

# The History of Israel

Volume 4

Judah Alone, Babylonian Captivity,  
Restoration

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# **The History of Israel**

## **Volume 4**

### **Judah Alone, Babylonian Captivity, Restoration**

#### **To the Teacher**

**The History of Israel (Volume 4, Judah Alone, Babylonian Captivity, Restoration)** is a Bible study guide for teenagers and adults to be used in Bible classes in local congregations. This workbook is not intended to replace the word of God as the class text. Nor is it a commentary. Rather, it consists of questions within the framework of an analytical outline designed to help the student study properly, so he can discover for himself what the Bible teaches.

My experience is that adult and teenage classes generally do not like graded lessons. Thus, this book has no grading system.

However, these same classes have a tendency to “bog down” or stray from the lesson unless some time goals are established and followed. Thus, this study guide is designed to lead the student through the periods of Judah alone, the Babylonian Captivity, and the Restoration of Israel in twelve lessons.

Each lesson starts with a memory verse. I believe committing the word of God to memory is an important, often neglected aspect of the lives of Christians.

The workbook contains several types of questions: terms to define, places to locate, people to identify, fact questions, thought questions, reports to the class, charts and maps to fill in, as well as reviews. Each question has a purpose. There are no pointless, filler questions, trick questions or true-false questions.

Although a particular word may appear many times in the Bible text, it will be given as a term to define only once, unless it is later translated from a different Hebrew word, used in a different sense, or has a special importance in a later context. The same principle is true of places to locate and people to identify. These questions are designed to help the student understand the language of the text and place the events in their historical and geographical settings.

There is a glossary in the back of the book which defines the terms and identifies the people.

There are maps in the back of the book with blank maps beneath each to be filled in from the map above. The student should find each place to locate on the appropriate map and write in its name in the proper place on the blank map below. To the right of each place to locate is the name of the map on which it is found.

Fact questions are for the purpose of checking the student's knowledge of what he read.

Thought questions are designed to measure the student's understanding of and ability to apply the text.

Each class should end with a review orally in class of the theme of each section of the biblical book being studied to that point. Beginning with lesson two, each class should start with the oral review found at the first of each lesson. In this way the students will be able to remember the general framework of the history of Israel and its location in the Bible.

Because the lessons call for a fast overview of the history of Israel, it is crucial that each student study his lesson and complete the questions outside class. It is best in class to concentrate on the thought questions and to only spend time on other questions with which some student might have trouble.

In addition to reading the entire biblical text to be studied in each lesson, the student should read each passage again separately as he comes to it in the analytical outline. Finally, in order to answer the fact and thought questions, every student must read the passage that answers each question. If the student will follow the suggested steps in the lesson, he will read each verse of the lesson three times: beginning with the longest for overall grasp, then shorter reading for outline, and finally shortest reading for analysis.

The questions are based on the **New King James Version** of the Bible. It minimizes confusion over the text when the teacher and all the students study from the same translation.

Lessons one and two go back in time before the fall of Israel, as this workbook concentrates on Judah, and the end of volume 3 concentrated on the fall of Israel.

No work book can even begin to replace a competent teacher, with a good working knowledge of the Scriptures, an unswerving love of and loyalty to truth, a deep faith in God and His word, a pure life, an humble opinion of himself, an understanding of and love for his students, and the ability to communicate.

I hope and pray this volume is useful to you in learning more about the history of God's Old Testament people, Israel, as He worked out through them over the centuries His ultimate plan for the salvation of mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ. May it deepen your faith, help you to learn more of God's Word, and enliven your interest for deeper study and more diligent service to the Lord. - The Author

**Course Plan**  
**Volume Four**

**Judah Alone, Babylonian Captivity, Restoration**

- Lesson One: Joash and Amaziah - 2 Kings 11:17 - 12:21; 14:1-20; 2 Chronicles 23:16 - 25:28
- Lesson Two: Azariah - Ahaz - 2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-7, 32-38; 16:1-20; 2 Chronicles chapters 26 - 28; Isaiah 7:1-17
- Lesson Three: Hezekiah Restores Judah - 2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles chapters 29 - 31; 32:27-30
- Lesson Four: God Delivers Judah from Assyria - 2 Kings 18:9 - 20:21; 2 Chronicles 32:1-26,33; Isaiah chapters 36 - 39
- Lesson Five: Manasseh to Josiah - 2 Kings 21:1- 23:30; 2 Chronicles chapters 33 - 35
- Lesson Six: The Decline and Fall of Judah - 2 Kings; 23:31 - 25:26; 2 Chronicles 36:1-21; Jeremiah 20:4-5; 22:11-19,24-30; 26:20-23; 34:1-7; 37:5-8; chapters 38-39; 40:1 - 43:7; 46:1-12; chapter 52; Ezekiel 17:11-21; 19:5-7; 24:1-2; Book of Lamentations
- Lesson Seven: The Return of the Jews and Rebuilding of the Temple - Introduction to Ezra; 1 Chronicles chapters 1-9; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra chapters 1-6;
- Lesson Eight: The Restoration of the Law - Ezra chapters 7-10
- Lesson Nine: The Rebuilding of the Walls of Jerusalem - Introduction to Nehemiah; Nehemiah chapters 1 - 7
- Lesson Ten: God Saves the Jews in the Dispersion (Part 1) - Introduction to Esther; Esther chapters 1-3
- Lesson Eleven: God Saves the Jews in the Dispersion (Part 2) - Esther chapters 4 - 10
- Lesson Twelve: Completion of the Restoration of National Israel - Nehemiah chapters 8 - 13

## Lesson One Joash and Amaziah

Reading Assignment: 2 Kings 11:17 - 12 :21; 14:1-20; 2 Chronicles 23:16 - 25 :28

### I. The Reign of Joash (Jehoash)

Please read 2 Kings 11:17 - 12:21 and 2 Chronicles 23:16 - 24:27

#### A. Terms to Define

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. census money     | 4. trespass offering     |
| 2. assessment money | 5. sin offerings         |
| 3. constituency     | 6. tabernacle of witness |

#### B. Fact Questions

1. Relate the coronation of Joash and its results. (2 Kings 11:19-20)
2. What was the reign of Joash like while Jehoiada was his instructor? (2 Kings 12:2-3; 2 Chronicles 24:2)
3. How was the temple repaired? (2 Kings 12:4-16; 2 Chronicles 24:4-14)
4. How was Jehoiada honored at his death? (2 Chronicles 24:15-16)
5. How did the Lord try to restore Joash and Judah? (2 Chronicles 24:19-20)
6. How did Joash turn away the threat of Hazael, king of Syria? (2 Kings 12:17-18)
7. How did Joash die? (2 Kings 12:20-21; 2 Chronicles 24:25-26)

#### D. Thought Questions

1. How did Jehoiada try to restore Judah to the Lord? (2 Kings 11: 17-18; 2 Chronicles 23:16-21)
2. Were utensils made for the temple? (2 Kings 12:13; 2 Chronicles 24:14)
3. Why did Joash apostatize in his latter years? (2 Chronicles 24: 17-18)
4. How did Joash and Judah respond to the Lord's attempts to restore them? (2 Chronicles 24:19, 21)
5. Why was Joash's treatment of Zechariah especially reprehensible? (2 Chronicles 24:22; cf. Matthew 23:29-36)

6. Were Zechariah's dying words proper? (2 Chronicles 24:22; Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 24:30; Acts 7:59-60; Romans 12:19-21; Revelation 6:9-10)

7. Why was Syria victorious against Joash? (2 Chronicles 24:23-24)

## II. The Reign of Amaziah

Please read 2 Kings 14:1-20 and 2 Chronicles chapter 25.

### A. Term to Define

Joktheel

### B. Places to Locate

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Valley of Salt  | 4. Corner Gate |
| 2. Sela            | 5. Lachish     |
| 3. Gate of Ephraim | 6. Beth Hor    |

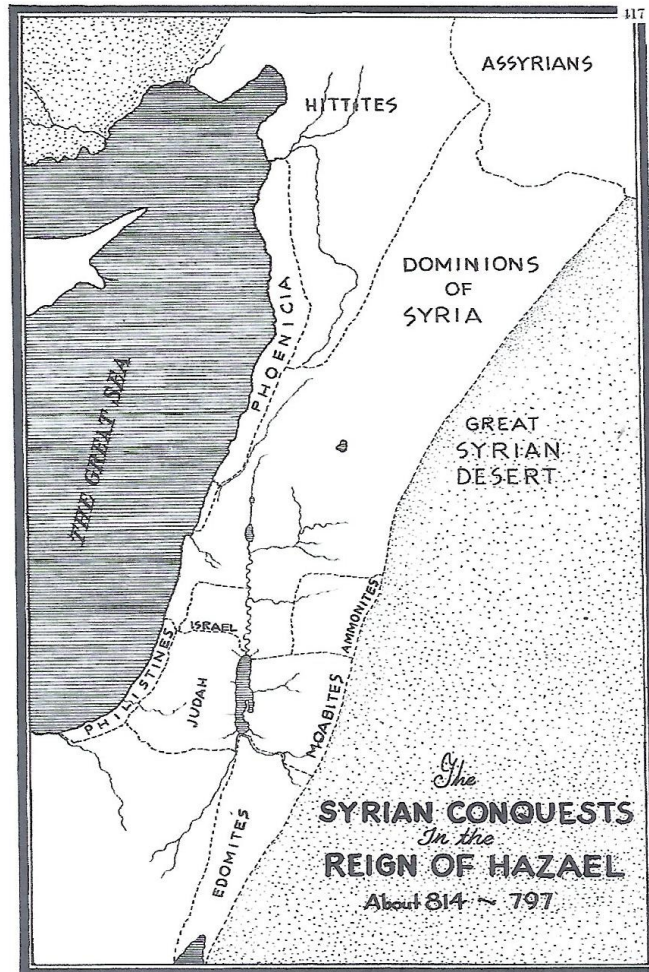
### C. Fact Questions

1. What kind of king was Amaziah? (2 Kings 14:3-4; 2 Chronicles 25:2)
2. How did he exact justice for the death of his father? (2 Kings 14:5; 2 Chronicles 25:3)
3. How did Amaziah prepare to fight Edom? (2 Chronicles 25:5-6)
4. Why did he send the Israelite soldiers home? (2 Chronicles 25:7-10)
5. How did he fare in war with Edom? (2 Kings 14:7; 2 Chronicles 25:11-12)
6. What did the dismissed Israelite soldiers do to Judah? (2 Chronicles 25:13)
7. How did Amaziah sin after his victory over Edom? (2 Chronicles 25:14)
8. Would he heed the word of God? (2 Chronicles 25:15-16)
9. How did Amaziah do in warfare with Joash of Israel? (2 Kings 14:8-16; 2 Chronicles 25:17-24)
10. How did Amaziah die? (2 Kings 14:17-20; 2 Chronicles 25:27)

### D. Thought Questions

1. Why did Amaziah not execute the children of his father's murderers? (2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chronicles 25:4; cf. Deuteronomy 24:16; Ezekiel 18:20)
2. Why did Amaziah fight Joash? (2 Chronicles 25:20)

3. Explain the fable Joash sent Amaziah (2 Kings 14:9-10; 2 Chronicles 25:18-19)



Don Dewelt, *Sacred History and Geography*. 417.

### III. Summary

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.



## Lesson Two Azariah - Ahaz

Please read 2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-7,32-38; 16:1-20; 2 Chronicles chapters 26 - 28

### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.

