

Grace Bible Church
Old Testament Bible Reading Plan Study Guide

Week 1

1. Genesis begins with the statement: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Many believe this is the most foundational and single most important verse in the whole Bible. What is the significance of this statement for all that follows in the Bible? For our lives and understanding of this world? [1:1]

2. God’s creation of man comes as the final creative act in the six days of creation, the climax of the story. In what way does this account say man was made very different from all the animals? What special blessing and charge did God give to man? [1:26-30]

3. How did the first marriage come about? [2:18-25]

4. Why did first Eve and then Adam disobey the command of God not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? What was the outcome of this act? [3:1-24]

5. Two men are described as walking with God in Chapters 5 and 6. Which men, and what does “walking with God” mean? [5:21-24; 6:9]

6. What is the significance of Noah’s flood? In understanding our world and history? In understanding God? In God’s redemptive purpose? [6:5-13, 17-22; 7:1-8:19; 9:8-17]

7. What do we learn from the story of the tower of Babel? About both man and God? [11:1-9]

Week 2

1. In Haran God spoke to Abram and commanded him to leave his country and his relatives to go to a land God would show him. And with this command God also made great promises to Abram. What were these promises and their significance? [12:1-3]
2. In chapter 15, God made a covenant with Abram confirming His earlier promises to give this land to Abram's descendants. When God promised to give him more descendants than he could count – like the stars – how did Abram respond? And how did God judge his response? [15:5-6]
3. What mistakes did Abraham and Sarah make that resulted in the birth of Ishmael? [16:1-16]
4. What was the 2nd covenant God made with Abram when he changed his name to Abraham? What was Abram to do and what did God promise in return? Why do you think God required all of Abraham's male descendants to be circumcised? [17:1-27]
5. What was the significance of the visit of three men to Abraham and Sarah while they were camping by the Oaks of Mamre? [18:1-33]
6. Why do you think God included the account of Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? What were we meant to learn from it? [19:1-38]

Week 3

1. Why did God command Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? Why was this story important to include / what important lessons does it teach? [22:1-18]

2. Where was Abraham buried? What was the significance of that place? [25:8-10; 23:2-20]

3. How do we see God working in the life of Isaac to fulfill the promises made to Abraham? For how many years was Rebekah barren? [24; 25:19-26]

4. Discuss Jacob's relationship with his twin brother Esau: in the womb, Jacob taking Esau's birthright and his blessing. What do these incidents in Jacob's life tell us about his personality or character flaws? [25:22-26; 25:29-34; 27:1-40]

5. What experiences in Jacob's life following his deceiving his father to take Esau's blessing, were possibly used by God to discipline and correct him and lead him into a closer relationship and dependence on God? Compare Jacob's deception of Isaac with Laban and Leah's deception of Jacob. [27:40-46; 29:15-30; 31:7,41; 32:6]

Week 4

1. Discuss Jacob's spiritual journey as seen at Bethel, in Paddan-aram, and just before and during his meeting with Esau. How had Jacob changed since leaving Canaan? [28:1-22; 31:3-13; 32:1-33:11]
2. What family tragedy happened at Shechem and how did its aftermath create great danger for Jacob's family? Could Jacob have prevented it? What action did he take afterwards to protect and preserve his family? [34:1-35:7]
3. Why did God include the story of Judah and Tamar, and make a point of Tamar's place in the lineage of Christ? [38]
4. 8. Why was Joseph so successful? With his father as a young man? In Potiphar's service? In the Egyptian jail? With Pharaoh? [37:1-4,13-14; 39,40:16,33-40,49,55-57; 47:13-26]
5. What things contributed to the desire of Joseph's brothers to get rid of him? Did either character flaws or any foolishness on Joseph's part contribute to their feelings? [37:2-11]

Week 5

1. We repeatedly read of God's favor towards and blessing of Joseph. So why did God allow him to suffer such rejection and malice from his brothers, slavery and separation from his family, and false accusation and imprisonment for many years? [37:19-36; 39; 40; 41:1]
2. Joseph came to Egypt as a 17-year-old Hebrew slave and by age 30 (a mere 13 years later), he was second only to Pharaoh in ruling over Egypt. How did God bring Joseph into this position? And for what purpose? [37:2; 39; 40; 41; 45:5-8]
3. How did Joseph's misfortunes and suffering prepare him for the role and purpose God planned for him? What does his life story teach us about the purposes of trials in our lives and how we should trust and wait on God? [37; 39-41]
4. What was Joseph's perspective in his last days on what his brothers had done to him? [Gen 50:19-21]
5. How is it that the children of Israel became slaves in Egypt? [Ex 1:6-14]
6. How was the baby Moses saved from the king's edict requiring all the Hebrew baby boys to be drowned in the river? What can we learn from his parents' example? [Ex 2:1-10]

Week 6

1. What is God's "personal" name? What does this name mean and what does it teach us about God? [Ex 3:13-15]
2. Why did God seek to put Moses to death when he was in route back to Egypt at God's command? [Ex 4:19, 24-26]
3. Why did God "harden" Pharaoh's heart? What does this mean? If God "hardened", how was He just to punish Pharaoh for the same? [Ex 3:19-20; 4:21; 7:3-5, 13-14; 22:8:15, 32; 9:7,12,34-35; 10:1, 20, and 27]
4. Why so many plagues? Why did God desire to multiply his wonders in Egypt? [Ex 10:1-2; 11:9;

Week 7

1. Describe the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. What was it celebrating? Why was it important to God that the Israelites have this celebration annually? What purpose did it serve? [Ex 12:1-36; 13:3-10, 14-16]
2. How did the Israelites escape the Egyptian army? Why did they no longer have to fear Pharaoh again seeking to enslave them? What lesson(s) was God teaching the Israelites through this experience? [Ex 14:1-30]
3. How did God provide food for this huge number of people as they traveled through the wilderness? What things were remarkable and miraculous about this food? What lessons was God trying to teach them? [Ex 16:1-36]
4. The Ten Commandments. Why these ten? Do these commandments all apply to Christians today? Why or why not? [Ex 20:1-17]

Week 8

1. Why did the people break the covenant associated with the 10 commandments? How should they have responded to Moses' long absence? Why did Aaron assist them? [Ex 32:1-6; 21-24]

2. What was the ark of testimony / the covenant? What was on top of it? Of what materials was it made? What was its purpose(s)? [Ex 25:10-22]

3. Why did God prescribe the building of a tabernacle? [Ex 25:8-9] Why was there a separate room for the ark? Why an enclosed courtyard around the tabernacle?

4. Psalm 1 is described as being a "wisdom psalm." What wisdom does Psalm 1 teach us? What does it urge us to do and not do? And with what expected benefits.

5. The book of Psalms is very different from most books of the Bible. What is the purpose of the book of Psalms? What benefits come from reading and meditating on the Psalms?

Week 9

1. Who are the two craftsmen whom Moses names who will develop the details of the designs and guide the work of building the Tabernacle and its furnishings and making the priestly garments? What can we learn from reading that they were “called” and “filled with the Spirit” for this sort of work? {Ex 35:30-35; 31:1-11]
2. What happened after the entire tabernacle was erected? Thereafter how did God direct the journeys of Israel through the wilderness? [Ex 40:34-38]
3. What 2 psalms of those we have read thus far have been the most meaningful to you? Why? Be prepared to share a few key verses from each.
4. In David’s psalms (most of the Psalms we have read) what do you learn about his relationship with God (and examples)? [Ps 27:4,8,11; Ps 23; ...]
5. What does David understand about his own need for forgiveness and God’s mercy? [Ps 19:12-14; 24:3-4; 38:1-4; 51:1-10 ...]
6. What examples do we see in the Psalms of David’s dependence on God? [Ps 3:3; 4:8; 18:2; 27:1; 31:14-15 ...]
7. Handling of the burnt offerings. Why was the person making the offering required to put his hand on the animal’s head? Where were animal offerings made? Who had to slay the animal? Who had to skin the animal and cut it into pieces? Why? (Lev 1:3-11)
8. Why could no grain offering be leavened? (Lev 2:4,11)

Week 10

1. What were the different kinds of offerings? What was offered for each? (Lev 7:37-38; Lev Ch 1 -Ch 7)

2. What parts of animals were never to be eaten? Why? (Lev 3:16-17; 7:22-27; 17:10-14; 19:26; Gen 9:3-4.)

3. Why were they considered guilty by God of making themselves unclean even if they did not know it, and were required to bring a guilt offering? (Lev 5)

4. Why did God kill Nadab and Abihu? Why such a severe punishment? Imagine yourself in the place of Aaron. How would you feel? How would you deal with something like this? (Lev 10:1-20.)

5. Summarize God's dietary requirements for His people: What animals were they allowed to eat vs. not to eat? These animals were unclean both to eat or to touch their carcasses. God does not explain why He made this distinction between animals. Some have theorized for health reasons, yet these same dietary requirements were not placed on Christians. What do you think? (Lev 11:1-47).

Week 11

1. Besides eating certain animals and touching their dead carcasses, what were some of the other things that could make an Israelite ceremonially unclean? Though God does not explain His reasons, do you see possible reasons that may explain some of these? (Lev Ch 12,13,15)

2. God repeatedly states His expectation that His people be holy as He is holy. In Lev 19, what are the “criteria” given for this holiness? Which of these do you think are the most significant and far reaching of God’s expectations? (Lev 19:2-37)

3. Chapters 18 and 20 address a lot of issues related to the holiness God expects of His people: marriage and sexual relations with both blood and “in-law” relations; adultery, sodomy, bestiality, child sacrifice to Molech, consulting mediums, etc. What may be some of God’s reasons for condemning these practices? Which of these are most strongly condemned and with what words? (Lev 18:6-30; 20:1-27)

4. What festivals / holy convocations did God prescribe for the Israelites? What do you think may have been some of the purposes of these? (Lev Ch 23)

Week 12

1. What principles of justice did God prescribe following the instance of the man who cursed God (Lev 24:10-23)? How do our penalties for such offenses compare in terms of both justice and practical administration?
2. Explain the Sabbath Year and the Year of Jubilee. What were the purposes of these special years? How did these benefit Israel? What things should they have learned from these institutions? (Lev 25:1-34)
3. What rules did God prescribe for the Israelites concerning slavery? Why these particular rules? Why did God permit His people to have slaves? (Lev 25:39 - 55)
4. What can we learn about God from how He had the people numbered and registered within their tribes, clans and families, and also from the details He established for how the Israelite camp was arranged? (Num Ch 1 and 2)
5. What were the families of the tribe of Levi and what responsibilities were assigned to each? What specific responsibilities were assigned to Eleazer and Ithamar? (Num 3:25-37 and 4:1-33; 4:16, 28,33)
6. How do we determine when a command from God applies forever and to everyone vs. to just certain people and/or during a limited time? (For example: responsibilities assigned to Eleazer and Ithamar in Q 5)

Week 13

1. How and why did the whole congregation become so discontented with manna that they were both complaining and crying? How did God respond to both resolve their complaint and to discipline them for it? (Num 11)

2. How did Moses handle the manna complaint? Did he respond in faith to God's plan? What was Moses' problem? (Num 11)

3. What was the underlying reason for Miriam and Aaron speaking against Moses? What was Moses' response? How did God respond and why? (Num 12)

4. What was the purpose of sending spies? What did they report? What did the majority of the spies recommend? Why did Caleb (and Joshua) have a different view? (Num 13)

5. How did the people respond to the spies' report? Why did they fear and not believe after all they had seen God do? How did God punish them? What can we do to guard against following their bad example? (Num 14)

Week 14

1. Does God judge us differently based on the reason for our disobedience? How did He treat intentional disobedience / rebellion differently from unintentional? Why? (Num 15:22-31) Korah's Rebellion (Num 16).
 - a. Of what tribe was Korah and how was he related to Moses and Aaron?
 - b. What was the essence of their complaint against Moses and Aaron?
 - c. What did Korah truly want? What was underlying this complaint?
 - d. How did God punish Korah and those with him?
 - e. What was the lesson to Israel (and perhaps also to us)?

2. Moses' Sin at the Waters of Meribah (Num 20). Near the end of the 40 years of wandering Israel came to a place with no water – a situation similar to what happened almost 40 years earlier. The people again failed to trust God to meet their need and grumbled against Moses. God instructed Moses to “speak to the rock” to bring forth water for the people. Instead, Moses struck the rock with the staff, as he had done on the first occasion.
 - a. Why did God care whether he spoke to the rock or struck it?
 - b. What did God say was Moses' sin?
 - c. What was God's judgement on Moses? Why?

3. The Bronze Serpent (Num 21:4-9). The people again spoke against God and Moses, complaining of the lack of water and food and their dislike of manna.
 - a. What was their sin? What was God's judgment on them?
 - b. When they confessed and pleaded for God to remove the serpents – He did not. Why?
 - c. What means of salvation did He provide?
 - d. Jesus later used this as an example to help explain how we can receive eternal life (Jn 3:14-18). How did the Bronze Serpent illustrate how we can be born again and receive eternal life?

4. Balaam (Num 22-24). What did Balak want Balaam to do? Did Balaam do so? Why did God threaten to kill Balaam and cause him to be saved by a donkey? (22:22-35). What was Balaam's sin? (2 Pet 2:15-16) What should Balak have done after hearing Balaam's prophecies and blessings of Israel?

Week 15

1. Baal of Peor (Num 25). What happened at Peor? What was God's judgment on the sinners? How was God's plague checked? How did this sin originate? (Num 31:15-16; 25:1-3) How does this example warn us also?
2. Numbering a New Generation (Num 26). Who was numbered? (26:2) What was observed when comparing the list with those numbered nearly 40 years before in Numbers 1? (26:64-65) Who were those condemned to die in the wilderness during the 40 years? (14:22-24, 28-30) Laws concerning Vows (Num 30). What did God expect of His people concerning oaths or vows they made? What exceptions applied to many women's vows? Why?
3. Defeat of the Midianites (Num 31). Who were the Midianites? (Gen 25:2,4; 37:6; Ex 2:15-16). What had they done to Israel that God would command vengeance for? (Num 25:17; 31:2,15-16) What specific people are we told were killed? What was it about what the Midianites had done that incited such a response from God?
4. Settling the Trans-Jordan (Num 32). Which tribes settled east of the Jordan? Why did they desire this place? What was the key condition under which they were allowed to settle their families and livestock there at this time?
5. Allotting the Land and Levite Cities (Num 34 – 35:8). What was the process by which the allotment was to be made? Who was to make the allotments? (34:17-29) What territory were the Levites to receive? (Num 35:1-8)
6. Cities of Refuge and Justice System (Num 35). God distinguished between the intentional and unintentional manslayer. Only the unintentional could escape the death penalty. What were the distinguishing factors God prescribed? (Num 35:16-24)

Week 16

INTRODUCTION TO DEUTERONOMY

Contents: Final addresses of Moses to the people while camping in the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan across from Jericho, during the last couple of months before his death and their crossing of the Jordan. Moses recounts the story of their journey from Sinai, reminds them of many key portions of God's Law and explains the lessons they should have learned along the way, and the lessons they are to teach to their descendants. He also gives them many warnings for the future and how their future actions can bring them blessings or curses.

1. Take Heed / Care (Deut 4:9-10). Various translations read: "take heed", "take care", "be careful"; and then "keep your soul diligently", "watch yourself closely". Why did Moses give this warning? What was his concern?
2. The Shema (Deut 6:4-9). This passage came to be called the Shema (means "Hear") and served as Judaism's basic confession of faith. Under later Rabbinic law the Shema was to be recited twice daily – once in the morning and once at night.
 - a. What are the key elements of these verses?
 - b. What of this applies to Christians as well? Why do you think so?
3. Testing God (Deut 6:16). In Deut 6:16 Moses commands "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah."
 - a. How did they test God at Massah (Ex 17:7)?
 - b. Jesus quoted this verse in Matt 4:7 and Luke 4:12. How did Jesus use this verse?
4. Lesson(s) of the Manna (Deut 8:2-5; 16-18). What lessons does Moses explain that they should have learned from God's provision of manna in the wilderness?
5. What does God Require (Deut 10:12-13). What did God say He required of the Israelites in covenant with Him in Deut 10:12-13? Does the same or part of the same also apply to Christians today?

