

# Old Testament Historical Books

## *Answer Key* to “What Have You Learned?”



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### PART I

#### **Lesson 1 – BEFORE THE CONQUEST**

1. What was the first thing God told Moses to do at Kadesh-Barnea? *God instructed Moses to send twelve men, one from each tribe, to spy out the Promised Land.*
2. Why did God threaten to annihilate Israel? *God threatened to annihilate Israel when the people listened to and believed the report of the ten spies, which claimed that it would be impossible to possess the land.*
3. What stopped God from annihilating Israel? *Moses interceded for the people, and God changed the nature of the punishment.*
4. How long did Israel actually wander in the desert? *Thirty-seven and a half years*
5. During the period of wandering, how many Israelites had to die (both men and women)? *1,200,000 men and women had to die (600,000 of both men and women).*
6. The eighty-five funerals per day were a reminder of the judgment of God upon them because of their unbelief.
7. What three (3) things was Moses guilty of with his sin of striking the rock the second time?
  - 1) *He disobeyed God.*
  - 2) *He made it appear that he had produced water through his own human efforts.*
  - 3) *He broke the type. Christ as the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4) was smitten only once at Calvary. Now one needs only to speak to Him to receive the water of life.*
8. Balaam ensnared Israel in the cult worship of Baal-peor, and God sent a plague that took 24,000 lives. How was this plague stopped? *The plague was stopped only when Phinehas, son of the high priest Eleazer, slew an Israelite man and a Midianite woman in a tent (Numbers 25:8).*
9. Give Scripture reference and explain what each of the following terms mean:  
Error of Balaam – (Jude 11) *This speaks of the sin of using the gift of God for material gain, of selling God's gift and of becoming a hireling.*  
Doctrine of Balaam – (Revelation 2:14) *This speaks of the sin of enticing God's children to commit fornication.*
10. When did Moses deliver the great messages of Deuteronomy to the people of Israel? *On the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year, Moses orally delivered the great messages of Deuteronomy. This was only two months and ten days before Israel crossed the Jordan River.*

## **Lesson 2 – JOSHUA**

1. Why was choosing the person to take Moses' place such an important decision? *This was a very important decision because the successor would be the one to lead Israel across Jordan to possess Canaan.*
2. What does the name "Joshua" mean? *The name "Joshua" means "Jehovah is Salvation."*
3. List five (5) ways Joshua was a type of Jesus.
  - 1) *He was captain of the armies of the Lord.*
  - 2) *He followed after Moses (the law).*
  - 3) *He led his people through to victory.*
  - 4) *He was their advocate.*
  - 5) *He allotted the portions due to the people.*
4. List three (3) of Joshua's greatest characteristics.
  - 1) *Faith,*
  - 2) *Obedience, and*
  - 3) *Courage*
5. List the five (5) main points of the Lord's message to Joshua after the death of Moses (Joshua 1:1-9).
  - 1) *God would give him every place that the sole of his feet should walk upon (verse 3).*
  - 2) *No man would be able to stand before him all his life (verse 5).*
  - 3) *God would be with him even as He was with Moses (verse 5).*
  - 4) *God would not fail him nor forsake him (verse 5).*
  - 5) *God would be with him wherever he went (verse 9).*
6. Who was Rahab? What role did she play in the defeat of Jericho? *Rahab was a harlot whose house was located on the city wall. She protected the spies sent to Jericho by hiding them beneath drying stalks of flax on the roof. With her help, the men escaped back to Joshua.*
7. List the steps in the Lord's instructions for the crossing of the Jordan.
  - ✓ *The ark of the covenant (carried by the Levites) went ahead. Two thousand cubits (3,000 feet) separated the people from the ark, permitting a large number of people to see it going ahead.*
  - ✓ *As soon as the feet of the priests touched the water of Jordan, a great miracle occurred.*
  - ✓ *Every drop of water at a given point quit flowing and banked up in a great heap while the water below flowed on toward the Dead Sea.*
  - ✓ *The priests halted midway in the river.*
  - ✓ *They stood holding the ark of the Lord until all the people had passed over.*
  - ✓ *The Lord's name was in His ark (1 Corinthians 13:6).*
  - ✓ *Here the new generations born in the wilderness were baptized. Like the older generation baptized by the crossing of the Red Sea, this younger generation had to go through the water (in the name of the Lord).*
  - ✓ *Two memorials of this crossing were created:*
    - *One was in the Jordan and*
    - *The other across at Gilgal where the people encamped (Joshua 4:1-24).*
  - ✓ *Twelve men, one from each tribe, took one stone each from the Jordan, near where the priests stood, and carried them to the place of encampment.*
  - ✓ *Joshua then set up twelve stones in the middle of the river at the spot from which the other stones had been taken.*
  - ✓ *The priests bearing the ark then moved across the river to the back and the river once again flowed downstream.*
  - ✓ *When all the people arrived at Gilgal, Joshua made the second pillar from the stones carried from the river.*
8. Why did God command the male Israelites to be circumcised at Gilgal? *The generation born in the wilderness, had not been circumcised. This rite was given to Abraham and was now commanded as a sign of separation between the Israelites and their new neighbors. It also symbolized the removal of Israel's reproach.*

### **Lesson 3 – THE CONQUEST OF JOSHUA**

1. Briefly explain the political and governmental setup of Canaan. *The land of Canaan was an area of city-states. There was no central government, but many cities, each with its own king.*
2. What was the strategy of Moses, as revealed to him by God, for conquering Canaan? *God told Moses to attack the land at its midpoint, coming in from the east, and to divide it into a south and north section. Then each of these areas was to be conquered separately.*
3. Briefly describe the wall that encircled the city of Jericho. *The great wall that encircled the city, was of such strength and size that houses were built on it. These walls were forty to fifty feet high.*
4. Why were the Israelites forbidden to take any of the spoils of Jericho? *No Israelite was permitted to enrich himself by spoil, for God had placed a ban on the city, declaring that it was a kind of first fruits to Himself. Valuable metals, gold, silver, bronze were placed in God's treasury.*
5. The victory of the nation of Israel depended on what? *The victory of the nation depended on personal obedience.*
6. How many men from Israel's army died at Ai? *Thirty-six (36) men of Israel died at Ai.*
7. Why was Israel defeated by Ai? *The reason for the defeat was the existence of sin in Israel's camp.*
8. Who had taken spoil from Jericho, and what was it? Where did he hide it? *Achan, of the tribe of Judah, had taken a Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver and a fifty-shekel bar of gold. He had hidden these goods in his tent.*
9. What three (3) lessons did God teach the Israelites through the trials at Ai?
  - 1) *The seriousness of sin*
  - 2) *God's dealings with personal sin, and*
  - 3) *The error of overconfidence*
10. How was it possible for the Gibeonites to trick God's people? *Everyone can be deceived if they fail to ask counsel of the Lord. Do not rest on past experiences, but ask God's guidance in every issue. Joshua's failure to seek God's counsel allowed Gibeon to trick Israel.*
11. When Joshua learned he had been tricked, what did he force the Gibeonites to do? *He and the elders kept the treaty, but forced the Gibeonites to serve as hewers of wood and drawers of water for the entire congregation.*
12. What one (1) good thing came of the Israelites dealings with Gibeon? *The one good thing that came of this was the fact that Israel gained control in some cities in the central part of the land without having to fight.*
13. What five (5) kings formed the alliance to march against Gibeon?
  - 1) *Jerusalem*
  - 2) *Hebron*
  - 3) *Jermuth*
  - 4) *Lachish*
  - 5) *Eglon*
14. What miracle is confirmed by science concerning a missing day? *Joshua feared the Canaanites might escape because the sun was about to go down. He commanded the sun and moon to stand still. They obeyed until the conquest was complete. It is thought that the miracle of the shadow on the sundial going back ten degrees for Hezekiah (2 Kings 20) equaled forty minutes and Joshua's long day was twenty-three hours and twenty extra minutes (the Bible says "about a whole day"). Science confirms the fact that there is a day that cannot be accounted for except by the miracles that took place for Joshua and Hezekiah.*
15. What principle region of Canaan escaped Joshua's forces? Who finally conquered this area? *The Mediterranean coastline was one principle region that escaped Joshua's forces. For the most part, the coastal territory remained untouched and was not completely subdued until conquered by David.*

#### **Lesson 4 – THE DIVISIONS OF CANAAN**

1. Who was in charge of dividing the land of Canaan among the twelve tribes? *Joshua was in charge of dividing the land of Canaan among the twelve tribes.*
2. The important central part of Canaan was given to what two tribes? *The important central part of Canaan was given to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.*  
What two (2) important leaders were from these tribes? *Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim and Gideon came from the tribe of Manasseh.*  
Which one was the principle tribe in Israel for many years? *For many years, Ephraim was the principle tribe.*
3. What is another name for the city of the Jebusites? *Jerusalem*
4. What four (4) tribes made up the area in the north where Jesus spent most of His earthly life? What was this area called? *Asher, Zebulun, Issachar and Naphtali received inheritance in the north. This area later became Galilee where Jesus spent the greater part of His earthly life.*
5. List two (2) reasons why the tribe of Levi was not given an inheritance.
  - 1) *They were devoted to the offices connected with the priesthood.*
  - 2) *They were supported by the tithes and offerings of the whole people.*
6. List two (2) reasons why Caleb is remembered as a great man.
  - 1) *Caleb is remembered by his great faith, and*
  - 2) *At age eighty-five, he said, "Give me this mountain, and drove out the Anakim from his promised mountain.*
7. List the six (6) cities of refuge, and briefly explain what that means. *Cities of refuge were set apart to make provision for the protection of all those who unwittingly committed murder. There were three on the east and three on the west of Jordan. They were:*

1) <i>Kadesh</i>	3) <i>Kirjath-arba</i>	5) <i>Ramoth</i>
2) <i>Shechem</i>	4) <i>Bezer</i>	6) <i>Galan</i>
8. When did tithing begin? Support your answer with Scripture. *Tithing began with Abraham (Genesis 14:20).*
9. From the time of the building of the Tabernacle, where has the dwelling place for God's altar been? *From the time of the building of the Tabernacle, God has had one place for His altar. First it was in the Tabernacle, next it was in the Temple, and now it is in His church.*

### **Lesson 5 – JUDGES – Part I**

1. Write the key verse of Scripture (repeated twice in the book of Judges), that explains why Israel did not receive the great blessings promised her. Mention both references for this verse.