### I. The Reign of Azariah (Uzziah)

Please read 2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-7 and 2 Chronicles chapter 26.

#### A. People to Identify

Meunites

#### B. Terms to Define

- 1. visions
- 2. buttress
- 3. altar of incense

#### C. Places to Locate

- 1. Jabneh
- 2. Ashdod
- 3. Gur Baal
- 4. Valley Gate

#### D. Fact Questions

- 1. What accomplishments mark the reign of Azariah? (2 Kings 14:22; 2 Chronicles 26:2,6-15)
- 2. What kind of king was Azariah (2 Kings 15:3-4; 2 Chronicles 26:4-5)

#### E. Thought Questions

- 1. How was Azariah influenced to do right in his younger years?(2 Chronicles 26:5)
- 2. How did he sin? How could we similarly sin? (2 Chronicles 26:16-19; cf. Exodus 30:7-8; Numbers 16:1-40; Deuteronomy 33:8-10; Hebrews 7:12-14)
- 3. How did his sin affect his life and his reign? (2 Kings 15:5; 2 Chronicles 26:19-23; cf. Ezekiel 18:24)

### II. The Reign of Jotham

Please read 2 Kings 15:32-38 and 2 Chronicles chapter 27.

#### A. Term to Define

corruptly

#### B. Places to Locate

- 1. Upper Gate
- 2. Ophel
- 3. Valley of the Son of Hinnom

### C. People to Identify

1. Rezin
2. Pekah

### D. Fact Questions

1. What kind of king was Jotham? (2 Kings 15:34-35)
2. What did he accomplish? (2 Kings 5:35; 2 Chronicles 27:3-5)
3. What trouble occurred under his rule? (2 Kings 15:37)

### E. Thought Question

- Why was Jotham mighty? (2 Chronicles 27:6)

## III. The Reign of Ahaz

Please read 2 Kings chapter 16; 2 Chronicles chapter 28; and Isaiah 7:1-17.

### A. Terms to Define

1. drink offering
2. inquire

### B. Places to Locate

1. Kir
2. Aijalon
3. Gederoth
4. Gimzo

### C. Fact Questions

1. What was the moral character of the reign of Ahaz? (2 Kings 16:2-4; 2 Chronicles 28:1-4,19,22-25)
2. How did Syria and Israel oppress Judah at this time? (2 Kings 16:5-6; 2 Chronicles 28:5-8)
3. How did Ahaz meet the foreign threats? (2 Kings 16:7-9; 2 Chronicles 28:16)
4. Who else oppressed Judah? (2 Chronicles 28:17-18)

### D. Thought Questions

1. Why did Syria and Israel oppress Judah? (2 Chronicles 28:1-6)
2. Why did Israel return the captives to Judah? (2 Chronicles 28:9-15; cf. Leviticus 25:45-46)
3. How did Assyria influence Ahaz and Judah? (2 Kings 16:10-18,22-25)
4. Did relying on Assyria help Ahaz? (2 Chronicles 28:6-21)

## IV. Summary

- A. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- B. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- C. Ahaz was terribly wicked.

## Lesson Three Hezekiah Restores Judah

Please read 2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles chapters 29 - 31; 32:27-30.

### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.

### II. The Accomplishments of Hezekiah

Please read 2 Kings 18:1-8 and 2 Chronicles chapters 29:1-3; 32:27-30.

#### A. Term to Define

Nehushton

#### B. Place to Locate

Upper Gihon

#### C. Fact Questions

- 1. What kind of king was Hezekiah? (2 Kings 18:3-6; 2 Chronicles 29:2; 31:20-21)
- 2. How strong did his kingdom become? (2 Kings 18:7-8; 2 Chronicles 32:27-30)

#### D. Thought Questions

How had the Jews used the bronze serpent Moses made? (2 Kings 18:4; cf. Numbers 21:4-9)

### III. Hezekiah Restores Judah to the Lord

Please read 2 Chronicles 29:3 - 31:21

#### A. Terms to Define

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. sanctify                 | 6. thank offerings |
| 2. cleanse                  | 7. stiffnecked     |
| 3. altar of burnt offerings | 8. tithe           |
| 4. table of the showbread   | 9. holiness        |
| 5. atonement                |                    |

B. Places to Locate

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. Manasseh | 2. Zebulun |
|-------------|------------|

C. Peoples to Identify

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Kohathites | 4. Issachar |
| 2. Asaph      | 5. Benjamin |
| 3. Asher      |             |

D. Fact Questions

1. How did Israel respond to Hezekiah's attempt to restore them? (30:5-11)
2. What about Judah? (30:12-13)

E. Thought Questions

1. Why had Judah endured trouble before Hezekiah became king? (29:6-9)
2. What reason did Hezekiah use to persuade the remnant of Israel to keep the Passover? (30:7-9; cf. Deuteronomy 30:-10)
3. How were the people cleansed who had not properly cleansed themselves for the Passover? (30:16-20)

F. Class Report: One student should volunteer to relate in class the Restoration of Hezekiah. All the class should be ready to add details and to ask questions. The report should tell how Hezekiah restored:

1. The Temple (29:3-19)
2. Temple Worship (29:20-36; 31:1-3)
3. The Passover (30:1-27; cf. Exodus chapter 12)
4. The Support of the Priests and Levites (31:4-19)

III. Summary: Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.

## Lesson Four

### God Delivers Judah from Assyria

Please read 2 Kings 18:9 - 20:21; 2 Chronicles 32:1-26,33; Isaiah chapters 36 - 39.

#### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.

#### II. Assyria Invades Judah

Please read 2 Kings 18:9 - 19:37; 2 Chronicles 32:1-23; and Isaiah chapters 36 - 37.

##### A. Terms to Define

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Tartan    | 5. Hebrew  |
| 2. Rabsaris  | 6. Nisroch |
| 3. Rabshakeh | 7. revile  |
| 4. Aramaic   |            |

##### B. Places to Locate

- |                   |             |              |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Halah          | 6. Ivah     | 10. Eden     |
| 2. upper pool     | 7. Ethiopah | 11. Telassar |
| 3. Fuller's Field | 8. Haram    | 13. Nineveh  |
| 4. Arpad          | 9. Rezepth  | 13. Ararat   |
| 5. Hena           |             |              |

##### C. People to Identify

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Medes       | 4. Tirhakah   |
| 2. Sennacherib | 5. Esarhaddon |
| 3. Isaiah      |               |

##### D. Fact Questions

- 1. What happened to Israel in the fourth year of the reign of King Hezekiah? (2 Kings 18:9-12)

2. What happened to Judah a decade later? (2 Kings 18:13-16; 2 Chronicles 32:1; Isaiah 36:1-2)
3. How did Hezekiah meet this threat? (2 Chronicles 32:2-6)
4. How did the Assyrians blaspheme the Lord and threaten Judah? (2 Kings 18:17-37; 2 Chronicles 32:9-19; Isaiah 36:3-22)
5. What message did the king of Assyria send to Hezekiah? (2 Kings 19:9-13; Isaiah 37:9-13)
6. What message did Hezekiah receive from the Lord? (2 Kings 19:20-34; Isaiah 37:21-35)
7. How did the Assyrian threat end? (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chronicles 32:21; Isaiah 37:36-38)

#### E. Thought Questions

1. How deeply did Hezekiah trust the Lord? (2 Kings 19:1-4,14-19; 2 Chronicles 32:7-8,20; Isaiah 37:1-4,14-20)
2. Does the Lord hear and answer His people in their trouble when they pray in faith? (2 Kings 19:5-9,20-37; Isaiah 37:8-9, 21-38)
3. What was the result of this victory? (2 Chronicles 32:22-23)

### III. Hezekiah's Sickness and Recovery

Please read 2 Kings 20:1-11; 2 Chronicles 32:24; and Isaiah chapter 38.

#### A. Term to Define

sign

#### B. Fact Questions

1. What personal crisis befell Hezekiah? (2 Kings 20:1; Isaiah 38:1)
2. How did he face this crisis? (2 Kings 20:2-3; Isaiah 38:2-3)
3. Did the Lord answer his prayer? (2 Kings 20:4-7; Isaiah 38:4-6,21)
4. What sign did Isaiah give Hezekiah that he would recover? (2 Kings 20:8-11; Isaiah 38:7-8,22)

#### C. Thought Questions

1. Should we pray to the Lord for recovery from sickness?
2. What can we learn about prayer from Hezekiah?



## Lesson Five Manasseh to Josiah

Reading Assignment: 2 Kings 21:1- 23:30; 2 Chronicles chapters 33 - 35

### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.

### II. Judah's Fate is Sealed: The Evil Reign of Manasseh

Please read 2 Kings 21:1-18 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-20.

#### A. Terms to Define

- 1. sorcery
- 2. mediums
- 3. spiritists

#### B. Fact Questions

- 1. How long did Manasseh reign? How does this compare with the length of reign of the other kings of Israel and Judah? (2 Kings 21:1; 2 Chronicles 33:1)
- 2. List and describe the evils that Manasseh led Judah to practice. (2 Kings 21:2-9; 2 Chronicles 33:2-9)
- 3. What did the Lord through His prophets threaten to do to Judah? (2 Kings 23:10-15; 2 Chronicles 33:10)
- 5. Did Manasseh repent? (2 Chronicles 33:12-13)
- 6. What did the Lord then do for Manasseh? (2 Chronicles 33:13)
- 7. How did Manasseh act after this? (2 Chronicles 33:14-16)
- 8. Did Manasseh's repentance cause the people to return to the Lord? (2 Chronicles 33:17)

#### C. Thought Questions

- 1. Would the Lord have been just if He failed to punish Judah? How does this apply to our nation?



2. Why is the shedding of innocent blood singled out from the other sins? Apply this to our society. (cf 2 Kings 24:3-4)

### III. The Reign of Ammon

Please read 2 Kings 21:19-26 and 2 Chronicles 33:21-25.

#### Fact Questions

1. What kind of King was Ammon? (2 Kings 21:20-22; 2 Chronicles 33:22-23)
2. How did he die? (2 Kings 21:23; 2 Chronicles 33:24)
3. What happened to his assassins? (2 Kings 21 :24; 2 Chronicles 33:25)

### IV. The Last Righteous King of Judah: The Reign of Josiah

Please read 2 Kings 22:1 - 23:30 and 2 Chronicles chapter 34 and 35.

#### A. Terms to Define

1. high priest
2. Passover
3. lamentations

#### B. Places to Locate

1. Bozkath
2. Kidron
3. Mount of Corruption
4. Carchemish

#### C. People to Identify

1. Pharaoh Necho
2. Jeremiah

#### D. Fact Questions

1. What kind of king was Josiah? (2 Kings 22:1-2; 23:3,25; 2 Chronicles 34:1-2,31-33)
2. What did he do early in his reign that showed his dedication to the Lord? (2 Chronicles 34:3-7)
3. What did Josiah do for the temple? (2 Kings 22:3-7; 2 Chronicles 34:8-13)
4. What did the high priest find in the temple? (2 Kings 22:8-9; 2 Chronicles 34:14-17)
5. How did King Josiah react to the reading of the Book of the Law? (2 Kings 22:10-13; 2 Chronicles 34:18-21)
6. What answer did the Lord give Josiah to his inquiry? (2 Kings 22:14-20; 2 Chronicles 34:22-28)
7. How did Josiah respond to the word of the Lord? (2 Kings 23:1-24; 2 Chronicles 34:29 - 35:19)

8. How did Josiah die? (2 Kings 23:28-30; 2 Chronicles 35:20-25)

E. Thought Questions

1. What of today's Bible was included in the book Hilkiah found?
2. Why is it called by different names in the biblical accounts? (2 Kings 22:8; 23:2,21; 2 Chronicles 34:14-15,30; 35:6,12)
3. Is it right for a woman to teach men God's word? (2 Kings 22:14-20; 2 Chronicles 34:22-28)
4. Can a time come when punishment for sin is inevitable? (cf 2 Kings 23:26-27)

IV. Summary:

- A. Manasseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- B. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- C. Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.



