

EVENTS AFTER SEVENTY YEARS OF JUDAH'S CAPTIVITY

2 Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1 – 2:67

In the previous unit of study, we saw something of what the people of Judah did in Babylon, the land to which they were carried captive. Now see what happened as the years drew to a close, relating events to Maps 27 and 28, page 320:

A. Events In Babylon or Chaldea: Read Daniel 9:1-19; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4:

1. What had happened Jeremiah prophesied would happen after 70 years of Judah's captivity? Jeremiah 29:10-14, 31:38, 30:18

2. In the days of Nebuchadnezzar's descendant, Belshazzar, what happened to the great Babylon Empire? Daniel 5:30, 31

3. Darius the Mede was an officer of Cyrus, King of Persia. In the first year of his rule, what did Daniel understand from reading Jeremiah's prophecy? Daniel 9:1, 2 _____

4. Therefore, what two things did Daniel do? Daniel 9:4

5. What did he especially pray that God would do? Daniel 9:17

6. In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, evidently this same year, what did the Lord do? Ezra 1:1a, c

7. What two things did Cyrus realize? Ezra 1:2b, c
a. _____
b. _____
8. Read Isaiah 44:28-45:13 and tell how he might have come to realize these facts:

9. Therefore, what did Cyrus proclaim that God's people should do? Ezra 1:3, 4
a. _____
b. _____

B. The Response to These Events: Read Ezra 1:5-11

1. After Cyrus' proclamation, what did God do? Ezra 1:5d

2. Therefore, notice what two things the people did as a result: Ezra 1:5, 6

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3. What did Cyrus then give them? Ezra 1:7, 8

4. Notice the different kinds of vessels which were included: Ezra 1:9, 10

5. How many vessels were there in all? Ezra 1:11 (use figures) _____

C. Those Who Responded: Read Ezra 2:1-67

1. Who was the chief leader of the returning expedition? Ezra 2:2a

Note: As grandson of King Jehoiachin (Matthew 1:11-12), he was legal heir to Judah's throne. He may be the same as Judah's prince Sheshbazzar (Ezra 1:8,11; 5:14,16)

2. The men of Israel who responded are listed by their ancestors or cities from which they came. As you read Ezra 2:2c-35, underline in your Bible the names of all cities which you recognize from your previous studies. Locate on Map 28.

3. Besides the ordinary citizens, what four special groups were represented? Ezra 2:36a-
_____ 2:40a _____ 2:43a
_____ 2:55a _____

4. What was true of some of those who went back to Judah? Ezra 2:59b

5. What was done with some priests who had a similar problem? Ezra 2:62

6. What was the total number of the congregation who returned? Ezra 2:64

7. How many servants and maids did they take with them? Ezra 2:65

8. How many did this make in all? (Add)

9. How many beasts of burden did they take? Ezra 2:66-67: Horses: Mules: Camels:
Asses or donkeys: for a total of (add):

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did Daniel study the Scriptures and pray? Why did Cyrus make his decree? Why did the people of Judah decide to go back to their land? Ezra 1:5

2. What is God seeking to Accomplish in *my* life right now? When His time for this comes, what will He do? If this does not happen as soon as I think it should, should I fret? What *should* I do? Do I do this? If not, why not?

EARLY ACTIVITIES IN JUDAH

Ezra 2:68 – 4:24

Now that the released captives had returned to their homeland after seventy years' absence, there was much work to be done. See now what they did first:

A. The First Activities: Read Ezra 2:68-70:

1. When the people arrived in Jerusalem, what did some of the leaders do? Ezra 2:68-69a

2. What was the first great task they had to face? Ezra 2:70 and THINK!

B. The Second Activities: Read Ezra 3:1-7:

1. When the seventh month came, where did all the people gather? Ezra 3:1

2. What did the priests and Zerubbabel then do? Ezra 3:2-3b, 3c
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. From what day did they begin doing the latter? Ezra 3:6a

4. Then what did all the people do? Ezra 3:4

(See Leviticus 23:34 for the date of the feast. Also, review page 109-
5. What did they continue to do from that time forward? Ezra 3:5

6. What was not yet done? Ezra 3:6b

7. To what two groups did they give money to begin preparations for this work?

8. To what two other groups did they give provisions? Ezra 3:7b

9. What were they to provide in return? Ezra 3:7d

10. Where did they get the money for all this? Ezra 3:7d

C. The Third Activities: Read Ezra 3:8-13:

1. In the second month of the second year of their return to Judah, what did they appoint the Levites to do? Ezra 3:8

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2. What was the first thing the builders did? Ezra 3:10a

3. What did the priests and Levites do at this time? Ezra 3:11a, b

4. What two kinds of instruments did they use in doing this? Ezra 3:10b, c

5. What did all the people then do? Ezra 3:11c

6. But what did many of the older men, who had seen the first temple, do? Ezra 3:12

D. The Activities Interrupted: Read Ezra 4:1-24:

1. When the Adversaries (enemies) of Judah heard that they were building the temple, what did they ask? Ezra 4:1-2

2. Did the leaders consent to this? Ezra 4:3

3. Therefore, what three things did the enemies do? Ezra 4:4-5a

4. After Cyrus was replaced by another ruler, what else did they do? Ezra 4:6, 4:7

5. By what name did they call those who had returned to Judah? Ezra 4:12

6. What did they say would happen if the Jews were allowed to rebuild Jerusalem? Ezra 4:16

7. As a result of these letters, what command was given by the king? Ezra 4:21

8. What did the enemies then do? Ezra 4:23

9. How long did this continue? Ezra 4:24

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT;

1. Did the Jews do right in giving top priority to re-establishing worship, and re-building the temple? Why did the people of the land oppose them? Why did God allow the work to stop?