Week 17

1. Recognizing and Dealing with False Prophets (Deut 13:1-5). Do signs and wonders prove a prophet to be a true prophet from God? What is the standard given here? What did God say should be done with such false prophets?
2. Care for the Poor (Deut 15:7-11). What principles did God establish for Israel in terms of how they should care for the poor?
3. Rules for Kings (Deut 17:14-20). What rules did God establish for the future kings of Israel? What do you think were the reasons for these rules?
4. Presumptuous Prophets (Deut 18:20-22). How is a false prophet discerned? What is to be done to a prophet who claims to speak from God but speaks words God has NOT spoken? Does this apply to current day "prophets"?
5. Lost and Found (Deut 22:1-4). We have an old saying "finders keepers, losers weepers." What rules did God prescribe concerning finding things lost by others?
2. Cross Dressing (Deut 22:5). Does this refer to our modern "Cross Dressing" or just dressing to deceive? What word does God use to condemn this? Why do you think He condemns this so harshly?

Week 18

1. Army Service and Newlyweds (Deut 24:5). What rule did God establish concerning newlyweds and the army? Why?
2. Muzzling the Ox. In Deut 25:4 Moses inserts a command about not muzzling an ox in between other commands that seem totally unrelated. What is the principle behind this command? How did the apostle Paul use and apply this verse in I Cor 9:9 and 1 Tim 5:18?
3. Monuments After Crossing the Jordan (Deut 27:1-8). What monuments did Moses command them to make after they cross the Jordan? What were the purposes of these?
4. Blessings and Curses Ceremony. Moses charged the people with performing a ceremony after crossing the Jordan, in which blessings and cursing would be recited.
 - a. How was the ceremony to be conducted? What was its purpose? (27:11-14)
 - b. What was the requirement for the whole nation to be blessed? (28:1-2) and (28:13-14)
 - c. How would they be blessed? (29:3-12)
 - d. What are some of the curses promised that clearly came true when they broke God's commands and turned to idols? (28:15-68)
5. Secret Things (Deut 29:29). "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law." What does this verse mean and how are we to apply it?
6. Moses' Charge to Joshua (Deut 31:7-8). What was Moses' charge to Joshua? Why did he charge and exhort him with these particular words?
7. A New Song. Why did God tell Moses just before his death how in the future Israel will break His covenant? (31:14-18) What final thing did he tell Moses to do, knowing that this would be the case? Why? (31:19-22)

Week 19

1. God Meets with Joshua. (Josh 1:1-9). After Moses' death, God came and spoke directly to Joshua. What things did He promise to Joshua? (1:3-5) What things did He command Joshua? (1:6-9) What did He tell Joshua that was the key to him being prospered and having success? (Josh 1:8) Does the same apply to us?
- 2.. Rahab and Jericho (2:1-24). Why did Rahab help the Israelite spies? What did she ask for in return? What did she know and believe about Yahweh? What happened to Rahab after Jericho was destroyed? (6:25;
- 3.. Crossing the Jordan (Josh 3:5-17). Why did God stop the waters of the Jordan for Israel to cross (there was a fording place where a slower crossing could have occurred)? Why this miracle? (Josh 3:7-10; 4:14)
4. Memorial Stones (Josh 4:1-24). Where were two memorials of 12 stones built? Where were the stones taken from? Why were these monuments built? (4:6-7; 20-24)
5. Conquering Jericho (Josh 6:1-27). How was the city of Jericho conquered? What do you suppose the soldiers thought of this process? Why this peculiar method of conquering the city of Jericho? Why didn't God do the same or similar with other cities?
6. Achan's Sin (Josh 7:1-26). What was Achan's sin? How was it found out? How was it punished? Why was it punished so severely? What lesson did Joshua learn from this? What applications are there for us?

Week 20

1. The Gibeonites (Josh 9:1-27). How did the Gibeonites deceive Joshua and the people? Why did they do this rather than joining with the other Canaanites to fight? (9:24-25) What key mistake did Joshua and the Israelites make? (9:14-15)

2. Battle at Gibeon (Josh 10:1-27). What events led up to this battle between the Israelites and this Amorite coalition at Gibeon? What miracle did Joshua request of God during this battle and why? (Josh 10:12-13)

3. Inheritance of Caleb (Josh 14-15).
 - a. What did Caleb request? (14:6-12) What city was given to Caleb? (14:14; 15:13) What did he promise to do? And did he do so? (14:12, 15:14-17)
 - b. Who was Othniel and what did he do? (15:17) Who was Achsah and what do we learn of her by her actions? (15:17-19)

4. Division of the Land (Josh 14-19).
 - a. Where among the tribal inheritances was the tent of meeting located? (18:1)
 - b. What peoples did the tribes fail to drive out of their inheritances? (15:63; 16:10; 17:12-13)
 - c. Why was Simeon given land within the land given to Judah? (19:1,9)
 - d. Where was Joshua's inheritance? (19:49-50)

Week 21

1. Cities of the Levites (Josh 20-21). The priests and Levites were given cities spread throughout all the tribes and their cities included the cities of refuge. How many cities of refuge were there and what were they? (20:7-9) Within what tribes were the priests given cities? (21:4)
2. Return to the Trans-Jordan (Josh 22). How did Joshua exhort the soldiers from across the Jordan before their return? (22:5) What did these soldiers do on their way home that nearly started a war? (22:10) Why did this risk war and why did they do it? (22:22-29)
3. Joshua's final Exhortation to the Leaders (Josh 23). When Joshua was old, he called all the leaders of the people together – for what purpose? What was the substance of his exhortation to them? (23:6-8, 11-13)
4. Choose Whom You Will Serve (Josh 24:14-25). Just before his death Joshua called all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem – for what purpose? What did he ask this new generation to do? (24:15) What example did he set for them? (24:15) How did the people answer? (24:16-18 and 21,24) What did Joshua warn them? (24:19-20) Why did he ask them this? (24:22,25) Why did he write these words in the Law and set up a stone?
6. Overview of the Time of the Judges (Judg 2).
 - a. What had the people failed to do according to the angel of the Lord? (2:1-3)
 - b. What are we told about the new generation that followed Joshua? (2:10-13)
 - c. What was the repeated cycle that occurred during the time of the judges? (2:14-19)
 - d. What did God decide to NOT do, because of their disobedience? (2:20-22) For what reasons? (2:2, 3:1-2,4)
 - e. What resulted from these people living among the Israelites? (3:5-6)
7. Deborah, Barak and Jael. (Judg 4 – 5).
 - a. Who was Deborah? (4:4) What was her role in delivering Israel from Jabin, a king of the Canaanites and his army commander, Sisera? (4:6-9,14)
 - b. What was Barak's role? (4:6,10,15-16)
 - c. Who was Jael and what role did she play? (4:17-22)

Week 22

1. Gideon (Judges 6-8).
 - a. What was the situation of Israel in the time of Gideon? (6:1-10)
 - b. How and where did God first approach Gideon? (6:11-12) Who was speaking with Gideon – an angel or God? (6:12-17, 20)
 - c. What did God first require of Gideon before preparing to battle Midian? (6:25-27) Why?
 - d. Why did Gideon ask for a sign three times? (6:17, 36-40) Should he have asked for this? Why did God comply?
 - e. Why did God reduce his army size from about 32,000 to 300? (7:3-7) With the help of others in pursuing and trapping the fleeing army, how many of the enemy did they defeat? (8:10)
 - f. What are the lessons (applications) for us from the story of Gideon?

2. Abimelech (Judges 9-10). Who was Abimelech? How did he come to reign? What judgment came on him and the men who put him in power? (9:56-57)

3. Jephthah (Judges 11). What people were threatening Israel at this time? (10:17-18; 11:28) Was God working through Jephthah? How do we know? (11:29, 32) What foolish vow did Jephthah make to God? (11:30-31). What was the result of his vow? (11:34-40)

4. Samson (Judges 13-16). How was Samson's birth announced? (13:2-5; 8-28) Why did God speak to Samson's parents in this way before his conception? In what ways did Samson act foolishly and not fully follow Yahweh? (Ch 14 – 16); Did Samson carry out God's purpose for him? (14:4,19; 15:14-15, 18-19)

Chapters 17 -21 Appendices to the book of Judges – not sequential.

Week 23

1. Micah and the Danite Migration. What did Micah do that was contrary to the Law? What false belief / superstition did Micah exhibit? (17:5; 13) Why did the Danites steal from Micah? And what did Micah say they took? (18:14,17,24) Who was the Levite who assumed the role of a private priest for Micah and later for the tribe of Dan? (18:30). How had these Israelites perverted the worship of Yahweh?

2. The Benjamite War. What event led to the war against the Benjamites? (19:22-28) How did such a crime against a single person grow into a devastating war? (19:29-30; 20:9-10, 13-14) What were the results of this war (about how many losses on each side?) (20:21,25,35) How was the tribe of Benjamin saved from extinction? (20:47, 21:7-8,10-14; 19-23) What does this story tell us about the spiritual health of the Israelites at this time? What verse sums up the whole of Judges? (17:6 and 21:25)

3. Ruth's Character (Ruth 1). Ruth, a young Moabite, marries an Israeli, but is soon widowed and childless. Her mother-in-law, Naomi, is also a widow and now plans to return to her home at Bethlehem.
 - a. Why does Naomi urge both of her widowed daughters-in-law to return to their father's houses? (1:5-9,11-13)
 - b. Why does Ruth refuse? What does she commit to in so doing? What indications do we see of Ruth's conversion to worshipping Yahweh? (1:16-17)
 - c. How does Ruth conduct herself after returning to Israel with Naomi? (2:2-7)

4. The Man Boaz.
 - a. Who is Boaz? What do we know about him? (2:1)
 - b. In what ways does Boaz favor Ruth and why? (2:8-12; 14-16,21)
 - c. How did Ruth respond to his favor? (2:10,13)

5. Naomi's Suggestion. Why did Naomi urge Ruth to go to Boaz at the threshing floor? (3:1-5) What did Ruth request of Boaz and how did he respond? (3:9, 10-13) Boaz referred to Ruth as a "woman of excellence", what made her so in Boaz's eyes? (2:11-12; 3:10-11, etc.)

Week 24

1. Story of Ruth. Why do we have the story of Ruth preserved in the Bible? What are we to learn from it?

2. Hannah and the Birth of Samuel (1 Sam 1). Summarize the events that led up to Samuel's birth. How did Samuel, an Ephraimite, come to live at Shiloh with the tabernacle and the high priest as a young boy? How did God later reward Hannah for her sacrifice? (2:20-21)

3. How did Eli fail as a father and a high priest? What are we told about Eli's sons Hophni and Phineas? (2:12-17) What did God say was His reason for judging Eli? (2:29-30; 3:13) What was God's promised judgment on Eli? (2:29-34) Why this judgment?

4. Loss and Return of the Ark (Chs 4-6).
 - a. Why was the ark taken into battle against the Philistines? (4:3) What fallacy / false belief lay behind this decision? Do we make similar mistakes?
 - b. Why did God allow the ark to be taken? What purpose did God accomplish while the ark was in Philistine hands?
 - c. Why did the Philistines let the ark go? How did they?
 - d. What mistake did the Levites make who first received the ark? (6:19-20)

Week 25

1. A King to Rule Over Israel (Chs 8-10). Why did Israel want a king? (8:3,5,19-20) What was wrong with this? (8:7; 10:19) How did Saul come to be selected as king? Was Saul God's choice? (9:14-17; 10:1,6-7; 19-24)
2. Saul Established as King (Chs 11-12). Does Saul become king when Samuel chooses him and announces he is chosen? (10:27; 11:5) What does Saul do that creates support for his kingship? (11:6-7, 11) What does Samuel do to transition Israel from being led by Him as a judge, to being led by Saul as king? (12:1-25)
3. Saul's Failure as God's Anointed King (1 Sam 13,15). How did Saul fail at Gilgal? What did Samuel say he had done wrong and what was Saul's excuse? What was to be God's punishment? (13:9-14) In battling the Amalekites Saul again failed, in what way? What was Saul's excuse? How did Samuel respond to his excuse? What was God's punishment? (15:2-3; 9-23)
4. Samuel Anoints David. What did God teach Samuel when he was seeking God's chosen king among the sons of Jesse? (16:6-7) What should we learn from the same? What happened when Samuel anointed David? (16:13)
5. Jonathan (1 Sam 14, 18-20, 23). What do we learn about Jonathan's character from: how he started the battle at the Philistine garrison (14:1,6-12); when he was chosen by lot for violating Saul's curse (14:43)? Why did he 1st made a covenant with David? (18:3-4) What does he ask of David for when David is king? (20:13-17) Why was Jonathan, the heir to the throne, willing to give it to David? (23:16-18)

6. David and Goliath (Chapter 17). What was Goliath's challenge to Saul and his men? (17:8-10, 24) How did Saul and his men respond? (17:11) What was David's response to hearing Goliath's challenge? (17:26,32) Why was David not afraid as Saul and all his soldiers were? What was the basis of his confidence? (17:36-37) Why did Saul allow David to go and meet Goliath's challenge? How did David respond to Goliath's threats to him? (17:45-47) What was the effect on the Philistines of seeing David's victory? (17:51-52)

7. David Initially Flees from Saul. In Chapters 19-21 David flees from Saul, first to Samuel, then to the priest Ahimelech, then to the Philistine king, Achish of Gath. Was David acting wisely and following God's leading throughout this time? Why or why not?

Week 26

1. David with his Men Hiding from Saul. How did David come to have his own small army at the cave of Adullam? (22:1-2) Why did David go to Moab for a time? And why did he then return to Judah? (22:3-5) How did David come to have a priest with an ephod joining his party? (22:20-23)
2. David and Saul at Engedi. Saul comes into the cave where David and his men are hiding. David's men think this is the Lord's plan for David to kill Saul. Why doesn't David kill Saul? (24:4-6) What did David do after letting Saul go? (24:8-15) How did Saul respond? (24:16-22) Why did God cause Saul to enter this cave? How did David rightly determine God's will?
3. Nabal and Abigail. How does David respond to Nabal's insult? How does Nabal's wife, Abigail, change David's mind? What do we learn about Abigail from this account? What do we learn about David? What positive examples do we see here that we should imitate?
4. David and Saul in the Wilderness of Ziph. (1 Sam 26:8-11)
 - a. When David entered Saul's camp while he was sleeping, Abishai said "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand" and requested permission to kill Saul. Why didn't David do so? (consider all the arguments for why he should have).
 - b. What does this teach us about David? And about discerning God's will?
5. David Serves the Philistines.
 - a. Why did David decide to live with the Philistines? (27:1-2) Was this a good decision? Why or why not?
 - b. Did David remain loyal to Israel while serving Achish? How so? (27:5,8-12; 28:1-2) Did David make compromises?
 - c. What would David have done if he had joined the battle against Israel? (28:1-2; 29:1-11)

6. Amalekites Raid Ziklag.
 - a. What happened to David's city, Ziklag, while they were gone, preparing to battle Israel? (30:1-3)
 - b. How did David's men react when they discovered what had happened? (30:4-6) What actions did David take to deal with this situation? (30:6-10)
 - c. How was this tragedy resolved? (30:17-20) How do we see God's mercy in this result?
 - d. What purpose do you suppose God may have had for allowing this raid upon Ziklag?

7. Medium of Endor and Saul's Death.
 - a. Why did Saul go to a medium in hopes of speaking to the already dead Samuel? (28:5-7, 15)
 - b. What was the result of this? (28:19-20) Was this truly Samuel? Did this woman have the ability to bring up dead spirits? Or did God cause this to happen for His purposes?

