

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE

One of the first steps in the study of any piece of literature is to ascertain who its author is. From the following passages of the Bible, see if you can discover who its author is:

A. Hebrews 1:1, 2

1. Who spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets?

2. Who has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son?

B. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. By Whom is Scripture inspired?

2. How much of Scripture is inspired by Him?

C. 2 Peter 1:19-21

1. Who did not plan the prophecies in old times:

2. Who moved the holy men to write their prophecies?

D. John 10:34-36

1. By what two names did Jesus call the Jewish law recorded in the Old Testament?

a. _____

b. _____

2. What great claim did Jesus make for the Old Testament law?

E. 1 Peter 1:10-12

1. Who testified beforehand through the prophets the sufferings of Christ and the glories that should follow?

2. Did the prophets themselves always know what they were writing about?

3. For whom were many of these things written?

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F. 2 Samuel 23:1-2

1. Who did David claim spoke by him in the writing of the Psalms?

2. What did David call the words which he spoke?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who is the Author of the Bible?

2. The Bible claims 3600 times to be the Word of God. If it is not, then it is a Book full of lies. What would you think of any other book which contained 3600 lines?

Note: The following parts of our English Bible were *not* inspired by God:

1. The title pages, preface, pages between the Testaments, appendices, etc.
2. The names of the Bible books.
3. The order of the Bible books (although in most parts, the order is providentially arranged by God).
4. The italic lines at the tops of pages.
5. The chapter and verse divisions. Chapter divisions were made in A.D. 1250 by Cardinal Rugo, or before 1228 by Stephen Langton. Verse divisions were made by Robert Stephens in A.D. 1551.
6. The titles of the four gospels: St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John.
7. The notes in small type at the end of the Epistles.
8. The punctuation.

THE FORMATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

A second phase in the study of a piece of literature is the investigation of how it came to be written. Unlike much literature, the Bible was formed over a long period of time. See from the following how the Old Testament came into being:

A. The Old Testament Begun: Read Exodus 31:12-18

1. What was the first part of the Bible to be written? Exodus 31:18c, d

2. By whom was it written? Exodus 31:18

B. The Old Testament Continued: Read Exodus 24:1-8

1. Who was the next to write a part of the Bible? Exodus 24:4a

2. What did he do with the part that he had written? Exodus 24:7a, b

3. Where was this part of the Bible kept? Deuteronomy 31:24-26

4. Who wrote the next part of the Bible? Joshua 24:26a

5. Where did he write it? Joshua 24:26a

6. Who was the next writer? I Samuel 10:25a

7. What did he write about? I Samuel 10:25a

8. Where did he put his writing? I Samuel 10:25b, c

9. What was another part of the Bible that was written? Proverbs 25:1a

10. Who wrote this part down? Proverbs 25:1b

11. Who composed still another part of the Bible? Jeremiah 36:1, 2, 4

12. Who actually wrote this part down? Jeremiah 36:4b

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C. The Old Testament Completed:

1. Soon after each Old Testament book was written under the inspiration of God, it was recognized by the Jewish people to be God's Word. Why would their opinion in this matter be of great value? Romans 3:2b, Romans 9:4a, d, e, g
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2. Tradition has it that Ezra, the priest and scribe of post-captivity days, collected the Old Testament books and completed the Old Testament *Canon*, or list of inspired books. Possibly he was assisted by others, including Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, who lived at about the same time. See Nehemiah 8-10 for what is certainly known of Ezra's work.
3. The Hebrew Old Testament contained exactly the same material that is in the Protestant Old Testament today. However, the books were in a different order, and some books were combined, so that there were only 24 books, arranged in a threefold division:
 - I. The Law (5 books):
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
 - II. The Prophets (8 books):
Former Prophets (4 books): Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings.
Latter Prophets (4 books):
Major (3 books): Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel.
Minor (1 book): The Twelve.
 - III. The Writings (11 books):
Poetical (3 books): Psalms, Proverbs, Job.
The Five Rolls (5 books): Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther.
Three Books (historical): Daniel, Extra-Nehemiah, Chronicles.

Note: The Apocrypha, 14 books considered by some to be the Word of God, never had a place in the Hebrew Canon.