2. Am I giving top priority to God's work in my life today? Am I being greatly opposed in my efforts? Even stopped? Who causes such opposition? I Peter 5:8-9

ACTIVITIES IN JUDAH CONTINUED

Ezra 5 – 6

Cyrus' decree was given in 538 B. C., and the Jews began work on the temple in the second year of their coming to Jerusalem, or about 536 B. C. Then because of the opposition of their enemies, the work ceased until the second year of Darius, 520 B.C. So about 16 years had passed since the work began. See now what happened next:

A. The Activities of God's People: Read Ezra 5:1-2, Haggai 1:1-15:

1. After the work had been stopped for some years—probably about 15—what did two prophets do? Ezra 5:1

2. The message of the first of these is recorded in Haggai 1:1-15. On what day was this first message given? Haggai 1:1

3. What did this prophet say God had sent to the Jews because they had ceased building the temple? Haggai 1:11

4. Therefore, what had happened to all they had worked for? Haggai 1:6, 9-10

5. What did Haggai say they should do? Haggai 1:5, 7-8

6. Then what did Zerubbabel and Joshua do? Ezra 5:2, Haggai 1:12

7. How long after God's message did they do this? Compare Haggai 1:1, 1:15

B. The Activities of Their Officers: Read Ezra 5:3-17:

1. Who then questioned the Jews' activities? Ezra 5:3

2. Although they told what they were asked (5:4) why did the officers not cause them to stop working? Ezra 5:5

3. What did the officers then do? Ezra 5:6

4. After recounting what the Jews had told them (Ezra 5:7-16), what two things did they suggest that the king should do? Ezra 5:17
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

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C. The Decision of Darius: Read Ezra 6:1-12:

1. Upon receipt of their letter, what was done at Darius' command? Ezra 6:1

2. What was found as a result? Ezra 6:2-5

3. Therefore, what did Darius command the officers to do? Ezra 6:7, 8, 9-10
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
4. What was to be done to anyone who tried to alter (change) this command? Ezra 6:11

5. Upon whom did Darius call to help him punish anyone who should seek to destroy the house of God? Ezra 6:12

D. The Results of This Decision: Read Ezra 6:13-22:

1. Did the officers obey the command of Darius? Ezra 6:13 How soon?

2. Therefore, what two things did the elders of the Jews do? Ezra 6:14

3. When was the work finished? Ezra 6:15

4. How long was this after work had been resumed? Compare with Ezra 4:24

5. What did the people then do? Ezra 6:16

6. Notice the many different animals which were offered at this feast: Ezra 6:17

7. What two groups could then be restored to their God-appointed tasks? Ezra 6:18

8. What important feast did they keep soon after this? Ezra 6:19-22a

9. To whom did they give credit for their being allowed to complete the re-building of the temple? Ezra 6:22b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT;

1. Although the enemies of God had succeeded in stopping His work temporarily, could they stop it permanently? Who caused it to be resumed, and completed?

2. Need I fear the opposition of God's enemies today? See I John 4:4. What should I do when I am opposed in doing what God has told me to do?

NEW ARRIVALS IN JUDAH

Ezra 7 – 8

No reference is made in the book of Ezra to further events in the reign of Darius, or of his successor, Xerxes or Ahasuerus who is prominent in the book of Esther. The narrative continues with events in the seventh year of Artaxerxes, approximately 57 years after the completion of the temple. See now what happened then:

A. Ezra's Purpose: Read Ezra 7:1-10:

1. In the reign of Artaxerxes, what important event took place? Ezra 7:1a-c, 6a

2. From what important person was Ezra descended? Ezra 7:5d

3. What was Ezra's occupation? Ezra 7:6b

Note: A scribe was originally one who wrote or copied items for a living. Beginning with Ezra, scribes also became students and interpreters of God's Word.

4. How did Ezra gain permission for his trip? Ezra 7:6c, d

5. Who accompanied Ezra on his trip? Ezra 7:7

6. How long did it take him to make this trip? Ezra 7:9

7. What three things had Ezra prepared his heart to do? Ezra 7:10

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

B. The King's Decree: Read Ezra 7:11-26:

1. Who was permitted to go with Ezra to Jerusalem? Ezra 7:13

2. What did Ezra carry with him to Jerusalem? Ezra 7:14, 15, 16

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. What was he to do with the silver and gold he took with him? Ezra 7:17, 18

a. _____

b. _____

4. What was he authorized to do in case he should need more than he had? Ezra 7:20-23

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5. From what three kinds of taxation did the king exempt the priests, Levites, and other temple workers? Ezra 7:24

6. What three things was Ezra authorized to do in Judah? Ezra 7:25a, 25b, 26

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

C. The Journey to Jerusalem: Read Ezra 7:27 – 8:36

1. To whom did Ezra give credit for all the king did? Ezra 7:27-28a

2. Whom did he then gather to go with him? Ezra 7:28b-c

3. Although 1754 adult males (Ezra 8:1-14) plus women and children (Ezra 8:21), making 6,000-7,000 in all, went with him, what did he discover during a three-day encampment? Ezra 8:15