*"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6).*

*"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).*

2. List the six (6) steps followed in the series of cycles throughout the judges.

*1) Lapse into idolatry*

*2) Idolatry was followed by great immorality*

*3) Judgment of God brought them under the servitude of other nations*

*4) Judgment was followed by a cry of repentance*

*5) In answer to their cry for help, God sent them a deliverer*

*6) They would remain faithful during the lifetime of the deliverer*

3. List and briefly explain the three (3) main reasons for the failures and sins of Israel during this time in their history.

*1) Failure to drive the Canaanites from the land – many Canaanites left in the land after Joshua, and they became pockets of resistance, which challenged Israel until the time of Saul.*

*2) Lost sense of unity – there was still a theocratic government and the Tabernacle remained at Shiloh, but each tribe was actually on its own.*

*3) Material prosperity and worship of Baal – Canaanites believed Baal controlled rain and storm, and Israel was attracted to this form of idolatry, hoping to prosper in their agricultural lifestyle.*

## **Lesson 6 – JUDGES – Part II**

1. Read Judges 19-21. Briefly explain the crime that caused the severe punishment of the Benjamites.

*A Levite who lived on Mt. Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem-judah. His concubine committed adultery and went home to her father's house and was there four months. Her husband came after her to reconcile, and stayed three days in her father's house. The father-in-law kept delaying their departure, and when they finally did leave, it was late in the evening, almost dark. They traveled until the sun went down, and then stopped in Gibeah in the tribe of Benjamin. They couldn't find anywhere to stay, so they sat down in the city square. An old man came from working in the fields, and he lived in Gibeah, but the men of the place were Benjamites. The old man took them into his home, and shared his supper with them, giving the animals a place to rest and eat also. While they were eating supper, the men of the city came and surrounded the house, asking for the man to come out so they could have sex with him. The old man pleaded with them not to do such a thing, and offered his maiden daughter and the concubine of his guest for the men to rape. The concubine was given to them, and they abused her all night and let her go in the morning. When the Levite opened the door of the house in the morning, she was lying across the threshold of the door to the house, dead. He put her dead body on his horse and went home to Mt. Ephraim. Then, he cut the body of his concubine into twelve pieces, and sent one piece to each tribe in Israel. Then all the people gathered at Mizpeh, and decided to go to Benjamin and tell them to bring the men who had done this wicked thing for punishment. The tribe of Benjamin refused, so civil war broke out.*

2. What caused the beginning of Israel's decline into apostasy? *The people of Israel served the Lord as long as the elders who saw the miracles of God under the ministry of Joshua lived. After the death of the elders, Israelites began marrying into heathen families, forsaking the Lord, worshipping Canaanite gods, and falling into terrible immoralities.*

3. Briefly identify each of the following characters:

**Othniel** – the first judge and younger brother of Caleb, he delivered Israel from the Mesopotamians under the leadership of Cushan Rishathaim. No record is given of how he won the victory, only that “the Spirit of the Lord came upon him” (Judges 3:10).

**Cushan Rishathaim** – the leader of the Mesopotamians who invaded Israel from their distant land and kept them in bondage for eight years.

**Eglon** – a very fat man, he was the king of Moab, located directly across the Dead Sea from Judah.

**Ehud** – A deliverer from Benjamin, he killed King Eglon, and the Moabites retreated before his men who killed 10,000 Moabites.

**Shamgar** – the third judge, lived during the eighty years of peace after Ehud overthrew the Moabites. He won a great victory over the Philistines, killing 600 Philistines with nothing but an ox-goad during one fight.

**Sisera** – the general for the Canaanites within Palestine, whom the Israelites should have driven out in the first place. The city of Hazor had been defeated by Joshua but again had become strong, with Sisera claiming 900 chariots of iron.

**Barak** – a soldier who lived in the north in Kedesh of Naphtali. He was called by Deborah to raise an army of 10,000 men from Zebulun and Naphtali to fight Sisera. Barak agreed if Deborah would go with him.

**Deborah** – a judge and a prophetess (Judges 4:4). She received people under a palm tree between Ramah and Bethel, some sixty miles south of where the battle with Sisera would take place. She called Barak, and went to battle with him. Judges 5 records the triumphant song of victory of Deborah and Barak. In Judges 5:7, she called herself “a mother in Israel.”

**Jael** – Sisera's army was defeated, but he escaped the battle and was killed by a woman named Jael, who lived near Barak's hometown of Kedesh. Jael killed Sisera by driving a tent peg through his head.

**Gideon** – lived in Ophrah, a village of Manasseh. The people of Ophrah worshiped Baal, so God told Gideon to destroy this idolatrous altar. Gideon obeyed, showing courage and faith. He then called for troops to fight the Midianites, and God told him how to make sure his army was exactly right.

**Abimelech** – son of Gideon by a concubine from Shechem, wanted to be king of Israel. He killed sixty-nine of his brothers, and only the youngest (Jothan) escaped. He ruled the Shechemites for three years, but was then killed in battle by a woman.

**Jephthah** – the son of Gilead and a harlot. His life was overshadowed by that fact and his brethren cast him out. In Tob he became a bold and successful captain, and was accepted as captain over the army against the Ammonites. He entirely defeated the enemy. Jephthah is remembered most for his foolish vow to offer as a sacrifice whatever should first meet him on returning home if he won the victory. His only daughter came to meet him. This vow was not acceptable by the Mosaic ritual nor to God.

**Manoah** – from the tribe of Dan, and the father of Samson.

**Samson** – birth announced by an angel, he was to be a Nazarite (no razor touch his hair, no wine or strong drink). He had great physical strength, but a weak will. He was God's man to fight against the Philistines who had oppressed Israel for forty years. Samson served as judge for twenty years, until he fell victim to lust and sinned with a harlot (Judges 16:1-3).

*He finally lost his hair, was blinded and lost his strength. Later, when his hair grew out, he pulled down the temple of the Philistines, killing them and himself.*

### **Lesson 7 – RUTH**

1. What is one of the most notable things to remember about the story of Ruth? *One of the notable things about the story of Ruth is that Ruth, a Gentile, married into a Jewish family, and thereby came into the line of David.*
2. Write Ruth's statement of love and dedication to her mother-in-law found in Ruth 1:16-17. *"Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."*
3. When did Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem? *They returned to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.*
4. What did Naomi say when the people of the city welcomed her back? Give Scripture reference to support your answer. *Naomi said, "Call me not Naomi, but call me Mara. . . I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty" (Ruth 1:20-21).*
5. Leviticus 19:9-10 gives the Lord's instructions for Israel about the way they should harvest their crops. List four (4) things they were specifically told.
  - 1) *" . . . thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, . . .*
  - 2) *" . . . neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.*
  - 3) *" . . . And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, . . .*
  - 4) *" . . . neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; . . ."*

*Why were they told to harvest this way? They were told to harvest this way because they were supposed to leave these for the poor and stranger.*

6. What special Israelite custom is described in the story of Ruth and Boaz? *Ruth and Boaz give us a clear example of the office of kinsman-redeemer.*
7. Trace the genealogy of David back to Ruth. The father of Boaz was Salmon and his mother was Rahab. When Boaz married Ruth, they had a son named Obed. He was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David.

### **Lesson 8 – ELI**

1. What was the great blemish on Eli's record? *The great blemish on Eli's record was that he completely failed in training his own sons.*
2. What was the sin of Hophni and Phinehas? What was the result of that sin? *Hophni and Phinehas were also priests, in charge of the ceremonies. They were wicked men, sorely perverting the ritual and profaning the sanctuary in a debauchery similar to that of Canaanite temples. As a result, people hated to come to worship.*
3. How did Eli disqualify himself from being priest? Write out the New Testament Scripture (with reference) to support your answer. *Eli disqualified himself from being priest for not correcting and disciplining his own sons. Paul wrote in the 1 Timothy 3:4-5 the qualifications of a minister: "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God)."*
4. How did God bring judgment on the Philistines when they took the Ark of the Covenant? *First, the image of Dagon, beside which the ark had been placed, twice fell to the floor. Second, painful tumors were inflicted on the people, which in some instances brought death. Finally, the land was overrun with mice, which brought disease.*
5. Briefly describe the birth of Eli's grandson. *Phinehas's wife was ready to bear a child when the news came of the death of her husband. She immediately gave birth and died in childbirth. Before her death, she named the child Ichabod. "Ichabod" means "The glory is departed from Israel."*

