a "_____" of Israelite history, written a few hundred years later than the books of Samuel and Kings.

21. What are the two religious themes found in the Books of Chronicles?

a.

b.

22. From texts discovered in the ancient capital city of _____, we learned that _____ was the god of fertility.

23. Many of the Ugaritic texts portrayed the god _____ in battle. Two of the most interesting battles are between Baal and _____, the god of the sea, and the god _____, the god of death.

24. The Ugaritic texts provide three reasons why pagan worship was tempting for the Israelites. What were these?

25. Estimates are that pagan religions supported a social structure in which as few as five percent of the population rules over the remainder of the population. Who was in the top 5%? _____
Who was in the bottom 95% of the population? _____

26. The author recalled the famous story of a Canaanite princess, _____, who married Northern Israelite king named _____ and took it upon herself to seize the property that belonged to an Israelite peasant named _____.

27. It is easy to see why Israel clashed so strongly with the societies who honored the ancient pagan and polytheistic religions. The central event of the Israelite religion was the liberation of slaves from the greatest "known" king—the Pharaoh of Egypt. The basis of the religion of Israel was a collection of _____ that guaranteed that all

people _____ with one another, took _____ of one another, and made sure that nobody ruled _____ over another!

28. God's Chosen People cared for the weakest members of society, especially the "_____."

29. Why were the kings of ancient Israel so deeply tempted to encourage pagan religion in their kingdom?

30. Why didn't American slaveholders want their African slaves to learn to read?

Pages 139-143 *The "United" Monarchy: Saul, David, and Solomon*

31. The social dynamics of 1200-1000 B.C. Palestine included complex interactions between traditional _____ settlements, newly emerging _____ settlements, and _____ settlements.

32. What are the two unique ways that the Philistines threatened the Israelites?

33. _____, from the family of Benjamin, was selected as the first king of Israel.

34. The prophet _____ was told by the Lord that Saul was the man to govern His people.

35. Saul "reigned" over a loosely knit organization of _____ and people who were mostly _____, and who probably amounted to no more than _____ people.

36. Saul was essentially a _____ with limited success against the _____.

37. Eventually, Saul's _____ to Yahweh and the charismatic rise of one of his assistants, _____, led to the anointing of Israel's greatest and most well-known king.

38. David ruled from _____ to _____ B.C. and is first introduced when the prophet Samuel is impressed with one of the older sons of _____.

39. David was the _____ son of Jesse; he tended _____.

40. Because David was not from the family of _____, his reign as king had to be clearly justified.

41. What are the two different versions of how David came into Saul's employment?

42. David's path to the throne is clearly paved in _____. He systematically eliminates _____ to the throne from the family of _____ and engages in military conquests against the _____ as well as the political communities across the _____ River.

43. The conquering of these Trans-Jordanian states is important since this was the path of most of the major _____ linking Palestine with Egypt, Phoenicia, and Mesopotamia and thus controlling _____ and payment of passage fees.

44. True or False. There is very little archaeological evidence of David's kingdom or mention of its existence outside of the Bible.
45. David was less of a king over a vast kingdom than a _____ who enforced submission in a large territory using a well-trained private and probably relatively small _____.
46. The Second Book of Samuel records a central _____ made to David by the Lord. In the seventh chapter, God promises David that he will give him rest from his _____ and will establish a _____ for him which will endure _____.
47. The prophecy in 2 Samuel 7 is the basis for the Jewish belief of a _____, a son of David, which would eventually be fulfilled by _____ and recorded in the genealogies of _____ and _____ in their respective gospels.
48. True or False. There is considerable archeological evidence of King Solomon's role as an administrator of a united kingdom.
49. Solomon built up the city of _____ including a palace and the _____, as well as many other walled cities as military _____.
50. What two biblical stories give a positive impression of Solomon?
51. What was the source of Solomon's downfall? Why was this problematic?
52. What was the most serious issue blotting Solomon's reputation? What biblical contradiction does one encounter in reading about the record of Solomon?
53. Solomon was succeeded by his son _____ who, when he heard the complaint of the _____ Tribes, showed little wisdom or compassion.
54. Rehoboam's answer to the people led directly to a _____, with the _____ kingdom forming a separate state under a new king named _____.
55. The split between the two kingdoms was dated at the death of _____, in approximately _____ B.C.
56. David wished to build a _____ for the Ark of the _____. But the Lord told him through the prophet _____ that such a place was unnecessary.
57. Describe the basic floor plan of the Temple built by Solomon.