4. After filling this need (Ezra 8:16-20) what did they all do? Ezra 8:21-23

5. To whom did Ezra then give charge of the gold, silver and vessels which had been offered for the temple? Ezra 8:24-30

6. What happened as they journeyed to Jerusalem? Ezra 8:31 (See map 27, page 320)

7. After three days in Jerusalem, what did the travellers do? Ezra 8:33-34, 35, 36a

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

8. Notice what happened as a result of this last action: Ezra 8:36b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT

1. To whom did Ezra attribute the success of every tiny part of his great venture? Ezra 7:6c , 9c, 27, 28b; 8:18a, 21-23, 31b, c

2. To whom am I indebted for all that has been done for and through me thus far?

PROBLEMS IN JUDAH

Ezra 9 - 10

Soon after Ezra arrived with the second group of returnees to Judah, he was advised that a great problem had arisen of those of the first group. Read now to discover what this problem was, and what Ezra did about it.

A. The problem Stated: Read Ezra 9:1-2:

1. Shortly after Ezra arrived in Judah, who came to him? Ezra 9:1a, b

2. What did they say many Jews, including priests and Levites, had done? Ezra

a. 9:1c _____

b. 9:1d _____

c. 9:2a _____

d. 9:2b _____

3. Who had been the leaders in this?

B. Ezra's Response to the Problem: Read Ezra 9:3-15:

1. When Ezra had heard what the people had done, what did he do?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Who then assembled themselves unto him? Ezra 9:4

3. At the time of the evening sacrifice (3 p.m.), What did Ezra do? Ezra 9:5-6a

4. Read his prayer in Ezra 9:6-15. What did he say the peoples action was? Ezra 9:6 (Two things)

5. What had happened to the nation for previous similar actions? Ezra 9:7

6. But what had God done in spite of this? Ezra 9:8-9

7. In committing such acts, what had the people done? Ezra 9:10-12

8. What did Ezra say God would do if they continued in this practice? Ezra 9:13-14

9. What did he realize would happen to them because of their condition? Ezra 9:15

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C. The people's Decision Concerning the Problem: Read Ezra 10:1-15:

1. What had Ezra been doing as he prayed? Ezra 10:1c

2. What happened as he did this? Ezra 10:1d

3. What were they all doing? Ezra 10:1e

4. What did one of them suggest they could do to restore hope to their nation? Ezra 10:2-4

5. What did Ezra then cause them all to do? Ezra 10:5

6. Notice how concerned Ezra was because of the people's sin: Ezra 10:6

7. What two things did they proclaim should be done to anyone who would not come to Jerusalem within three days? Ezra 10:7-8

8. When Ezra faced the entire nation with his proposal (Ezra 10:9-11), What did they say? Ezra 10:12

9. For what three reasons did they say they could not do this immediately? Ezra 10:13

10. Notice what they suggested as an alternative. Ezra 10:13-15

D. The Decision Carried Out. Read Ezra 10:16-44:

1. Did the people do what they had agreed to do? Ezra 10:16-18a

2. How long did it take them to complete this work? Ezra 10:16b-17

3. What did the priests who were guilty do? Ezra 10:18-19

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was Ezra right in his evaluation of the people's actions? Was it right for them to put away their heathen wives and children? Why? **Deuteronomy 7:3a-4**

2. Can God bless me today if I am unequally yoked with unbelievers? 2
Corinthians 6:14a, 17. If I am married to one, should I get a divorce? See 1
Corinthians 7:10-16

NEW CONCERN FOR JUDAH

Nehemiah 1:1 - 2:8

The narrative of Israel's return from captivity, begun in the book of Ezra, continues in the book of Nehemiah some time later. See how much later, and what where the next events in this dramatic story. Relate each event to Map 27.:

A Report from Jerusalem: read Nehemiah 1:1-3

1. Whose words are recorded in the book of Nehemiah? Nehemiah 1:1s:

2. When does the narrative begin? Nehemiah 1:1b, 2:1b

3. How long would this be after the arrival of Ezra and his company in Judah? Compare with Ezra 7:6-7

4. Where was Nehemiah at this time? Nehemiah 1:1c

5. When he met certain men who had returned from Judah, What did he ask them? Nehemiah 1:2

6. What was their three-fold answer? Nehemiah 1:3
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

B. Nehemiah's Response to This News: Read Nehemiah 1:4-11

1. When Nehemiah heard this report, what four things did he do? Nehemiah 1:4

2. When did he pray such prayers? Nehemiah 1:6d

3. What did he do as he began his prayer? Nehemiah 1:6f-7

4. Then what did he ask God to do? Nehemiah 1:8-9

5. Of what did he remind the Lord? Nehemiah 1:10

6. Therefore, what did he ask the Lord to do? Nehemiah 1:11a, b
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
7. What was Nehemiah's position in the palace? Nehemiah 1:11c

C. The Results of Nehemiah's Response: Read Nehemiah 2:1-8

1. In what month did the events of this chapter take place? Nehemiah 2:1a

Note: this was 4 months after Nehemiah had learned of conditions in Jerusalem.