### **Lesson 9 – SAMUEL**

1. What three (3) offices did Samuel hold in Israel? *Samuel was a prophet, priest, and judge in Israel.*
  2. What does the name "Samuel" mean? *The name Samuel means, "asked of God."*
  3. How did Samuel come to live in the Tabernacle? *Prior to Samuel's birth, Hannah had been barren. She prayed for a son while at the house of God in Shiloh. The priest Eli saw her and thought she was drunk because of her intense burden. God heard her prayer and Samuel was born. After Samuel was weaned, he was brought to the Tabernacle and given to the Lord for service. Since God had given Samuel to Hannah, she gave Samuel back to the Lord.*
  4. What was meant by the statement, "the word of the Lord was precious in those days"? *This simply meant that God seldom spoke to His people.*
  5. List five (5) things Samuel had to do (after the death of Eli) to bring order out of chaos in Israel.
    - 1) *Samuel had to correct the corrupt atmosphere of the Tabernacle and meet the dire religious need of the people.*
    - 2) *He had to lift the low standard of morals that existed everywhere.*
    - 3) *The priests and Levites in their widely distributed cities had to be encouraged.*
    - 4) *The images of Baal and Ashteroth had to be destroyed.*
    - 5) *The people had to return to the worship of the true God.*
  6. Briefly describe the victorious battle of Mizpeh. *Under Samuel's leadership, a revival took place at Mizpeh in Benjamin. The Philistines, hearing of the assembly of Mizpeh, went to battle. But in answer to Samuel's earnest intercession, God sent a thunderstorm, making the Philistines easy prey to the Israelites. Samuel's weapon was prayer.*
  7. What two (2) things stirred the people to request a king from Samuel?
    - 1) *The poor conduct of Samuel's sons (Joel and Abiah) as judges, and*
    - 2) *The desire of the people to be like other nations*
  8. What was Saul's excuse and reason for intruding into the priest's office? *His excuse was his fear of the Philistines, his reason was his pride and impatience.*
  9. List five (5) things that Samuel is remembered for.
    - 1) *His fearlessness*
    - 2) *His prayerfulness*
    - 3) *His compassion*
    - 4) *His devoted love for God*
    - 5) *His service to his people*
- Much of this is undoubtedly due to the prayers and dedication of his saintly mother.*



## **Lesson 10 – KING SAUL**

1. Why did the people of Israel want a king? *The people had requested a king that they might be like the other nations around them.*
2. What three (3) signs did Samuel tell Saul he would experience as he traveled?  
*First, he would meet two men who would tell him that the lost asses had been found.  
Second, he would meet three men having goats, bread and wine, who would give him two loaves of bread.  
Third, he would encounter a company of the prophets. He was to join the last party of prophets and the spirit of the Lord would come upon him. He would prophesy and be turned into another man.*
3. Briefly describe how Saul began his reign in a most promising manner. *Saul soon had a chance to establish himself as king when the Ammonites attacked the city of Jabesh-Gilead across the Jordan. These people sent for help, and Saul butchered a yoke of oxen and sent pieces to all the tribes. Three hundred thirty thousand men responded, and Saul chose three army contingents, which he led against the Ammonites, winning a decisive victory. The Israelites not fully accepted him as king. Saul's government was simple and he did not demand too much from the people. His capital was at Gibeah, his hometown.*
4. Using Saul as an example, explain this statement, "Incomplete obedience is disobedience."  
*Samuel gave Saul specific instructions regarding the battle against the Amalekites. These people had always been enemies of Israel, and Saul was to destroy the people and all of their livestock. Saul won the battle; he defeated the foe but spared King Agag and some of the finest sheep and oxen. He explained to Samuel that the animals were for a sacrifice, but Samuel rebuked him and said God desired obedience more than sacrifice. Samuel then killed King Agag with his own hands. Saul's incomplete obedience was a type of uncontrolled flesh.*
5. Describe the steps Saul went through in the process of allowing disobedience to rule his heart. *With Saul it was first pride, which led to presumption, and then it was an act of disobedience. Later extreme jealousy regarding David took over in his life and he started trying to kill David. With this jealousy came an evil spirit that took possession of Saul. The Spirit of the Lord departed from his life and periods of severe depression came upon him.*
6. Briefly describe the most atrocious act of Saul's life. *One of the most terrible acts that King Saul performed was slaying eighty-five of the Lord's priests and destroying the city of Nob. He did this in his anger and jealousy of David. Ahimelech, the high priest, had given David some of the shewbread that had been taken from the altar, and the sword of Goliath. This information had been passed on to Saul by Doeg, an Edomite. Saul reacted in a fit of insane jealousy, killing all the priests. Only Abiathar, son of the high priest, escaped to David's camp (1 Samuel 22:11-23).*
7. How did David react to the news and manner of Saul's death? Use Scripture (with reference) to support. *The Israelites were completely defeated by the Philistines at Mount Gilboa, and Saul and his three sons were slain. Saul was wounded, then he attempted to commit suicide by falling on his own sword. As he lay in agony, a young Amalekite man came, finished slaying him and took his crown and bracelet. Even though Saul had sought David's life for years and had failed God in such a miserable manner and been rejected by God, David avenged Saul's death. He said to the Amalekite, "How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" (1 Samuel 31:10). Then he called a young man to slay the Amalekite.*

## **Lesson 11 – KING DAVID – Part I**

1. Who was David and where did he come from? *David was the eighth and youngest son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah. Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth. David was born about 1080 B.C. in Bethlehem, six miles south of Jerusalem.*
2. Briefly describe the anointing of David as king. *When Saul was rejected by God, Samuel was given instructions to anoint another man to take his place. He was to go to Bethlehem and anoint a son of Jesse. Jesse brought his sons before him and God refused each. David, the eighth and youngest, had been left to care for the family sheep. Samuel insisted that he be brought and God showed him that this was the one. As Jesse and the other seven sons watched, Samuel anointed David to be Israel's second king. He was probably about fifteen years of age at that time.*
3. Write 1 Samuel 17:45-46 in full. *"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."*
4. What happened to arouse Saul's jealousy of David? *In the beginning, as David ministered to Saul as a minstrel, Saul was very fond of David. After David killed Goliath, Saul became very jealous because the women came out of the cities, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul. But, their song made Saul very angry. They sang like this, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Saul's jealousy of David was aroused, and from that day, he sought to kill him on every occasion.*
5. What did Jonathan ask of David when he realized David would be king? *Jonathan asked nothing of David except that he would be kind to all of his kindred when he should come into his kingdom.*
6. When David fled from Saul as a fugitive, where did he go first? What happened here that led to a terrible act by Saul? *When David fled from Saul, he went first to Nob where Ahimelech served as high priest at the Tabernacle. David received some of the sacred bread for food, Goliath's sword for a weapon, and an indication through Ahimelech of God's will. Doeg the Edomite was there and saw this exchange. He was the one who would later kill eighty-five priest, including Ahimelech the high priest, on Saul's order.*
7. Describe the type of men who joined David as fugitives. *After escaping the Philistine city of Gath by feigning madness, David turned to his homeland and took up residence in a cave near Adullam, where he began gathering a protective force of men. Four hundred men responded – men described as being in distress, in debt and discontented. Undoubtedly, many were political refugees.*
8. Describe how David spared Saul's life the first time. *While camped at Engedi, on the shore of the Dead Sea, David spared Saul's life for the first time. Saul had entered the cave where David was hiding and David could have killed him, but, instead he merely cut off part of Saul's clothing for evidence of his nearness.*
9. Briefly describe how David met and married Abigail. *While in the region of Moan, David sought food for his men from Nabal, a wealthy landowner who lived near his camp. Nabal was a surly person who refused to help. When David prepared to punish him, Nabal's wife, Abigail, intervened and supplied food. Nabal died ten days later and David then took Abigail as his own wife.*
10. Describe how David spared Saul's life a second time. *The Ziphites told Saul of David's hiding place and Saul came, but David spared his life again. This time, David, accompanied by Abishai, went to where Saul slept under the guard of Abner and the army. David took away Saul's own spear and jug of water. The next day, Saul, shown the articles by David, repented and promised not to pursue David any longer.*
11. Why was it logical for David to be anointed king of Judah? How long did David rule over Judah? *When Saul died, David sought God's guidance, left Ziklag and returned to Hebron. Here the people of Judah anointed him king. This was quite logical, for David was well known in Judah. Many of his men came from Judah and he had been their champion for many years. They were familiar with his ability, leadership and warfare and were glad to make him king. He was one in whom they could place confidence. David was crowned king of Judah at Hebron in the year 1014 B.C. David ruled over Judah for seven and one half years.*
12. Describe the civil war that resulted in David becoming king over the united kingdom of Israel. *After King Saul died, Abner, captain of the host, encouraged Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, to accept the kingship and he was crowned king of the northern and eastern tribes. His capital was in Gilead, but Abner was the actual ruler. Civil war between Israel and Judah resulted, and Judah always prevailed. Finally, Abner deserted Ish-bosheth and joined himself unto David, but Joab murdered Abner. Soon after this, Ish-bosheth was murdered by two of his servants, and then David was anointed king over Israel. The civil war ended and David became king over the United Kingdom.*