## Lesson Six The Decline and Fall of Judah

Please read 2 Kings 23:31 - 25:26 and 2 Chronicles 36:1-21.

### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- I. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- J. Josiah Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.

### II. The Reign of Jehoahaz

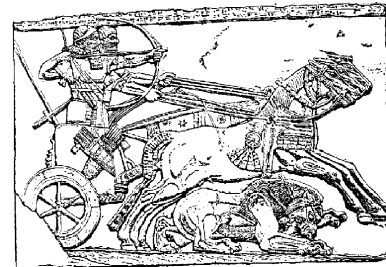
Please read 2 Kings 23:31-33 and 2 Chronicles 36:1-4.

#### A. Place to Locate

Riblah

#### B. Fact Questions

1. What kind of king was Jehoahaz? (2 Kings 23:31-32; 2 Chronicles 36:1-2; cf. Ezekiel 19:1-3)



2. How was his reign brought to a quick end? (2 Kings 23:33; 2 Chronicles 36:3-4; cf. Ezekiel 19:4)

### III. The Reign of Jehoiakim

Please read 2 Kings 23:34 - 24:7 and 2 Chronicles 36:5-8.

#### A. Places to Locate

1. Ammon

2. River Euphrates

#### B. People to Identify

1. Nebuchadnezzar

2. Chaldeans

### C. Fact Questions

1. What kind of king was Jehoiakim? (2 Kings 23 :36-37; 2 Chronicles 36:5,8; cf Jeremiah 22: 11-17; 26:20-23; Ezekiel 19:5-7)
2. From what new direction did destruction come during his reign? (2 Kings 24:1,7; cf Jeremiah 46:1-12)
3. What happened to Jehoiakim? (2 Kings 24:6; 2 Chronicles 36:6-7; Jeremiah 22:18-19)

### IV. The Reign of Jehoiachin

Please read 2 Kings 24:8-16 and 2 Chronicles 36:9-10.

- A. Term to define  
valiant men
- B. Person to Identify  
Evil-Merodach

### C. Fact Questions

1. What kind of king was Jehoiachin? (2 Kings 24:9; 2 Chronicles 36:9; cf. Jeremiah 22:24-30)
2. What happened to Jehoiachin and Judah? (2 Kings 24:10-16; 25:27-30; 2 Chronicles 36:10; cf. Isaiah 39:1-6; Jeremiah 20:4-5; 52:31-34)

### V. The Reign of Zedekiah

Please read 2 Kings 24: 17 - 25:21 and 2 Chronicles 36:11- 21 (cf. Jeremiah 51:59).

- A. Term to Define  
chief priest
- B. Fact Questions
  1. What kind of king was Zedekiah? (2 Kings 24: 19; 2 Chronicles 36:12-13; cf. Jeremiah chapter 38; 52:2-3; Ezekiel 17:11-18)
  2. What happened to Zedekiah and to Judah? (2 Kings 25:1-21; 2 Chronicles 36:17-21 ; cf. Jeremiah 34:1-7; 37:5-8; chapter 39; 52:4-30; The Book of Lamentations; Ezekiel 17:19-21; 24:1-2)
  3. Why was Judah destroyed? (2 Kings 24:20; 2 Chronicles 36:15-17)

### VI. The Remnant in Judah

Please read 2 Kings 25:22-26.

#### Fact Questions

1. Who was appointed to rule the remnant in Judah? (2 Kings 25:22; cf. Jeremiah 40:1-6)
2. What did he direct the people to do? (2 Kings 25:23-24; cf. Jeremiah 40:1-6)

3. What happened to him? (2 Kings 25:25; c££ Jeremiah 40:13 - 41:10)

4. What did the remnant of the Jews then do? (2 Kings 25:26; cf. Jeremiah 41:11 - 43:7)

#### VII. Summary and Basic Dates

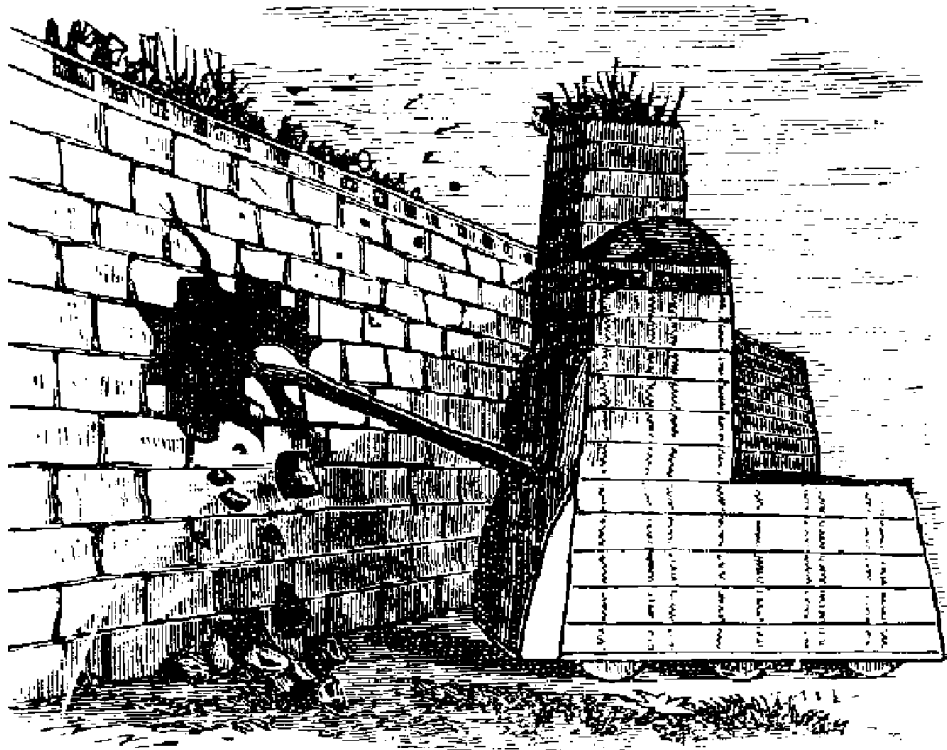
A. Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho in ca. 608 BC.

B. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem in ca. 605 BC and carried Daniel and others to Babylon.

C. Nebuchadnezzar bound and then killed Jehoiakim in 597 BC.

D. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.

E. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.



XIII. Kings and Prophets of Judah (Fall of Israel to Fall of Judah; 721 BC - 586 BC)

Date BC	Kings	Length of Reign	Character	Event to Remember	Prophets
721	Hezekiah	29 years	very good	destroyed idols, restored Passover	Isaiah Hosea Micah
700	Manasseh	55 years	extremely evil	caused Judah to commit all evils for which God destroyed the Canaanites and Israel; Judah's destruction was determined	
675				repented, but too late	
650	Amon	2 years	extremely evil	killed by servants	Habakkuk
	Josiah	31 years	very good	destroyed idolatry restored temple & Passover, renewed covenant, killed by Pharaoh	Huldah Zephaniah
600	Jehoahaz	3 months	evil	taken to Egypt	
	Jehoiakim	11 years	evil	killed	Nahum Jeremiah Daniel Ezekiel
	Jehoiachin	3 months	evil	taken captive	
	Zedekiah	11 years	evil	Jerusalem destroyed, sons killed before him, eyes put out, taken captive to Babylon	
575					

## Lesson Seven

### The Return of the Jews and Rebuilding of the Temple

Reading Assignment: 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra chapters 1-6

#### I. Review

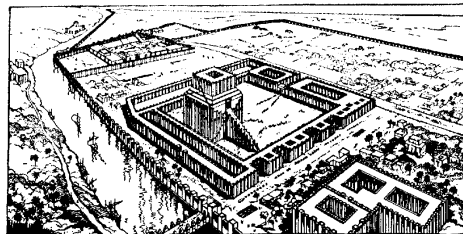
- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- I. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- J. Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.
- K. Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho in ca. 608 BC.
- L. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem in ca. 605 BC and carried Daniel and others to Babylon.
- M. Nebuchadnezzar bound and then killed Jehoiakim in 597 BC.
- N. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.
- O. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.

#### II. Introduction to Ezra

The book of Ezra is named for its principal character and author (7:11, 27-28).

Ezra was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses (7:6), an expert in the law (7:11), and a priest (Ibid). He had diligently prepared himself to keep and to teach God's law (7:10). He was commissioned by King Artaxerxes I of Persia in 458 BC (7:8) to go from Babylon to Jerusalem to provide the finances to restore the worship of God in the Temple and to beautify the Temple (7: 11-24), to set up rulers over Palestine (7:25-26), and to teach the people the Law of Moses (7:25).

The book of Ezra traces the history of the Restoration period from the close of Second Chronicles (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4), containing Cyrus' decree for the Jews to return from Babylonian captivity (538 B.C.), to the year of Ezra's religious restoration in Israel (457 B.C.). Thus, Ezra tells two



different stories covering about eighty years: the original return and rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel and the second return and restoration of the law under Ezra.

Therefore, the history books of the Old Testament skip most of the period of the Babylonian Captivity (606 B.C. - 536 B.C.). We learn about this period from the prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

The theme of Ezra is restoration. It chronicles the restoration of the remnant of Israel to the land, of Temple worship, of the Law of Moses, and of Israel as a separate nation, God's chosen people.

The first six chapters tell of the rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel. After Cyrus issued the decree for the Jews who were willing to return and rebuild the Temple of God in Jerusalem (1:1-4), a great contribution was made by the Jews and by Cyrus to accomplish this (1:5-11). Forty-two thousand three hundred sixty Jews returned to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the governor (2:1; 3:8-13). The Gentile populace of the land wanted to help, but Zerubbabel rejected them (4:1-3). They then opposed the work by discouraging the Jews and by hiring counselors to write the kings of Persia to try to get the work stopped (4:4-24). This opposition continued even after the time of Zerubbabel and into the reign of Artaxerxes I (465 - 425 B.C.) (4:6-7). They succeeded in temporarily halting the building of the Temple (4:23-24). But Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to the people, encouraging them to finish the Temple (5:1-2). Under Zerubbabel's leadership the Jews resumed the work (5:2), overcame opposition (5:3 - 6:13), and completed the Temple in 515 B.C. (6:14-15). The people joyfully worshiped God.

There is a sixty-seven year break between chapters six and seven. Chapter seven begins the story of the restoration of the Law under Ezra. Ezra came to Jerusalem from Babylon with a large number of Jews in 458 B.C. (chapters 7 - 8). He was dismayed to find the people, including many of the priests, had intermarried with the pagan inhabitants of the land, repeating the very sin that began Israel's downfall under Solomon five centuries earlier (chapter 9). Under Ezra's leadership the people put away their foreign wives (chapter 10).