2. What had never been true before this time? Nehemiah 2:1e

3. But as Nehemiah served the king this day, what did the king notice? Nehemiah 2:2a-c

4. What did he say was the reason for this? Nehemiah 2:2d

5. How did the king's words make Nehemiah feel? Nehemiah 2:2e

6. What did he then answer to the king? Nehemiah 2:3

7. What did the king then ask? Nehemiah 2:4a-b

8. What did Nehemiah do before answering? Nehemiah 2:4c

9. What did he then ask the king to do? Nehemiah 2:5

10. What did the king ask? Nehemiah 2:6a-d

11. What was the result of Nehemiah's request? Nehemiah 2:6e

12. What two kinds of letters did he then request? Nehemiah 2:7, 8a-d

a. _____

b. _____

13. What did the king do about these requests, and why? Nehemiah 2:8e, f

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who caused Nehemiah to be so concerned about conditions in Jerusalem? Did his great concern pay off? Ezra 2:4c, 8e-f

2. Is there a condition about which I am greatly concerned now? What should I do about it? If I am faithful in prayer about it, what may I expect to happen?

NEW ACTIVITIES IN JUDAH

Nehemiah 2:9 - 3:32

Armed with the letters the king had given him for safe passage into Judah and for timber from the king's forest for his work, Nehemiah traveled to Judah. See now who accompanied him, and what happened after their arrival there:

A. Nehemiah's Arraival in Judah: Read Nehemiah 2:9-16

1. When Nehemiah reached the governors beyond the River Euphrates, what did he do?
Nehemiah 2:9a

2. Who accompanied Nehemiah on this trip? Nehemiah 2:9b (trace route on map 27)

3. When Sanballat and Tobiah, leaders of the Samaritans, heard of Nehemiah's coming, how did they feel? Nehemiah 2:10

4. After Nehemiah had been in Jerusalem three days, what did he and a few men do?
Nehemiah 2:11-13

5. When did they do this? Nehemiah 2:12a,, 13a

6. Did they tell anyone what they were doing? Nehemiah 2:12c, 16

B. Nehemiah's Purpose Announced: Read Nehemiah 2:17-20:

1. After describing conditions in Jerusalem, what did Nehemiah suggest that the people do, and why? Nehemiah 2:17

2. Of what two things did he tell them? Nehemiah 2:18a, b
a. _____
b. _____
3. What was their two-fold response? Nehemiah 2:18c, d
a. _____
b. _____
4. When Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem heard of this, what did they do? Neh. 2:19
a. (Two items) _____
b. _____
5. How did Nehemiah answer them? Nehemiah 2:20
a. _____
b. _____

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c. _____

C. The Work Begun: Read Nehemiah 3:1-32:

- Chapter 3 lists the sections of the wall which were repaired by various people. There were two main types of landmarks which divided these sections: gates and towers. List the gates: 1. _____; 3. _____
6. _____; 13. _____; 14. _____
15. _____; 26. _____; 28. _____
29. _____; 31. _____
- As you read chapter 3, underline each gate, tower and other landmark in your Bible, and seek to locate it on Map 29, page 320. Some landmarks are on the walls inside the city, and some do not appear on the map.
- Who led in repairing many of the sections of the wall? Nehemiah 3:9b, 12, 14b, 15b, 16b, 17d, 18c, 19b

- What different professions were represented among the workers? Nehemiah 3:8b, 31a, 32 _____ 8c _____
28a _____ 32 _____
- What other unlikely people were among the workers? Nehemiah 3:12c

- Where did many of the people work? Nehemiah 3:10b, 23a, 23b, 28b, 29a, 30c

- What adverb is used to describe the way Baruch did his work? Nehemiah 3:20

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT

- Was Nehemiah wise in first surveying the task, then enlisting the workers, and finally assigning to each worker a specific portion to complete? Did he depend upon his wise planning to give him success in his work? See Nehemiah 2:12,, 20

- Do I show wisdom in carrying out what God has called me to do? /Could I learn from studying Nehemiah's procedure? Do I depend on my wisdom for success?

OPPOSITION TO THE WORK

Nehemiah 4 - 6

Once the Jews had begun in earnest their work of repairing the walls of Jerusalem, opposition came to them repeatedly. Read to see who caused this opposition, and what the workers did about it:

A. The Firsts Attack: Read Nehemiah 4:1-6:

1. When Sanballat heard that the Jews were building the wall, what three things did he do? Nehemiah 4:1

2. Read his comments to his brethren and the army of Samaria in Nehemiah 4:2

3. What was Tobiah's comment about the wall they were building? Nehemiah 4:3

4. What did Nehemiah do when he heard these comments? Nehemiah 4:4-5

5. Then what did he continue to do? Nehemiah 4:6a

6. Notice how much of the task they got done, and why: Nehemiah 4:6b, c

B. The Second Attack: Read Nehemiah 4:7-23:

1. When the enemies heard of the progress being made on the walls, what did they do? Nehemiah 4:7-8

2. What two things did the Jews then do? Nehemiah 4:9

3. Notice a new problem which threatened to discourage the workers: Nehemiah 4:10

4. Because of the enemies' plot (Neh. 4:11-12), what did Nehemiah do? Neh. 4:13-14
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. What did God do through this? Nehemiah 4:15

6. Notice how they worked from this time forward: Neh. 4:16, 17-18b

7. What would be the signal in case of attack? Neh. 4:18c-20

8. What hours did they work? Neh. 4:21

9. Note what Nehemiah suggested those from out of town do, and why: Neh. 4:22-23

C. A Problem Within: Read Nehemiah 5:1-19:

1. Notice three complaints different Jews voiced Neh. 5:1-4. What had happened to some Jews because of these things? Neh. 5:5