## Lesson 12 – KING DAVID – Part II

1. List five (5) reasons why David chose Jerusalem as the capital of his united kingdom.
    - 1) *It was centrally located*
    - 2) *It was suited to be the capital of the kingdom*
    - 3) *It was on the border between Judah and Israel*
    - 4) *It had a good water supply*
    - 5) *It was a very good stronghold*
  2. In what two (2) ways did David want to make Jerusalem capital of Israel?
    - 1) *He wanted Jerusalem to be the political capital*
    - 2) *He wanted Jerusalem to be the religious capital*
  3. Why was David's first attempt to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem a failure? *His first attempt was a failure due to a disregard of God's Word. Rather than have it carried by the Levites, it was put on a new cart.*
  4. Why was David not allowed to build the temple? *God did not permit him to do this. The prophet Nathan told him that this honor would be given to his son since David was a man of war.*
  5. Describe how David successfully conquered the territory that filled up the whole outline originally traced in the promise to Abraham for God's people. *He defeated the Philistines on the west, then turned east and defeated Moab, Edom, the Ammonites and the Amalekites. Finally, he began to extend his kingdom in the north, as far as the Euphrates River, subduing the Syrians and their allies. He brought into his dominion a large tract of country up to the Euphrates River.*
  6. How and why did David kill Uriah? *While his army, under Joab, was in battle with the Ammonites, David rested at home. He saw Bathsheba bathing, desired her, sent for her, and committed adultery with her. When she informed him that she was expecting a child, he had Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, brought home from the battlefield so he could be with his wife. However, Uriah refused to go home, and David assign him a deadly position at the battlefield. Uriah died, as David had planned, and David took Bathsheba as his wife.*
  7. List the seven (7) things we can learn from the tragic episode of adultery and murder in David's life.
    - 1) **One sin generally leads to another.** *The sin of murder took place as David tried to cover up the sin of adultery.*
    - 2) **No sin can be covered.** *The Bible says, "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).*
    - 3) *This sin happened because David was at home. He should have been at the battlefield, leading his army. **It does not pay to be idle.***
    - 4) *David's sin took place because he looked upon Bathsheba. **We must be very careful what we look upon.***
    - 5) **All sin must be judged.**
    - 6) **There must be heart-felt confession and repentance before there can be forgiveness.**
    - 7) **Our sins generally affect others.** *The results of sin are far reaching and others suffer as well as the one who commits the transgression.*
  8. Describe the battle fought in the "wood of Ephraim." *Absalom (David's third son), had gathered the troops of Israel and he had a greater number of troops than David. However, David's men were hard-core troops, seasoned in battle and much superior to Absalom's hastily gathered soldiers. David's men won a decisive victory. With the battle won, Joab killed Absalom who was ensnared in a tree by his long hair. When David learned of this, he reacted with great grief. Absalom's death finished the revolt and David was able to return to Jerusalem.*
  9. Why was the census taken by David such a great sin? *The Lord did not want his people to have their trust in their numbers. Repeatedly He had proven His power to deliver them regardless of the power of the enemy. God had told them not to number the people, but David commanded Joab to do so. The census was definitely an act of pride on the part of David. He may have also had other reasons for doing this, such as a desire to levy taxes on the people. The Bible says that Satan provoked David to number the people.*
  10. What were the three (3) choices of punishment sent by God for the sin of taking the census? (You will have to look this up in the Bible.)
    - 1) *Seven years of famine unto thee in thy land*
    - 2) *Flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee*
    - 3) *Three days' pestilence in thy land (2 Samuel 24:13)*
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## PART II

### Lesson 1 – KING SOLOMON

1. Briefly explain who tried to take the throne before David was dead, and how they did it. *Adonijah was David's fourth son, and as the eldest living son, believed he was the rightful heir to the throne. When he was convinced that King David had other plans, he attempted to take the throne while his father was still living. He got Joab and Abiathar, the high priest, to support him. He assembled his followers at the spring En-rogel to be anointed king.* 2. Who told David about this insurrection, and what did he do? *Nathan (the prophet) reported this insurrection to David who immediately gave directions that Solomon should be anointed king. This took place at the spring of Gihon, about 2,000 feet north of En-rogel. When the people shouted, Adonijah's followers quickly dispersed in fright. Adonijah then submitted to Solomon and civil war was avoided.*
3. What was the reason Solomon had Adonijah killed? *Adonijah had Solomon's mother, Bathsheba, request for him Agishag, the beautiful Shunamite girl, who had ministered to David (1 Kings 1:1-4). Solomon interpreted this as a threat, for a man's concubines were to be a part of the inheritance. Not only was Adonijah killed, but also Joab. Abiathar was deposed from his office as high priest. Eventually, Shimei who had cursed David was also killed. The kingdom then was firmly established under Solomon's leadership.*
4. What was the major contrast between David and Solomon? *David grew up in the open country and knew the life of a fugitive. Solomon knew only the ease and luxury of the palace. Solomon's court became lavish with splendor. No other king could rival King Solomon in wealth and wisdom. His reign was one of unparalleled magnificence.*
5. Briefly explain how Solomon became so wise. Use Scripture to support. *Early in his reign Solomon had a vision at Gibeon in which the Lord appeared to him and told him to ask what he would have. He confessed his weakness and ignorance and said, "Give thy servant an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:9).*
6. Give one example (about one baby and two mothers) that shows Solomon's amazing wisdom. *These mothers brought two babies before him, one dead and the other alive. They were quarrelling over who was the mother of the live baby. Solomon ordered a sword to be brought and the living baby to be divided. The true mother pleaded for the life of the baby and offered to have it given to the other woman.*
7. What five (5) ways was Solomon foolish? *His folly was revealed in these areas:*
  - 1) Luxurious living
  - 2) Marrying heathen women
  - 3) Sanctioning idolatry
  - 4) Excessive sensuality
  - 5) Oppressing the people
8. How was Solomon and his kingdom different from Saul and David? *Saul and David were warriors, but Solomon was a mighty ruler. He was more interested in maintaining the boundaries of his country rather than expanding them. He fortified the key cities, which protected the country: Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer, Beth-horon, and Baalath.*
9. How did Solomon develop such good trade relationships with far off nations? *Solomon had far-flung trade relationships and made alliances with Egypt and Tyre. To seal these treaties, he married the king's daughter in each case.*
10. List three (3) reasons why the alliance with Tyre was so important.
  - 1) Tyre (also called Phoenicia) had colonies around the Mediterranean.
  - 2) Tyre carried on extensive trade.
  - 3) Tyre (King Hiram) gave much help in building the Temple in Jerusalem.
11. Write in full (with reference) the verses of Scripture that express the Queen of Sheba's reaction to Solomon and his kingdom. *1 Kings 10:6-7, "And she said to the king. It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard."*
12. What caused Solomon's loss of favor with God? *Solomon loved wisdom, wealth and women. It was his many foreign wives, which brought about his loss of favor with God.*
13. What was the result of Solomon's turning away from the one true God? *Solomon's many wives caused him to turn away his heart after other gods. He built high places for Ashtaroath and other heathen deities. Some of these high places remained in Israel for many years. His apostasy brought judgment upon Israel. The division of the kingdom and the captivity of the ten tribes and of Judah were the result.*
14. Write Ecclesiastes 12:13 in full. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*

## **Lesson 2 – THE TEMPLE**

1. Where was Solomon's temple built? *The temple was built on the site of Araunah's threshing floor (2 Samuel 24:16-25). This was Mt. Moriah where Abraham had been commanded to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2).*
2. What was the purpose of each of the two courts? *There were two courts, an Inner Court and a Great Court. The Inner Court was for the priests and the Great Court was intended for the people (2 Chronicles 4:9).*
3. When did the actual building of the Temple begin, and how long did it take? *The actual building began during Solomon's fourth year and was completed seven years later.*
4. Describe the labor force required for the temple construction. *It required 30,000 Israelites to cut the timber in the Lebanon forests. It took 80,000 slaves to quarry and shape the stones. The logs were floated down the coast in rafts, picked up at Joppa. The stones were transported on the backs of 70,000 slaves. The Phoenicians supervised the work, annually taking for their pay 200,000 bushels of wheat and 180,000 gallons of olive oil.*
5. What was the first thing Solomon did after the Temple was completed? *When the Temple was finished, Solomon called all Israel to come to the great feast when the Temple would be dedicated. First, Solomon had the Ark of the Covenant brought from the tent where David had placed it. Since it was the Ark constructed at Mt. Sinai, it represented God's presence. When it was placed in the Holy of Holies, the cloud of God's glory filled the building.*
6. What four (4) things must we do if we want the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14? *The four conditions must be met by His people who are called by His name, and they were;*
  - 1) *They must humble themselves*
  - 2) *They must pray*
  - 3) *They must seek the Lord's face*
  - 4) *They must turn from their wicked ways.*
7. What warning did God give Solomon if he worshipped other gods? *If Solomon forsook the Lord and worshipped other gods, He would pluck Israel up by the roots and He would cast the Temple out of His sight.*

### **Lesson 3 – THE DIVIDED KINGDOM**

1. What is a “religious apostate?” A “religious apostate” is someone who sins, and causes those who follow him to sin also. He leads people into idolatry.
2. Who was Jeroboam, and how did he become king of Israel? *Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom. His father was Nebat, an Ephraimite. He was a capable man. He had been employed by Solomon and was in charge of the workmen building the Millo. Ahijah, the prophet who tore his new garment into twelve parts and gave Jeroboam ten, met him. He explained that these ten parts represented the ten tribes over which he would rule. Solomon heard of this and tried to kill Jeroboam who fled to Egypt where Pharaoh gave him protection. After Solomon’s death, Jeroboam married an Egyptian princess and returned to Israel to become king over the northern ten tribes.*
3. Who was Adoram, and what happened to him? *Adoram was the chief tax collector for King Rehoboam. When the people revolted, Rehoboam sent Adoram to gather their taxes. The people stoned Adoram to death.*
4. How did Rehoboam lose the kingdom that his father Solomon had left him? *Then, Jeroboam returned to Israel, and attended the meeting held by Rehoboam, Solomon’s son and heir to the throne. The people requested relief from the heavy taxation Solomon had placed on them. Rehoboam asked for three days, and consulted the elders and his young companions. He followed the advice of his young friends, which was to make the taxation heavier. When the people heard this, ten of the tribes left, and removed themselves from the rule of Rehoboam. Thus the kingdom was divided.*
5. What were the differences between the kingdoms of Israel and Judah? *The tribes of Judah and Ephraim had been jealous of each other since the days of Egypt. Judah was the largest and had been favored with being in the lead position. Ephraim had descended from Joseph and Joshua had been of this tribe. The rivalry of these two tribes showed up at various times. It was revealed at the crowning of David and at Absalom’s rebellion. The division was only an outbreak of an old condition. The northern kingdom with its ten tribes was more powerful than the southern kingdom; however, the latter was stronger spiritually.*
6. Give short answers to the following questions about the northern kingdom of Israel.
  - 1) How long did the Kingdom of Israel continue? *The Kingdom of Israel continued for about 250 years.*
  - 2) Who conquered Israel and when? *The Assyrians under Shalmaneser overthrew it in 721 B.C.*
  - 3) What two places were the capital of Israel? *The capital of the northern kingdom was first at Shechem and then at Samaria.*
  - 4) How many kings reigned in Israel? How many ruling families did this represent? *Israel had nineteen kings, representing nine ruling families.*
  - 5) Name the four (4) prophets to Israel. *The prophets to Israel were Jonah, Amos, Hosea and Micah.*
  - 6) What is the name given to the northern kingdom during recent years? *In recent years, the northern kingdom has been spoken of as “The Ten Lord Tribes.” James knew their identity for he addressed his epistle to them (James 1:1).*
7. List five (5) things Jeroboam did to guard against a reunion of the two kingdoms, by keeping his people from returning to Jerusalem to worship.
  - 1) *He established new worship centers at Dan and Bethel*
  - 2) *He erected gold images of calves at each place.*
  - 3) *He built temples to house the images and,*
  - 4) *He founded a non-Levitical priesthood.*
  - 5) *He substituted the Feast of Tabernacles with an annual pagan festival.*
8. Give short answers to the following questions about the southern kingdom of Judah.
  - 1) How long did the Kingdom of Judah continue? *The kingdom of Judah continued for almost 400 years under twenty kings from Rehoboam to Zedekiah.*
  - 2) Name the three (3) kings who led Judah in revival. *There were three revivals during the reigns of Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah and Josiah.*
  - 3) Name the seven (7) prophets sent to the kingdom of Judah. *The prophets that were sent to the Kingdom of Judah were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Zephaniah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk.*