THE FORMATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Notice three definite steps in the formation of the Old Testament: (1) the writing of the books under the inspiration and authority of God; (2) the recognition of these books by the people as the Word of God; and (3) the collection of the books into an accepted Canon. Study below how these same three steps were followed in the formation of the New Testament:

A. The New Testament Books Written:

1. How had much of the information contained in the New Testament first been given to the people? II Thessalonians 2:15a, 3:6b, Luke 1:4

2. The actual writing of the New Testament books took place during a period of about 51 years, from A.D. 45 to 96. Probably the earliest was the Epistle of James, about A.D. 45, and the latest were the three Epistles of John, the Gospel of John, and the Revelation, about A.D. 90-96. All the others were probably written during the 18 year period from A.D. 50-68.

B. The New Testament Books Recognized as “Scripture” and Collected:

1. What did Paul call his quotation from Luke 10:7? I Timothy 5:18

2. What did Peter imply that Paul’s writings were? II Peter 3:15-16

3. What churches would naturally be first to recognize a given book as Scripture? (THINK! Who would accept Romans first? Ephesians? Colossians 4:16, II Thessalonians 5:27

4. How would other churches get copies of these writings? Colossians 4:16, II Thessalonians 5:27

5. Thus each church would collect the writings of the Apostles and other great leaders, but means of communications were limited, and not all churches knew of the existence of all the writings at first. Thus, collections in the extreme East would differ from those in the far West.
6. Beginning in the first century, the Apostolic Fathers began to recognize our present New Testament writings a “Scripture.” This continued throughout the second century, with recognition from outstanding men such as Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, and Tertullian. In the third century, formal recognition began to be given to these books. Origen lists as being received everywhere all of our 27 books except Hebrews, James, II Peter, II and III John and Judo. These were disputed in some of the churches, either because they were unknown, or because their authoritative authorship was questioned. Origen also lists certain apocryphal books as being rejected by the churches. By the end of the fourth century, the entire church seemed to be agreed that

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our 27 books and no others were inspired by God and deserved a place in the New Testament Canon.

C. The New Testament Apocryphal Books: At least 36 additional books were written claimed to be written at about the same time as the New Testament books. Some of these were received by some of the churches for a time as being the Word of God, but later they were rejected. Among the more well known are the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, The Epistle of Barnabas, The First and Second Epistles of Clement, The Shepherd of Hermas, The Apocalypse of Peter, and The Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians. There were also numerous Gospels, Acts, and Apocalypses, and a few other Epistles. These books are strikingly different from the New Testament books. They contain much that is legendary and fanciful, and contrary to the Scriptures. None of them claims to be inspired, and several of their authors definitely contrast their writings with those of two apostles. None of them ever received anything like universal recognition by the early churches.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What distinguishes Scripture from all other writings in the world?

2. Can I recognize teachings which are contrary to the Scriptures?

THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

The history of a piece of literature often tells much about the literature itself. So it is with the Bible. It has a history more remarkable than that of any other piece of literature. Study below some of the obstacles it has surmounted in the course of its history:

A. The Destruction of Original Copies:

1. What happened to the very first part of the Bible that was written? Exodus 32:15-19

2. How was this copy replaced? Exodus 34:1, 28

3. What two things did King Jehoiakim do with another part of the Bible? Jeremiah 36:23

4. What was Jeremiah told to do after this? Jeremiah 36:27, 28, 32

B. The Neglect of Friends:

1. At one time in the history of God's chosen nation, what caused great excitement on the part of the king and his officers? II Chronicles 34:14-22, 292-30

2. What does this prove concerning their knowledge of the book before this time?
(THINK!)

3. Of all those who own copies of God's Word today, how many do you think really know what messages it contains?

C. The Hatred of Enemies:

1. In A.D. 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian destroyed almost every copy of the Bible in existence. Yet only a few years later, in 325, Constantine made the Bible the most honored book in the Roman Empire!
2. In A.D. 1526, the Bishop of London condemned Tyndale's translation of the Bible into English, and bought all the copies he could find to burn at St. Paul's cross. But the money he paid only helped Tyndale, and soon there were many better copies to take the place of those he had burned.