8. Report of Saul's Death. How did David hear of Saul and Jonathan's deaths? (2 Sam 1:2-10) Did David rejoice at the news? How did David "reward" the man who brought the news and claimed to have killed Saul at Saul's request? (2 Sam 1:14-16).

Week 27

1. David's Reign over Judah.
 - a. How long did David reign over Judah in Hebron before also becoming king of Israel? (2 Sam 2:11)
 - b. How many wives did David have before he became king of Judah? (1 Sam 30:5,18)
 - c. How many wives and sons did David have by the time he became king over all of Israel? (2 Sam 3:2-5)

2. Covenant with Abner.
 - a. What arrangement did David make with Abner with the intent of becoming king over all of Israel? (3:12-21)
 - b. Why did David require the return of Michal? Should he have done so?
 - c. Why did Joab murder Abner? (3:22-27,30) Why didn't David punish Joab for this premeditated murder? (3:38-39)

3. Death of Ish-bosheth.
 - a. How did Ish-bosheth, King of Israel die? (4:5-7).
 - b. How did David treat the men who came to him bearing Ish-bosheth's head? (4:8-12) Why didn't David reward them for facilitating his assumption of the kingship?

4. Bringing the Ark to Jerusalem. (2 Sam 6)
 - a. Was David's intent good and pleasing to God? Why was God displeased? And why did God kill Uzzah?
 - b. What did David learn from this? What should we learn?

5. David's Plan to Build a Temple. (2 Sam 7)
 - a. What led David to this plan? Why did God refuse? How did David handle this disappointment?
 - b. What did God then promise to David? Why did God make such a "forever" promise to David, unlike any prior promise except to Abraham? Why choose David?
 - c. What is the lesson for us concerning how God leads in our lives? (i.e. encouraged by God's prophet to first build, but then later told he is not the one to build – his son is)

6. Bathsheba. (2 Sam 11)
 - a. What factors led up to David's sin with Bathsheba? What things had made him susceptible to using his kingly authority to arrange a one-night stand with a beautiful woman?
 - b. Did David have any initial intent to take Uriah's wife for himself? How do we know?
 - c. Why would David decide to sacrifice one of his most loyal mighty men (Uriah) in battle? Why not just take her from Uriah? or publicly execute Uriah?
 - d. What means did God use to draw David's attention to his sin? (2 Sam 12) Did David understand his guilt and truly repent? Did God forgive David?
 - e. What punishments did God decree for this sin? Why this sort of punishment vs. a death sentence for being an adulterer and murderer?

7. Amnon and Tamar. (2 Sam 13)
 - a. What warning signs of Amnon's plan did David miss?
 - b. Was this risk greatly increased by David's polygamy? By his adultery? How so?
 - c. Could something like this happen in a modern family? Are the risks greater in a modern blended family? Why or why not?
 - d. How does David deal with Amnon when he learns of it? Was David's poor response perhaps influenced by his own adultery with Bathsheba? Why?
 - e. How did Absalom feel about how David handled this? Should David have foreseen the danger of Absalom taking vengeance? Was David partly to blame for Absalom's murder of Amnon?

Week 28

1. Absalom. (2 Sam 13-15)
 - a. Who does Absalom flee to? Why? How long is he away and why does David bring him back?
 - b. When Absalom returned should David have refused to see him?
 - c. What influences Absalom to try to take the kingdom from his father and to try to kill him?

2. David Flees Absalom. (2 Sam 15-16)
 - a. Who abandons David for Absalom? Who remains faithful and offers aid to David?
 - b. What does Absalom do that was foretold by Nathan?
 - c. How does David respond to being cursed by Shimei?

3. Defeat and Death of Absalom. (2 Sam 17-18).
 - a. How does Hushai save David? Why does Ahithophel kill himself?
 - b. What leads to Absalom's death?
 - c. Why doesn't David want Absalom killed (even though Absalom is seeking to kill David and all his family)?
 - d. Why does Joab disobey David's command?

4. David mourns Absalom. (19:1-8) Why does David mourn the death of his son, who sought to take the kingdom and kill David and all of David's other children? What was the threatened result of David's mourning? What causes David to recover?

5. David returns to Jerusalem. Who meets David at the Jordan? (19:15-17, 24, 31) Why does David pardon Shimei? (19:18-23) How does David deal with Mephibosheth and Ziba? Why? (19:24-30)

6. Sheba and Amasa. (19:40-20:22) What led to the rebellion of the northern tribes? Who led the rebels? Why did David replace Joab with Amasa? Why did Joab kill Amasa? How was the problem of Sheba resolved? Why didn't David punish Joab?
7. Famine, Saul and the Gibeonites. Why was there a famine in Israel? (21:1-3) What had Saul done? Why were the people now being punished for what Saul did? What did David do to end the famine? (21:2-4, 5-6)
8. Last Words of David. (23:1-7) What does David say about God's Spirit and of what significance is this statement? (23:2)
9. The Mighty Men. (23:8-39) Why are David's mighty men listed and some of their battle successes shared?

Week 29

1. David's Census and the Plague. (Ch 24)
 - a. Why did David command a census? (24:1-2) What was wrong with this? (24:3,10)
 - b. Why does God give him 3 options to choose between for his punishment? (24:12-13)
 - c. Why does David refuse the gift of the property? (24:24)
 - d. What is the significance of David's purchasing this threshing floor of a Jebusite to make an offering to God? (24:18,24-25; 2 Chron 3:1)

2. Solomon Becomes King.
 - a. Why was Adonijah able to gain the support of most of his brothers and the leaders of the country? (1:5 and 2 Sam 3:4) Who were his key allies? Whose support did he NOT obtain? (1:5-10) How did David contribute to this attempt by Adonijah? (1:6)
 - b. How did David, after being informed by Nathan and Bathsheba, foil Adonijah's attempt and install Solomon as king? (1:11-53)

3. Solomon's Request of God. When God appeared to Solomon in a dream and gave him a "wish", what did Solomon ask for? Why? (3:5-9) What then did God promise to do for Solomon? (3:11-14) Did God keep this promise? (Ch 3:16-25; 4:29-34; 9:26-10:29)

Week 30

1. Building of the Temple. (1 Ki 6-8) When did Solomon begin to build the temple and how long did it take? (6:1, 37-38) When Yahweh appeared to Solomon a 2nd time, what was His message? (9:1-9)

2. Solomon's Downfall.
 - a. What was the cause of Solomon's downfall? (11:1-8) Why was Solomon's downfall much worse than David's with Bathsheba? (11:4) How did David's failures and sins possibly contribute to the even greater sins of Solomon?
 - b. What was God's judgment on Solomon? (11:11-13) Why did God show mercy and not do this until after Solomon's death and to leave one tribe under Solomon's son? (11:12-13) What does this imply about the possible influence of godly parents for mercy on their children?

3. Rehoboam. Solomon's wisdom clearly did not pass to his son. How did Rehoboam act foolishly after Solomon's death? (12:3-15) Was this foolish mistake God's will? (12:15,24)

4. Jeroboam.
 - a. What did God offer to Jeroboam and on what conditions? (11:37-38) Did Jeroboam listen to the prophet and keep the conditions for God being with him and building him an enduring house? (12:26-33)
 - b. How did God rebuke Jeroboam? (13:1-5) Why did the prophet who spoke against Jeroboam die?
 - c. Why did the old prophet in Bethel deceive this prophet? Why did he later wish to be buried with him?

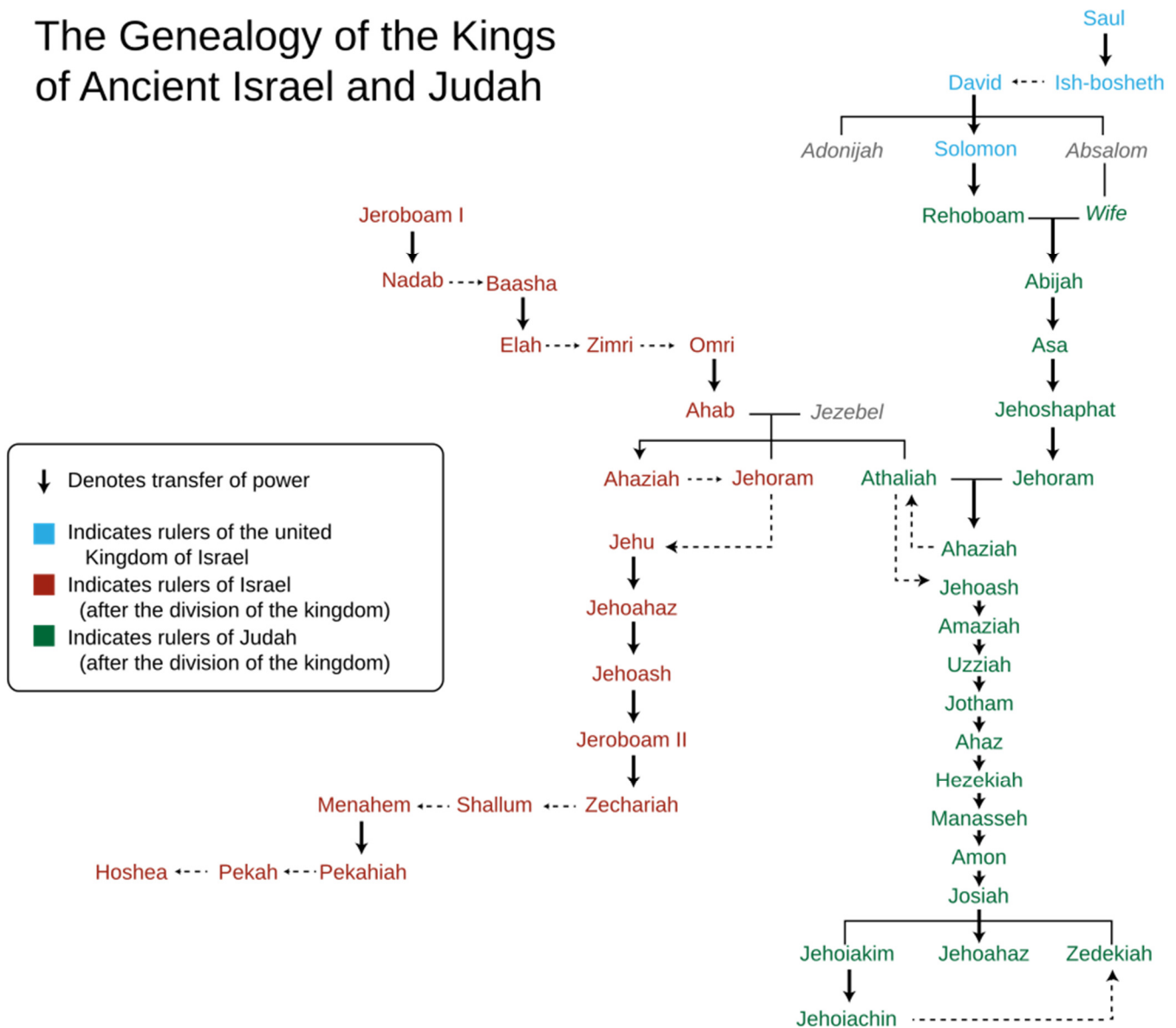
5. Jeroboam. (1 Kings 14:7- ...) Yahweh speaks to Jeroboam through the prophet Ahijah when he inquires about whether his son will live. Ahijah was also the prophet God used to tell Jeroboam God would be making him kings over 10 tribes of Israel and what God expected of him (1Kings 11:29-39). Why was God displeased with Jeroboam? (1 Kings 14:7-9) What judgement was announced on Jeroboam's "house"? (1 Ki 14:10-16) Who carried out this judgement on Jeroboam's family? (1 Ki 15:25-30)

6. Elijah and the Drought. Why did Elijah go into hiding after announcing to Ahab the drought? In what ways did God provide food for Elijah during this time? (1 Ki 17:3-6; 9-16) What further miracle did Elijah perform for the widow at Zarephath? (17:17-23) What do you think was God's purpose with the drought that led up to the event at Carmel?
7. Elijah at Mount Carmel. Why did Elijah tell Ahab to call together all Israel, including the prophets of Baal and Asherah at Mount Carmel? (1 Ki 18:18-19) What was Elijah's challenge to the people and the prophets of Baal? (18:21-25) What happened? (18:26-38) How then did the people respond? (18:39) Then what did Elijah do, with the help of the people? (18:40)
8. Elijah's Flight. Why after Carmel was Elijah afraid and running for his life? (19:1-3) Why did he request to die while sitting under a juniper tree? (19:4) How did Elijah explain himself to God at Horeb? (19:9-10) How did God answer him / instruct him? (19:15-18)

Kings of Israel & Judah

										UNITED KINGDOM							
										King		Reign		References			
										1	Saul	32	1 Sam 9:1-31:13	1 Chr 10:1-11			
										House of David							
										2	David	40	2 Sam	1 Chr 11:1-29:21			
										3	Solomon	40	1 Ki 2:1-11:43	1 Chr 29:22-30:2 Chr 1:9			
SOUTHERN KINGDOM - JUDAH										NORTHERN KINGDOM - ISRAEL							
King	House of David	Reign	References	References		King	House of Jeroboam	Reign	References	References							
1 Rehoboam	Son of Solomon	17	1 Ki 12:10-14:31	2 Chr 10:1-12:16		1 Jeroboam (I)	1st king of the 10 tribes	22	1 Ki 12:25-14:20	2 Chr 10:1-12:16							
2 Abijah/Abijam	Son of Rehoboam	3	1 Ki 15:1-8	2 Chr 13:1-22		2 Nadab	Son of Jeroboam (I)	2	1 Ki 15:25-31								
3 Asa	Son of Abijah	41	1 Ki 15:9-24	2 Chr 14:1-16:14		House of Baasha											
						3 Baasha	Overthrew Nadab	24	1 Ki 15:32-16:7								
						4 Elah	Son of Baasha	2	1 Ki 16:8-14								
						House of Zimri											
						5 Zimri	Overthrew Elah 7 days (years?)		1 Ki 16:15-20								
						House of Omri											
						6 Omri	Overthrew Zimri	11	1 Ki 16:21-28								
						7 Ahab	Son of Omri	22	1 Ki 16:29-22:40								
						8 Ahaziah	Son of Ahab	2	1 Ki 22:51-53	2 Ki 1:1-18							
4 Jehoshaphat	Son of Asa	25	1 Ki 22:41-50	2 Chr 17:1-20:37		9 Joram / Jehoram	Son of Ahab	12	2 Ki 2:1-8:15								
						House of Jehu											
5 Jehoram / Joram	Son of Jehoshaphat	8	2 Ki 8:16-24	2 Chr 21:1-20		10 Jehu	Overthrew Jehoram	28	2 Ki 9:1-10:36								
6 Ahaziah / Azariah	Son of Jehoram & Athaliah	1	2 Ki 8:25-29	2 Chr 22:1-9		11 Jehoahaz	Son of Jehu	17	2 Ki 13:1-9								
7 Athaliah (queen)	Wife of Jehoram, Dau of Ahab & Jezebel	7	2 Ki 11:1-16	2 Chr 22:1-23:21		12 Jehoash / Joash	Son of Jehoahaz	41	2 Ki 13:10-25								
8 Joash / Jehosh	Son of Athaliah	40	2 Ki 11:17-12:21	2 Chr 23:16-24:27		13 Jeroboam (II)	Son of Jehoash	41	2 Ki 14:23-29								
9 Amaziah	Son of Joash	29	2 Ki 14:1-22	2 Chr 25:1-28		14 Zechariah	Son of Jeroboam (II)	3 mos	2 Ki 15:8-12								
10 Uzziah / Azariah	Son of Amaziah	52	2 Ki 15:1-7	2 Chr 26:1-23		House of Shallum											
						15 Shallum	Overthre Zecharah	1 mo	2 Ki 15:13-15								
						House of Menahem											
						16 Menahem	Overthrew Shallum	10	2 Ki 15:16-22								
						17 Pekahiah	Son of Menahem	2	2 Ki 15:23-26								
						House of Pekah											
						18 Pekah	Overthrew Pekahiah	20	2 Ki 15:27-31								
						House of Hoshea											
11 Jotham	Son of Uzziah	16	2 Ki 15:32-38	2 Chr 27:1-9		19 Hoshea	Overthrew Pekah	10	2 Ki 17:1-41								
12 Ahaz	Son of Jotham	16	2 Ki 16:1-20	2 Chr 28:1-27													
13 Hezekiah	Son of Ahaz	29	2 Ki 18:1-20:21	2 Chr 29:1-32:33													
14 Manasseh	Son of Hezekiah	55	2 Ki 21:1-18	2 Chr 33:1-20													
15 Amon	Son of Manasseh	2	2 Ki 21:19-26	2 Chr 33:21-25													
16 Josiah	Son of Amon	31	2 Ki 22:1-23:30	2 Chr 34:1-35:27													
17 Jehoahaz (Shallum)	Son of Josiah	3 mos	2 Ki 23:31-33	2 Chr 36:1-4													
18 Jehoikim (Eliakim)	Son of Josiah	11	2 Ki 23:34-24:7	2 Chr 36:5-8													
19 Jehoiachin/Jeconiah/Coniah	Son of Jehoikim	3 mos	2 Ki 24:8-16	2 Chr 36:9-10													
20 Zedekiah (Mataniah)	Son of Josiah	11	2 Ki 24:18-25:21	2 Chr 36:11-21													
Destruction of Jerusalem / Babylonian Captivity																	