#### **Lesson 4 – ELIJAH**

1. Who was Elijah and where did he come from? *Elijah was one of the most remarkable characters of the Old Testament. According to 1 Kings 17:1, he was “Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead.”*
2. What did Elijah say to King Ahab the first time he appeared before him? (Give Scripture reference to support.) *Elijah dramatically prophesied of drought saying, “There shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word” (1 Kings 17:1).*
3. How did Israel become wholly given to idolatry? *At the time of Elijah, Israel was wholly given to idolatry. King Ahab had married a Phoenician wife, Jezebel, who was a champion of foreign culture. Jezebel had the altars of Jehovah torn down and heathen ones built. She was responsible for the hatred and persecution of the true prophets. Jezebel introduced the idolatrous worship of Baal into Israel and the licentious orgies of the goddess Ashtoreth.*
4. What happened to Elijah at the Brook Cherith? *The Lord instructed Elijah to go eastward to the Brook Cherith and to hide there. Each morning and evening, God sent ravens with bread and meat to feed him. Throughout Israel, there was a drought accompanied by famine, but Elijah was miraculously fed until the brook dried up.*
5. How long did the drought pronounced by Elijah last? *The drought lasted forty-two months, or three and one half years.*
6. What did God tell Elijah to do after the Brook Cherith dried up? *After the Brook Cherith had dried up, God told Elijah to go to Zarephath where a widow would sustain him. Zarephath was a Phoenician town situated between Tyre and Sidon.*
7. What happened to the widow’s son while Elijah was in her home? *While Elijah was in her home, the son became ill and died. Elijah prayed and stretched himself upon him three times. He prayed again and the son revived (1 Kings 17:17-24).*
8. Who was Obadiah and how did he help Elijah? *Obadiah was King Ahab’s steward, and a believer in God. He had supported a hundred young prophets in hiding. Obadiah was persuaded to tell Ahab that Elijah had appeared. The king and the prophet met and Elijah proposed a contest to see whether Ball of God was the true God.*
9. What seven (7) steps used by Elijah in preparing the altar will bring revival in any generation?
  - 1) The altar of the Lord was repaired – PRAYER
  - 2) The altar was built with twelve stones. Elijah ignored the division in the nation – UNITY
  - 3) He called upon the name of the Lord – THE NAME OF JESUS IS ESSENTIAL.
  - 4) He dug a trench around the altar – SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD
  - 5) Wood was placed in order – CALVARY
  - 6) A bullock was placed on the altar – SACRIFICE AND SHEDDING OF BLOOD
  - 7) Twelve barrels of water was poured on the altar – WATER BAPTISM
10. How many times did Elijah’s servant go look for rain? *Elijah now prayed for rain, sending his servant to look for clouds. The seventh time the servant reported a cloud like a man’s hand.*
11. Why did Elijah run to the wilderness, and what happened to him there? *Jezebel vowed vengeance for the killing of all the prophets of Baal. Elijah fled into the wilderness, where he was discouraged and despondent. He sat under a juniper tree and despaired of his life. An angel touched him and bade him eat. A cake was baked on some coals and there was a cruse of water. Twice he was ordered to eat, and with the strength of that food, Elijah went for forty days.*
12. Where did Elijah stay at Horeb? What three (3) things did he experience there? *At Horeb, Elijah lodged in a cave. Here he experienced three things:*
  - 1) He experienced a mighty wind, an earthquake and fire.
  - 2) Then he heard a still small voice.
  - 3) He was commissioned to anoint Hazael king of Syria, Jehu as king of Israel, and Elisha as his own successor.
13. Where did Elijah find Elisha? What was Elisha doing? *Elijah found Elisha plowing in the field. He cast his mantle on Elisha who went back to kiss his father and mother. Elisha killed his oxen and fed the people. He then followed Elijah until Elijah was caught away.*
14. How was Elijah involved in the story of Naboth’s Vineyard? *When Jezebel took Naboth’s vineyard for Ahab and had Naboth murdered, Elijah met the king in the vineyard and rebuked him. Elijah prophesied that the dogs would lick Ahab’s blood in the same spot that Naboth died.*
15. Briefly explain Elijah’s death. Support with Scripture. *As Elijah and Elisha walked along, a chariot and horses of fire parted them and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven (2 Kings 2:11).*

## **Lesson 5 – ELISHA**

1. Who was Elisha and where did he come from? *Elisha was the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah. His father was a farmer and appeared to be quite wealthy since he had twelve yoke of oxen plowing in the field at one time. Elisha was the one chosen to follow the ministry of Elijah.*
2. Describe Elijah's ministry.
  - 1) Who were the kings he prophesied to? *Elisha prophesied to kings from Jehoram through the reigns of Jehu and Jehoahaz. He died during the reign of Joash. He completed the tasks assigned to Elijah of anointing King Hazael of Syria and King Jehu of Israel.*
  - 2) How long did Elisha's ministry last? *Elisha ministered for fifty (50) years.*
3. List four (4) differences between the character and ministry of Elijah and Elisha.
  - 1) *Elijah was abrupt and sometimes harsh, while Elisha was gentle and diplomatic.*
  - 2) *Elijah was a man of the wilderness, but Elisha lived in the cities.*
  - 3) *Elijah dressed with a girdle of skin around his loins, and a mantle or cape of sheepskin, while Elisha dressed like other people.*
  - 4) *Elijah was a man of moods, but Elisha was self-controlled and even-tempered. He was interested in the needs of the people and many of his miracles were to heal and give relief to persons in need.*
4. How did Elisha symbolically cut the ties that bound him to his former life? *Elijah found Elisha plowing with a yoke of oxen. Elijah threw his rough mantle over Elisha's shoulders and strode on. Elisha delayed in answering the call only long enough to give his parents a farewell kiss and preside over a feast with his people. He slaughtered the oxen and used his plow for fuel to cook the meat. He thus cut the ties, which bound him to his former life.*
5. How long did Elisha minister to Elijah? *Elisha was Elijah's minister for seven or eight years.*
6. What were some of the duties of Elisha during this time Elijah was still alive? Support your answer with Scripture. *Elisha helped Elijah by pouring water on Elijah's hands, learning and helping Elijah in every way. (2 Kings 3:11).*
7. What was the one (1) requirement for Elisha to receive a double portion of Elijah's spirit? *Elisha was required to see Elijah go if he wanted the double portion he requested.*
8. Which one of Elijah's works did Elisha continue and expand? How did Elisha accomplish this? *One of Elisha's main interests was the training of young prophets. Elijah had likely established schools at Gilgal, Bethel, and Jericho. Elisha expanded this ministry. His purpose was to train dedicated men to be true prophets, which were so greatly needed in sinful, idolatrous Israel.*
9. List the eight most familiar incidents of Elisha's ministry. Give Scripture to support each.
  - 1) *The Cursing of the children (2 Kings 2:23)*
  - 2) *Widow's Oil Increased (2 Kings 4:1-7)*
  - 3) *The Shunammite's Son Raised from the Dead (2 Kings 4:8-37)*
  - 4) *Poisonous Pottage Healed (2 Kings 4:38-41)*
  - 5) *Food Multiplied During the Famine (2 Kings 4:42-44)*
  - 6) *Naaman Healed of Leprosy (2 Kings 5)*
  - 7) *The Lost Axe head Recovered (2 Kings 6:1-7)*
  - 8) *The Defeat of the Syrians (2 Kings 6-7)*
10. What part of Elisha's story takes place after his death? Support with Scripture. *His ministry did not end at his death. After he was buried, a corpse was placed beside him. The bones of Elisha were touched and the man came to life (2 Kings 13:20-21).*



## **Lesson 6 – THE KINGS OF ISRAEL**

1. What are two different ways the name “Israel” is used? *The name “Israel” is sometimes used for the Jews as a whole, but in the records of the kings, it is usually used for the ten tribes.*
2. The Kingdom of Israel lasted for almost 250 years under the reign of nineteen kings belonging to nine different families. The overthrow of Israel by the Assyrians under Shalmanaser took place about 722 B.C. After the Israelites were carried into Assyria, people were brought from different parts of the Assyrian Empire to occupy the country. At first, they worshipped idols, but later they turned to the worship of Jehovah mixed with their worship of idols. The Samaritans of the New Testament were descendants of this mixed race. The kingdom of the ten tribes was never restored.
3. Which king reigned the longest period of time in the northern kingdom of Israel? *The longest reign was that of Jeroboam II who reigned for forty-one years.*
4. Which king reigned the shortest period of time in Israel? How long was he king? *The shortest reign was that of Zimri who was king for seven days.*
5. Name the seven (7) kings of Israel who met their death by violence. *Seven kings met death by violence: Nadab, Elah, Tibni (1 Kings 16:21-22), Jeroboam, Zechariah, Shallum and Pekahiah.*
6. Given the following facts, write the name of the king who was part of this action or event.