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2. What did Nehemiah tell the nobles and rulers about their actions in causing this? Neh. 5:6-10 (9a)

3. What did he tell them to do? Neh. 5:11

4. Did they do this? Nehemiah 5:12-13

5. Notice by contract how Nehemiah had lived among the Jews: Nehemiah 5:14-19

D. The third Attack: Read Nehemiah 6:1-9:

1. When the wall was all done but the doors, what did the Jews' enemies suggest, and why? Neh. 6:1-2

2. Read Nehemiah's classic answer in Nehemiah 6:3. Yet what did the enemies do? Nehemiah 6:4

3. Notice the new tactic they used the fifth time: Neh. 6:5-7. What two things did Nehemiah do? Neh. 6:8-9c, 9d

E. The Fourth Attack: Read Nehemiah 6:10-14, 17-19:

1. What did one man, evidently a Jew, then suggest that Nehemiah do? Neh. 6:10

2. Did Nehemiah do this? Nehemiah 6:11 Notice why: Neh. 6:12-13, 17-19

3. What did he do? Nehemiah 6:14

F. The Outcome of All Attacks: Read Nehemiah 6:15-16:

1. What happened in spite of all the enemies' attacks? Nehemiah 6:15

2. How did the enemies then feel? Nehemiah 6:16d

3. What did they realize? Neh 6:16e

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT

1. What were Nehemiah's three main responses to every attack from within and without that threatened to stop his work for the Lord? Did they pay off? Neh. 6:15-16

2. Do enemies without and problems within ever threaten to stop MY work for the Lord? What is MY response? Do I give up? Or do I pray to God, do what He shows me to do about the attackers, and keep working til the job is done? Neh. 6:3

JOYFUL TIMES IN JUDAH

Nehemiah 7 - 8

Now that the wall of Jerusalem was completed, there was just time to attend to a few necessary business matters before the seventh month with its three great religious observances arrived. Study now these events:

A. City Government for Jerusalem: Read Nehemiah 7:1-4:

1. After the wall was built and the doors set up, what three groups were appointed for special duties? Nehemiah 7:1

2. Then what two men were given charge of the city of Jerusalem? Nehemiah 7:2a-c

3. For what two reasons was the latter chosen? Nehemiah 7:2d, e

4. Notice three rules Nehemiah made for the safety of Jerusalem: Nehemiah 7:3

5. From Nehemiah 7:4, tell the condition of the city: The people: _____ and the houses:

B. A Census of the People: Nehemiah 7:5-73:

1. What did God then put in Nehemiah's heart to do? Nehemiah 7:5a-b

2. What did he find which was a help in this? Nehemiah 7:5c

3. Nehemiah 7:6-69 contains an adaptation of this old register. Although many numbers differ, the totals are the same: Compare vss. 66-69 with page 307-c 8-11.

4. Again, what did many of the rulers do? Nehemiah 7:70-72

C. A Gathering of the People: Read Nehemiah 8:1-18:

1. On the first day of the seventh month (Neh. 8:2c), where did all the people gather? Neh., 8:1a

(On Map 29, page 320, locate this place, which is near the center of the city.)
2. What did they ask Ezra to bring? Neh. 8:1b-c

3. What three types of people were gathered there? Nehemiah 8:2

4. What did Ezra then do, and for how long? Ezra 8:3a-c

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5. How did the people respond? Neh. 8:3d

6. Where did Ezra stand? Neh. 8:4a-b

7. How many other priests stood at his right? At his left? Neh. 8:4c

8. When Ezra opened the book, what did all the people do? Neh. 8:5

9. What did Ezra then do? Neh. 8:6a

10. What four things did the people do in response? Neh. 8:6b-e

11. What did Joshua, other priests, and the Levites then do? Neh. 8:7, 8b, c

12. What were the people doing all this while? Neh. 8:7d

13. As they heard the law read, what did they begin to do? Neh. 8:9g-h

14. But why did the leaders tell them they should not do this? Neh. 8:9, 11

15. What did they tell the people to do instead? Neh. 8:10

16. Did the people do this? Neh. 8:12

17. On the next day as they read the law, what did they discover that they should do during the feast of this month? Neh. 8:13-15

18. Did they do this? Neh. 8:16-17b

19. When was the last time Israel had done this? Neh. 8:17c

20. What was the result of this action? Neh. 8:17c

21. What did they continue to do for seven days? Neh. 8:18 (Two things)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Were the Jews wise to set aside a whole week for studying God's Word and fellowshiping with others in worship and praise to God?

2. Would it pay me to set aside regular periods for meeting God in a special way? Am I willing to make the sacrifices which would be necessary to do this? Why?