The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah



Week 31

1. Ahab and Ben-hadad. Ahab was an exceedingly wicked king who served Baal ... So why did God send a prophet to Ahab to promise deliverance from Ben-hadad? (20:13-14) And why then again for a 2nd battle with the Arameans? (20:28) What judgment was pronounced when Ahab spared Ben-hadad? (20:42)
2. Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard. When Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab, Ahab was "sullen and vexed", but Jezebel promised to fix this. What did she do to get the field? (21:7-15) What judgement did Elijah pronounce on Ahab and Jezebel for this? (21:17-24) How did Ahab respond to this judgment, and what did God decide? (21:27-29) What was the writer of 1 Kings' conclusion about Ahab as a king? (21:25-26)
3. Elijah and Fire from Heaven – King Ahaziah (2 Ki 1). When King Ahaziah of Israel was very ill, who did he send messengers to inquire of to see if he would get well? (2) Who met them on the way? And what message did he give? (3-4) What happened when Ahaziah sent soldiers to bring Elijah to him? How many times? Why didn't Elijah accompany the 1st? Why did he go with the third?
4. Elijah Succeeded by Elisha (2 Ki 2). What was unusual about Elijah's "death?" (2:1,11) Elijah asked Elisha 3 times to stay behind while the Lord sent him to another place. Why? (2:2,4,6) Why did Elisha each time refuse and insist he would not leave him? (2:2,4,6) At the end, what did Elijah ask Elisha and what was his response? (9) What did this request mean? How was it demonstrated to the sons of the prophets that Elisha was now Elijah successor? (2:8, 14-15).
5. Miracles of Elisha. What miracles performed by Elisha were similar to what miracles performed by Jesus? (1 Ki 4:1-7; 4:32-37; 4:42-44; 5:10-14) Why do you think Jesus performed these similar miracles?

6. Elisha and Naaman the leper of Aram. (2 Ki 5) How did Naaman hear that there was someone who could cure his leprosy? (2 Ki 5:2-4) Why was Naaman angry when he went to see Elisha, such that he nearly returned home a leper? (5:11-12) What changed Naaman's mind? (5:13) What was Naaman being taught through this process? When Naaman returned healed, what did he now believe? And what pardon did he request? (5:15, 18) Why do you think God, through Elisha, choose to heal a Gentile army captain of an enemy people of leprosy?

7. Elisha vs. Aram. (2 Ki 6). Elisha was warning the king of Israel about the king of Aram's plans while they were at war. So, the king of Aram sent an army to take Elisha. Why was Elisha not concerned when they were surrounded? (6:14-16) How did Elisha deal with this army? (6:17-23)

Week 32

1. Jehu anointed king over Israel – at Elisha's command. (2 Ki 9 and 10) This was some unfinished business God gave to Elijah (1 Ki 19:16). When secretly anointed king on Elisha's instruction, what was Jehu commanded to do? (9:7-10). Did he carry out this command? How? (9: 21-26, 27, 30-37; 10:1-11) Why did Jehu also kill Ahaziah King of Judah and Ahaziah's 42 relatives? (2 Ki 9:27; 10:13-14; 2 Ki 8:18,24,26) What did Jehu do to all the Baal worshipers in Israel? (2 Ki 10:18-28) What reward did God promise to Jehu for doing all of this? (10:30)
2. Athaliah and Jehoash/Joash. Who was Athaliah? (her father, husband and son?) (2 Ki 8:18,26; 11:1) What did she do and how long did she reign? (11:1,3) How did baby Joash/Jehoash survive and become king? (11:2-16)
3. Legacy of Jehoshaphat. Godly King Jehoshaphat made a terrible mistake that nearly destroyed later generations of his family. What was it? (1 Ki 22:44; 2 Ki 8:18)
4. Assyrian Captivity of Israel. In whose reign did the Assyrians first carry off people from Israel into captivity? (2 Ki 15:27-29) How did Hoshea, King of Israel bring wrath on Israel from Assyria? (2 Ki 17:3-6). What was the result for Israel? (17:6)
5. Samaritans. Who took Israel's place in the land? (2 Ki 17:24) What problem developed after they settled there? And how did they try to resolve it? (2 Ki 17:25-28) Did these non-Israelites (who became the future Samaritans) come to worship Yahweh? In what sense? (2 Ki 17:41).

Week 33

1. King Hezekiah of Judah. How was Hezekiah unique among the kings of Judah? (2 Ki 18:3-7) What did Hezekiah do when the forces of Sennacherib King of Assyria besieged Jerusalem? (2 Ki 18 and 19:1-4; 14-19) How did Isaiah respond to Hezekiah concerning this crisis and what was the result? (2 Ki 19:6-7; 20-37)

2. The Final Years of Hezekiah. Why do you think Hezekiah pled for a longer life when on his death bed? (2 Ki 20:1-3) {Note: He was given 15 more years. How old was he at this time? (2 Ki 18:2; 20:6). How old was his son who became king when he died? (21:1) What did Hezekiah do that was foolish with representatives of the Babylonian king? (20:12-19)

3. Manasseh and the Downfall of Judah. What caused Judah's downfall? (2 Ki 17:19). How did Israel influence Judah? Why was Manasseh described as being the worst, most evil king of Judah? (2 Ki 21:2-16) How is it that one of the most godly kings was succeeded by a son who became the most ungodly? How may Manasseh have gone so wrong?

4. King Josiah and His Reforms. When King Josiah was 18 years old, what was found in the house of the Lord? What ALL did Josiah do after it was brought to him? (22:8, 11-13; 23:1-24) How does the writer of 2 Kings praise Josiah for these works? (23:25)

5. Death of Josiah and Judah Controlled by Egypt. How did Josiah die? (2 Ki 23:29; 2 Chron 35:20-24) A very godly man made a serious mistake that brought serious consequences to himself, his sons, and the kingdom of Judah. How did Josiah's battle with Egypt affect his son Jehoahaz/Joahaz who assumed the throne? (2 Ki 23:31-34) Who was made king in his place? (23:34)

6. Jehoiakim Serving Egypt and then Babylon. Jehoiakim began his reign under the control of Pharaoh Neco of Egypt, but after Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated Egypt, he came under the control of Babylon. Did Jehoiakim remain faithful to his oath to Nebuchadnezzar? What was the immediate result? (2 Ki 24: 1-2; 2 Chron 36:6).
7. Jehoiachin and Zedekiah. How did Jehoiachin come to the throne? (24:6) When Nebuchadnezzar came to besiege Jerusalem, what happened to Jehoiachin? (2 Ki 24:10-16) Who did Nebuchadnezzar then put on the throne of Judah? (24:17-18).
8. Zedekiah and the Destruction of Jerusalem. Why did Nebuchadnezzar return again to besiege Jerusalem? (2 Ki 24:20) Why do you think he decided, this time, to completely destroy the city (broke down the walls, burned the temple and all the houses) and also blinded Zedekiah, killed his sons, killed the priests and many other leaders, and took nearly all the rest away to Babylon? (2 Ki 25:1-2; 5-10; 11-21)
9. Judah Under a Governor. Who did Nebuchadnezzar leave in charge of the few people who remained in Judah? (2 Ki 25:22-23) What soon happened to him and what did the remaining people do? (1 Ki 25:25-26)

A Chronology of the Times

609 BC	King Josiah killed at Megiddo by Neco of Egypt, who was fighting to help Assyria. Jehoahaz "Haz" ruled 3 mos then was deposed by Neco and taken to Egypt where he died.
609–598	Jehoiakim "Kim" reigned as Egyptian vassal.
605 BC others	Battle of Carchemish: Nebu. defeated Egypt, entered Palestine and took Daniel and others hostage. "Kim" became a vassal of Nebu.
601 BC	"Kim" rebelled against Nebu. and sided with Egypt again - against Jeremiah's warnings
597 BC	"Kim" died, Nebu. captured Jerusalem and deported "Kim's" son, Jehoachin "Chin", replacing him with Zedekiah "Zed"
586 BC	"Zed" rebelled and entered negotiations with Egypt. Nebu. destroys Jerusalem, blinds "Zed" and takes him captive.

Week 34

1. How did David respond to Uzziah's death while moving the ark? (Ch13) What did he do afterwards? (13:9-14)

Week 35

1. What did he do differently on the 2nd attempt? (15:2,12) How did David explain what happened to the people? (15:13-15) what lesson is there for us from this?
2. How did David participate in the procession? (15:27-29) How did his wife Michal respond and why? What was her error? (2 Sam 6:20-23) What can we learn from both David and Michal in this incident?
3. Eshbaal the son of Saul and Meribbaal the son of Jonathan are known by what other names? Why? (8:33-34)(2 Sam 2:8; 4:4)
4. What was the secret of David's success in battles? 14:9-10;14-16 How was he different from Saul in this regard? (14:16) What can we learn from this example?
5. David was told that it was not for him, but for his son to build the temple. So why did he have stones cut, gather iron and bronze, cedar logs, etc? (22:1-5, 7, 14-16) Do you think David was disappointed that he would not get to build the temple? If so, how did he respond? How should we feel and respond when something we had hoped for appears to be denied by God?

Week 36

1. In chapters 23-27 we read of David's work in: organizing the Levites, assigning musicians, appointing guards, assigning treasurers, assigning officers and judges and other civil leaders. What do we learn about David from these works of his? Is there a good example here for us?
2. Why did David publicly (In front of all the leaders, commanders, and officials) present his large gift for the building of the temple? Was he seeking honor and praise? (29:3-9) what was the result of his action?
3. What was David's understanding of the source of prosperity, honor and might? 29:11-16 what is our place as humans? 29:15 How should this understanding affect our attitude towards wealth / financial success or giving financially to God?
3. When God asked Solomon what He should give him, what did Solomon request? For what purpose? 1:7-10 What did God promise to give to Solomon and why? 1:11-12
4. What was Solomon's request of God (in summary) concerning the temple? 6:19-40 What difference does it make as to where you are when you pray or what direction you are facing? Why might God encourage this among the Israelites? How has this affected Jewish worship practice ever since?

Week 37

1. What happened at the conclusion of Solomon's prayer when the sacrifice was prepared? Why did God respond in this way? 7:1-3 Had something like this ever happened before? When.? Lev 9:23-24

2. Following the dedication of the temple, God appeared to Solomon in a dream – responding to his prayer. What did God promise to Solomon and His people? 7:12-16 What must accompany their prayers for relief from draught or locusts? Why?

3. What did God say He would do if Solomon (and by extension – his sons) forsakes God ? 7:19-22 Why would God destroy His own temple because of their sin?

4. Why did the Queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon? 9:1,5-6 What May have been God's purpose in the queen of Sheba's visit?

5. How did God use Solomon to spread knowledge of Him to other people's? 9:21-23

6. In what way did Solomon's son, Rehoboam, follow the Lord? 11:1-4 What happened as punishment when Rehoboam forsook God's Law? 12:1-5;8-9. How did Rehoboam respond to this? 12:6-7; 12

7. How did the nation of Judah come to include most of the Levites as well as many Israelites from other tribes? 11:13-16; 15:8-9

8. **Good King Asa.** How did Asa respond when threatened by a great army of Ethiopians (or Cushites) and with what result? 14:9-12 What did the prophet Azariah tell King Asa? 15:3,7 And how did Asa respond to this word from God? 15:8, 10-13,16

9. For what did the prophet Hanani rebuke King Asa? 16:7-9 Why do you think Asa failed to trust this time? How did Asa again fail at the end of his life? 16:12-13 What warning is there for us in the story of Asa's life?

Week 38

1. **Good King Jehoshaphat.** Why did the Lord prosper and bless Jehoshaphat? 17:3-6 What did Jehoshaphat do so that the people would know God's Word? 17:7-9 How did Jehoshaphat win against the great army that came to attack? 20:1,3-12 What did the prophet Jahaziel tell Jehoshaphat and the people to do? 20:15-17

What was Jehoshaphat's great error(s)? (resulting in the evil rulers after him) 18:1; 19:2; 20:35-37 Why did he make this mistake? What do you think motivated him?

2. **Evil Jehoram.** What did Jehoram, son of good king Jehoshaphat, do to his brothers when he became king? 21:4 What influenced Jehoram to be so wicked and unlike his father? 21:6; 12-13 What punishment did God bring on him? 21:14-19

3. **Evil Ahaziah and Athaliah.** Ahaziah also walked in the ways of Ahab and only reigned 1 year. Who took the throne following his death, and by what means? 22:10 How did his son, Joash, come to take the throne back seven years later? 22:11-12; 23:1-15

4. **King Joash.** Why was Joash a good and godly king for years, but then later turned against the Lord? 24:2,17-19 What evil deed did Jehoash do that later caused his own servants to kill him? 24:20-22,25

Kings of Judah in These Chapters: Amaziah (son of Joash), Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Joahaz (son of Josiah), Jehoiakim (son of Josiah), Jehoiachin (son of Jehoiakim) (*8 or 18 yrs of age and reigned 3 mos*), Zedekiah (son of Josiah)

Week 38 (cont'd)

5. For what reason(s) did God prosper Uzziah? 26:4-5 How did good king Uzziah later stumble and what was his punishment from God? 26:16-21 What caused his stumbling? 26:16
6. What was the common cause for the success and prosperity of these kings of Judah: Uzziah 26:4-5; Jotham 27:2,6; Hezekiah 29:2; 31:20-21?

Week 39

1. What did King Hezekiah do after cleansing and consecrating the temple following his father's corruption of and closing the doors to the temple? 30:1 Why did he send letters into the former northern kingdom of Israel? With what did he encourage them and with what result? 30:6-11 In what ways did this celebration not strictly comply with the Law? 30:2-4; 17-19; 23 Did God condemn Hezekiah's actions in his regard? If not, why not? 30:20 What principle can we learn from this?
2. How did Hezekiah address the people's fear when Sennacherib of Assyria came to attack them? 32:6-8 How did God rescue them from Assyria? 32:20-22
3. In Hezekiah's final days we are told how God healed him and added 15 years to his life. (32:24 and 2 Ki 20:1-11) What does the statement in 2 Chron 32:25 mean (no return for the benefit received)?
4. King Manasseh was exceedingly evil (33:2-7,9) How was Manasseh punished and how did he respond? 33:11-13 ,15-16
5. How did Josiah respond when the "book of the Law" was found and read to him? 34:14-15, 18-19,21 How did King Josiah use this book? 34:30-32 What was Josiah's great mistake at the end of his life? 35:20-22 Why do you think he did this?