<u>Baasha</u> <u>Zimri</u> <u>Jeroboam</u> <u>Elah</u> <u>Nadab</u> <u>Omri</u> <u>Ahab</u> <u>Ahaziah</u> <u>Jehoram</u> <u>Jehu</u> <u>Jehu</u> <u>Ahab</u> <u>Jehoram</u> <u>Jehu</u> <u>Jehoash</u> <u>Jeroboam II</u> <u>Jehoash</u> <u>Jeroboam II</u> <u>Jehoahaz</u> <u>Jehoram</u>	<div>1) His name meant “wicked.”</div> <div>2) Rejected because of treason, this king set fire to the palace and died in the flames.</div> <div>3) He made two calves of gold and set them up at Bethel and Dan.</div> <div>4) He was a drunkard and was known as a “debauchee.”</div> <div>5) He followed his father’s bad example, and was murdered within two years of becoming king.</div> <div>6) The Bible states this king did worse than all the others before him.</div> <div>7) His father had arranged his marriage with Jezebel, a Phoenician woman, who dominated her husband.</div> <div>8) He fell from the lattice of his apartment and died after reigning two years.</div> <div>9) The translation of Elijah took place during his reign.</div> <div>10) This man was anointed king by one of the sons of the prophets. He killed King Jehoram on the very land Ahab had taken from Naboth.</div> <div>11) Throughout his 28 year reign, he was a bloody king, who was known by the way he drove.</div> <div>12) Baal worship was introduced during his reign and everything possible was done to destroy the worship of the one true God.</div> <div>13) The healing of Naaman and the overthrow of the Syrian hosts took place during his rule.</div> <div>14) He abolished the worship of Baal but allowed the worship of golden calves to continue.</div> <div>15) He respected Elisha and paid respect to him during his final illness.</div> <div>16) During his reign, both Amos and Hosea prophesied that Israel would be taken into captivity.</div> <div>17) During the last years of his reign, he attacked Amaziah of Judah, plundered Jerusalem and the Temple, and carried off palace treasures.</div> <div>18) As the thirteenth king, his reign was one of expansion and prosperity.</div> <div>19) Because of oppression, he prayed to God for help and God promised deliverance which came during his son’s reign.</div> <div>20) This king deeply respected the warnings and miracles of the prophet Elisha.</div>
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## **Lesson 7 – THE KINGS OF JUDAH**

1. The Kingdom of Judah continued for almost 400 years, or 150 years longer than Israel. Like Israel, there were nineteen kings, but they ruled for longer periods of time. All the kings of Judah were of one dynasty and were lineal descendants of King David.
2. The longest reign was that of Manasseh's sixty-five years.
3. The shortest reign was that of Jehoahaz, which lasted only three months.
4. The Kingdom of Judah continued 468 years after David began to reign, 388 years after the division of the kingdom, and 134 years after the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel.
5. Name the seven (7) prophets who ministered during this time. *The prophets who ministered during this period of time were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Zephaniah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk. The prophecies of these men were literally fulfilled.*
6. During this period, how did the character of the king affect the nation? *During this period, the character of the nation was greatly influenced by the character of the king. The nation was blessed and enjoyed peace and prosperity when the king was pious and faithful.*
7. Given each of the periods of decline, who was reigning and for how long?
  - 1) First Period – *Between the reigns of Rehoboam and Jehoshaphat – about eighty-six (86) years*
  - 2) Second Period – *Between the reigns of Joash and Hezekiah – about two hundred seven (207) years*
  - 3) Third Period – *Between the reigns of Manasseh and Josiah – about eighty-eight (88) years*
  - 4) Fourth Period – *Between Jehoahaz and Zedekiah – about twenty-three (23) years*
8. Given the following facts, write the name of the king who was part of this action or event.

Rehoboam 1) Like his father, this king had many wives who led him into idolatry.  
Asa 2) He suffered from a serious foot disease and turned the government over to his son, Jehoshaphat.  
Abijam 3) He reigned three years, had fourteen wives, twenty-two sons, and sixteen daughters.  
Asa 4) The first ten years of his reign were occupied in religious reforms and abolishing idolatry.  
Jehoshaphat 5) He was a contemporary of three kings of Israel: Ahab, Ahaziah and Jehoram.  
Jehoram 6) He was dominated by his wife to build a Baal temple in Jerusalem, and he assassinated his brothers.  
Jehoshaphat 7) His greatest errors were in making alliances with Ahab and Ahaziah, resulting in marrying his son to Ahab's daughter.  
Ahaziah 8) He was influenced by his mother who encouraged Baal worship and an alliance with his uncle, king of Israel.  
Joash 9) The high priest, Jehoiada, was his guardian.  
Jotham 10) There was no sin laid to the charge of this king.  
Uzziah (Azariah) 11) He tried to assume the ministry of the priest by offering incense on the Golden Altar.  
Amaziah 12) He defeated the Edomites but carried home their gods and began to worship them.  
Athaliah 13) She was a tyrant who ruled for six years after having all her grandchildren killed (except one who escaped).  
Ahaz 14) He had the reputation of being the most wicked and idolatrous of all the kings of Judah.  
Hezekiah 15) During his reign, the high places of idol worship were destroyed, the Temple was re-opened and the Passover celebrated.  
Manasseh 16) This king was born during 15 years added to his father's life.  
Manasseh 17) His children were burned in honor of Baal and he shed much innocent blood.  
Amon 18) He was assassinated after reigning only two years.  
Jehoahaz 19) He reigned only three months and then was carried away captive into Egypt.  
Manasseh 20) He destroyed the faith his godly father had established and revived all the abominations his father destroyed.  
Josiah 21) At the age of sixteen, he devoted his time to the work of God and commenced reformation at the age of twenty.  
Manasseh 22) Black arts flourished and all forms of evil practices.  
Manasseh 23) The Temple was polluted with images to Baal.  
Josiah 24) With a hatchet, he began the destruction of the images of idolatry.  
Manasseh 25) This king experienced genuine repentance in Babylon, and tried to abolish idolatry when he returned to Jerusalem.

## **Lesson 8 – THE CAPTIVITY**

1. Why did King Hezekiah show the delegation from the king of Babylon all the treasures of his house? *Hezekiah showed them all the treasures of his house because he was eager to make a worldly alliance.*
2. In what two (2) places in the Bible is the prophecy of Isaiah to Hezekiah recorded? *The prophecy of Isaiah to Hezekiah is recorded in 2 Kings 20:17-18, and in Isaiah 11:11; 39:6-7; 6:11-12.*
3. How many years passed before this prophecy was fulfilled? 100 years What does this tell us? *This tells us how judgment for our sins may fall upon our children.*
4. What other two (2) prophets spoke of the Babylonian captivity of Judah? Give Scripture reference for each. *Micah definitely stated that the place of captivity would be Babylon (Micah 4:10). Jeremiah not only talked about Babylon as the place of captivity, but he also stated the length of time the Jews would be in captivity (Jeremiah 25:11-12).*
5. Briefly explain Babylon's rise to power.  
*At this time in history, Assyria began to decline as a world power. Assyria's two main cities (Assur and Nineveh) had fallen and Assyria's army fled westward to Haran. In 610 B.C., Haran fell to Nabopolassar, king of Babylon, just about finishing the Assyrians. In 609 B.C., Necho, king of Egypt, marched north to meet the Babylonians. They were not able to take Haran, but remained dominant in the West for another three years.*  
*Early in 605 B.C., the Battle of Carchemish occurred on the Euphrates. The Babylonians, under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar (son of Nabopolassar) revealed great genius and sent the Egyptians fleeing in headlong defeat. From this point, Babylon became the new world leader.*
6. Who appointed Jehoiakim king of Judah? *Jehoiakim was appointed king of Judah by Pharaoh (king of Egypt).*
7. How did Jehoiakim treat the prophet Jeremiah? *Jehoiakim paid no attention to the prophecies of Jeremiah. One time he took a knife and cut the scroll (where the prophecy was written) and cut the scroll into pieces and threw it upon the fire.*
8. What did Jeremiah prophesy about the death of Jehoiakim? *Jeremiah prophesied that he would be buried as an ass and that was fulfilled.*
9. How long did Jehoiachin reign after his father Jehoiakim had died? *Jehoiachin reigned only for three months and ten days.*
10. When Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem again in 597 B.C., whom did he take as captives? *When Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem again in 597 B.C., he took captive Jehoiachin, his mother, his wives, 3,000 princes, 7,000 men of might and 1,000 artisans (2 Kings 24:14-16). Among them were Ezekiel and Mordecai. Jeremiah evaded capture and urged the exiles in Babylon to be good citizens (Jeremiah 29:1-10).*
11. Who did Nebuchadnezzar appoint to be king of Judah in 586 B.C.? *Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah to be king of Judah. How long was he king of Judah? He ruled for eleven years.*
12. What brought about the downfall of Zedekiah? *After eleven years, Zedekiah listened to wrong advice instead of listening to Jeremiah. He revolted against Nebuchadnezzar.*
13. After Zedekiah's revolt, what did Nebuchadnezzar's army do to Jerusalem? *This time, Nebuchadnezzar burned the Temple, destroyed the city of Jerusalem, and deported all but the poorest to Babylon (2 Kings 24:14-16).*
14. What suffering did Nebuchadnezzar's army inflict on the Jews during the last siege? *There was much suffering at the time of the last siege. Prisoners were maimed, impaled and skinned alive.*
15. What happened to the Jews after they were settled in Babylon? *Once they were settled in Babylon, the Jews were not heavily oppressed by their conquerors. They engaged in business, built houses and held high positions in the land. The prophet Ezekiel constantly encouraged them.*

