

Chapter 9

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What reasons does the author of the First Book of Kings give to explain the split of the kingdom?*

The author of the First Book of Kings suggests that Solomon's sins—his oppression of the people and his idolatry—are the reason for the split of the kingdom.

2. *How does Rehoboam respond to Jeroboam's request to ease the oppression of the Israelites? Explain why he responds this way.*

Rehoboam responds with an even harsher and more brutal plan to oppress the Israelites. He comes to this decision by heeding the suggestions of his youthful advisors rather than the elders.

3. *Explain what a prophet is and how people often misunderstand the role of the biblical prophets.*

Many people often associate a prophet with someone who can foretell the future. Biblical prophets were people chosen by God to speak his message of salvation. They often communicated God's call for people to turn away from idolatry and injustice and embrace their covenant commitments to God once again.

4. *Offer two or three examples of how Jesus is a prophet.*

Jesus is a prophet because he speaks God's message. Throwing the money changers out of the Temple is a shock tactic that gets the people's attention and points out their sins. Also, Jesus' actions angers those in authority, which leads to his death.

5. *How does Elijah prefigure Jesus?*

Elijah prefigures Jesus in several ways: he ministers to a non-Israelite; he addresses a shortage of bread, which is then resolved miraculously; he is involved in raising someone from the dead.

6. *Describe John the Baptist's clothing. What does his clothing tell the audience about his role?*

John the Baptist is clothed in camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. This is how Elijah is described, so this tells the audience that John the Baptist is a great prophet like Elijah.

7. *Why does Hosea marry a prostitute?*

Hosea uses his marriage to Gomer, a prostitute, as a metaphor to describe God's relationship with Israel. As Gomer is unfaithful to Hosea, Israel is unfaithful to God. As Hosea keeps accepting Gomer back, God is faithful in his commitment to Israel.

8. *Why does the prophet Amos deem the Israelites hypocritical?*

The Israelites' worship follows the ritual laws of the covenant, but their daily lives don't reflect faithfulness to the covenant. For example, rather than helping the poor, they spend money on worshipping God at the expense of the poor.

9. *What is the main point of the Book of Jonah?*

The main point of the Book of Jonah is that God loves all people—even Israel's enemies, the Ninevites.