D. The Denial of Scoffers:

In the eighteenth century Voltaire of Paris used his printing press to attack the Christian Church. He predicted that within fifty years, the church would be extinct, and the only copies of the Bible would be those which were preserved in museums. Before long, Voltaire died a horrible, hopeless death. Then his house in Ferney became the first depot of the Genevan Bible Society, and his press was used for printing copies of the

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Bible. How wrong he was is shown by the fact that today, about thirty million copies of the Bible are printed each year!

E. The Teachings of False Systems:

False systems have often given forth teachings that were contrary to the Bible, deliberate misinterpretations of the Bible, or just a part of the Bible truth. But false systems can never *change* the truth, as God has given it in the Bible.

F. The Barriers of Language:

The Bible, originally a Jewish book, is found today in nearly 1200 languages:
210 languages have the whole Bible.
270 have a complete New Testament.
629 have at least one complete book of the Bible.
80 others have short passages, but no complete book of the Bible.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Whose power has enabled the Bible to surmount all these obstacles?

2. What should I expect such a great book to accomplish in my own life?

THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE FOR THE BIBLE

Every piece of literature was written for a purpose. Sometimes this purpose is subtly woven throughout the warp and woof of the writing, and sometimes it is plainly stated. In the case of the Bible, the Author's purpose is plainly stated. Several phases of this purpose are apparent from a study of various passages of the Bible:

A. God's Purpose for Israel as a Nation: Read Deuteronomy 31:9-13:

1. How as the nation Israel to become familiar with God's teachings? Deuteronomy 31:11b

2. How often was this to take place? Deuteronomy 31:10

3. What four groups were to be included in this special instruction? Deuteronomy 31:12a

4. What four things were these people supposed to do as a result of this instruction?

Deuteronomy 31:12b

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

5. What was to be the continuous result of this instruction? Deuteronomy 31:13a

6. How long was this process of instruction to continue? Deuteronomy 31:13b

B. God's Purpose for Joshua as a Leader: Read Joshua 1:7-8:

1. What did God tell Joshua he must do with the law of God? Joshua 1:7a-c

2. What must he *not* do? Joshua 1:7d

3. What must Joshua do with the law if he were to fulfill these two commands? Joshua 1:8b

4. Where was the book of the law to be continually? Joshua 1:8a

5. What does this imply that Joshua was to do with the law? (THINK!)

6. What would be the result to Joshua if he did these things? Joshua 1:7c, 8d-e

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C. God's Purpose for Future Kings of Israel: Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20:

1. What must each king do with the law of God? Deuteronomy 17:18c

2. Where must he keep it? Deuteronomy 17:19a

3. What was he to do with it? Deuteronomy 17:19b

4. How long was he to do this? Deuteronomy 17:19b

5. What two things was he to learn by so doing? Deuteronomy 17:19c, d-e

a. _____

b. _____

6. What two things was this to keep him from doing? Deuteronomy 17:20a-b

a. _____

b. _____

7. What would be the end result if a king would do this? Deuteronomy 17:20c-d

D. God's Purposes for New Testament Readers:

1. What was God's purpose for the readers of the Gospel of John? John 20:31

2. What was one purpose of the First Epistle of John? * John 5:13

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How many of the above purposes would apply to me today?

2. How could I sum up God's purpose for the Bible throughout the ages?

3. Am I carrying out in my life God's purpose for the Bible?

PART TWO: THE STUDY OF THE LITERATURE OF ISRAEL

HOW TO STUDY LITERATURE

In any specialized field of study, there are definite objectives to be accomplished, and definite ways of reaching these objectives. Read below about the rules which can help you in your study of literature:

A. Objectives for the Study of Literature: Many times in the study of literature, the story is uppermost in our thoughts. But there is much more that we can learn from literature in addition to the story it tells. The most important lessons can be classified under two great headings:

1. Lessons About the Nation Which Produced the Literature: Watch for:

- a. A reflection of *the nature of the people*: their fundamental instincts and emotions, their character, and the subjects which occupied their minds.
- b. A revelation of *the innermost thoughts of the people*: their reactions to their fellowmen, and to the world of nature; their hopes and fears.
- c. A reflection of *the trend of national life*. Each piece of literature is an expression of the life of the age in which it was written. Watch as the study progresses from one period of history to another for the changing reflection which is given.
- d. *The effect of the literature upon the life of the nation*. It is possible for literature to change the course of a nation's history.