## **Lesson 9 – THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**

1. Where did the nation of Babylon begin? *The nation of Babylon began with Nimrod and the Tower of Babel.*
2. The story of Nimrod is found in Genesis 10:8-10. Nimrod was Ham's grandson; his father was Cush. Nimrod was a type of Anti-Christ. The word "Nimrod" means "rebel." This points forward to one of the titles of the Anti-Christ given in 2 Thessalonians 2:8, "The Lawless One."
3. Where is the first mention of Babel in the Bible? *The first mention of Babel is in Genesis 10:10.*  
In the language of that time, what did Babel mean? *Babel meant "the gate of God."*  
After the judgment of God what did Babel mean? *After the judgment of God, Babel meant "confusion."*
4. Briefly explain each of these Bible phrases:  
"Let us build us a city" – *this refers to a political system, a world empire.*  
"Let us build us a tower" – *this refers to a religious system, a religion of good works, reaching heaven without any help from God. It was a system of deifying man. It was Cain's religion beginning again.*  
"Let us make us a name" – *This refers to a desire for fame and power. Salvation was to come in their name.*
5. What is the root of all sin? *The root of all sin is rebellion.* What is the result of all sin? *The result is always confusion and scattering.*
6. What Old and New Testament Scripture passages give us the history and picture of the false idolatrous religion of the last days? *In Genesis 11 we find the history recorded of the beginning of this false religion, and Revelation 17 has the picture of the false idolatrous religion of the last days*
7. What did God do for humanity immediately after the Fall? *Immediately after the fall, God clothed our first parents and instituted the true plan of salvation and worship.* Who continued with God's plan? *This plan was continued by Abel, Noah, and other men of faith.*
8. Following the flood, what did God do for humanity, and why? *Following the flood, God instituted the principle of human government, a system by which God would maintain law and order, and preserve peace and harmony.*
9. Briefly explain the separation of church and state, as related to God's divine plan for both. *God ordained that church and state stay separated until Jesus Christ came, who would unite the principle of priest and king in one person. Until that time, these two institutions were to be administered by different individuals. The king must come from the tribe of Judah and the priest from the tribe of Levi. In the New Testament, Jesus confirmed this principle when He said, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." This is the separation of church and state.*
10. Briefly explain Nimrod's family, and how they started a new religious system. *Nimrod married a girl named Semiramis who bore a son called Tammuz. Going back to the promise of Genesis 3:15, Semiramis claimed that she was the woman of the promise and that her son was the seed of the woman. Semiramis set herself up as the high priestess of the Babylonian religion. It was a religion that centered in the worship of the mother and the child. The sign of this religion was a mother who held a baby in her arms and was known as the "mother-child" cult. Semiramis took for herself the name "The Queen of Heaven" and taught that access into the presence of God was through her high priestess ministry. She became a mediator between God and man.*
11. What is the story around the death and supposed resurrection of Tammuz? *When Tammuz came to young manhood, he was killed while hunting a wild boar. Semiramis gathered a number of virgins and after a forty-day time of prayer and fasting, Tammuz was supposed to be resurrected from the dead by the power of his mother, "The Queen of Heaven." That forty-day period became an annual time of mourning throughout Babylon. At the conclusion, they had a feast in honor of Semiramis and Tammuz. They made the egg, which was a symbol of life out of death, the sacred symbol. On the birthday of Tammuz, they erected evergreen trees as the symbol of eternal life.*
12. How did this religion become a part of the Christian church? *This religion spread to Phoenicia, Egypt, and Greece, but Babylon remained the center of this false religious system until her destruction. The system then moved to Pergamos and from there to Rome. After the professed conversion of Constantine, this pagan religion that began with Nimrod was super-imposed on the Christian church.*
13. Describe the city of Babylon, its location and significance. *Babylon was located in the cradle of the human race near the Garden of Eden region. It was in central Mesopotamia on the Euphrates River, some fifty miles south of modern Baghdad, capital of Iraq. Babylon as in easy reach of the Persian Gulf and, being situated on an important caravan route, it was in contact with all the most important centers of the near East.*
14. What did King Nebuchadnezzar do to make Babylon notable? *During the reign of Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.), it was probably the largest and most elaborate city in the ancient world. Nebuchadnezzar constructed new canals, erected magnificent buildings, and laid out extensive parks. A permanent water supply assured fertility for the*

surrounding areas. The city occupied an area of 200 square miles and was built on both sides of the Euphrates, which divided the city into two almost equal parts.

15. Describe the walls that protected Babylon. A double brick wall, reinforced with towers, protected it. Ancient historians wrote that its walls were fifty miles around, fifteen miles on each side, 300 feet high, eighty feet thick, extending thirty-five feet below the ground. There were 250 towers on the wall, guardrooms for soldiers and gates of brass. The walls were protected by wide and deep moats filled with water. Both banks along the Euphrates were guarded with a brick wall. There was one bridge one-half mile long, thirty feet wide with drawbridges, which were removed at night. There was a tunnel under the river fifteen feet wide and twelve feet high. In the days of ancient warfare, the city was simply impregnable.

16. Describe the sight in Babylon that became one of the seven wonders of the world. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. There were terraces supported by arches on which were carefully tended gardens laid out at different levels.

17. How long did the Babylonian Empire last? The Babylonian Empire lasted seventy years (605-536 B.C.). What famous Jew was there from its rise to its fall? Daniel was there from its rise to its fall.

18. Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest Babylonian king, and one of the greatest monarchs of all time. He reigned for forty-five years. He extended the power of Babylon over most of the then-known world. The Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar was the beginning of what is known as the "times of the Gentiles." Babylon fell to Cyrus, king of Persia, in the year of 536 B.C. In the same year, Cyrus authorized the return of the Jews to their own land.

19. What influence does the kingdom of Babylon have today, even though the kingdom fell many years ago? The religious system of Babylon is predominately in the religious world and the apostate church receives its name from Babylon (Revelation 17).

## **Lesson 10 – DANIEL**

1. What do we know of Daniel's heritage? *Daniel was born into an unidentified family of Judean nobility at the time of Josiah's reformation. His lineage was of the tribe of Judah and one could probably trace his ancestry back to King David. A noble birth and an educated background are seen in him being chosen in the first deportation. Josephus (the historian) wrote that Daniel and his three friends were related to King Zedekiah.*
2. How can we compare Daniel's life to Moses? *Since he was both a statesman and a prophet, his life could be compared to Moses.*  
How can his life be compared to Joseph? *The fact that he kept his life untarnished while a captive in a heathen country would remind us of Joseph.*
3. What does Daniel's name mean? *His name means "God will judge." "Dan" means "to judge" and "el" means "God."*
4. In Matthew 24:15, who called Daniel "the prophet?" *In Matthew 24:15, Jesus called Daniel "the prophet."*
5. What writings of the New Testament did Daniel's prophecies help explain? *Without the prophecies of Daniel, certain passages in the New Testament, such as our Lord's Olivet Discourse and the Book of Revelation, could not be understood.*
6. Daniel and his three friends were hostages of Nebuchadnezzar. What were their names, what were their names changed to, and what did these names mean?  
*Daniel (God will judge for God is my judge) was changed to Belteshazar (Whom Bel favors).  
Hananiah (Beloved of the Lord) was changed to Shadrach (illuminated by the Sun-god).  
Mishael (Who is as God) to Meshach (Who is like Venus).  
Azariah (The Lord is my help) to Abednego (The servant of Nego).*
7. Why did the Babylonians change Daniel's name? *The purpose for the name change was to wean them away from their native land and religion.*
8. How do we know Daniel became a eunuch, and what does that mean? *Daniel and his friends were made eunuchs. We know this because they were turned over to the prince of the eunuchs. This meant they would have no sons to carry on their name.*
9. Write in full, the verse from the book of Daniel that proved he kept his dedication to God and maintained his separation from the world. Be sure to include scripture reference.  
*"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he could not defile himself with the king's meat" (Daniel 1:8).*
10. What was the significance of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in the second year of his reign? *This dream was extremely important, and sometimes called the ABC prophecy.*
11. What was the result of Daniel's ability to interpret that dream? *It was because of Daniel's interpretation of this dream that he was promoted to be ruler over the province of Babylon and chief of the wise men.*
12. How was Daniel's courage and faithfulness clearly revealed? *It was Daniel's habit to pray three times each day with his windows opened toward Jerusalem. When the decree went forth that he would be thrown to the lions if he asked petitions of anyone other than King Darius, Daniel's courage and faithful devotion was clearly revealed, as Daniel prayed, "as he did aforetime." His prayer did not change.*
13. Why did God send the angel Gabriel to speak to Daniel? *In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel sought God by prayer, supplications, fasting, sackcloth and ashes. As he prayed this godly man searched his heart and confessed his sins. In answer to his prayer, God sent Gabriel with the answer to his enquiry regarding the future of Daniel's people. Along with the answer, Gabriel told Daniel, "Thou art greatly beloved" (Daniel 9:23).*