### **Outline**

1. The Return to Canaan and Rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel- chapters 1-6
  - a. The Proclamation from Cyrus - chapter 1
  - b. The Register and Return of Those with Zerubbabel- chapter 2
  - c. Temple Foundation Laid and Worship Restored - chapter 3
  - d. Opposition Overcome and Temple Rebuilt - chapters 4-6
2. The Restoration of the Law and Separation of the People under Ezra - chapters 7-10
  - a. Ezra's Commission - chapter 7
  - b. Ezra's Journey - chapter 8
  - c. The Problem of Marriage with Pagans - chapters 9-10
    - (1) The Problem and the Prayer - chapter 9
    - (2) The Reformation - chapter 10



### III. The Proclamation from Cyrus

Please read 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 and Ezra chapter 1.

A. Term to Define  
prince

B. People to Identify

1. Cyrus
2. Sheshbazzar

C. Fact Questions

1. What proclamation did Cyrus make? (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4)
2. What reason did he give for the proclamation? (Ezra 1:2)
3. How did Israel respond? (Ezra 1:5-6)
4. How did King Cyrus help? (Ezra 1:7-11)

D. Thought Question

1. How did the proclamation of Cyrus fulfill prophecy? (cf. Deuteronomy 30:1-5; Isaiah 44:28 - 45:4; Jeremiah 25:11; 27:22; 29:10, 14)

### IV. The Register and Return of Those with Zerubbabel

Please read Ezra chapter 2.

A. Terms to Define

1. Urim and Thummim
2. drachmas

B. Fact Question

How large was the remnant which returned with Zerubbabel?

C. Thought Question

Did God fulfill His promise to restore national Israel? (Isaiah 1:7-9; 10:20-27; Jeremiah 3:18; 16:14-15; 30:3; 31:1-14,27-28; 50:17-20; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4; 2:70; 3:1; 6:16-17,21; Nehemiah 7:7,73; 9:1-2; 11:3; 1 Chronicles 9:1-3)

### II. Levitical Worship Restored and the Temple Foundation Laid

Please read Ezra chapter 3.

A. Terms to Define

1. Law of Moses
2. responsively

B. Places to Locate

1. Sidon
2. Joppa

C. Fact Questions

1. How long was it after Israel's arrival in Jerusalem that they restored levitical worship? (verses 1-2; cf. 2 Kings 16:14; 2 Chronicles 4:1)
2. What elements of worship were then restored? (verses 2-6; cf. Exodus 29:38-42; Numbers 28:1-8; Leviticus 23:33-36; Numbers 28:11-15; Exodus 23:14-16)
3. How did they prepare to build the Temple? (verse 7)
4. When was the foundation of the Temple laid? (verses 8-9; cf. 1 Kings 6:1)
5. With what ceremony was the Temple begun? (verses 10-11)
6. How did the people react? (verses 11-13)

D. Thought Questions

1. Could Israel be restored without the restoration of levitical worship? (Exodus 20:24-25; 28:1, 29-30, 38, 41; Numbers 18:1-5)
2. Can levitical worship be restored in the future with divine approval? (Hebrews 7:11-19; 10:1-14)

V. Work on the Temple Stopped

Please read Ezra chapter 4.

A. Terms to Define

1. adversaries
2. tribute
3. custom

B. People to Identify

1. Darius
2. Ahasuerus
3. Artaxerxes

C. Fact Questions

1. How did the people of the land try to stop the rebuilding of the Temple? (verses 4-16)
2. Were they successful in their opposition? (verses 17-24)

D. Thought Question

Why did Zerubbabel refuse the adversaries of the Jews permission to join with them in building the Temple? (verses 1-3; cf. 2 Kings 17:24-41)

## VI. The Completion of the Temple

Please read Ezra chapters 5 - 6.

### A. Terms to Define

1. Adar
2. Book of Moses
3. purified

### B. Places to Locate

1. Achmetha
2. Media

### C. Fact Questions

1. What trouble did Zerubbabel face when they recommenced building the Temple? (5:3-5)
2. What inquiry did Tattenai make to King Darius? (5:6-17)
3. What was the reply? (6:1-12)
4. What happened as the result? (6:13-15)
5. How did Israel dedicate the Temple? (6:16-17)

### D. Thought Questions

1. What were the roles of Haggai and Zechariah in the completion of the Temple? (5:1-2; 6:14; Haggai 1:13 - 15; Zechariah 4:8-10)
2. Was worship according to the Law of Moses restored in Israel? (6:16-22; cf. Numbers 3:5-10; 8:5-26; 1 Chronicles 23:1-6,24-32; Exodus 12:1-28)
3. Has national Israel been restored or are the restoration promises yet to be fulfilled?

## VII. Summary

- A. The theme of Ezra is restoration.
- B. Israel was restored to the Promised Land.
- C. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.
- D. Ezra restored the Law

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## Haggai

### Preaching That Gets Results

- ☛ Reproof and Rebuke - Haggai 1:5-7
- ☛ Command - Haggai 1:8
- ☛ Encouragement - Haggai 1:14; 2:4-9

🏠 **Result: Temple Completed**  
Haggai 1:12,14-15; Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14

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## Lesson Eight The Restoration of the Law

Reading Assignment: Ezra chapters 7-10

### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- I. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- J. Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.
- K. Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho in ca. 608 BC.
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- M. Nebuchadnezzar bound and then killed Jehoiakim in 597 BC.
- N. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.
- O. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.
- P. The theme of Ezra is restoration.
- Q. Israel was restored to the Promised Land.
- R. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.
- S. Ezra restored the Law.

### II. Ezra's Commission

Please read Ezra chapter 7.

- A. Term to Define  
baths

### B. Fact Questions

1. What commission did Ezra receive? (verses 11-26)
2. What was Ezra's response? (verses 27-28)

### C. Thought Question

Who was the author of the law of the Jews? (verses 6, 10-11; cf. Nehemiah 8:14)

### III. Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem

Please read Ezra chapter 8.

#### A. Terms to Define

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. entreated | 2. satraps |
|--------------|------------|

#### B. Places to Locate

- |             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Casiphia | 2. river of Ahava |
|-------------|-------------------|

#### C. Fact Questions

1. What kind of men did Ezra especially seek to go to Jerusalem? (verses 15-20)
2. How did he prepare for the journey? (verses 21-23)
3. What did Ezra entrust to the leaders of the priests? (verses 24-30)
4. How did the trip go? (verse 31; cf 7:9)
5. What did Ezra and his company do upon arrival in Jerusalem? (verses 33-36)

### IV. The Problem of Marriages with Pagan Peoples of the Land

Please read Ezra chapters 9 - 10.

#### A. Terms to Define

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. iniquities | 5. unclean    |
| 2. grace      | 6. confessing |
| 3. remnant    | 7. pagan      |
| 4. revival    | 8. swear      |

#### B. Peoples to Identify

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Canaanites | 2. Amorites |
|---------------|-------------|

#### C. Fact Questions

1. What bad news did the leaders of Israel bring to Ezra? (9: 1-2)
2. How did Ezra react? (9:3 - 10:1)
3. What effect did this have on the people? (10:1)
4. What did Shechaniah propose? (10:2-4)
5. What did Ezra do? (10:5-8)

6. How did the people respond? (10:9)
7. What did Ezra command them to do? (10:10-11)
8. What was the response? (10:12-15)
9. What was the result? (10:16-19)

#### B. Thought Questions

1. Why was it wrong for Israelites to marry people of Canaan? (Exodus 19:5-6; 33:16; 34:10-17; Deuteronomy 7:1-6; 1 Kings 11:1-13)
2. How does Ezra provide an example of the correct response to sin?
3. If people have entered into a sinful marriage relationship, should they dissolve it?
4. What if they have children?

#### V. Summary

Under Ezra's leadership the people put away their foreign wives.



## Lesson Nine

### Nehemiah - Part 1

Reading Assignment: Nehemiah chapters 1 - 7

#### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
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- N. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.
- O. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.
- P. The theme of Ezra is restoration.
- Q. Israel was restored to the Promised Land.
- R. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.
- S. Ezra restored the Law.
- T. Under Ezra's leadership the people put away their foreign wives.

#### II. Introduction to Nehemiah

##### A. Author

The book of Nehemiah is named for its author and chief character (1:1). Nehemiah was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes I of Persia (1:11; 2:1), who appointed him governor of Judah for twelve years, from 445 to 433 B.C. (5:14) and then allowed him to return as governor again (13:6-7). Nehemiah loved his people the Jews deeply (1:1-4) and was a man of prayer (1:4-5; 2:4), courage (4:7-20; 6: 10-14), tireless energy in working for the Lord (4:21-23), extraordinary zeal for the Law of God (5:1-13; 13:4-31) and generosity (5:14-19). Above all, he was a man of deep faith (1:5; 2:20).

## B. Themes

The twin themes of Nehemiah are rebuilding and restoration. Chapters one through seven record how Nehemiah led the Jews to repair the walls of Jerusalem and repopulate the capital city. Chapters eight through thirteen relate the restoration of the law effected by Ezra and Nehemiah.

## C. Overview

The book relates events from the time Nehemiah learned of the sad plight of his people in Jerusalem in 445 B.C. (1:1-3) through the twelve years of Nehemiah's governorship (5:14) and until he was sent again as governor (13:6-7). The contemporaries of Nehemiah were Ezra the priest and Malachi the prophet.

Nehemiah was serving King Artaxerxes in Shushan (Susa) the capital of Persia in 445 B.C. when word came to him of the desperate straits of the Jews in Judah (1:1-3). Nehemiah wept, mourned and prayed to God about this problem (1:4-11). King Artaxerxes granted his request to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the city (2: 1-8). He was immediately opposed by the Gentiles in Palestine, led by Sanbalat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab (2:10,19). After secretly surveying the situation at night (2:11-16), Nehemiah revealed his plans to the leaders of the people (2:16-20). The people were willing to work (2:18) and rebuilt the wall and gates of the city in an astonishing fifty-two days! (chapter 3:6,15) In doing so they overcame the opposition of their enemies manifested in mockery (4: 1-6), threats (4:7-23), offers of compromise (6:1-4), and lies (6:5-14). They also had to overcome the sins of their own nobles (chapter 5), some of whom did not join in the work (3:5). The people accomplished this great task because God was with them (2:20) and they worked willingly (4:6). The Jews were then able to dwell safely in Jerusalem and in their cities around Palestine (chapter 7).

When this great work was completed, Ezra read and expounded the Law to the people (8: 1-8). A great holy day was proclaimed (8:9-12), and the festival of booths was celebrated in a manner unknown since the days of Joshua (8:13-18). Israel separated themselves from foreigners and confessed their sins to God (chapter 9). Ezra led the people in renewing the covenant with the Lord and in supporting the priests and Levites (chapter 10). The leaders of the people and another tenth of the people were selected to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city (chapter 11). The wall was dedicated with joy, and the Levites and priests received their portions (chapter 12). Israel separated themselves from the Gentiles (13:1-3). Finally, Nehemiah, upon his return from Shushan, separated all Gentiles from the Temple (13:4-10), insured that the priests and Levites would be supported (13:10-14), restored the Sabbath (13:15-22), and forbade the people to marry the pagans of the land (13:23-31).