2. Lessons for Your Own Life: Literature can do several things for you:

- a. *It Can Give You an Outlet*: It can express for you your innermost thoughts, and teach you how to express your thoughts for yourself.
- b. *It Can Keep Before You the Vision of the Ideal*: In a world in which most things are not as they should be, it can help you imagine what things would be like if they *were* as they should be; and arouse in you a desire for changes that can help make things as they should be.
- c. *It Can Give You a Better Knowledge of Human Nature*: As it reflects consciously the nature of those about whom it is written, and unconsciously the nature of the writer, it can help you to know others and yourself much better - to understand why we think and act as we do.
- d. *It Can Restore the Past to You*: This will make your life much more rich and full, and accomplish the purpose expressed in I Corinthians 10:11.
- e. *It Can Show You the Glory of the Commonplace*: Although only a small part of life is made up of really *great* moments, all of it can be and should be enjoyed.
- f. *It Can Give You the Mastery of Your Own Language*: As in your reading you come into contact with words correctly used, you can be influenced to speak more correctly. New

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words can also increase your vocabulary.

B. How to Accomplish These Objectives: As you read, remember three simple rules:

1. *See* what is going on in the story. Keep your imagination alert.

2. *Feel* what the writer feels. Allow your emotions to be moved by his words.

3. *Think!* Be sure you know *what* the writer says; seek to discover *why*.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why can the Bible, more than any other literature, help me in my own life?

SECTION ONE: THE ANCESTORS OF THE NATION

THE WORLD BEFORE THE CALL OF THE NATION

Genesis 1-11

The first eleven chapters of Genesis cover a period of about two thousand years. This is approximately one-third of all human history to date, and is about as long a period of time as that covered by all the events from Abraham to the time of Christ. Thus, about half of the Old Testament era is covered in these few chapters.

Study the following major events, noting especially God's dealings with the people of each period.

A. The Creation and Fall of Mankind: Genesis 1-3

1. What purposes did God have for mankind when He created Adam and Eve?
 - a. Genesis 1:26 _____
 - b. Genesis 1:28a _____
 - c. Genesis 2:15 _____
 - d. Genesis 2:16-17 (THINK!) _____
 - e. Revelation 4:11b _____
2. Did Adam and Eve accomplish all that God had designed for them?
Genesis 3:6-8

4. What did God have to do to each of them after this? Genesis 3:9-19

B. The Murder of Abel: Genesis 4

1. What was God's purpose for mankind after he had sinned? Genesis 3:23, 17-19

2. When Cain and Abel went out into the fields, what did Cain do? Genesis 4:8

3. What punishment did God assign to Cain because of this? Genesis 4:12

C. The Flood: Genesis 6-9

1. Were the People before the time of the flood concerned about carrying out God's purposes for them? Genesis 6:5, 11-12

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2. Describe their:

a. Deeds: Genesis 6:5a, 11-12 _____

b. Thoughts: Genesis 6:5b _____

3. Who alone seemed to care about what God wanted them to do? Genesis 6:8-9,18

4. What did God do to all others? Genesis 7:17-24

D. The Building of the Tower of Babel: Genesis 11

1. What was God's purpose for people after the time of the flood: Genesis 8:16-17,
Genesis 9:1,7

2. Why did these people want to make a tower? Genesis 11:4b

3. What two things did God have to do to them?

a. Genesis 11:7 _____

b. Genesis 11:8 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What is God's purpose for *my* life?

2. What will God have to do to me if I fail to carry out this purpose?

THE SPEECH OF LAMECH

Genesis 4:16-24

From the two thousand years before the call of the nation of Israel. The best piece of literature that is preserved for us in the Bible is the speech of Lamech. Study this speech below:

A. Lamech's Early Life: Read Genesis 4:16-22

1. From whom was the man Lamech descended? Genesis 4:16-18

2. What is the first event of his life which is recorded? Genesis 4:19

B. Lamech's Speech: Read Genesis 4:23-24

1. The American Standard Version of the Bible prints Lamech's speech this way:

“Adah and Zillah, her my voice;
Ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech:
For I have slain a man for wounding me,
And a young man for bruising me:
If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.”