A DAY OF CHANGES IN JUDAH

Nehemiah 9 – 10

The religious observances in Judah had begun with the Feast of Trumpets on the first day of the seventh month, which should have been followed by the Day of Atonement on the tenth. We assume that it was, although Nehemiah does not record it, yet gives a full account of the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles, which lasted from the 15th thru the 22nd of the month. Now see what happened just two days after this feast ended:

A. A Summary of the Day: Read Nehemiah 9:1-5:

1. On the 24th day of the 7th month, what did the Israelites do? Nehemiah 9:1

2. Of what was such behavior normally a sign?

3. What two things did the people do on this day? Nehemiah 9:2

a. _____

b. _____

4. What did they do for two fourth parts of the day (probably 3 hours each, from the morning sacrifice about 9 a.m. to the evening sacrifice about 3:)

a. Neh. 9:3a-b _____

b. Neh. 9:3c-d _____

5. What two things did the Levites then do? Nehemiah 9:4a, c

6. Then what two things did they tell the people to do? Nehemiah 9:5c

7. What did their exhortation then become? Nehemiah 9:5d

B. The Prayer of the Day: Read Nehemiah 9:6-38:

1. With what statement did the Levites' prayer open? Nehemiah 9:6a

2. Read all the things they said God had done from creation to Abraham, and in bringing Israel out of Egypt: Nehemiah 9:6-8, 9-15

3. Yet what had the early Israelites done? Neh. 9:16-17d

4. But what did God do? Neh. 9:17e-f

5. Even when they did what was this true? Neh. 9:18-21

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6. Note three additional things God did for them in Canaan: Neh. 9:22, 23, 24-25

7. Yet what did they do? Neh. 9:26-27 (can you recall the four-fold cycle of Judges?)

8. After many years of such behavior (Neh. 9:28-30c), what had God finally done? Neh. 9:30d

9. Yet even then, notice what God had not done, and why: Neh. 9:31

10. How did the Levites evaluate God's treatment of them? Neh. 9:32-25 (see 33a)

11. How was this present generation different from former generations of Jews? Neh. 9:36-37

12. Because of this, what did they do? Neh. 9:38

C. The Covenant of the Day: Read Nehemiah 10:1-39:

1. Besides Nehemiah the Tirshatha (governor), what three groups signed the covenant? Neh. 10:8b, 9a, 14a

2. What four things did the rest of the people enter into a curse to do? Neh. 10:
 - a. 29 _____
 - b. 30 _____
 - c. 31a-c _____
 - d. 31d-e _____
3. Summarize the things they agreed to bring into the house of the Lord: Neh. 10: _____
_____ 34 _____
35-37b _____ 37c-38 _____
4. What else did they also promise? Neh. 10:39 (last line)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What prompted this mass confession of sin and return to God's laws for living?

2. What laws of God have I broken? Should I be confessing this as sin? If my whole nation did this, what would happen? Could I help bring this about? How? Neh. 9:2

A CELEBRATION IN JERUSALEM

Nehemiah 11-12

Now that the wall of Jerusalem was completed, and the people's relationship to God was cemented by the covenant they had made with Him, again very practical matters claimed their attention. See now what these were, and what climaxed these activities:

A. The Residents Inside Jerusalem: Nehemiah 11:1-24:

1. Besides the rulers, how many of the people lived in Jerusalem? Neh. 11:1

-
2. In what two ways were these selected? Neh. 11:2, 11:1b

-
3. List the various groups who lived in Jerusalem, and the number in each: Neh. 11:

a. Ordinary citizens, sons of _____

b. 10 12b _____

c. 15a _____

18 4a 6 13b

d. 19a _____

19b 7a 8b 14b

Citizens (Col. 1)

Total ordinary citizens _____ Total Priests _____ Priests (Col 2) _____

GRAND TOTAL (Add) _____

B. The Residents Outside Jerusalem: Nehemiah 11:25-36:

1. Notice the villages in which those of Judah lived: Nehemiah 11:25-30; and those in which the people of Benjamin lived: Nehemiah 11:31-35. Locate all of these on Map 28, page 320. Those not previously listed as places from which Jews had originally come are printed in italics on this map.
2. Where did the Levites live? Neh. 11:36

-
3. What determined where most families lived? Neh. 11:3b (Review Lev. 25:23-34)

-
4. What two other tribes were represented in Jerusalem after the return from captivity? I Chron. 9:1-3 (see 3)

Note: By the time of Cyrus' decree, he was ruler not only of the territory of former Babylonia which had conquered South Judah, but of that of Assyria which had conquered Northern Israel as well; so that all captives of both kingdoms were freed to return to their homeland. Several references seem to indicate that representatives of all tribes returned: See Ezra 2:70, 6:17, 8:35. I Chron. 6:15 indicates that the genealogies in I Chronicles 1-9 were written after the captivity. I Chron. 9 lists many of those listed in Neh. 11.

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C. The Priests: Nehemiah 12:1-26:

1. What two generations of priests and levites are listed in this section? Neh. 12:
 - a. 1-11: Those who had come up with _____ and _____ (12:1);
 - b. 12-26: Those who lived in the days of _____ the son of Joshua (26a) and in the days of _____ the governor and _____ the priest. _____
2. Remember that about 80 years passed after Zerubbabel's return before Nehemiah's.

D. A Celebration for All: Read Nehemiah 12:27-47:

1. Although the Levites usually worked in Jerusalem by courses, so that only 1/24 of them were in Jerusalem at a time, for what occasion did the Jews ask all of them to come? Neh. 12:27-29

2. After the Levites had purified themselves, the people, the gates and the wall, into how many companies did Nehemiah divide the people? Neh. 12:30-31

3. What two types of people followed each group? Neh. 12:31, 32, 38, 40
41, 33-35

4. What made music? Neh. 12:35a, 41c _____ 36b
5. On Map 29, page 320, trace the route of the first group: Neh. 12:31, 37; and of the second group: Neh. 12:38-39. Put pencil "X" where you think they went up on the wall, and pencil "O" where they ended their trip (see Neh. 12:40).
6. What three things were done to climax these ceremonies? Neh. 12:42b, 43a, b

7. Who joined in the last of these? Neh. 12:43c

8. How far was this heard? Neh. 43e

9. From Neh. 12:44, notice what some were appointed at that time to do, and why.

10. Notice too the way the needs of the Levites and priests were met: Neh. 12:47

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. To whom did the Jews dedicate the wall they had built? How did this make them feel?