## D. Outline

1. Rebuilding the Walls - chapters 1 - 7
  - a. Nehemiah Goes to Jerusalem - chapters 1 - 2
  - b. The Jews Rebuild the Wall - chapter 3
  - c. They Overcome Opposition - chapters 4 - 6



- (1) mockery - 4: 1-6
- (2) warfare - 4:7-23.
- (3) sin within the city: usury and slavery - chapter 5
- (4) compromise - 6:1-4
- (5) lying - 6:5-14
- (6) victory! - 6:15-19
- d. Nehemiah Sets the Cities in Order and Conducts a Census - chapter 7
- 2. Restoring the Law - chapters 8 - 13
  - a. Ezra Restores Observance of the Law - chapter 8
  - b. The People Confess Their Sins - chapter 9
  - c. Israel Renews the Covenant with the Lord - chapter 10
  - d. The Census - 11:1 - 12:26
    - (1) People - chapter 11
    - (2) Priests and Levites - 12:1-26
  - e. Nehemiah Dedicates the Wall - 12:27-43
  - f. Organization of the Temple Service - 12:44-47
  - g. Nehemiah Reforms Israel - chapter 13



#### D. Questions

1. Describe the man Nehemiah.
2. What are the themes of Nehemiah?
3. What period does the book cover?
4. What story do chapters one through seven relate?
5. What about chapters eight through thirteen?
6. Why were the Jews successful in rebuilding Jerusalem?

#### III. Nehemiah Goes to Jerusalem

Please read Nehemiah chapters 1 - 2.

##### A. Terms to Define

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Chislev | 3. Horonite |
| 2. Nisan   |             |

##### B. Place to Locate

Shushan

##### C. Fact Questions

1. What bad news did Nehemiah receive? (1:1-3)

2. How did he react to this report? (1:4-11)

3. What was Nehemiah's position? (1:11)

4. How did Nehemiah obtain permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city? (2:1-8)

5. What did he do to prepare for the work? (2:9-16)

6. How did he exhort the Jewish leaders to do the work? (2:17-18)

7. Did the Jews accept his exhortation? (2:18)

8. What opposition did they meet? (2:19)

9. How did Nehemiah meet this opposition? (2:20)

#### D. Thought Questions

1. Analyze Nehemiah's Prayer

a. Did he use another prayer as his model? (cf. Daniel 9:1-19)

b. Did he acknowledge the justice of Israel's present condition? (cf. Leviticus 26:14-39; Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

c. Upon what basis did he pray for Israel's prosperity? (cf. Leviticus 26:40-45; Deuteronomy 30: 1-10)

2. What qualities of a good leader of God's people did Nehemiah display?

#### IV. The Jews Rebuild the Wall

Please read Nehemiah chapter 3

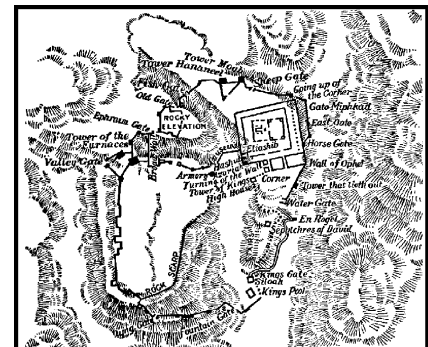
A. Term to Define city of David

B. People to Identify Tekoites

## Let Us Rise Up and Build

### Nehemiah 2:17-18

- ☛ They overcame formidable obstacles.
  - ◆ mockery - Nehemiah 2:10,19-20
  - ◆ threats - Nehemiah 4:7-23
  - ◆ sin within - Nehemiah 3:5; 5:1-13
  - ◆ compromise - Nehemiah 6:1-4,17-19
  - ◆ slander - Nehemiah 6:10-13
  - ◆ stumbling block - Nehemiah 6:10-13
- ☛ They finished the work! - Nehemiah 6:15-16
- ☛ How?
  - ◆ Faith in God - Nehemiah 2:18; 6:16
  - ◆ Prayer (7 prayers in 6 chapters)
  - ◆ A Will to Work - Nehemiah 2:18; 6:4
- ☛ We have a great work to do. - Nehemiah 6:3
- ☛ Let us rise up and build!



C. Places to Locate

- 1. Zanoah
- 2. Beth Haccerem
- 3. Beth Zur
- 4. Keilah

D. Fact Questions

- 1. Did the people do the work they had promised to do?
- 2. Did all the people work? (verse 5)
- 3. What was unusual about the work led by Shallum? (verse 12)

V. They Overcome Opposition

Please read Nehemiah chapters 4-6.

A. Terms to Define

- 1. usury
- 2. redeemed

B. Place to Locate

Ono

C. Fact Questions

- 1. When Sanballat and his confederates heard the Jews were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, how did they first oppose the effort? (4: 1-3)

**Nehemiah: a Successful Leader of God's People**

**Nehemiah 6:15-16**

- Cared about God's People - 1:1-4
- Prayed to and Depended on God - 1:4, 11; 2:1-4,8,20; 4:4-5,9; 5:19; 6:9,14
- Used Prudent Caution - 2:7-16
- Exhorted People to Action - 2:17-18; 4:14
- Not Discouraged by Ridicule and Slander - 2:10,19-20; 4:1-3,6
- Courageous - 4:7-20; 6:4-9
- Rebuked Sinners - 5:1-13
- Generous - 5:14-18
- Refused to Compromise - 6:1-3
- Not Intimidated - 6:4-9
- Wise - 6:10-13
- Overcame internal opposition - 6:17-19

- 2. How did Nehemiah react? (4:4-5)
- 3. What was the result? (4:6)
- 4. What did the enemies of the Jews do next? (4:7-8,10-12)
- 5. How did Nehemiah and the Jews meet this threat? (4:9, 13-14,16 23)
- 6. Did they overcome? (4:15)
- 7. What problem was then brought to light among the Jews? (5:1-5; cf Exodus 22:25-29; Leviticus 25:35-37; Deuteronomy 23:19-20; Exodus 21:2; Leviticus 25:14-17)
- 8. How did Nehemiah overcome this problem? (5:6-13)

9. How did Nehemiah's conduct contrast with that of the nobles and former governors? (5:14-19)
10. How next did Sanballat seek to stop the Jews' work? (6:1-2)
11. How did Nehemiah respond? (6:3-4)
12. What was the next opposition scheme? (6:5-7)
13. How did Nehemiah meet this? (6:8-9)
14. What was the last plot by which enemies sought to stop the work? (6:10; cf Numbers 18:1-7)
15. How did Nehemiah overcome this? (6: 11-14)
16. Was the work a success? (6: 15)
17. How did this affect the enemies of the Jews? (6: 16)
18. What opposition from within did Nehemiah then face? (6: 17-19)

#### D. Thought Questions

1. If one repents of a sin, what will he do as the results? (5:9-12)
2. What lessons should we learn from this narrative about how God's people can overcome opposition and problems to accomplish His work?
3. What qualities of a good leader of God's people did Nehemiah demonstrate?

#### VI. Nehemiah Sets the Cities in Order and Conducts a Census

Please read Nehemiah chapter 7.

##### A. Term to Define

defiled

##### B. Fact Questions

1. How did Nehemiah organize Jerusalem? (verses 1-3)
2. Why did he conduct a census? (verses 4-5)

#### VII. Summary

Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem.

## **A Great Restoration Effected by Teaching the Law of the Lord**

### ☆ Ezra Prepared Himself to Teach - Ezra 7:6,10-11

#### ❖ A Prepared Heart - Proverbs 4:23

☛ Seek the Law of the Lord. - Psalm 119:97; 1 Peter 2:2

☛ Do it. - James 1 :22-25; Romans 2:17-23

☛ Teach it. - 2 Timothy 4:1-2

#### ❖ Result

☛ Skilled Scribe - 7:6; 1 Timothy 4:15

☛ Expert in the Words of the Commandments of the Lord -  
7:11; 2 Timothy 2:15

### ☆ The Teachers

❖ Read to All the People - 8:1-3,5,18

❖ Taught All Morning - 8:3; 9:3

❖ Blessed the Lord - 8:6

❖ Helped the People Understand - 8:7.8

### ☆ The People

❖ Desired to Learn God's Word - 8:1,10

❖ Were Attentive - 8:2-3

❖ Had Respect - 8:5

❖ Agreed with the Blessing - 8:6

❖ Worshiped the Lord - 8:6; 9:3

❖ Had Godly Sorrow - 8:9; 9:1

❖ Obeyed the Law - 8:11-18

❖ Confessed Their Sins - 9:2-3

❖ Repented of Their Sins - 9:2

## Lesson Ten

### God Saves the Jews in the Dispersion (Part 1)

Reading Assignment: Esther chapters 1 - 2

#### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- I. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- J. Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.
- K. Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho in ca. 608 BC.
- L. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem in ca. 605 BC and carried Daniel and others to Babylon.
- M. Nebuchadnezzar bound and then killed Jehoiakim in 597 BC.
- N. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.
- O. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.
- P. The theme of Ezra is restoration.
- Q. Israel was restored to the Promised Land.
- R. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.
- S. Ezra restored the Law.
- T. Under Ezra's leadership the people put away their foreign wives.
- U. Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem.

#### II. Introduction to Esther

##### A. Historical Background

The king whom Esther married is called in the book "Ahasuerus." This is from the Hebrew translation of the Persian name for the man known in secular history as "Xerxes," who was king of Persia from 485 to 465 B.C. When he became king, he put down rebellions in Egypt and Babylonia, destroyed the city of Babylon, and melted the gold idol of Bel-Marduk, the chief god of Babylon. He determined to conquer Greece, which Darius, his father, had failed

to do. He put together one of the largest combinations of naval fleet and army ever assembled and crossed over the Hellespont (modern Constantinople) in 480 B.C. After conquering most of Greece and destroying Athens, the Greek navy defeated him and his fleet in the Battle of Salamis. He left his army in Greece, and he himself returned to Persia. The next year the Greeks defeated and annihilated his army at Meggara. The Persians never again tried to conquer Greece. Xerxes himself withdrew from warfare and consoled himself in drink, parties, and his harem. This sets the background for the story of Esther. Xerxes was assassinated by Artabanus, the captain of his body guard, in 465 B.C.

#### B. Author

The author of the book is unknown.

#### C. Theme

The theme of Esther is **Divine Providence**. The book relates a series of events that would seem at first hardly if at all related, but the strands of the story are woven together by God in His unseen providential care for His people throughout the world and in the humblest of conditions into a beautiful pattern of divine salvation. Esther shows that God cares for His people wherever they are, not just in Palestine.

#### D. Overview

It receives its title from the Persian name of its chief character, Esther, meaning “star.” Her Hebrew name was Hadassah (2:7), “myrtle.” Esther was a Jewish girl of the Dispersion (Jews outside Canaan) in Persia, raised by her cousin Mordecai as his adopted daughter (2:7), whom she obeyed as a father even after she was queen of Persia (2:20), the greatest kingdom of the world in her day and the largest empire the Middle East had known to that time (1:1). Esther was the most beautiful young virgin in all the vast kingdom (2:17; She won the “Miss Persia Contest”!), yet her loveliness of character surpassed her beauty of face and figure.

Mordecai, her guardian, lived in Shushan (Susa), the winter capital of Persia, as one of the Jews of the tribe of Benjamin in the Dispersion (2:5-6).