INTRODUCTION TO EZRA and NEHEMIAH

TIMELINE

605 BC Leading Judean citizens deported to Babylon
597 BC More leading Judean citizens deported to Babylon
586 BC Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroys Jerusalem and the temple
538 BC Cyrus of Persia decrees Jews to return and rebuild temple
536 BC Jews return under leadership of Zerubbabel (governor) and Jeshua (priest)
535 BC Temple construction begins
521 BC Darius I become king of Persia
520 BC Haggai and Zechariah begin prophetic ministry
515 BC Temple Completed
486 BC Xerxes (Ahasuerus) becomes king of Persia
464 BC Artaxerxes I becomes king of Persia
458 BC Ezra goes to Jerusalem
444 BC Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls
443 BC Walls of Jerusalem built

PERSIAN KINGS

Cyrus	559-530 BC	
Cambyses	530-522 BC	Not mentioned in Ezra or Nehemiah
Smerdis	522 BC	Not mentioned in Ezra or Nehemiah
Darius I	521-486 BC	
Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)	486-465 BC	
Artaxerxes I	464 – 424 BC	
Darius II	423-404 BC	

Ezra 4:6-23. This section appears to jump ahead of the chronological story to the time of Ahasuerus and Artaxerxes I, concerning the building of the walls of Jerusalem (presumably to illustrate the continuing opposition of the neighboring peoples). Then the story line returns to the time of Darius I and the issue of building the temple in verse 24.

Week 39 (cont'd)

7. What did King Cyrus of Persia decree concerning the Jews? (1:1-4) What further gifts did Cyrus make to the Jews going to Jerusalem? (1:7-11)
8. Why did Cyrus think Yahweh, the God of the Jews, had given him this kingdom and appointed him to build a house for Yahweh in Jerusalem? (Is 44:26-28; 45:1-5,13) Why do you think Cyrus would adopt this policy and be so generous to the Jews?
9. Who were the chief leaders of the group of Jews who returned to rebuild the temple? And from what families did they descend? (3:2,8; 1 Chron 3:10,17 and 6:1-15)

Week 40

1. Why was the building of the temple halted? (4:4-5,24) What led to continuing the work and completing the temple? (5:1-2)
2. How did the neighboring peoples respond to continued work on the temple? (5:3-5) How did King Darius answer their inquiry? (6:6-12)
3. Who was Ezra? (7:1-6) In the reign of Artaxerxes, Ezra lead another group of Jews back to Jerusalem – for what purpose? (7:1,8-10) What did King Artaxerxes decree to support Ezra's efforts? (7:12-13, 14-15, 21-24)
4. What sin problem was brought before Ezra soon after he arrived in Jerusalem? (9:1-3) How was it dealt with? (10:3,10-11)
5. What did Nehemiah pray for? (1:11; 2:5) What specific further aid did he request from the king? 2:7-8

Week 40 (cont'd)

6. Why did Nehemiah first secretly inspect the walls before telling his purpose in coming? 2:11-18
7. Why do you think many of the builders rebuilt the section of the wall in front of their own house? 3:23,28,29,30 Is there a principle to learn from this example?
8. Who opposed their efforts to rebuild Jerusalem's walls? 4:1,3,7 Why do you think they were so strongly in opposition? What were the first two ways they tried to prevent the rebuilding of the walls? 4:1-5,8,11-12.
9. How did Nehemiah respond to the threat of attack? What precautions did he take? 4:9,13-14; 16-18; 19-21; 22-23

Week 41

10. What was the cause of the "great outcry of the people" against their Jewish brothers? 5:1-5 What did Nehemiah do about this? 5:6-11,12-13
11. How did Nehemiah respond to their requests to meet him in the plains of Ono? 6:1-4 How did he respond to the open letter accusing him of treason? 6:5-8 How did he respond when warned of an assassination plan and counselled to stay in the temple for security? 6:10-14
12. How long did it take Nehemiah to fully rebuild the walls of Jerusalem? 6:15 Why was rebuilding the walls so important and worth all the effort and risk on Nehemiah's part?
13. What sort of man was Nehemiah – in terms of character and personality? In what ways was Nehemiah a good example of godly leadership? 1:4-11; 4:9,14,23; 5:14-19; 6:11; 12:8-11

INTRODUCTION TO ESTHER

AUTHOR: The author of Esther is unknown but appears to have been someone personally acquainted with the details of the story who was writing shortly after the close of Ahasuerus' reign. Many have thought Mordecai may have been the author.

TIME PERIOD: The story takes place during the reign of the Persian King Ahasuerus (in Hebrew). This is believed to be the Persian king called "Khshayarsha" and whom the Greeks (Herodotus, etc.) called Xerxes I. The events of this book take place after the rebuilding of the temple in Ezra but before Ezra and Nehemiah came to Jerusalem (in the reign of the following king – Artaxerxes).

CORRESPONDENCE TO SECULAR HISTORY: Ahasuerus / Xerxes became king about 485 B.C. and reigned 20 years until he was assassinated in 465 B.C. The great feast at which Vashti failed to appear (in the 3rd year of his reign – Esther 1:3) was likely the feast described in inscriptions that was in preparation for the invasion of Greece. It appears he deposed Vashti shortly before he left and when he returned in failure several years later, the Greek historians say he sought solace in his harem – and this appears to be timed with the selection of Esther (the 7th year of his reign (478 B.C.) after she was in his harem for 12 months - Esther 2:16). Note that the King was assassinated about 12 years after his marriage to Esther.

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK: The book explains the origin of the Jewish feast of Purim (lots) that celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from Haman (established by Mordecai per Esther 9:20-22). It also teaches the Providence of God and how He protected His people during the time of the captivity.

SUBJECT OF THE BOOK: How during the period of the Jewish captivity, a young Jewish woman, even an orphan raised by her cousin, came to be chosen to be the queen of Persia and became the means of saving all of the Jews from planned extermination. And also how her cousin / adopted father, came to be the chief minister to the king of the Persian empire.

MOST NOTEABLE PASSAGES:

- (1) Mordecai's message to Esther - 4:14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this."
- (2) Esther's response to Mordecai – 4:16 "...And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

Week 42

1. What was Queen Vashti's offense? Esther 1:10-12 What led the king to decide to replace her as queen? Esther 2:15-21
2. Who raised Esther and what was his relation to her? 2:5-7 What was Esther's Hebrew name? Esther 2:7
3. Imagine yourself in the place of either Esther or Mordecai when the king's decree caused her to be taken to the king's palace to his harem. Would this be an exciting or a fearful event? What risks were involved? What sort of future would Esther most likely have? How did this event impact their ongoing relationship? Esther 2:3-4; 8, 11-114
4. What did Mordecai do for the king? 2:21-23 How did he get word to the king? 2:22 Did the king reward Mordecai at that time? What was done after the fact? 2:23
5. Why did Haman hate first Mordecai and then all the Jews and wish to destroy them? Esther 3:2-6.
6. How did Haman plan to kill them all? What reasons did he give the king for eliminating these people? 3:8-9; 12-14.
7. Why was Esther initially reluctant to follow Mordecai's instructions to go to the king to plead for their people? Est 4:10-11 What did Mordecai say to her to convince her to do so? Est 4:13-14 "For such a time as this" What does this statement imply about the sovereignty and providence of God? What relevant message and application does it have to our lives?
8. How did Esther prepare for approaching the king on this matter? 4:16 What does Esther say in her reply to Mordecai that shows both her determination and courage? 4:16

9. Why do you think Esther did not immediately tell the king her request when he first asked? 5:3-4 Why when asked again at the banquet did she again delay and ask for a second banquet? 5:6-8 What important event happened after the first day's banquet but before the second one? Est 6:1-3
10. Why didn't the king simply withdraw his previous edict about killing the Jews? 8:5-8 What new position was Mordecai given? How, with the king's approval were the Jews saved? 8:9-12
11. So, what was the feast of Purim? How was it to be celebrated and what were they celebrating? 9:19-24

Introduction to Job

Time Period: Age of the patriarchs – Job appears to live around the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (because Job lived 140 years, wealth was measured in livestock, Job functioned like a priest to his family, and there is no mention of a nation of Israel or the Mosaic law).

Location: We are told he was in the land of Uz – a location Eli here identified with Edom (Lam 4:21)

Author: Unknown, possibly Job himself.

Wisdom literature. Job reads like the wisdom literature of Solomon's time and is largely poetry. It's subject matter is God's wisdom and rightly understanding the workings of God.

What is true wisdom and where does it come from. Limitations of man's understanding. God is not obligated to explain all things.

Chief Subject. Why do the righteous suffer? A difficult subject to understand and explain. It teaches the wisdom and sovereignty of God. There are things we cannot see or know, details of God's plans and workings and a long term perspective that we cannot look into the future to understand. Are we willing to trust in God's love, mercy and justice and follow God, even when we fail to see a personal benefit, even when hard things happen, without an explanation?

Outline of the Book

Prologue: the disasters of Job - Ch 1-2

The Dialogues with Job

Job's Lament – Ch 3

Eliphaz's 1st Speech and Job's Response – Ch 4-7

Bildad's 1st Speech and Job's Response – Ch 8-10

Zophar's 1st Speech and Job's Response – Ch 11-14

Eliphaz's 2nd Speech and Job's response – Ch 15-17

Bildad's 2nd Speech and Job's Response – Ch 18-19

Zophar's 2nd Speech and Job's Response – Ch 20-21

Eliphaz's 3rd Speech and Job's Response – Ch 22-24

Bildad's 3rd Speech and Job's Response – Ch 25-26

Job's Last Reply to his Friends – Ch 27-31

Elihu's 4 Speeches – Ch 32-37

God's Speeches – Ch 38-41

Epilogue: Job's Repentance and Deliverance - Ch 42

Week 43

1. When we are introduced to Job in Job 1:1-5, what do we learn about him? What tragedies came upon Job in chapter 1:13-19? What further trial came upon him in 2:7-8?

2. When God pointed out Job the first time, what did Satan say about the reason for Job's obedience to God? 1:8-10 What did Satan predict Job would do if his blessings were removed? 1:11 Did Job do this? How did he respond? 1:21-22

3. When God again points out Job and how Satan was wrong about him, what did Satan say would now make Job curse God? 2:3-5 Did Job curse God? How did he respond? 2:9-10

4. Job's friends sat with him in silence for 7 days and nights in order to sympathize with him and comfort him (2:11-13) Then in chapter 3 Job begins to speak. Chapter 3 is sometimes titled "Job's Lament". What is the point / message of Job's speech / lament?

5. Eliphaz is the first of Job's friends to respond to Job's lament. What were Eliphaz' chief points / arguments? (4:7-8; 4:17; 5:7-8,17) in what ways is his judgement correct? And in what ways faulty?

6. Does Job appreciate his friend's words? How does Job say friends should treat a friend in despair? 6:14-15 Do you think he is right? How does Job answer Eliphaz's arguments? 6:2-3;10,24-26.

7. Next both Bildad and Zophar make speeches to Job. Do they agree with Eliphaz? Do they make any further arguments of significance? Ch 8 and Ch 11 Bildad's response to Job differ, if at all? What is the essence of Job's reply to each? Ch 9-10; Ch12-14

Week 43 (cont'd)

8. Though Job maintains his innocence, that he has done nothing to warrant this punishment from God, does he now err in his words? 6:26; 7:11 Is this to be expected from one grieving and in despair?
9. Why does Job want to die? 3:13,24-26; 7:7 Does Job ever consider taking his own life? What circumstances are likely to cause a believer to feel this way?

Week 44

1. Other than wishing God would let him die, what does Job seek from God? 10:2-3; 13:3;23-24
2. What does Eliphaz feel Job is now doing with his words? 15:13 How does a Job respond to the comfort (criticism) from his friends? 16:1-3 How does Job feel God has treated him now? 16:7,9,11-14
3. What does Job desire from God? 16:21 What hope does Job have for his future? 17:11,15
4. How does Job reprove his friends after Bildad's second speech? 19:1-4 Why does Job feel God has wronged him? 19:6-15
5. What did Job hope for from his friends and what have they done (in Job's view)? 19:21-22 What was Job's remaining hope for after his death? 19:25-27

Week 45

1. What question does Job raise about the wicked? 21:7-13, 17 So What is Job's conclusion about his friend's answers to him? 21: 34
2. What does Job desire, wish to do, with God? 23:3-7 What does Job expect to be the result of presenting his case and being tried by God? And for what reason? 23:10-12
3. Bildad's 3rd speech was very short. What is his argument? (25:4-6) How does Job respond to these charges of his guilt? 27:3-6
4. Where is wisdom found? From where does wisdom come? 28:12,20,23-24,27-28 Why does this define what is true wisdom?

Week 46

1. Job finishes his words to his friends in chapters 29-31. Does Job believe God is still watching over him? 29:2 What does Job question about God? 31:4 Does Job believe himself to be innocent? 31:5-34
2. When Elihu speaks to Job, why is he angry with Job? And why with the other 3 friends? 32:2-5.

Week 46 (cont'd)

3. For what does Elihu fault Job? 33:13 What else does Elihu accuse Job of? 35:2-3,16 What does Elihu say Job must do now? 35:14

4. With what does God charge Job when He begins to speak with him? 38:2 With which of Job's friends does God agree in this? 35:16 What does He mean by this? What is the point God is making to Job by the questions He asks him in 38:2-39:30?

Week 47

1. How does God conclude his questioning of Job? With what charge against Job? 40:1 What response did Job make to this? 40:3-5 What does God charge Job with in 40:8? With what does God challenge Job in 41:10-11? Does God OWE anything to man? Even an explanation?

2. Following God's speech, what does Job understand and from what does he repent? How do his words show submission and repentance? 42:1-6

3. How and by what means did God begin to restore Job's fortunes? 43:10-13 It says God increased all that he had twofold, and then lists twice as many animals but only the same number of children as before? How is this twofold? 43:10,13

4. What is the message / teaching of the book of Job? What wisdom and understanding are we to learn from it? 1:6-11; 1:20-22; 2:9-10; 33:13; 35:14-16; 38:2; 40:1,8; 41:11; 42:1-6.

Week 47 (cont'd)
ECCLESIASTES

5. Who is this “preacher” whose words are written in Ecclesiastes? 1:1 What is the subject / thesis of this book? 1:2-3 What does he mean by saying there is nothing new under the sun? 1:9-10
6. Why does Solomon conclude that even seeking wisdom is striving after wind? 1:17-18
7. What did he conclude about seeking after pleasure? About accumulating wealth and concubines? 2:1-3:8-11
8. What does he conclude about work and labor? 2:17-20,23-25
9. What is his point about “an appointed time for everything” and “everything is appropriate/beautiful in its time?” 3:1-11 What does he advise that “there is nothing better” to do? 3:12-13 Why is this?
10. What attitude / perspective does he repeatedly advise for man? 2:24-25; 3:22; 5:18; 8:15
11. What does he advise concerning work and rest? Concerning working along with others? 4:4-12

Week 48

1. What does he teach about a focus on accumulating money? 5:10-15
2. What is the advantage of wisdom? 7:11-12, 19
3. What does Solomon conclude about the hearts of men? 9:3
4. What counsel does he give for how we should live? 9:7-10 Why does he advise these things? Is this good advice? Why or why not?
5. What does he warn about time and chance? 9:11-12 Why is this Important to remember?
6. What is the principle he teaches concerning the axe? 10:10 How does this principle apply to many areas of life?

Week 49

1. Business Advice: (a) What does he mean by “cast your bread on the surface of the waters”? 11:1 (b) What does he mean by “divide your portion” and why does he advise this? 11:2-3 (c) What advice does he give to the farmer about sowing and reaping? Why? Does the same apply to other businesses / professions? How?
2. What does he advise in the days of your youth? Why? 12:1-7
3. What is his conclusion at the end of this book? And why does he so advise? 12:13-14

Introduction to Song of Solomon / Song of Songs/ Canticles

Author. Believed to have been written by Solomon. One of his 1005 songs (1 Kings 4:32).