2. When I have completed some great task, to whom do I dedicate the results of my labors? What feeling does this bring to me? Should I change my procedure? Why?

MORE CHANGES IN JUDAH

Nehemiah 13

Between the time Nehemiah first arrived in Judah and the events of chapter 13:4-30, 12 years passed (compare 2:1 with 13:6). All the event studied thus far seem to have occurred in quick succession, in the space of about three months: 52 days for the completion of the wall (6:15), plus one month for the celebrations of the seventh month (8:2, 9:1). It seems very probable that the wall was dedicated before Nehemiah returned to Shushan as he had promised (2:6), then he was appointed permanent governor, and served in this capacity for 13 years (5:14). See now what happened after this:

A. The First Change: Read Nehemiah 13:1-3

1. On one particular day, what were the leaders again doing? Nehemiah 13:1a _____

2. What did they find written therein? Nehemiah 13:1b

3. Notice why God had given this command: Nehemiah 13:2; Numbers 22:1-6;
Deuteronomy 23:3-5.
4. When they had heard the law, what did all the Jews do? Nehemiah 13:3

B. The Second Change: Read Nehemiah 13:4-9

1. Before this, who had oversight of the chambers (rooms) of the house of God? Nehemiah 13:4a-b, 3:1 _____
2. With whom had he made an alliance? Nehemiah 13:4c, 4:3

3. Therefore, what had he prepared for him in the temple? Nehemiah 13:5

4. Where was Nehemiah when this happened? Nehemiah 13:6

5. When he returned and discovered this, how did he feel? Nehemiah 13:8a

6. Therefore, what did he do? Nehemiah 13:8b

7. Notice two things which were then done at Nehemiah's command: Nehemiah 13:9 _____

C. The Third Change: Read Neh. 13:10-14:

1. That else did Nehemiah discover had happened during his absence? Nehemiah 13:10
a. _____
b. _____
2. Whom did Nehemiah hold responsible for this neglect? Nehemiah 13:11a, b

3. What did Nehemiah then do? Nehemiah 13:11c, d

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4. Then what did all Judah do? Nehemiah 13:12

5. Notice what officers Nehemiah then appointed and why they were chosen: Nehemiah 13:13

6. What did Nehemiah do after making these changes? Nehemiah 13:14

D. The Fourth Change: Read Neh. 13:15-22:

1. What four things did Nehemiah discover men of Judah doing on the sabbath? Neh. 13:15

2. What did men of Tyre who lived in Jerusalem do? Ne. 13:16

3. Whom did Nehemiah hold responsible for these acts? Neh. 13:17

4. What did he say they would bring on Israel by such acts? Neh. 13:18

5. Find 4 things Nehemiah did to prevent such acts in the future: Neh. 13:19-22c

E. The Fifth Change: Read Neh. 13:23-31:

1. What else did Nehemiah discover that some of the Jews had done? Nehemiah 13:23-24

2. Notice five things Nehemiah discover that some of the Jews had done? Nehemiah 13:23-24

3. When he discovered that the grandson of the high priesee was among those who had done this, what did he do? Nehemiah 13:28

4. What did Nehemiah do after making these changes? Nehemiah 13:29

5. Notice his summary of all these changes, in Nehemiah 13:30, 31.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINKG ABOUT:

1. Why was Nehemiah so insistent that the Jews make all these changes? Should he have had to insist? What had the Jews promised previously?

2. Do I really believe I n every principle of conduct laid down in God's Word? If so, what will I do? Will the decisions I make now guide my children in 12 years?

REVIEW OF THE RESTORATION AND THE BOOKS OF EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

As you come to the end of your study of this section, look back over the entire unit and try to get an overall picture of what you have studied:

A. Major Persons in This Unit:

1. Give the names of the following important persons:
 - a. King of Persia who decreed that the Jews might return to Judah: _____
 - b. Descendant of Judah's kings who led the first return to Judah: _____
 - c. High priest who assisted in leading the first return to Judah: _____
 - d. Prophet who encouraged reviving work on the temple: (2) _____
 - e. King of Persia who decreed that work on the temple be resumed: _____
 - f. King of Persia who was prominent in the book of Esther: _____
 - g. King of Persia who allowed and helped 2nd and 3rd groups to return: _____
 - h. Priest and scribe who taught the people the law of God: _____
 - i. King's cupbearer who led the third expedition returning to Judah: _____
 - j. Enemy of the Jews who tried to stop work on the walls: (3) _____
 - k. Prophet who prophesied after the temple was rebuilt: Malachi (See Mal. 3:1) _____

2. On your test, be able to match these people with their descriptions given above.

B. Major Events, Outline, Key Verses and Authorship of Ezra and Nehemiah:

1. Fill in the blanks to chart the main facts of the Restoration Period:

Group:	Consisting of:	Returned:	Led by:	Main Accomplishment:
1 st	About 50,000	536 B.C.	_____	_____
			and	
2 nd	1754 men, plus women & children	457 B.C.	_____	_____
3 rd	Captains of army	444 B.C.	_____	_____
	and horsemen			
2. In the margin above, write the chapters which tell of each of the above events. _____
3. Notice how these form a good outline of all but the last few chapters of Nehemiah. What title would you give these chapters?