The book of Esther is remarkable for several reasons. It is the only book of the Bible in which God is never mentioned, yet every line relates the story of His providential care for His people (cf Jeremiah 30:11; 46:28). The book does not record a single miracle, yet the hand of God is behind every event. Prayer is not mentioned directly even once, but the book chronicles the answer to millions of fervent prayers. The Word of God is unmentioned, yet Mordecai was a stricter observer of that Word (3:1-4; cf. Deuteronomy 6:13-15). The book records the deliverance of the Jews from the greatest danger the seed of Jacob ever faced. Had evil Haman been successful in his wicked plot, every Jew upon the face of the earth would have been killed (1:1; 3:8-14). Christ would not have come of the lineage of David. The heroine who effected this great deliverance was a young orphan girl, far from her homeland, raised by her cousin. Girls, here is a real role model!

#### E. Lessons

Esther contains great lessons. Haman put his trust in mindless fate, luck (“Lady Luck”), the casting of lots (pur) (3:7; 9:24). This backfired on him (7:9-10; 10:25). “Hanged on Haman’s gallows” has become a maxim for an evil plot that turns to the destruction of its deviser. In reality, every wicked scheme eventually backfires on its designer, either here or hereafter.

Mordecai placed his faith in divine providence (4:13-14) and was victorious (10:3). While trusting God’s care, Mordecai would not venture to affirm what specific events that providence would bring about (4:13-14).

Esther was an orphan girl of a powerless, despised, racial and ethnic minority. But, in the providence of God, she became queen. Because she had the courage to do her duty even though it meant she might die, she delivered God’s people from certain destruction.

God has a plan for the life of everyone, a plan that we accomplish by using the abilities He gives us to obey His revealed will, the Scriptures, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. Doubtless Esther never dared imagine that she would be the queen of the mightiest empire the world had ever seen and would deliver her beloved people from destruction, but her responsibility was to do her duty in the situation where she was found with the abilities God had given her. If we refuse to do our duty, God’s plan will still be accomplished, but we will be destroyed.

God used each person of the book and each event of the story to accomplish His will, yet each person exercised free will and was responsible for his own conduct.

Although God was in control throughout, not a single circumstance or incident was miraculous.

God, not fate, directs the world and its affairs. His rule, His providence, is for the care of His people.

#### F. Outline

1. The Feasts of Ahasuerus - chapters 1-2
2. The Feasts of Esther - chapters 3-7
3. The Feast of Purim - chapters 8-10

#### G. Questions

##### 1. Terms to Define

a. Hadassah

b. Esther

##### 2. Discussion Questions

a. What is the theme of Esther?

b. What are some remarkable features of the book?



c. What lessons does it teach?

### III. The Feasts of Ahasuerus

Please read Esther chapters 1-2.

#### A Terms to Define

myrrh

#### B. Fact Questions

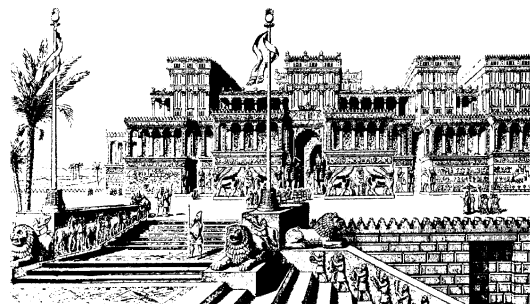
1. Describe the feasts the king gave first for his officers then for all the citizens of Shushan. (1:1-8) (note: This is apparently the gathering known from secular history in which King Xerxes gathered his officials in Susa to plan his invasion of Greece. This feast thus took place in 483 BC.)
2. What did Queen Vashti do for the women? (1:9)
3. How did Vashti anger Ahasuerus? (1:10-12)
4. What did the king do about this? (1:13-22)
5. How did King Ahasuerus seek a queen to replace Vashti? (2:1-4) (note: Secular history records that, when Xerxes returned from Greece in defeat in 479 B..C, he consoled himself with the pleasures of the harem.)
6. Describe Hadassah (Esther). (2:5-7)
7. Describe how Esther became queen. (2:8-18)
8. How did Mordecai save the life of the king? (2:19-23)

#### C. Thought Questions

1. Was Vashti justified in refusing to obey her husband?
2. Were the reasons the king's advisers gave him for deposing Queen Vashti valid?
3. Did Esther's beauty and position of honor cause her to become arrogant?

### IV. Summary

- A. The theme of Esther is divine providence.
- B. Esther saved the Jewish people from annihilation.



## Lesson Eleven

### God Saves the Jews in the Dispersion (Part 2)

Reading Assignment: Esther chapters 3 - 10

#### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- I. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- J. Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.
- K. Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho in ca. 608 BC.
- L. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem in ca. 605 BC and carried Daniel and others to Babylon.
- M. Nebuchadnezzar bound and then killed Jehoiakim in 597 BC.
- N. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.
- O. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.
- P. The theme of Ezra is restoration.
- Q. Israel was restored to the Promised Land.
- R. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.
- S. Ezra restored the Law.
- T. Under Ezra's leadership the people put away their foreign wives.
- U. Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem.
- V. The theme of Esther is divine providence.
- W. Esther saved the Jewish people from annihilation.

#### I. The Feasts of Esther

Please read Esther chapters 3- 7.

#### A Terms to Define

- 1. Agagite
- 2. signet ring

## B. Fact Questions

1. Why did Haman determine to destroy all the Jews? (3:1-6)
2. How did Haman go about to effect his plot? (3:7-15)
3. How was the day of destruction determined? (3:7,12)
4. How did Mordecai and the other Jews react to this decree? (4:1-3)
5. How did Esther learn of the decree? (4:4-9)
6. What did Mordecai instruct her to do?(4:8-9)
7. How did Esther respond? (4:10-12)
8. What message did Morgecai then send to Esther? (4:13-14)
9. How then did she respond? (4:15-16)
10. What did Mordecai do? (4:17)
11. How did Esther set the stage to present her petition to the king? (5:1-8)
12. Why did Haman determine to have Mordecai hanged? (5:9-14)
13. How did it come about that Haman honored Mordecai? (6:1-11)
14. How did Haman and his cohorts react to this? (6:12-13)
15. How did Haman meet his doom? (6:14 - 7:10)

## C. Thought Questions

1. What does Mordecai's statement to Esther in 4:13-14 teach about the providence of God and our duty?
2. Was Esther courageous?
3. Was she wise?
4. How do her actions illustrate the proper way for a godly wife to deal with an overbearing, unbelieving husband?
5. Analyze the character of Haman.
6. What can we learn from Mordecai and Esther about how to deal with the schemes of wicked people?

## II. The Feast of Purim

Please read Esther chapters 8-10.

### A Fact Questions

1. What did King Ahasuerus give Queen Esther and Mordecai? (8:1-2)
2. How did the Jews gain permission to defend themselves? (8:3-14)
3. What was the result for Mordecai and the Jews? (8:15-16)
4. What happened when the fateful day arrived? (9:1-10)
5. What further successes did the Jews enjoy? (9: 11-16)
6. Describe the origin of the Feast of Purim. (9:17-32)
7. What was the administration of Mordecai like? (10:1-3)

### B. Thought Questions

1. Analyze the character of:
  - a. Ahasuerus
  - b. Mordecai
  - c. Esther
  - d. Haman
2. What practical lessons can we learn from the book of Esther about learning to:
  - a. fulfill God's will for our lives and
  - b. have a deeper faith in God?

### Summary

1. Esther saved the Jews from annihilation.
2. Mordecai the Jew became second in authority throughout the Persian Empire.

## Lesson Twelve

### Completion of the Restoration of National Israel

Reading Assignment: Nehemiah chapters 8 - 13

#### I. Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- I. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- J. Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.
- K. Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho in ca. 608 BC.
- L. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem in ca. 605 BC and carried Daniel and others to Babylon.
- M. Nebuchadnezzar bound and then killed Jehoiakim in 597 BC.
- N. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.
- O. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.
- P. The theme of Ezra is restoration.
- Q. Israel was restored to the Promised Land.
- R. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.
- S. Ezra restored the Law.
- T. Under Ezra's leadership the people put away their foreign wives.
- U. Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem.
- V. The theme of Esther is divine providence.
- W. Esther saved the Jewish people from annihilation.
- X. Mordecai the Jew became second in authority throughout the Persian Empire.

#### II. Ezra Restores Observance of the Law

Please read Nehemiah chapter 8

##### A. Fact Questions

1. What did the people of Israel do on the first day of the seventh month? (verses 1-2; cf Leviticus 23:23-25)

2. What did Ezra and the Levites do on that day? (verses 2-8)
3. How did the people respond? (verses 3,5-7,9)
4. What did Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Levites command the people to do? (verses 9-11)
5. How did the people respond to this? (verse 12)
6. What feast did Israel restore at this time? (verses 13-18; cf. Leviticus 23:33-43; Numbers 29:12-38; Deuteronomy 16:13-15)

#### B. Thought Question

How can a restoration of obedience to God's law be brought about among God's people?

### III. The People Confess Their Sins

Please read Nehemiah chapter 9.

#### A. Terms to Define

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. sackcloth | 2. precepts |
|--------------|-------------|

#### B. Places to Locate

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Ur          | 3. Heshbon |
| 2. Mount Sinai |            |

#### C. Peoples to Identify

Girgashites

#### D. Fact Question

What did the Israelites do on the twenty-fourth day of the seventh month? (verses 1-3)

#### E. Thought Questions

1. Analyze the prayer they offered on that occasion.
2. When did God reveal the Sabbath? (verse 14; cf. Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 16:22-30; 20:8-11)
3. How did God through His Spirit instruct Israel? (verses 20,14,29-30)

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## A Prayer of Blessing and Confession

Nehemiah 9:5-38

- ✧ **Blessing to the Lord - verses 6-31**
    - ☛ **As Creator and Preserver of All Things - verse 6**
    - ☛ **For Keeping Covenant with Israel verses - 7 -31**
      - ① **Covenant with Abraham - verses 7-8**
      - ② **For Delivering Israel from Egypt - verses 9-12**
      - ③ **For Giving Israel the Law at Mt Sinai - verses 13-14**
      - ④ **For Preserving Israel in the Wilderness Though They Were Disobedient - verses 15-21**
      - ⑤ **For Giving Them the Land - verses 22-25**
      - ⑥ **For Preserving Israel in the Land under the Judges Though They Were Disobedient - verses 26-27**
      - ⑦ **For Not Utterly Consuming Israel Though They Obstinate Refused to Hear His Prophets -verses 28-31**
  - ✧ **Prayer for God to Remember Their Trouble, Though God Has Been Just and Israel Wicked - verses 32-35**
  - ✧ **Renewal of the Covenant in Their Distress - verses 36-38**
- 

#### IV. Israel Renews the Covenant with the Lord

Please read Nehemiah chapter 10.

##### A. Terms to Define

1. curse
2. wood offering

##### B. Fact Questions

1. How generally throughout Israel did the people agree to renew Israel's covenant with the Lord? (verses 1-31)
2. What laws did the people specifically renew? (verses 30-39; cf Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Exodus 20:8-11; Leviticus 25:1-7; Exodus 22:29-30; 23:19; Leviticus 27:30,32; Numbers 18:21-32)
3. What new ordinances did they agree to be bound by? (verses 31-32,34; cf Matthew 17:24)

#### V. The Census

Please read Nehemiah 11:1 - 12:26.

##### A. Outline

1. Those Who Dwelt in Jerusalem (11:1-24)
2. Those Who Dwelt in Surrounding Villages (11:25-36)
3. Priests and Levites (12:1-26)

(Note: Verses 22-23 carry the lineage of the high priests through Jaddua, who filled the office during the reign of Darius king of Persia. Thus, this passage takes the Old Testament history down to 333 BC, the year Alexander the Great of Macedonia (Greece) conquered Jerusalem. This is the latest date covered by any Old Testament historical reference. Only Malachi, of known Old Testament inspired writers, could reasonably be thought to have lived long enough to pen these two verses.)