Place and Usage in the Hebrew Bible. In the Hebrew Bible it is part of the Megilloth, the five scrolls that are read at various feasts. It was read before the Passover. The other four are: Ruth (read before Pentecost); Ecclesiastes (read before Tabernacles); Esther (read before Purim); and Lamentations (read on the anniversary of the destruction of Jerusalem). The Hebrew Bible title is Song of Songs, meaning the best or most excellent of songs.

Interpretation. Historically both Jews and Christians have offered a wide variety of interpretations. The absence of specifically religious themes and the vagueness of any plot has encouraged widespread speculation. Some have interpreted it as a purely allegorical story. Some Jewish interpreters have considered it an allegory about God’s love for and relationship with Israel. Some Christian interpreters have taken a similar view, regarding it as an allegory concerning the love of Christ for His bride, the church. Other interpreters have argued for a literal and historical interpretation.

Difficulties in Understanding. The book is a poetic story that appears to frequently change speakers, locations and points in time – without forewarning. Some changes are only identified by changes in genders or the words used in the Hebrew (not easily seen in the English). The poetic language used appears to be rich in metaphors, similes and possibly euphemisms.

Speakers in the Story. The speakers are a Bride, called the Shulamite; the King; and a chorus of ladies called the Daughters of Jerusalem.

Week 49 (cont'd)

Background. At this time Solomon 's harem was still small compared to what it later became (6:8) – 60 wives and 80 concubines vs. a later count of 700 wives and 300 concubines. Commentators believe this song may have been written to celebrate Solomon 's marriage to his favorite wife.

An Overview Summary of the Events in the Story – by H.A. Ironside.

Solomon had a vineyard in the hill country of Ephraim which he let it out to keepers consisting of a mother, two sons and two daughters – the Shulamite being the older daughter. The Shulamite was the “Cinderella” of the family - naturally beautiful but unnoticed. Her brothers made her work very hard in the vineyard, so she had little opportunity to care for her own appearance. She also kept the flocks and her skin was sun burned from being outdoors so much. Solomon came to the vineyard one day disguised and showed an interest in her. She thought he was a shepherd and asked about his flocks, but he was evasive in his response. He won her heart and promised to return for her some day. She dreamed of him at night and sometimes thought he was near. He returns in kingly splendor to make her his bride.

4. What is the topic of this story? And who are the characters?
5. Where was the Shulamite living and what was she doing when Solomon met her? 1:6-7
6. What appeal did the Shulamite have for Solomon? 1:9-10,15; 2:2,14; 4:1,10,12; 6:9

Week 50

1. How did this marriage differ from the other marriages of Solomon that we know of? What sort of woman was this that Solomon married? How many wives and concubines did Solomon already have? 6:8
2. What is the meaning of the phrase “do not stir up/arouse or awaken love until it pleases?” 2:7; 3:5; 8:4
3. How “strong” is love? Can love be bought? 8:6-7

4. What is meant being a “wall”? 8:8-10 Why did her brothers speak these words?
5. Why write this song about this one of his many wives?
6. What does this story imply about God’s view of both romantic love and human sexual relations?
7. Why do you think this story written and preserved for us in the Scriptures?
8. What was God’s judgement about Judah? 1:2-4 What did God think of their offerings and feasts? 1:11-14 What did God, through Isaiah, tell the people of Judah they need to do? 1:16-17 What did He promise in return? 1:18-20
9. What did Isaiah see concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the “last days” (2:2-4)?
10. A special “day” is spoken of in Is 2:11-22. It is called “that day” (2:11,17,20) and “a day” or “day of reckoning” or “The day of the Lord” (2:12). [also “that day” is in 3:18 and 4:2 – the same “that day”?] What will happen on that day? Is this speaking about a day in Isaiah’s lifetime or soon after? Or a day thousands of years in the future that is yet to come?
11. Isaiah’s calling/mission. What did Isaiah see at the beginning of his vision? (6:1-4) How did Isaiah respond to this and why? (6:5) What did God ask in the vision? And how did Isaiah respond? (6:8) What was the “mission” given to Isaiah? (6:9-12) What can we learn for our lives from Isaiah’s example?

Week 51

1. What does Isaiah mean by “to the law and to the testimony?” (8:19-20)
2. Prophecy concerning the Messiah. What location are we told will “see a great light?” (9:1-2) What names are given for the Messiah child? (9:6) What things in this prophecy point to a Messiah that is MORE than human? (9:6-7)
3. Who is the “Branch” and why is he called that? 4:2; 11:1-2 What will be the situation of Jerusalem in the time of the Branch? (4:2-6; 11:6-12) And what will the Branch do? (11:4)
4. To whom is Isaiah 14:12-15 addressed? 13:1; 14:4-23 Verse 12 refers to “Lucifer” or “the morning star” (Lucifer is Latin for “morning star”). Why do many believe this describes Satan and his sin and fate?
5. Isaiah’s apocalypse. What judgement does Isaiah foretell? 24:1-3,6,19-20 What is foretold concerning the host of heaven at this time? 24:21-22 Who are the “host of heaven”?

Week 52

1. What will follow this time of judgement? 24:23; 25:6,8.
2. What does Isaiah foretell concerning resurrection? 26:19
3. What is the cornerstone referred to in Isaiah 28:16?

Week 52 (cont'd)

4. For what did God condemn His people in 29:13-14? Can Christians sometimes be found guilty of the same?
5. For what does God rebuke His people in Chapter 30 and 31? (30:1-3,7; 31:1) How should they have responded to the threat of Assyria? (30:1-2; 15) What does God say will happen if they rely upon Him? (31:8-9)

Week 53

1. What arguments did the representative of the Assyrian king make for Jerusalem's surrender? 36:4-10; 18-20 Which of these arguments were valid?
2. Hezekiah was a great king and servant of Yahweh. Yet, with all the good he did and faith he demonstrated, he did not pass every test that came his way. What were some of his failures that God confronted him with through Isaiah? 36:5-6; 30:1-3; 31:1; 39:3-8 What can we learn from Hezekiah's failures?
3. Why does God speak through Isaiah comparing "all flesh" with "grass"? 40:6-8 What is the point of this comparison? What is God trying to make His people see and understand?
4. The greatness and uniqueness of Yahweh. How does Isaiah describe the greatness of Yahweh? 40:12-17 What is the answer to the question He asks in 40:18 and in 40:25 "to whom then will you liken God?" and "To whom then will you liken Me that I would be His equal"?
5. Twice Isaiah writes, "Do you not know, have you not heard" (40:21,28), what are these things he thinks they should know or have heard? 40:21-24 ; 40:28-29 What does Isaiah teach about waiting on the Lord? 40:30-31
6. What does God promise to Israel in chapter 41? 41:10-14

Week 53 (cont'd)

7. What does God say His Servant, whom He has chosen and delights in, will do, or not do 42:1-7; What does God say about His glory and praise? Why does He have this concern? 42:8 ; 48:11

Week 54

1. What does God reveal /tell Israel about Himself through Isaiah in 43:11-13, 44:6-8;24? Why? What is He trying to make them understand?
2. Who would cause Jerusalem to be rebuilt? 44:26-28 God spoke through Isaiah to Cyrus, who was not yet born, as to God's choosing of him and what he was to do. 45:1-7 Why would God choose a man to be His servant who did not even know God?
3. What message was God sending to all men through His choice of Cyrus and what He would do through Him? 45:5-7
4. What invitation does God present through Isaiah to ALL peoples of the earth? 45:22-23 Who later made this offer again with great effect?
5. How is Yahweh different from all others who claim to be gods? What does He do? 46:9-11
6. God's Servant. What is God's purpose for His servant? 49:5-6
7. What is to happen to the earth and sky in the time of judgment? 51:6

Week 55

1. How is this “God’s servant” described by Isaiah? 52:14; 53:2-3 What did Isaiah predict here about the Messiah that was fulfilled by Jesus? 53:4-12 How does this compare with what the Jews were expecting of the Messiah and what was prophesized elsewhere?
2. What is God offering to those who “come to the waters”? 55:1-3 What does this imply about our responsibility and choices?
3. What does God say about His thoughts and ways? 55:8-9 Why does He make this point? What does He promise about His Word? 55:10-11
4. Does God regard the foreigner or the eunuch as less than the native born descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who is not a eunuch? 56:3-7 Why might a eunuch feel rejected by God? Deut 23:1 What is God’s intent regarding the Gentile peoples? 56:8
5. What sort of fasting pleases God? 58:3-7 How does God expect His people to keep the sabbath? 58:13
6. Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue in Nazareth, but stopped before the last of vs. 2 (See Luke 4:17-21). Why did He read this portion? Why did He stop where He did?

Week 56

1. What does Isaiah call God that we mostly see in the New Testament? 63:16; 64:8 Isaiah also compares the relationship between God and His people with what other relationship? 64:8 What is the point of this illustration?
2. Isaiah 65:17-25 speaks of a future time concerning Jerusalem (and perhaps the whole world). What statements here sound like the Millennium period? What others sound like the New Earth of Revelation 21 and 22? Could this be describing both?

3. Is God inclined to listen to the prayers of those making sacrifices? To whom does God look to and listen to? Isaiah 66:2-3 How does this principle apply to US?
4. Where did Jeremiah live? What was his family and family occupation? During what kings' reigns did Jeremiah prophesy? Jer 1:1-3
5. What did God choose Jeremiah to be/do ? When did God choose him? Jer 1:5

What was Jeremiah's concern when the Yahweh announced this to him? Jer 1:6 What was God's response to his concern? 1:7-8

How could God choose Jeremiah for this task before Jeremiah was old enough to choose to walk with God, even before his birth?

6. Why does God contend with them and what is He amazed at? Jer 2:10-13 What is meant by "on the road to Egypt and Assyria"? Jer 2:18
7. What did Israel do against God and what did God hope for afterwards? Jer 3:6-7 How was Judah affected by seeing what happened to Israel? Jer 3:7-8 Whom did God now judge to be more righteous? Jer 3:11

How should WE respond when seeing what may be God's judgement on others?
How should WE respond when threatened with a great danger that could represent disciplining from the Lord (i.e. dread disease, financial disaster, war ...)? 1 Cor 11:28-32

Week 57

1. What does it mean to break up your fallow ground? Jer 4:4-5
2. What disaster was Jeremiah told to prophesy? 4:5-7 Why did Jeremiah think God had deceived Jerusalem? 4:9-10
3. Why is God not being merciful and forgiving their sin? 5:1-3,7-9 Will any be spared from this judgement? 5:18 What is the remedy for any believer or group of believers who have turned away or wandered away from God?

4. What were the worshipers at the gate of the temple told they must do? 7:1-6 And if they did so, what did God promise in return? 7:7

What lie were they believing that hindered their response to this warning / exhortation? 7:4, 8-10

What illustration did God give to help them see their folly in this? 7:12,14 What is a similar folly Christians may fall for today?

5. What is God's frustration with this people? 8:4-6 What further does God say about this people in 8:10 and 9:2-6?
6. What are the wise, the mighty and the rich NOT to boast about? 9:23-24 Why not? What is the one thing God says the one who boasts SHOULD boast about (if it were true)? 9:24

Week 58

1. When God pronounced judgement on Jerusalem and told Jeremiah not to pray for them, what was Jeremiah's concern? 14:11-13

What does God declare concerning the other prophets? 14:14-15 What do "false prophets" or "false teachers" commonly say today?

2. Why did God command Jeremiah to not marry? 16:2-5 what other restrictions did God place on Jeremiah and why? 16:5-9
3. What sort of man does God say is cursed? And in what way? 17:5-6 What sort of man does God say will be blessed? How so? 17:7-8
4. What does God say about the heart of man? How does God deal with this? 17:9-10
5. What was God's lesson for Judah from the potter? 18:2-10 What does God urge them to do? 18:11

6. When King Zedekiah inquired of Jeremiah, what way of life and way of death did Jeremiah communicate from the Lord? 21:8-9

7. What was prophesied against Coniah and how did this impact the genealogy of Christ? 22:28-30 and Matt 1:12, 16 Luke 3:23 -31
 1. For what did God condemn the shepherds (leaders) of His people? 23:1-2 what did He promise in the future? 23:3-4 What examples do we see today of shepherds destroying and scattering the sheep?

 2. What did God promise concerning the good figs and who were they? 24:5-7 What did He say about the bad figs? 24:8-10

Week 59

1. How long did God say the Babylonian captivity would last? What would God do at the end of that time? 25:11-14

2. What was God's message through Jeremiah to the Jews already in captivity in Babylon? 29:4-7 And what did God promise them? 29:10-14

3. How is the new covenant described? 31:31-34 How long does God promise to preserve them? 31:36-37

4. A. When the siege mounds had reached the city, what financial transaction did Jeremiah make? 32:7-12 Why did God have him do this? 32:14-15

 b. What did Jeremiah say in his prayer upon completing this transaction, what do you think he was feeling? What did God say to reassure Jeremiah? 32:26-27; 32:42-44

5. What did God promise concerning the descendants of David and the Levitical priests? 33:17-22

Week 60

1. a. What commands of their father Jonadab (2 Kings 10:15-23) did the Recabites still obey more than 200 years later? 35:6-7 Why may Jonadab have placed these restrictions on his family?

b. What lesson was God trying to teach through the example of the Recabites? 35:2; 13-16

c. Did God approve of the Recabites and their way of life? 35:18-19 Did He tell everyone else to do the same? How should we react to other believers who may choose a very different lifestyle? (Even as extreme as living in the desert eating locusts and honey)
2. How did Jeremiah come to be imprisoned? 37:11-16; 20-21 Why did they later seek to put him to death? And where was he left to die? 38:4-6 How did he escape from there? 38:7-13
3. When was Jerusalem captured and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar? Jer 39:1-2 What did he do to Zedekiah, his family, the city and the people there? Jer 39:6-10
4. What happened to Jeremiah? Jer 39:11-14; 40:1-6 Who had God promised to rescue from the Babylonians and why? Jer 39:16-18 and 21:7-13.
5. Who was Gedaliah? Jer 40:5. Who killed Gedaliah? Jer 41:1-3 Who had sent him to do this? Jer 40:14
6. Who took command of the remaining forces of Judah and freed the captives who were taken from Mizpah? Jer 41:11,16 Why did they purpose to flee to Egypt? Jer 41:17-18
7. When Johanan and the commanders approached Jeremiah, what did they request of him? Jer 42:1-3 And what did they promise to do when they received a message from Jeremiah? Jer 42:5-6.
8. What was God's response to them through Jeremiah? Jer 42:9-22 What then did the leaders decide to do? Jer 43:2-7

9. What sin did the Judeans in Egypt stubbornly continue in, despite God's warning? Jer 44:7-8; 16-19 What judgement did God announce upon them? Jer 44:12, 26-28 What sign did God promise to confirm His Word? Jer 44:29-30

10. What promise was made to Baruch for his service to Jeremiah? Jer 45:1-5

Week 61

1. What does God speak against Babylon? Jer 51:1,6 What enemy does God say will come against Babylon and with what purpose? 51:11
2. How long did Zedekiah reign? Jer 52:1 What did Zedekiah do that brought Babylon to attack Jerusalem? Jer 52:3 When did Nebuchadnezzar come to besiege Jerusalem, and how long did the siege last before the city was taken? 52:4-6
3. What was the fate of Zedekiah? 52:10-11 What happened to his nephew king Jehoiachin who had been removed from being king by Nebuchadnezzar? 52:31-34

Week 62

1. What gives Jeremiah hope? Lam 3:21-27 What does it mean to "wait" for God? 3:26 What does it mean to "bear the yoke"? 3:27 Why is this good for a man in his youth?
2. Why should no one complain? Lam 3:39-42 How should they respond to God in spite of all they have suffered? 3:40-41
3. How does God compare the sins of Jerusalem with the sins of Sodom? Lam 4:6 What was the judgment on Sodom in comparison to the judgment God brought into Jerusalem? Whose punishment was harsher? Lam 4:8-10