Pages 144-147 *The Divided Monarchy*

58. When Israel divided into two separate kingdoms the southern kingdom was called "_____" and consisted of the territory of the two tribes: _____ and _____.
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59. At the same time, the northern kingdom was called “ _____ ” and was made up of the other _____ tribes.
60. The two kingdoms existed _____ for several _____, ruled by a succession of kings.
61. _____ kings considered themselves the legitimate rulers because their ancestors could be traced to King _____.
62. The majority of the Israelites rejected the kings of Judah because of the abuse from both _____ and _____.
63. The story of the divided monarchy is told in the books of _____.
64. _____ led the insurrection against King Rehoboam and founded the _____ kingdom.
65. A king of Egypt named _____ attacked Jerusalem and took everything including the _____ of the Temple of the Lord.
66. Jeroboam feared the _____ of Judah and Israel through continued worship at the _____ in Jerusalem. Consequently, he built temples in the northern cities of _____ and _____ and appointed _____ who were not Levites.
67. The continued social, political, and religious relationship between Judah and Israel was one of constant conflict of _____ and _____.
68. The Neo-Assyrian Empire based in the city of _____ used brute force to dominate the entire region.
69. By the year _____ B.C. the Assyrian Empire had conquered all of the northern kingdom.
70. The time between 922 and 722 B.C. was a time of _____ of the kings of both Judah and Israel.
71. The major conflict between the two kingdoms was over a form of Yahweh worship that allowed the worship of _____ in addition to Yahweh as opposed to a more prophetically inspired form of worship that was _____ devoted to Yahweh.
72. Those who believed Yahweh alone should be worshipped represented by the _____ seemed to have had a more radical orientation on the _____.
73. They supported a community where the rich shared with the _____, where social balance was maintained, where _____ was practiced, and where land was distributed _____ to all.
74. What is an “Establishment Religion?”
75. The story of Naboth’s vineyard is about a _____ of justice by Jezebel, a royal figure with _____ roots who is blamed for a violation of the _____ notion of justice.
76. The battles depicted in 2 Kings reflect a struggle between two ways of life. The _____ was the establishment religion while the _____ of the prophets had a much more profound sense of _____ and care of the poor and disenfranchised.

77. True or False. The only outside threat to the northern kingdom of Israel was the Neo-Assyrian Empire in Mesopotamia, modern day Iraq.
78. True or False. The ongoing tensions between Damascus and Assyria were actually favorable to Judah and Israel.
79. It was during this period that the prophet _____ decried the lifestyles of the rich.
80. Finally, in 722 B.C. the _____ completely devastated the Northern Kingdom of Israel and practiced a military strategy of _____.
81. The Assyrians deported the _____ and the _____ of the captured society and exiled them elsewhere in order to crush any _____ before it even got started.
82. Who did the Assyrians deport?
83. Those exiled by the Assyrians are often referred to as the “_____.”
84. The Assyrians kept the majority of the population in place to _____ the land and provide _____ for the new Assyrian overlords.
85. The Old Testament suggests that King _____, king of Judah, escaped the Assyrian wrath by actually _____ with the Assyrians.
86. A famous tunnel known as _____ Tunnel still exists in Jerusalem today from the time when this king provided fresh _____ to the people in the city during a siege by the Assyrian King _____.
87. True or False. The Assyrian siege of Jerusalem is one of the rare occasions when an event in the Bible was covered both by the Bible, and by another non-biblical source.
88. In the eighth century B.C., Egypt reasserted its independence, and the tribes centered near the ancient city of _____ unified to rise and conquer _____ itself, leaving only Egypt and Babylon with power.
89. After 722-720 B.C., the northern kingdom of Israel no longer existed as an _____ but the southern kingdom of Judah continued for another _____ years.
90. Eventually, a young Babylonian prince named _____ defeated both the Assyrians and the Egyptian forces in battles north of Palestine in _____ and _____ B.C.
91. The last days of Judah were greatly impacted by a rivalry between the _____ and _____ Empires.
92. Although Nebuchadnezzar named “_____” to rule Jerusalem when he defeated the city in 597, his loyalty to the Babylonian king was short lived. He was persuaded by _____ agents to attempt a revolt against Babylon.
93. The result was catastrophic as _____ forces returned to _____ in 587 or 586 and devastated it.
94. The years that followed the devastation and exile were marked by a _____ in the way the Jews kept their part of the _____ with God.
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