4. Notice how Ezra 1:5 sums up the major work of the book of Ezra; and Nehemiah 2:20 and 6:15 sum up that of the book of Nehemiah. These are the Key Verses of each.
5. From the personal references in Ezra 7:28 and throughout chapters 8 and 9, who would you say was the author of the book of Ezra? (*THINK!*)

6. Whose words are recorded in the book of Nehemiah? Nehemiah 1:1

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7. This is definitely true of Nehemiah 1-7:5 and 12:27-13:31, and probably of 12:1-26. However, some believe Nehemiah 8-10 are Ezra's work. Can you see why? _____

C. Theme of This Unit:

- 1, How long were the Jews in captivity because of their sins? Jer. 25:11

2. What caused Cyrus to decree they might return? Ezra 1:1

3. What made the people willing to return? Ezra 1:5

4. Why could their enemies not make them stop work on the temple? Ezra 5:5

5. Why were they able to complete this work? Ezra 6:22b-e

6. Why was Ezra permitted to return? Ezra 7:27-28

7. How was he able to make a safe trip? Ezra 8:21-23, 31

8. Why was Nehemiah permitted to return? Neh. 2:4c, 8e-f

9. Why did he want to rebuild the walls? Neh. 2:12b

10. On whom did he depend for completing his work? Neh. 2:20, 4:4,9,14,20, 6:9c _____

11. To whom did he give glory when this was done? Neh. 4:15, 6:16

12. Why did he list the people by their genealogies? Neh. 7:5

13. Why did they rejoice at the dedication of the wall? Neh. 12:43

14. On whom did Nehemiah depend to punish his enemies for their evil works, and to reward him for his good works? Neh. 6:14, 13:29, 5:19, 13:14, 22e-f, 31c

15. What caused the Jews to turn from their sins? Neh. 8:8-9, 9:2-3, 13:1-3

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God cause the Jews to return to their land and separate themselves from the heathen? For what great event of history was he preparing them? Matthew 1:12a, 16

2. Is God now trying to prepare *me* for some great event in *my* future? What will it take to get me ready for it? Am I cooperating with Him in His efforts? Why?

THE CONCLUSION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT STORY

The last events of the Old Testament are those recorded in the book of Nehemiah. The poetical and propetic books which follow Nehemiah in our Bibles are the writings of the various periods of Israel's history, and do not represent any further historical events. Therefore, the Old Testament closes with a few persecuted Jews scattered within the recently re-built city of Jerusalem, struggling to get their nation established again after their captivity. Read now to discover the conclusion of the Old Testament story, which began with events preceding the call of Abraham:

A. Summary of Old Testament History: Read Matthew 1:2-16

1. From Matthew 1:2, list the three from whom the whole nation Israel was descended:

2. From Matthew 1:5, give the names of two women who had been heathen, but who married into the nation Israel:

3. What do you notice about all of the men listed in Matthew 1:6-11?

4. Of whom that we have studied recently does the first name in Matthew 1:13 remind you?

5. This is the same person we studied. The spelling is different in some Bibles because it was translated through several languages. Therefore, if there had still been kings in Judah after their return from the captivity, who would have been king? _____

6. Who, several generations later, was descended from this person, and from all the kings of Judah? Matthew 1:16a _____
7. Therefore, if Judah had still had kings, who would have been their king as the New Testament began? Matthew 1:16a and *THINK!* _____
8. Because Jesus was legally considered to be Joseph's firstborn son, He received through Joseph the right to the kingly throne of David. However, Jesus was not actually *descended* from Joseph, and the wording of Matthew 1:16 clearly indicates thos. Now, turn to Luke 3:23-38, in which the ancestry of Mary is undoubtedly traced. It begins with Joseph as the son of Heli, whereas Matthew clearly states that Jacob begat (became the physical father of) Joseph. Also, notice that the entire first half of this ancestry is different. Therefore, the only logical conclusion is that Joseph in this case is the "son-in-law: of Heli, and the ancestry is that of Mary, rather than of Joseph. However, from what two important people was Mary also descended? Luke 3:31 (last anem), and Luke 3:34 (third name)? _____
9. What had God promised would come to al the families of the earth through Abraham? Genesis 12:3b

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10. In what way would these promises be fulfilled? Galatians 3:16, Genesis 13:15 and 17:8

11. What wonderful promise had God made to David? 1 Kings 9:5; 2 Samuel 7:11b-16__

B. Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy:

1. During Jesus' lifetime, what was He called on several occasions? Matthew 9:27, 15:22, 20:30, 31

2. Toward the end of Jesus' public ministry, as He entered Jerusalem triumphantly, what did the people call Him? Matthew 21:9, 15

3. What did they expect Him to do at this time? Mark 11:10

4. Later, after He was risen from the dead, what did His disciples expect Him to do? Acts 1:6

5. Read Isaiah 9:6, 7. What had Isaiah prophesied about the One who should sit upon David's throne? (7a)

6. Revelation 11:15, 19:16, and 22:3 tell of the final fulfillment of these words.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1, Did God keep His promises to Abraham and to David? Galatians 4:4

2. Will God keep the promises He has made to me? Jeremiah 1:12b, Matthew 24:35