4. What is Jeremiah 's final prayer? Lam 5:19-22

Week 63

1. What does God tell Ezekiel about how his words will be received by The sons of Israel? Ez2:4-7 Why does God want him to prophesy to people who will not listen? Ez 2:5-7
2. What does it mean to be a watchman? 3:17-18 What did God require of Ezekiel in this regard? 3:8-21
3. What future event was Ezekiel told to act out before the people? Ez 4:1-3 What was the meaning of the food he was to eat and the water he was to drink? 4:9-17
4. What was Ezekiel told to do with his hair? Ez 5:1-3 What was the meaning of this? 5:12 Why will God do this? 5:6-7,11
5. As a result of God's great judgment, what will Judah "know"? Ez 6:10,13,14; 7:4,9,27 Why is God concerned with this? Is this His purpose in bringing judgement? Why. What does this mean?
6. In Ezekiel's vision what people in Jerusalem did God choose to spare? Ez 9:4-6
7. What did Ezekiel ask God when the death of Pelatiah was reported? Ez 11:13 What did God respond about the remnant? 11:14-20
8. What will happen with the Israelites already removed from the land of Israel? 11:17 And how will God change them / make them different from those who forsook Him? 11:19-20

9. What did God tell Ezekiel to do / to illustrate by his actions, in Ez 12:3-6 What was the meaning of this sign? 12:11-13

Week 64

1. What was God's point about Noah, Job and Daniel? 14:13-14, 16,18,20-21
2. To what does God compare Jerusalem (Judah) in this parable in chapter 16 of Ezekiel? Ez 16:2-8 What had God done for Judah? 16:8-14 How did Jerusalem/Judah treat her "husband"? 16:15,19-21
3. What other nations did Judah "play the harlot" with? 16:26,28,29 What is it that Judah did with these nations that God describes as harlotry?
4. In the parable of two eagles that God told Ezekiel, who did the eagles represent? 17:3,7, 12-15 Why was God angry that Judah had allied itself with Egypt? 17:16, 18-19
5. What does the proverb of the sour grapes mean? 18:2 What does God say is wrong about this proverb? 18:20 How does God judge the sinner who repents and the righteous who turns to sin? 18:21-22, 24 Does God take pleasure in slaying the wicked who rebel against Him? What does God desire of them? 18:23, 30-32
6. Why did God give Israel the sabbath? 20:12,20 Why did God decide NOT to destroy Israel when they rebelled against Him on the journey from Egypt to Canaan? 20:14

Week 65

1. What did God condemn as sins and failings of the priests? 22:26 What were Judah's princes guilty of? 22:27 What did He say of their prophets? 22:25,28 Of all the people for? 22:29 What sort of man was God searching for among them that He could not find? 22:30

2. What loss did he foretell to Ezekiel? 24:16 What did God require of him in response to this? 24:16-18 What did God foretell to the people that Ezekiel's loss and response were an example of? 24:21-24

3. Though God decided to bring this judgment on Judah and Jerusalem, how did He respond to surrounding nations who were glad to see this destruction of Judah? 25:3-4;8-11,12-14,15-17

4. Why does God foretell judgements on all the peoples surrounding Israel? Tyre and Sidon Ch 26-28, Ammon 25:1, Moab 25:8, Edom 25:12, Philistia 25:15 – 28:24-26

5. For what reasons did God promise to punish Egypt? 29:3,6-9

6. Did Nebuchadnezzar obtain the great wealth of Tyre when he conquered it? 29:18 What was the likely cause of this? (From Tyre's location and history of the Phoenicians) What compensatory reward did God give Nebuchadnezzar to make up for this? 29:19-20

Week 66

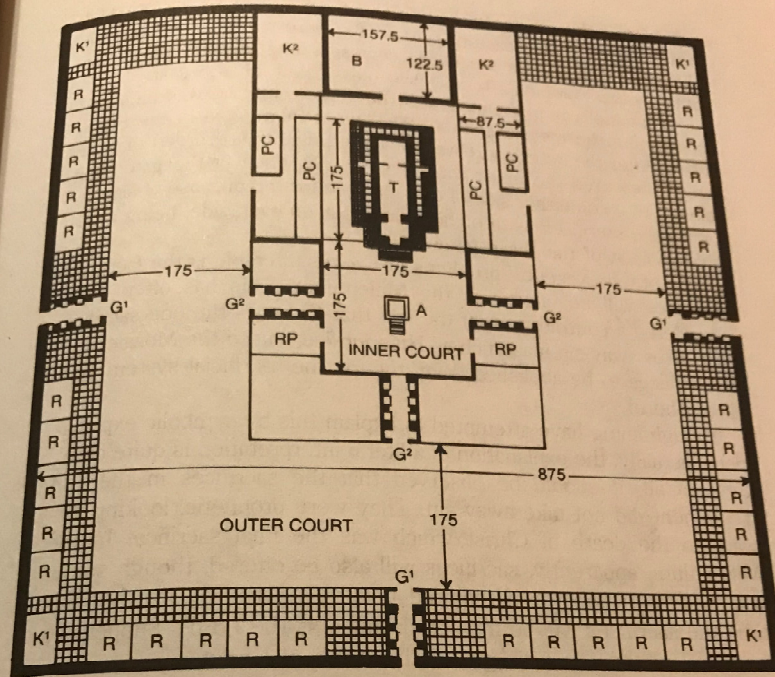
1. For what does God condemn the “shepherds” of Israel? 34:2-5 What does God promise to do about this? 34:10-16 What new shepherd does God promise? 34:23-24
2. Why does God say He will restore Israel to their land? 36:20-22 What does God promise to them afterwards? 36: 24-29
3. What was the meaning of the vision of dry bones? 37:3-14
4. What does God promise in the future concerning Israel and Judah? 37:19, 21-23 Who will rule over them? 37:24-25 What does God say about His dwelling place at that time? 37:27-28
5. Where does the prophesied attack against Israel come from? 38:2,5,15 When will this attack happen? 38:8,16 How will God deal with this attacking army? 38:18-22
6. For how long will Israel be burying the dead enemy? 39: 11-13 How long will they use the enemy weapons for for firewood? 39:8-10 What is God’s intention for this battle and victory? 38:23; 39:7,21-22

Week 67

1. Ezekiel is shown a new temple unlike any temple that has been built in Jerusalem thus far. He saw the glory of the Lord entering this new temple. What did God say about His presence there? 43:7-9
2. Who may not enter God’s sanctuary ? 44:9 Who will minister in this new temple? 44:10-14 Who will be its priests? 44:15-16 What specific teaching duty of the priests is mentioned? 44:23

3. Where does the river flow from and to? 47:1-8 What things are unusual about this river? 47:1,5,8
4. What are some of the most apparent differences in the division of the land between the tribes vs. the division Moses and Joshua made? Ez 48:1-7,23-28
5. How many gates will the city have and what will they be named? 48:30-35

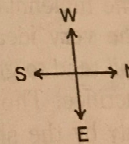
PROPHECY IN EZEKIEL



THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

(Dimensions are in feet)

- A Altar (43:13-17)
- B Building (function not explained) (41:12)
- G¹ Outer gates (40:6-17, 20-27)
- G² Inner gates (40:28-37)
- K¹ Kitchens for people's sacrifices (46:21-24)
- K² Kitchens for priests (46:19-20)
- PC Priests' chambers (42:1-14)
- R 30 rooms in outer court (40:17)
- RP Rooms for ministering priests (40:44-47)
- T Temple proper (40:48-41:11, 13-14, 16-26)



From *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Old Testament (Victor Books, 1985), p. 1303. Used with permission.

BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel was taken as a captive from Judah to Babylon as a youth, by King Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. He lived a long life (probably into his 90s) and served as a government official and a “wise man” for multiple kings over 60+ years.

Parts of the book of Daniel was written in a form of Aramaic (2:4-7:28) – the language currently used by many within the Babylonian empire. Besides Daniel’s personal history, the book includes a number of key visions and prophecies concerning future Gentile kingdoms, the coming Messiah King and the end times. Its prophecies are so specific that many have clearly been fulfilled in history.

Kings of Babylon During Daniel’s Time There

1. Nebuchadnezzar: 605- 562 BC reign
2. Evil-Merodach (Amel-Marduk): 562 – 560 BC (Jer 52:31) son of Nebuchadnezzar ; murdered by brother-in-law (Nergal-sarezer of Jer 39:3,13)
3. Nergal-sarezer: 560- 556 BC succeeded by his son Labashi-Marduk – assassinated the same year
4. Nabonidus: reigned 556 – 539 BC
5. Belshazzar was entrusted the kingship when his father Nabonidus retired to Arabia d. 539 BC

Kings of the Medes and Persians in Daniel’s Time

1. Darius the Mede. The Greek historians say the Persian king Cyrus conquered Babylon October 12, 539 BC. Identification of this Darius is uncertain – a possible short-term king over Babylonia under Cyrus’ authority? Dan 9:1 describes him as “the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans”. Also note the combined peoples under the law of “the Medes and the Persians” Dan 6:8,15
2. Cyrus (Dan 1:21; 6:28; 10:1)

Week 68

4. Preparation to Serve the King.

- a. What was Nebuchadnezzar's intention with taking Daniel and his 3 friends from royal and noble families of Judah and giving them new names and having them taught the language and literature of Babylon for three years? 1:3-7
- b. Why did Daniel seek different food and drink for his friends and him? 1:8 How did he succeed in obtaining this, contrary to the king's commands? 1:8-16 What can we learn from Daniel's example in dealing with authorities?

5. Vision of the Great Statue.

- a. Why did the king command the wise men to first tell him his dream? 2:5,9 How did Daniel demonstrate wisdom in his response to hearing of the king's command to kill all the wise men? 2:14-18
- b. What was the dream and its meaning? 2:31-35,37-42 What kingdoms (from history) do we believe these parts of the statue represented?
- c. Does Daniel claim the ability to both know and interpret dreams? 2:27-28 How did the king respond after hearing the interpretation from Daniel? 2:46-49

6. The Fiery Furnace.

- a. Why did the king build this statue/image and what did he require of his subjects? 3:1-7 How did Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego get in trouble with the king over this? 3:8-12 Why do you suppose Daniel may have escaped this trouble?
- b. How did king Nebuchadnezzar respond to this charge? 3:13-15 What answer did they give to the king? 3:16-18
- c. What happened when they were thrown into the furnace? 3:21-22, 25,27 How did the king respond to seeing this?and what testimony did he give to God? 3:26, 28-29

- 7. **Vision of the High Tree.** Who wrote (or dictated to be written) the material in chapter 4? 4:1 What was the king's dream/vision and what did Daniel say it meant? 4:11-17, 22-29 What did the king learn from this experience? 4: 34-37

8. **Belshazzar.** Belshazzar from historical documents appears to have been the son of King Nabonidus, who had retired to Arabia leaving the running of the kingdom in his son's hands. Babylon was under siege at this time, but without fear, having 20 years of supplies stored up and the river flowing through the city.
- a. What did Belshazzar see that terrified him? 5:5 What led him to summon Daniel? 5:7-11
 - b. What history "lesson" did Daniel give the king? And what did he accuse the king of? 5:18-23 What interpretation did Daniel give to the words? 5:25-28
 - c. What happened to Belshazzar? 5:30
9. **The Lions' Den.**
- a. How did Daniel become condemned to the lions' den? 6:3-8,13
 - b. Was King Darius angry that Daniel had not obeyed his statute? 6:14
 - c. What did the king think about Daniel's God before putting him in the lions' den? 6:16,20
 - d. What did the king do to the men who entrapped Daniel? 6:24
 - e. What did the king decree concerning Daniel's God afterwards? 6:25-27
10. **Daniel's Service in Babylon.** In what ways did Daniel effectively serve God while serving in the administration of pagan and often ruthless kings? 1:17-20; 2:28,47-49; 4:2-3, 27,37; 5:22-23; 6:3,10,26-27 What can we learn from his examples?

HISTORY LESSONS HELPFUL FOR INTERPRETING PROPHECIES IN DANIEL 7-12

Medes and Persians / Medo-Persian Empire

The Medes. The tribes of Media were located in northern Iran and first united in 678 BC under king Deioces. The Medes were a vassal state to the Assyrian empire.

Cyaxares. Cyaxares, the grandson of Deioces, made the Median kingdom into an empire by uniting the other Iranian tribes (including the Persians) under his rule and by overthrowing Assyria (along with Nabopolassar of Babylon).

Astyages. Astyages, the son of Cyaxares, was the last king of Media. He married his daughter, Mandane, to Cambyses I, the king of the Median vassal state of Peria.

The Persians. The Persians were another Iranian tribe that was subjugated to Media. Cyrus II (later called Cyrus the Great), was the 5th king of the line of Achamenes, the son of Cambyses and Mandane (the daughter of King Astyages of Media). He rebelled against Media and his grandfather and succeeded in taking over the Median empire. Thereafter this empire was often referred to as the Medo-Persian empire, though ruled entirely by the Persians. Cyrus allowed the Medes to continue to play a prominent role in his government as officials, satraps and generals.

Cyrus thereafter conquered the kingdom of Lydia (most of Asia Minor) and then conquered Babylon and expanded his control from India to Egypt and to the borders of Greece. Cyrus was generous to both the Jews and many other peoples in his empire, freeing their royalty held captive in Babylon, encouraging peoples to return to their home lands, rebuild and practice their own religions. The book of Daniel indicates Cyrus initially made Darius the Mede king over conquered Babylonia.

Cyrus' son, Cambyses II, extended the empire further to include Egypt. This Medo-Persian empire continued for over 200 years, first under Cyrus' heirs, then under Darius I (supposedly a 2nd cousin of Cyrus) and his heirs. The empire came to an end at the hand of Alexander the Great of Macedonia and his Macedonian / Greek army.

Macedonian / Greek Empire(s)

Alexander the Great of Macedon. Alexander, the son of King Philip of Macedon, became king at age 20, following his father's assassination. King Philip, with Alexander's as a general, had united Greece under his rule. Shortly after becoming king, Alexander moved forward with his father's plan to attack and conquer Persia, taking advantage of a period of weakness in the Persian empire (which was ruling over the Ionian Greeks on the coasts of Asia Minor and had previously failed in attempts to conquer Greece).

In 334 BC he led his Greek army into Persia and over a period of about 10 years won a number of decisive battles, eventually taking the entire Persian empire and also expanding its borders from India through much of Northern Africa. In 323 BC Alexander died in Babylon after turning back from his eastern conquests at the urging of his army.

Successor Greek Kingdoms. After Alexander's death, following a period of extended struggle, his empire was divided among four of his generals: Cassander (Macedonia); Lysimachus (Thrace and much of Asia Minor/Anatolia); Seleucus (Syria and Babylonia); and Ptolemy (Egypt). In the book of Daniel the "King of North" appears to describe the Syrian kingdom of Seleucus and his heirs (312 BC – 63 BC), and the "King of the South" appears to describe the Egyptian kingdom of the Ptolemies.

Warfare Between the Kingdoms of Syria and Egypt. Ptolemy seized control of Judeo and Palestine in breach of the agreement assigning it to Seleucus. This set the stage for a continuing series of wars between the two empires among their successors. Judea became one of several territories that was fought over and changed hands several times over about a 100-year period.

Ptolemy II (283-246 BC) and Antiochus II (261-246 BC). Ptolemy II (Egypt) gave his daughter Berenice in marriage in 252 BC to Antiochus I (Syria), as part of the peace treaty ending the 2nd Syrian war. In return, Antiochus II divorced his current wife, Laodice, and promised that any children with Berenice would inherit the Seleucid throne. However, by 246 BC Laodice had persuaded Antiochus II to make her queen again and to abandon Berenice and her infant son. Laodice then poisoned Antiochus and proclaimed her own son, Seleucus II as king in Ephesus. Berenice in Antioch also proclaimed her son, Antiochus to be king, but before her brother, King Ptolemy III could come to her aid, loyalists to Laodice killed Berenice and her infant son.

