

# Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

Volume 2, Issue 27

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Today's Word: Groves

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## Are You:

- Immersing Yourselves in Scriptures Constantly?
- Setting a Good Example for Others?
- Having Family Home Evening Regularly?

## Today's Scriptures

1 Kings 12-14  
2 Chron. 17  
2 Chron. 20

## Next Week

Lesson 27

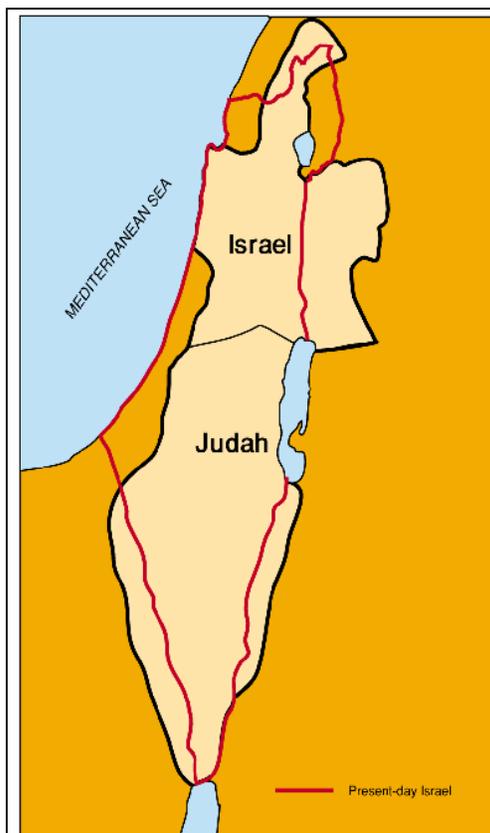
"After the Fire a Still Small Voice"

1 Kings 17-19

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## Questions to Ponder

- What can we do to influence those we serve to live righteously?
- How can we apply the counsel of our elders at work, school, church, and home?
- What examples have you seen of the influence of righteous leaders?



The Divided Kingdom, 10th - 6th Century BCE

**Groves** (see 1 Kings 14:15) were places of pagan worship where people sometimes engaged in immoral behavior. It is certainly no accident that Deut. 6:11 states: "Thou shalt not plant a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee." Clearly, this Deuteronomistic law was a way to keep immoral behavior and/or pagan worship practices from being combined with sacred Temple rites.

## Lesson 27: "The Influence of Wicked and Righteous Leaders"

### President Ezra Taft Benson taught:

"Often we spend great effort in trying to increase the activity levels in our stakes. We work diligently to raise the percentages of those attending sacrament meetings. We labor to get a higher percentage of our young men on missions. We strive to improve the numbers of those marrying in the temple. All of these are commendable efforts and important to the growth of the kingdom. But when individual members and families immerse themselves in the scriptures regularly and consistently, these other areas of activity will automatically come. Testimonies will increase. Commitment will be strengthened. Families will be fortified. Personal revelation will flow" (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [1988], 44).

### UNITED KINGDOM

Saul

David

Solomon

### DIVIDED KINGDOM

#### Northern Kingdom Israel

Jeroboam  
Nadab  
Baasha  
Ela  
Zimri  
Omni  
Ahab  
Ahaziah  
Joram  
Jehu

#### Southern Kingdom Judah

Rehoboam  
Abijah  
Asa  
Jehosaphat  
Jehoram  
Ahasiah  
Athaliah (queen)  
Joash  
Amaziah  
Uzziah

Judah enjoyed more political stability than Israel because it contained the holy city of Jerusalem with Solomon's Temple and the Ark of the Covenant, (along with many lesser temples scattered throughout the land) and was ruled by the descendants of King David. However, both kingdoms were threatened by Egypt.