B. Fact Question

How was Jerusalem filled with an adequate population? (11: 1-2)

VI Nehemiah Dedicates the Wall

Please read Nehemiah 12:27-43.

Fact Questions

1. Describe the ceremony whereby the walls of Jerusalem were dedicated. (verses 27-42)
2. What was the attitude of the people? (verse 43)

VII. Organization of the Temple Service

Please read Nehemiah 12:44-47.

VIII. Nehemiah Reforms Israel

Please read Nehemiah chapter 13.

A. Terms to Define

1. frankincense
2. profaning

B. Person to Identify

Balaam

C. Fact Questions

1. What law did the Jews learn about that day? (verses 1-2; Deuteronomy 23:3-5)
2. What sin had Eliashib the high priest committed? (verses 4-5)
3. What did Nehemiah do about this? (verses 6-9)
4. What happened to the Levites? (verse 10)
5. How did Nehemiah solve this problem? (verses 11-13)
6. How were some violating the Sabbath? (verses 15-16)
7. What did Nehemiah do about this? (verses 17-22)
8. How had some violated the law of marriage? (verses 23-24)



9. How did Nehemiah deal with them? (verses 25-27)
10. How high into Israelite society had this evil crept? (verse 29)
11. What was the result of these reforms? (verses 30-31)

D. Thought Questions

1. Does God remember the good deeds we do in His service? (Nehemiah 5:19; 13:14, 22, 31; cf Hebrews 6:10)
2. Does this mean we earn our salvation? (Nehemiah 13:22; Titus 3:4-7)
3. Did Nehemiah show favoritism to those who were in high places? (verse 28; cf. 1 Timothy 5:21)

IX. Summary

Ezra and Nehemiah complete the restoration of national Israel.

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## Restoration of National Israel

- ✧ **Remnant from Every Tribe of Israel Restored to the Land - Ezra chapter 2:70; Nehemiah 7:6,73**
  - ✧ **Levitical Priesthood of the Lineage of Aaron Revived - Ezra 2:60-62; 3:8; 6:20; Nehemiah 7:5-6,39,43**
  - ✧ **Worship of God According to Old Testament System of Sacrifices at the Temple and Observance of Holy Festivals Resumed - Ezra 3:1-5; 6:14-22**
  - ✧ **Observance of Law of Moses Reinstated - Nehemiah chapter 8**
  - ✧ **Israel Renewed their Covenant with the Lord - Nehemiah 9:38, cf. Verses 7-8, 32**
- ☛ **All the Lord's Promises to Nation Israel Have Been Fulfilled!**
  - ☛ **National Israel Has No More Place in the Divine Plan! - Matthew 21:33-46**
- 

**The history of Old Testament Israel closes, and the period of silence begins, as we await the advent of Messiah.**

## Glossary

### A

- Adar - 12th month of Jewish year, from new moon of March till that of April
- adversaries - enemies, oppressors
- Agagite - belonging to Agag, an Amalekite tribe
- Ahasuerus - Xerxes, king of Persia, ruled from 486 to 465 BC; was proud, despotic, capricious, fickle, reckless of human lives, and given to sensual pleasure; crushed revolt in Egypt but was defeated by the Greeks in his invasion of Greece
- altar of burnt offerings - the altar in the court outside the temple on which the priests offered sacrifices and offerings to the Lord
- altar of incense - the altar inside the holy place where the priests burned incense to the Lord each morning and evening
- Amorites - an idolatrous tribe descended from Canaan which dwelt in Palestine, whom Israel displaced and with whom Israel was forbidden to marry or make covenants
- Aramaic - Semitic language of Mesopotamia (Aram), similar to but distinct from Hebrew, used by Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians as international language of diplomacy
- Asaph - a Levite, the chief of the singers appointed by David to sing in the temple worship, and the author of several psalms
- Artaxerxes - Artaxerxes I, son of Xerxes (Ahasuerus), commonly called Longimanus, king of Persia from 465 to 424 BC
- Asher - tribe descended from eighth son of Jacob; second through Zilpah, handmaid of Leah
- assessment money - same as census money
- atonement - a covering for sin, securing the sinner from guilt and punishment; conveys idea of pacification of judicial wrath and covering of transgression

### B

- Baladan - founder of the dynasty of Babylonian kings which included Merodach-Baladan
- baths - liquid measure equal to ca. 9 gallons each
- Benjamin - tribe descended from youngest son of Jacob, second through Rachel, remained faithful to kings through lineage of David
- Berodach-Baladan - son of Baladan, king of Babylon from 721 to 709 BC, foe of Sargon king of Assyria, eventually ousted and killed by Assyrians
- Book of Moses - the Law, the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament
- buttress - place of corner structure of wall

### C

- Canaanites - descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham, who settled in Canaan
- census money - the half shekel received from each Israelite male above twenty years old whenever a census was taken
- Chaldeans - strictly speaking, an Aramean people from the NW head of the Persian Gulf, became name for people of Babylonia

chief priest - high priest

Chislev - 9th month of the Jewish year, corresponding to December

city of David - Zion, a hill in Jerusalem, which David captured and fortified

cleansing - perform the ceremony of purifying demanded by the law

confessing - acknowledging sins

constituency - acquaintance, friend, donor

corruptly - wickedly, perverting one's way

curse - invocation of evil

custom - toll, road tax

Cyrus - hereditary ruler of Elam, conqueror of Media, Persia, Lydia (King Croesus), and Babylonian Empire, founder of Persian Empire, the largest empire of ancient history

## D

Darius - fourth king of Persia, known as Darius Hystaspes because he was the son of King Hystaspis or as Darius the Great, reigned from 522 to 486 BC, reorganized and enlarged Persian Empire, fought and lost to Greeks at Marathon, dug Suez Canal, enabled Jews to rebuild the Temple

defiled - made ceremonially unclean

drachmas - word of Persian origin, denoted gold coins used in Palestine after the return from Babylon, 128 grains of gold, worth ca. \$475 in 2021

drink offering - wine poured on the altar of burnt offerings to accompany various sacrifices

## E

entreated - sought, begged, requested

Esarhaddon - great king of Assyria, reigned from 681 - 669 BC, resettled Samaria with captives from Elam and Babylonia

Esther - Persian name, meaning "star"

Evil-Merodach - son and successor of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, reigned from 561-559 BC

## F-G

frankincense - a fragrant gum resin from a tree

Girgashites - descendants of Canaan who lived in Palestine

grace - favor

## H

Hadassah - Jewish name, meaning "myrtle"

Hebrew - language native to Israel

high priest - the legal head of the priests, usually the eldest son descended from the lineage of the eldest sons of Aaron, who alone had the right to enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement to intercede with God for the nation of Israel, and who communicated from God to the nation by means of the Urim and Thummim; thus, the spiritual head of the nation

holiness - apartness, sacredness, majesty

Horonite - a native or inhabitant of Beth horon

## I

iniquities - acts of turning from what is right to what is wrong

inquire - consult, ask

Isaiah - Israel's greatest literary prophet; author of the book of Isaiah; prophet to the court of kings of Judah; prophesied during the reigns Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, latter half of eighth century B.C.; along with King Hezekiah and prophet Micah, preserved Judah from Assyria; greatest messianic prophet

Issachar - tribe descended from ninth son of Jacob, fifth through Leah

## J

Jeremiah - one of the great literary prophets of Judah, author of Jeremiah and most probably Lamentations, prophesied for about 40 years, from the 13th year of the reign of King Josiah (627 BC) until after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC, vainly called backsliding Judah to repentance, known as "The Weeping Prophet"

Joktheel - "the blessedness of God"

## K-L

Kohathites - descendants of Kohath, the second son of Levi; one of the three divisions of the Levites; given responsibility for care of the ark, table, candlestick, altar, vessels of the sanctuary, and screen and the service pertaining to these items

lamentations - mournful compositions, dirges

Law of Moses - the Pentateuch, the five books written by Moses, Genesis through Deuteronomy, which contained the law/covenant of the Lord with Israel

## M

Medes - descendants of Japheth, the son of Noah, thus Aryans; kin in descent, language and religion to Persians; lived west and southwest of the Caspian Sea

mediums - sorcerers, necromancers, those who pretended to call up the spirits of dead persons and to communicate with them; used ventriloquy to deceive

Meunites - shepherd people who lived in Edom

myrrh - a fragrant species of balsam which grows in Arabia

## N

Nebuchadnezzar - great King of Babylon who ruled from 604 to 561 BC, established the Babylonian Empire, conquered Judah, destroyed Jerusalem, and either killed or carried into captivity the chief Jews  
Nehushton - “a thing of brass,” name by which the brazen serpent made by Moses in the wilderness was worshiped in the time of king Hezekiah of Judah before he destroyed it  
Nisan - “their flight,” the 1st month of the Jewish calendar corresponding to March or April  
Nisroch - “the great eagle,” an idol of Nineveh worshiped by Sennacherib; symbolized by the eagle-headed human figure

## O-P

pagan - foreign, alien  
Passover - feast on the fourteenth day of the first month; instituted the night Israel was freed from Egyptian bondage; as a memorial of God passing over the first born of Israel but slaying the firstborn of the Egyptians, thus delivering Israel and beginning their existence as a nation  
Pekah - Israelite King who allied with Rezin King of Syria to fight Judah but was defeated by Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria  
Pharaoh Necho - second king of the twenty-sixth dynasty of Egypt, ruled 610-594 BC; threw off Assyrian yoke by marching from Egypt to the Euphrates River; in which march he met, defeated and killed King Josiah at Megiddo (608 BC); established rule at Riblah in Syria; deposed Jehoahaz as king and set up Jehoiakim; imposed tribute on Judah; but defeated at Carchemish by Nebuchadnezzar (605 BC), establishing Babylonian control of Western Asia  
precepts - commandments  
prince - chief, captain, leader  
profaning - treating as common, polluting, defiling  
purified - ceremonially cleansed so they could minister as priests

## Q-R

Rabsaris - chief eunuch, a high ranking Babylonian official  
Rabshakeh - chief cupbearer  
redeemed - ransomed, delivered, rescued  
remnant - remainder, rest, other part  
responsively - separate groups of singers singing alternately or in answer to each other (antiphonally)  
revile - taunt, blaspheme, defy  
revival - preservation or recovery of life  
Rezin - last king of Syria to reign in Damascus, allied with Pekah king of Israel to war against Ahaz king of Judah; Isaiah prophesied his invasion of Judah would come to naught; he was killed and his country conquered by Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria, when Ahaz submitted to Assyrian rule in exchange for alliance against Rezin