Ptolemy III (246-222 BC) and Seleucus II (246 – 225 BC). The feud over the succession for the Seleucid Empire led to the 3rd Syrian war. Ptolemy III invaded and took control of Syria and Cilicia on the way to support his sister, but arrived too late. He went on to march to the Tigris and beyond. Seleucus II remained in Asia Minor and tried to shore up his power base there. In 245 BC Ptolemy II returned to Egypt to deal with an uprising and Seleucus first regained the eastern regions of the empire (Mesopotamia), then recaptured Antioch and other cities in northern Syria.

Ptolemy IV (221–204 BC), Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204–180 BC) and Antiochus III (the Great) (222- 187 BC). The fourth Syrian war began with Antiochus II invading Ptolemaic territories in Syria in an effort to regain territories lost to the Ptolemy III. Antiochus' early successes were mostly lost with his defeat in 217 BC. He later succeeded in restoring the eastern part of the empire.

Ptolemy V was only 5 years old when he became king and was controlled by regents. A 5th Syrian (202-196 BC) war was begun during this period of weakness. Antiochus III invaded Palestine and Ptolemy's governor over the area defected to Antiochus, bringing his territory with him. In 201 BC Ptolemy's general reconquered Palestine but then lost it again to Antiochus in 200 BC. The

Ptolemies never again gained control of Judea. After Ptolemy V came of age in 196 BC he made peace with Antiochus III and married his daughter Cleopatra 1 in 194/3 BC.

Ptolemy VI (180–164 BC), Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175 -164 BC). After invading Greece, Antiochus III was defeated by the Romans at Magnesia in 190 BC and forced to pay tribute, and died soon thereafter – succeeded by his son Seleucus IV.

Seleucus IV “Philopator” (187-175 BC). Seleucus IV heavily taxed Israel (even seized the Jewish temple treasury to help collect the monies needed to pay tribute to the Romans resulting from his father’s peace treaty). He was assassinated by his minister, Heliodorus, who installed Seleucus’ younger son, Antiochus as king (as the proper heir – the older son Demetrius – was being held in Rome as a hostage. Then the kingdom was seized by the brother of Seleucus IV, Antiochus IV “Epiphanes” (who had been living in Athens), who ousted Heliodorus then co-ruled with the young Antiochus for about 5 years before having him murdered.

Antiochus IV “Epiphanes” (175-164 BC). After Antiochus IV took power, in 170 BC the guardians of King Ptolemy VI demanded the return of the portion of Syria that had been taken by Antiochus II (the Great) and declared war, however Antiochus was prepared and launched a preemptive strike against Egypt. He conquered all of Egypt except Alexandria and took King Ptolemy VI captive. To avoid alarming Rome, he allowed Ptolemy VI to remain as a puppet king.

Antiochus led a second attack on Egypt in 168 BC but was persuaded to withdraw by a Roman ambassador delivering a message from the Roman senate in order to avoid war with Rome.

Persecution of the Jews by Antiochus IV (beginning 168 or 167 BC). Many in Judea had been affected by Hellenization. Some of the Jewish upper class wished to dispense with Jewish law and adopt a Greek lifestyle to reap expected economic and political benefits. Antiochus first became involved in the growing conflict between the Hellenistic and Traditional Jews, by changing the high priest to a Hellenist whom he supported (and who paid for the position).

While Antiochus had been in Egypt, a rumor spread in Judea that he had been killed. This inspired the deposed high priest Jason to make a surprise attack on Jerusalem to remove Menelaus, the high priest appointed by Antiochus. On his return from defeat in Egypt, Antiochus was enraged and attacked Jerusalem, executing many Jews and restoring Menelaus to the high priesthood. The book of Maccabees says Antiochus thought Judea to be in revolt and after taking Jerusalem he slaughtered 40,000 and sold another 40,000 into slavery.

Antiochus then outlawed circumcision, Jewish sacrifices, sabbaths and Jewish feasts. He set up an idol of Zeus on the altar in the temple and ordered the worship of Zeus as the supreme god. He made possession of the Torah a capital offense and destroyed all the copies he could find. He sent his army to enforce these new decrees.

Maccabean Resistance. A rural Jewish priest named Mattathias sparked a revolt by refusing to worship the Greek gods and killing another Jew who stepped forward to offer a sacrifice to the Greek god in his place. He and his 5 sons fled to the wilderness afterwards and a year later his son Judas Maccabee led an army of Jews to victory over the Seleucids via guerrilla warfare. The

Maccabees then destroyed pagan altars, circumcised the boys, and ritually cleansed the temple. Jonathan Maccabee was made high priest. Antigonus was sending a large army to retake Judea but the army returned to Syria after learning of Antiochus' sudden death from disease (varying accounts of how he died) in 164 BC. A political compromise was agreed to that restored religious freedom to the Jews. The Maccabees founded the Hasmonean dynasty which ruled Judea from 167 – 37 BC, being a fully independent kingdom from about 110 to 63 BC.

Daniel Chapter 9 and the 70 “Weeks”. (From Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell)

Decree to rebuild Jerusalem

Artaxerxes (445 BC) - Neh 2:1,5-6 in 20th year of his reign – in month of Nissan (March). If the first of Nissan, then March 14, 445 BC by our calendar.

Length of Year in Bible Prophecies = 360 days (12 months of 30 days)

Completion of 69 “weeks” = $69 \times 7 = 483$ years \times 360 days = 173,880 days

Measured from March 14, 445 BC results in April 6, 32 AD.

Proof in terms of our calendar.

445 BC to 32 AD is 476 years (1 BC to 1 AD is one year)

476 yrs. \times 365 days = 173,740 days

Add for leap years = 116 days (3 less in 4 centuries)

March 14 to April 6 = 24 days (inclusive)

173,880 total days

Week 68 (cont'd)

11. Vision of the Four Beasts and the Ancient of Days (Dan 7).

A. How are each of the four beasts described? 7:4-7

B. What do the four beasts represent? 7:17 How does the 4th beast differ from all the rest?
7:23

C. What will happen when the 4th kingdom is destroyed? 7:21-22, 26-27 Who is given dominion at the end? 7:13-14, 22 How long will his dominion last? 7:13-14, 27

- D. What is said about the actions of the king described as the little horn? 7:8,11,20-25 How long will he be granted power over the Saints: 2:25

12. Vision of the Ram, Goat and Small Horn (Dan 8).

- A. What does the ram represent with its two horns, one coming up later and longer than the other? 8:3-4, 20
- B. What does the goat represent? 8:4-8,21-22 Where is the “west” he was coming from and why is he described as coming “over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground”? 8:5 What is the meaning of the 4 horns replacing the one horn that was broken? 8:8
- C. What is the small horn that arises from one of the four horns of the goat? 8:9 What does this small horn do? 8:10-14; 23-25 What does the 2,300 days represent? 8:14

13. Prophecy of the 70 “Weeks” and Messiah the Prince (Dan 9).

- A. What was Daniel praying about that led up to his receiving this prophecy? 9:2,16-18 Why did the angel Gabriel come to Daniel? 9:21-23
- B. What is the starting point of the “weeks” given? Dan 9:25; Neh 2:1,5-8
- C. When does the prophecy say the Messiah will be “cut off”? And what will happen to the city and sanctuary following? Dan 9:26 What events in history have fulfilled this part of the prophecy?
- D. Who is the “he” referred to in 9:27? What will he do and at what time? 9:27 Has this already happened or is it still in the future? Why do most Bible teachers believe there is a huge time gap between the 69th and 70th week? If so, how is it still just the 70th week?

Week 69

1. Prophecies Concerning the Nations (Dan 10-11).

- A. For what reason did the angel come to Daniel ? 10:14, 20-21
- B. How many more kings will there be of Persia? 11:2 Then what will happen to the Persian empire? 11:3-4
- C. Following the breakup of this kingdom into 4 parts, what transpires between the North and South kingdoms? 11:5-20 Why does this effect the people of Israel? 11:14,16,20
- D. What does the “despicable” king who arises over the North kingdom do with regards to Israel? 11:21,28,30-32 Who in history appears to have been this king? How do the people of Israel respond to this? 11:32-35 and history
- E. Many believe verse 36 jumps to a much later time and a different king (though similar in character to the one earlier in this chapter) is spoken of here. Why? 11:35-36,40 ;12:1

2. Prophecy Concerning Israel in the Last Days (Dan 12)

- A. What happens at “that time”? 12:1-2
- B. What is Daniel told that he should do? 12:4 What is he told things will be like in the future. 12:4
- C. How long is Daniel told this period of distress will last? 12:1,6-7, 11-12 What is promised to Daniel in the final verse? 12:13

3. Hosea’s Wife and Israel (Hos 1-4).

- A. Why did God tell Hosea to marry a harlot? 1:2
- B. What did God say He would do to bring Israel back to Himself? 2:2-3, 6-7

- C. What did God promise for Israel's future, after being judged for unfaithfulness? 2:16-20
 - D. What did God tell Hosea to do about his wife, and what did he do? 3:1-3 What does God say He similarly will do with Israel? And with what result? 3:4-5
 - E. Why does God say His people are destroyed? What is it they have done? 4:6
4. What does God require before He will return to Israel? 5:15
 5. Does God delight in burnt offerings? What does God truly delight in? 6:6
 6. What does it mean to "sow the wind and reap the whirlwind?" 8:7 What has Israel done? 8:3-4

Week 70

1. Where did God condemn Israel to be exiled? 9:3. What will happen to their calf idol? 10:5-6
2. What does God urge Israel to do? 10:12; 12:6 What does it mean to "break up fallow ground"? 10:12
3. What does God want Israel to understand? 13:4-5. Why did Israel forget God? 13:6 Is this also a danger for us? Why?
4. What does God tell Israel they must do to be restored? 14:1-3 Then what does God promise to do? 14:4-6

5. What was the plague that came upon Israel? Joel 1:2-4 What does God warn is coming and is near? 1:15; 2:1, 11
6. What does it mean to rend your heart? 2:12-14 Why are they advised to do so?
7. What deliverance does God promise after that time? 2:25-27 And what will they know at that time? 2:27 When will God pour out His spirit on all mankind? 2:28-31 Who will be the people who are delivered delivered? 2:32
8. Who will God gather to the valley of Jehoshaphat? For what purpose? 3:2,12 When will this take place? 3:14,18

Week 71

9. Why does God say He will punish Israel for ALL their iniquities? Amos 3:2 Would the same apply to Christians? Why or why not?
10. What phrase does God repeat 5 times in Amos chapter 4? What is the point He is making? What does God warn them after this? Amos 4:12 What does this mean? What should we learn from this for our own lives?
11. What does God say to the people to do that they may live? Amos 5:4,6,14
12. What principle of science / nature does God reveal in Amos 5:8 and 9:6
13. What does God warn concerning the day of the Lord? Amos 5:18-20
14. How does God regard their sacrifices, offerings and even their songs of praise? Why? Amos 5:21-23 What does God want from them? Amos 5:24

15. What opposition did Amos experience to his prophecy? From whom? Amos 7:10-11 What was he accused of? Told to do? 7:12-13 What judgement did God declare against his accuser? 7:17

1. What sort of famine did God say was coming? Amos 8:11-12

2. For what does God promise judgment on Edom? Obadiah 1:10-11 What does God promise on the day of the Lord? Obadiah 1:15

Week 72

3. What did God command Jonah to do? Jonah 1:2 Why did Jonah flee heading to Tarshish? 1:3; 4:2

4. What did God do to get Jonah to submit? 1:4,12,15 When did Jonah repent? 2:2-9

5. What message was Jonah to proclaim to Nineveh? 3:4 How did the city and king respond to his message? 3:5-9

6. Why did Jonah become angry and wish to die? 4:1-3 What lesson did God teach Jonah through the plant? 4:9-11

7. What are the key lessons of the book of Jonah?

8. What time period does the prophet Micah speak of in Micah 4:1-4?

9. What are we told about the special person who will come from Bethlehem? Micah 5:2-3 What will this ruler do? 5:4-5

10. When Israel asks what sacrifices the Lord desires to atone for their sins, what answer do they receive? Micah 6:8

1. Whom does Nahum prophesy against? Nahum 1:1 How does Nahum describe God in 1:3,6,7? What warning and hope is implied in this description of God?
2. What was Habakkuk's first question to God and God's answer (what does He plan to do about this problem)? Hab 1:2-4; 5-6 What does God say concerning His future treatment of the implement of His judgement? 1:11
3. What further question does Habakkuk ask in response to God's answer? Hab 1:13 What is God's answer to this 2nd question? Hab 2:8,12,16 How does God say the righteous will live? Hab 2:4
4. How is Habakkuk affected by knowing God's plans for judgement? What must he do? Hab 3:16 What is Habakkuk's final declaration of faith? 3:17-19 What is meant by 3:19?
5. Of what does Zephaniah warn? Zeph 1:7,14 How does he describe "that day"? 1:15-16 What will be the end result of that "day"? 1:18

Week 73

6. What does Zephaniah urge the people to do? Zeph 2:3 With what hoped for result? With what promise does Zephaniah close his book of prophecy? 3:20
7. To whom was Haggai's prophecy addressed? 1:1 God spoke to Haggai telling them to "consider" their "ways". What did God mean by this? Hag 1:5,7 What had they failed to do? 1:4,8 What was God's discipline on them for this? 1:6, 9-11
8. What question did God have Haggai ask the priests? 2:13 What was God's lesson from their answer? 2:14 What was now to be different? 2:18-19
9. What was God's first message through Zechariah? 1:2-4
10. What does God plan concerning the nations He used to judge Israel? Why? Zech 1:14-15, 19,21 What does God say about those who "touch" Israel? Zech 2:8

11. Who is coming to dwell in their midst? Zech 2:10 What is declared about who will be God's people in the future? Zech 2:11
1. What was God's message to Zerrubbabel in the vision of the lamp stand and the trees? Zech 4:2-9 What do the two olive trees represent? Zech 4:3,11,14
2. Why did God instruct for a crown to be made for Joshua but not Zerrubbabel? Zech 6:9-11 How does crowning Joshua symbolize what will be true of the Branch? Zech 3:8; 6:11-13
3. What was the question of the people of Bethel? Zech 7:3. What do you suppose led them to ask this question? (Note what things they were fasting for: 4th month – Nebuchadnezzar's entering Jerusalem; 5th month the destruction of the temple; 7th month the assassination of Gediliah; 10th month the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem). What did God want instead of these fasts? Zech 7:9-10 How did God say their fasts were to be changed? Zech 8:19

Week 74

4. What does God say will happen to Tyre and Sidon? Zech 9:2-4 What will happen to the Philistine cities and the remnant of the Philistines? Zech 9:5-7
5. How does Zechariah say Israel's king shall come? Zech 9:9 And what area shall be His kingdom? Zech 9:10
6. What does Zechariah predict in Zech 9:13? Has this happened? If so when?
7. What does God say about the nations who gather against Jerusalem? Zech 12:2-3,9 Why will there be mourning in Jerusalem? Zech 12:10-14
8. What action will God take after the nations capture Jerusalem? Zech 14:2-3 When Yahweh comes, where will His feet stand and what will happen? Zech 14:3-4 What is the significance of this location? Acts 1:9,11-12
9. How have the priests not been showing honor and respect towards God? Malachi 1:6-8,13

10. What role does God say the priest should play? Malachi 2:6-8. How have they failed and how does God punish them? Malachi 2:8-9

11. What further reason does God give that He no longer accepts their offerings? Malachi 2:13-14
How does God describe what they have done? 2:14-16

12. How does God feel about divorce? 2:16 Who is God faulting? 2:14-15 What is it about divorce that God condemns? Why? 2:14-16