## **Lesson 11 – THE RETURN FROM EXILE**

1. How long did the captivity last? *The captivity lasted 70 years. Which prophet foretold this? The prophet Jeremiah accurately foretold the length of the captivity (Jeremiah 29:10).*
2. Who wrote the document heralding a new era for the Jews? Why was this so amazing? *The document heralding a new era for the Jews came from King Cyrus the Great. This was so amazing because he was not a Jewish lawgiver or prophet, but a Gentile king.*
3. Describe the character of Cyrus the Great. *Cyrus was noble in character. He was prudent, modest and religious-minded. He considered himself a liberator and instituted a policy of repatriation for the captive people.*
4. List the six (6) main terms of the edict of Cyrus the Great (Ezra 1:1-4).
  - 1) *The Temple at Jerusalem was to be rebuilt.*
  - 2) *The cost was to come from Cyrus' own treasury.*
  - 3) *There were certain specifications that had to be met regarding the building of the Temple.*
  - 4) *All Jews who wished to do so could return home.*
  - 5) *Jews who wanted to remain in Babylon were to assist with financial contributions.*
  - 6) *Gold and silver vessels taken by Nebuchadnezzar were to be returned to Jerusalem.*
5. Who was the leader of the first migration of Jews back to Jerusalem? *The first migration was under the leadership of Sheshbazzar called a "prince of Judah" (Ezra 1:8).*  
Who were two other early leaders? *Other leaders were Zerubbabel and Joshua (Jeshua), the high priest.*
6. How many people returned to Jerusalem in the first migration? *According to Ezra 2, the number in the first migration was 42,360 besides 7,337 servants, nearly 50,000 in all. As the majorities were of the tribe of Judah, they became known as Jews. The majority of the captives, however, remained in Chaldea, Persia and Media.*
7. How long was the journey, and how long did it take them to complete it? *The trip of 700 miles took four months.*
8. How long did they wait before beginning the rebuilding of the Temple? *One year later they began to rebuild the Temple.*  
Who was in charge of this reconstruction? *This work was under the direction of Zerubbabel and Joshua.*  
What was the process followed in rebuilding? *They first erected the altar and shortly after, observed the Feast of Tabernacles. Then they began work on the Temple itself. They laid the foundation and then celebrated. Some wept when they remembered the glory of the first Temple and realized this one could not compare.*
9. Why did the rebuilding of the Temple stop? *The Samaritans (a mixed race of Israelites and foreigners) asked permission to help but were refused. When they could not join in building, they gave much opposition. Finally the work stopped and the Temple remained for sixteen years, little more than a foundation.*
10. How were the prophets Haggai and Zechariah instrumental in the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple? *Darius, a descendant of Cyrus, was now king. Between the reigns of Cyrus and Darius, the work on rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple had stopped. During the second year of Darius's reign, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah urged that the work begin again. Darius discovered the original decree of Cyrus favoring the Jews and permission was granted for work to be resumed. Money was taken from the public treasury to finance the project. Haggai and Zechariah had rebuked the people for building their own homes and not the Temple.*
11. When was the Temple finished? *The building was finished in the sixth year of Darius, twenty years after the work had started (Ezra 6:15).*  
What was the first thing they did after completion? *They observed the Passover.*  
What did the Babylonians do about the time the Temple was completed? *About the time the Temple was completed, the Babylonians rebelled and the city destroyed. It soon was so desolate as to be scarcely recognized.*  
Where is the prophecy located in the Bible that foretold these events? *Isaiah 13:19-21 is the place this prophecy is located in the Bible.*
12. When did the second return to Jerusalem take place? *During the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes, the second return took place.*  
Who let this return? *This was led by Ezra, a descendant of Aaron.*  
What was his occupation? *He was an able teacher of the Law (Ezra 7:6,10).*
13. Why did Ezra delay the return to Jerusalem? *The second return took place about eighty years after Zerubbabel and the first company had returned. The group who accompanied Ezra was much smaller than the first. When Ezra discovered there were no Levites in the party, he delayed until thirty-eight Levites were persuaded to join.*  
What was Ezra's chief objective for returning? *Ezra's chief objective was to fully re-establish the Law of Moses.*
14. List five (5) privileges Ezra received from Artaxerxes.

- 1) He could take as many Jews who desired to go.
- 2) He could receive gold and silver from the Jews and also from the king for the Temple.
- 3) He could purchase animals for sacrifices.
- 4) The Temple's personnel were to be exempt from taxation.
- 5) Ezra was given the authority to appoint magistrates in Judah to enforce the laws of Jehovah with power of life and death over the guilty.

15. What was Ezra's main contribution to the Jews? *Ezra's greatest contribution was the editing and publishing of the Book of the Law. As he read it to the people in the original Hebrew, he explained its meaning to them.*

16. What major practice/trend began during this time? *At this time, the practice of building synagogues began. Here the Law was read and expounded. About this time, the "traditions of the fathers" began to be observed.*

17. What was one of the greatest problems faced by Ezra? *One of the greatest problems facing Ezra was the intermarriage of many Jews with idolatrous wives. Some of the Levites and priests were even involved.*

What did Ezra do when he heard about this problem? *When Ezra heard this, he rent his clothes and pulled hair from his head. He offered a prayer of confession.*

What did the people do when they learned of Ezra's actions? *The people were deeply moved and were convicted. It was decided that the marriages should be dissolved. Details were worked out how this difficult task should be carried out. Each case was judged separately. Such separation caused much heartbreak, but it was completed in three months.*



## **Lesson 12 – NEHEMIAH**

1. What information do we have about Nehemiah? *Nehemiah was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes who reigned as king of Persia during from 465-425 B.C. Nehemiah was a trusted official. He was a man of prayer, courage and perseverance.*

Where does this information come from? *This information comes from the book of Nehemiah in the Bible.*

2. Why did Hanani think Nehemiah could help the situation in Jerusalem? *Undoubtedly, Hanani believed that Nehemiah could help because authority was needed from the king to overcome the local opposition.*

3. How long did Nehemiah wait before approaching the king? *He waited four months*

What did he do during this time? *Nehemiah prayed (Nehemiah 1:4; 2:4).*

What did the king do when he heard what was troubling Nehemiah? *The king not only granted his request for permission to go to Jerusalem to help, but assigned soldiers to accompany Nehemiah.*

4. How many Jews returned to Jerusalem with Nehemiah? *A number of Jews went with Nehemiah, returning to Jerusalem during the twentieth year of Artaxerxes reign (444 B. C.), but there is no record just how many Jews accompanied Nehemiah. It would seem there was a large number, although not as large as the two former migrations.*

5. When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, what did he find? *Arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah found the walls in rubble, completely dilapidated.*

What did he do the first three nights? *Nehemiah spent three nights inspecting the walls so that he might acquaint himself with the true condition.*

6. What was Nehemiah's plan for rebuilding the wall? *When he had all the facts, he met with the Jerusalem leaders and presented his plans. There was a good response. Workers were recruited from both inside and outside Jerusalem. They were assigned various sections of the wall to work on.*

7. How did Nehemiah handle the opposition that arose? *Nehemiah divided the workers into two groups. One group worked at building the walls; the other group bore arms. Each night a heavy guard was posted.*

8. Who were the main opposers of rebuilding the wall? *The leaders of the opposition were Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem.*

Why did they care if the wall was rebuilt or not? *The other nations who lived nearby, especially Samaria, benefited from Judah's weakness. The leaders of the opposition were from these other nations.*

10. How did Nehemiah handle the security of the new wall? *After the wall was completed, Nehemiah placed Hananiah in charge of security. He had one-tenth of the population move to Jerusalem. This gave Jerusalem great security.*

11. What action did Nehemiah take to remit the debts of the poor people? *Some of the wealthy took advantage of the heavy Persian taxes and poor crops to loan the poor money. When they could not pay their debts, the wealthy then took possession of their property. Nehemiah appealed to the people to stop this practice and restore what they had taken. Nehemiah set a personal example by refusing to accept a salary for being governor.*

12. How did Ezra and Nehemiah work together? *Nehemiah encouraged the people to assemble to hear God's Word read. This was done by Ezra. The Feast of the Tabernacle was kept, followed by a public confession of sin. A covenant to keep God's Law was signed by Nehemiah and the leaders.*

13. Describe the dedication of the rebuilt walls of Jerusalem. *The walls were formally dedicated. The people formed two processions and marched in opposite directions around the walls meeting together at the Temple. The singing and praises to God was heard for a great distance.*

14. What did Nehemiah do about the collection of tithes? *Nehemiah insisted that the people tithe. Certain rooms were set apart to receive the tithes. He ordered the tithes to be brought with great care.*

15. What did Nehemiah do about keeping the Sabbath? *There was much laxity in respecting the Sabbath. Many of the Jews worked and did business on the Sabbath. Nehemiah closed the city gates and prohibited all merchandising on the Sabbath Day.*

16. What did Nehemiah do about the problem of mixed marriages? *In spite of Ezra's efforts, the sin of mixed marriages still existed. Nehemiah did not have the marriages dissolved, but the people had to swear that there would be no more mixed marriages.*

17. By Nehemiah's time, how much time had passed since the call of Abraham? *By Nehemiah's time, seventeen centuries had passed since the call of Abraham.*

How many silent years passed until Christ came? *There were 400 silent years until Christ came.*

18. The efforts of the Persian kings to conquer Greece were never successful. Tyre and Egypt were conquered by Alexander the Great. He struck the Persian Empire and won the Battle of Arbela. The empire of Cyrus lasted about 200 years. Alexander died young and his empire was divided among four generals. Ptolemy was given Palestine and the Jews fared well. The Scriptures were translated into Greek. This version was known

as the Septuagint. Seleucid was given Syria, and soon acquired nearly all of Asia. The cities of Seleucia and Antioch were built. During the reign of Antiochus the Great, Palestine was taken and added to the Syrian kingdom. This became one of the darkest periods in Jewish history. Antiochus Epiphanies killed 40,000 Jews and sold 40,000 as slaves. He desecrated the Temple by sacrificing a sow (pig) on the altar. Glorious deliverance came with the Maccabees. This lasted about 100 years before Palestine was conquered by the Romans who were in power when Jesus was born.