## S

- sackcloth - coarse cloth of dark color, usually made of goats' hair, worn as a sign of mourning or humiliation
- sanctify - set apart as holy, consecrate, hallow, dedicate
- satraps - highest class of the Persian provincial governors
- Sennacherib - powerful king of Assyria (704-682 BC); in constant warfare; defeated Babylon repeatedly, defeated Egypt and Elam; laid siege to Jerusalem when it was ruled by King Hezekiah, but, although Hezekiah sent him tribute and hostages, he was unable to take Jerusalem; murdered by two of his own sons
- Sheshbazzar - literally, "worshiper of fire," probably the Chaldee name for Zerubbabel
- sign - miraculous proof of divine promise
- signet ring - worn by the wealthy, usually on chain around the neck; when pressed upon wax made the official signature of the bearer
- sin offerings - the sacrifice offered to take away the guilt of sins committed in ignorance, weakness or carelessness, as distinguished from sins of rebellion, for which there was no sacrifice
- sorcery - augury, the foretelling of the future from signs in the phenomena of nature and inexplicable occurrences in animal and human life
- spiritists - literally, "knowing, wise," those who professed acquaintance with the unseen world
- stiffnecked - stubborn, obstinate
- swear - take an oath, promise by calling on God as witness

## T

- tabernacle of witness - name given to the tent where God dwelt among Israel when Aaron's rod that budded bore witness that the priesthood belonged to Aaron, and this rod was laid in the tabernacle before the ark as testimony as a witness (Numbers 17:7-8; 18:2)
- table of the showbread - the table within the holy place on which the priests each Sabbath set two stacks of six cakes each of fine flour before the face of the Lord, along with frankincense, as a memorial and a sacrifice
- Tartan - field marshal, general, commander
- Tekoites - inhabitants of Tekoah, city 12 miles south of Jerusalem
- thank offerings - peace offerings sacrificed out of thanksgiving to the Lord (Leviticus 7:11-15)
- Tirhakah - Ethiopian who became pharaoh of Egypt, reigned from ca. 693 - 667 BC, tried to take Palestine but fought unsuccessfully against Esar-haddon and Assur-bani-pal of Assyria, eventually fled to Ethiopia, where he died
- tithe - payment of the tenth part
- trespass offering - - money paid in restitution for an act of fraud, if the victim could not be paid, the money went to the priest who offered the trespass sacrifice (Numbers 5:6-8)
- tribute - sum of money or other valuable thing paid by one people to ruler of another as acknowledgment of submission

## U

unclean - levitically defiled, unsuitable for communion with Him Who is holy

Urim and Thummim - means "light and perfection," something worn on breast of high priest as a medium, given by the Lord to Israel in the person of the high priest, through which the congregation could receive divine guidance when needed

usury - lending on interest

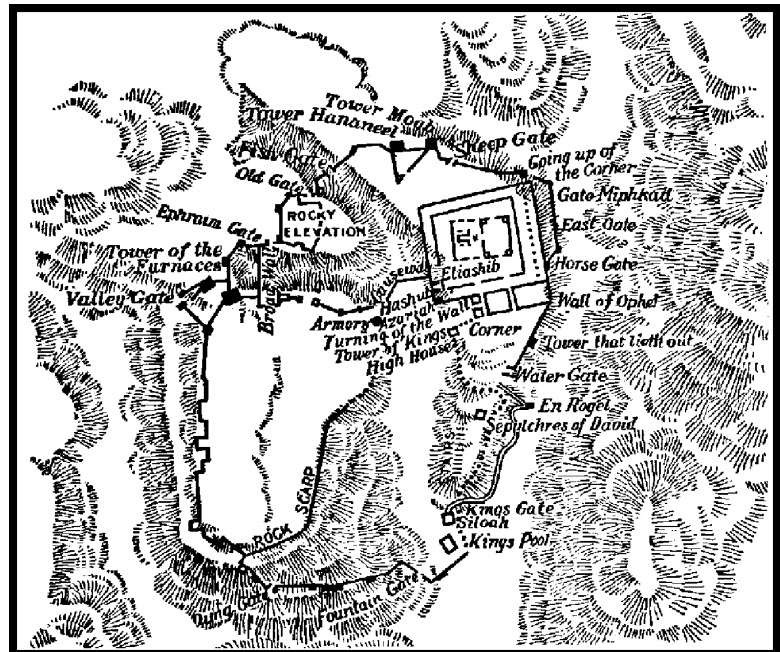
## V-X-X-Y-Z

valiant men - men of strength, might, or ability; soldiers

visions - messages received in a state of ecstasy in which God revealed Himself to the inner consciousness

wood offering - donation of wood from Israelites to keep altar of burnt offerings burning continually (cf. Leviticus 6:13)

# Maps



**Jerusalem in the Time of Hezekiah and Isaiah**

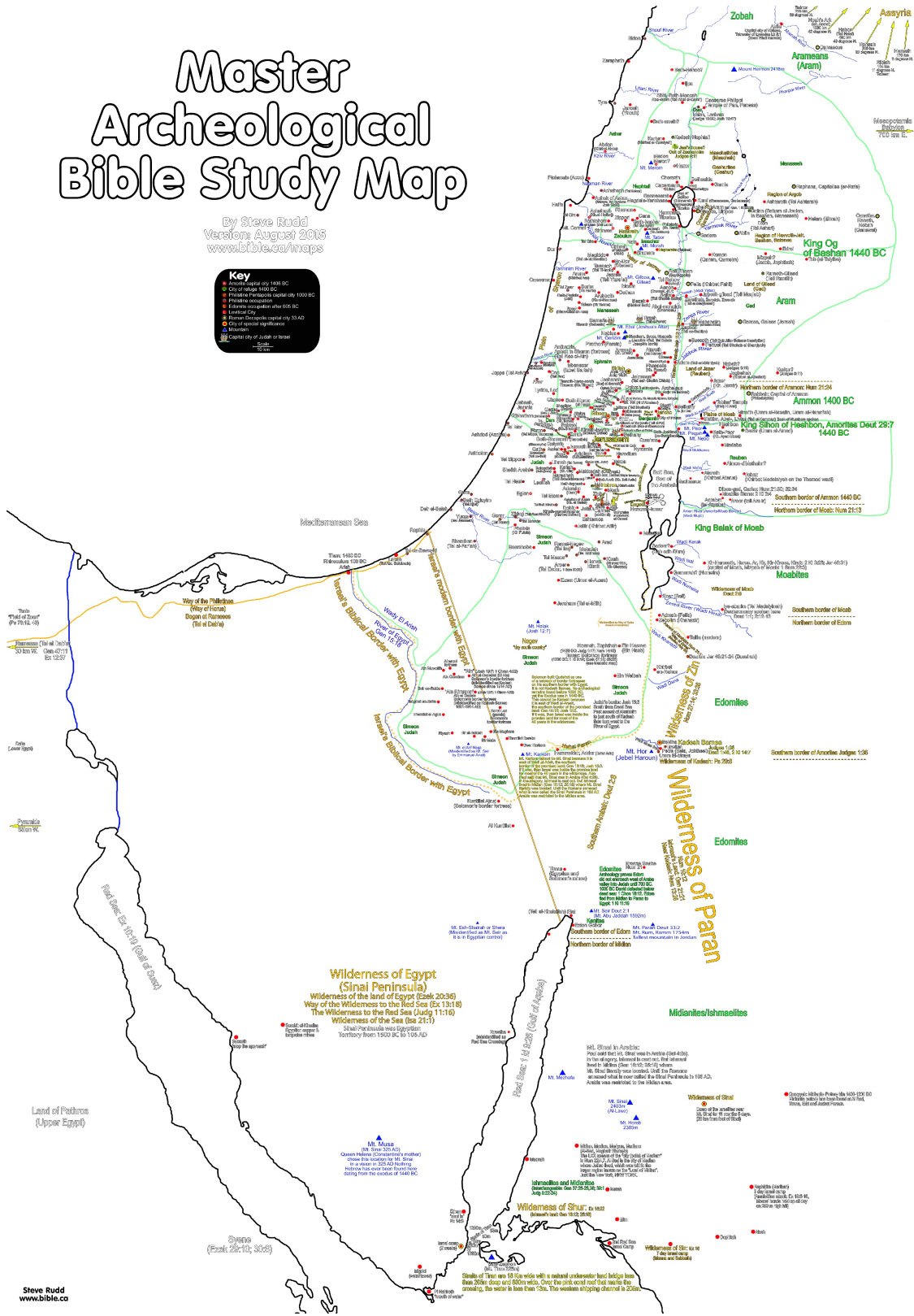


# Master Archeological Bible Study Map

By Steve Rudd  
Version: August 2015  
www.bible.ca/maps

**Key**

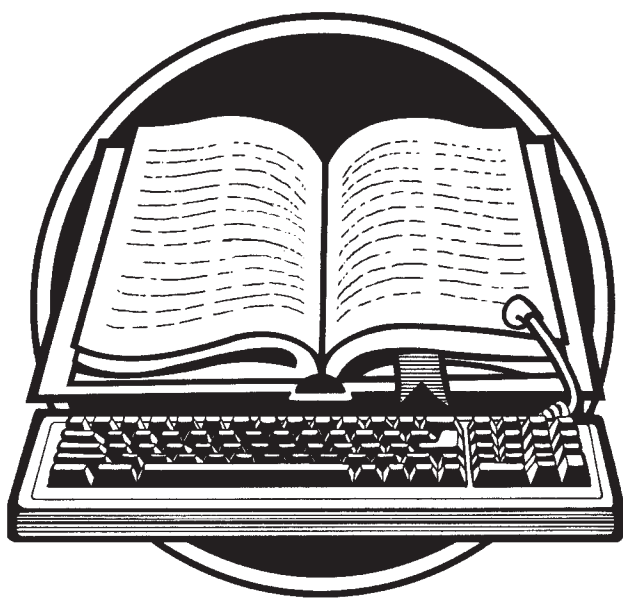
- Ancient capital city 1000 BC
- City destroyed 1000 BC
- Prehistoric Period, coastal city, 1000 BC
- Prehistoric occupation
- Roman occupation after 100 BC
- Roman City
- Roman Decapolis territory 70 AD
- City of special significance
- Jerusalem
- Capital city of Judah or Israel
- Temple
- Wall



Steve Rudd  
www.bible.ca

## Review

- A. Joash served the Lord while the high priest Jehoida lived, but after his death, Joash served idols and killed Jehoida's son Zechariah.
- B. Amaziah was a good king at first but later served idols and was defeated by Joash king of Israel.
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king, thus, Judah became strong, but Uzziah became proud and went into the Temple to offer incense, the Lord struck him with leprosy, and he was isolated the remainder of his life.
- D. Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and defeated the Ammonites.
- E. Ahaz was terribly wicked.
- F. Good King Hezekiah joined with the prophet Isaiah to restore Judah to the Lord.
- G. King Hezekiah restored righteousness and prosperity to Judah, and, with Isaiah, saved Judah from Assyria.
- H. Mannaseh, the worst king of Judah, was as wicked as Hezekiah was righteous, and the destruction of Judah was determined.
- I. Ammon was wicked and idolatrous, and after a reign of only two years his servants assassinated him.
- J. Josiah was perhaps the best king Judah ever had and, with Jeremiah, tried to turn Judah to the Lord.
- K. Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho in ca. 608 BC.
- L. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem in ca. 605 BC and carried Daniel and others to Babylon.
- M. Nebuchadnezzar bound and then killed Jehoiakim in 597 BC.
- N. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive in 597 BC. and took Ezekiel and others to Babylon.
- O. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took Zedekiah captive in 586 BC.
- P. The theme of Ezra is restoration.
- Q. Israel was restored to the Promised Land.
- R. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.
- S. Ezra restored the Law.
- T. Under Ezra's leadership the people put away their foreign wives.
- U. The theme of Esther is divine providence.
- V. Esther saved the Jewish people from annihilation.
- W. Mordecai the Jew became second in authority throughout the Persian Empire.
- X. Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem.



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