2. Of what terrible sin was Lamech guilty?

3. What reason does the above translation give for Lamech's evil deed?

4. What did Lamech reveal that in his innermost thoughts he believed would happen to him because of this deed? Genesis 4:24

5. What basis did he have for believing this? Genesis 4:24a (also see Genesis 4:13-15)

6. Do you see in this piece of literature any reflection of the life of the age in which it was written?

7. What do you notice about lines 1 and 2 of Lamech's speech, and lines 3 and 4? This is a characteristic of ancient poetry which will be observed in all our future studies.

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW POETRY

A. Characteristics of English and Hebrew Poetry:

We who speak the English language are accustomed to thinking of poetry as having two chief characteristics: *Rhyme*, or repetition of sound, and *metre*, or repetition of rhythmical stress pattern. The poetry of the Hebrew language, however, has neither of these characteristics. Instead, its chief characteristic is *parallelism*, or the repetition of similar or contrasting thoughts. Sometimes a parallelism will have only two thoughts - but often there are three, four, or more. A series of parallelisms with the same general thought may be likened to the *stanzas* of our poetry. Sometimes one parallelism with several lines is a stanza in itself. Just as in English poetry, there are often *refrains* - two or more lines which recur within or at the end of each stanza, to give added musical beauty to the poem.

B. The Speech of Lamech as Poetry:

With this description of Hebrew poetry in mind, read again the speech of Lamech noting the parallelism of each thought.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Can you tell from the writings of Lamech what kind of man he was?

2. What picture of *me* would people get from a study of *my* writings?

SECTION TWO: THE AGE OF THE PATRIARCHS:

THE FATHERS OF THE NATION

Genesis 12-50

During the two thousand years covered by Genesis 1-11, mankind repeatedly disobeyed God's command and failed to carry out God's purposes. At the end of this time, God began a new method of dealing with the people of the world. Read about this new method below:

A. God's Promise to Abram: Read Genesis 11:27-12:7

1. In what place were Abram and his brothers born? Genesis 11:28

2. What did God tell Abram to do? Genesis 12:1b

3. What did God promise He would make of Abram if he would obey this command?
Genesis 12:2a

4. What effect would this have on the nations of the world? Genesis 12:3b

5. Through what means could God make a whole nation from just one man? Genesis 12:7

6. How could this nation become a blessing to the whole world? (THINK!)

B. The Fulfillment of God's Promise: Read Genesis 15:1-6

1. When Abram arrived in the land of Canaan at the age of 75, how many children did he have? Genesis 12:4, 15:2

2. How many descendants did God promise Abram he would have?
 - a. Genesis 13:16 _____
 - b. Genesis 15:5 _____
3. How old was Abram before God began to fulfill this promise? Genesis 21:1-5

4. What other descendants were born to Abram?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

C. God's Prediction Concerning Abram's Descendants: Read Genesis 15:13-16

1. Where did God tell Abram that his descendants would live? Genesis 15:13a

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2. How long did He say they would stay there? Genesis 15:13c

3. Then what would they do? Genesis 15:16a

D. The Fulfillment of God's Predictions:

1. What two events caused God's predictions to be fulfilled?

a. Genesis 37:1-28

b. Genesis 42:3, 5

2. Why did Joseph say he had come to Egypt before his brothers did? Genesis 45:5b, 7

E. Summary:

1. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph are called the "*Patriarchs*" of the nation Israel. Look up this word in a dictionary, and briefly write its meaning:

2. Why would Abraham be especially suited to become the founder of God's chosen nation? Genesis 18:19

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What would have been the result to me if either Abraham or Joseph had failed to carry out God's purpose for him?

2. In the midst of a world where many are failing God today, can God count on me to fulfill the purpose for which He has created me?

MAP 3: CANAAN, ILLUSTRATING GENESIS 12-50

THE FATHERLY BLESSINGS OF ISAAC AND JACOB

Genesis 27, 49

In Genesis 12-50, the chapters which give the history of the Age of the Patriarchs, there are very few literary selections preserved for us. Those we do have, however, are strikingly similar. Study them below:

A. Isaac's Blessings on His Two Sons: Read Genesis 27:

1. What did Isaac plan to do to his son Esau? Genesis 27:4e

2. What blessings did Isaac have that he could pass on to his sons? Genesis 12:1-3, 17:19

3. Which of Isaac's sons had God said would be stronger? Genesis 25:23

4. Yet to which son did Isaac plan to give the best blessing? Genesis 27:24

5. Read Genesis 27:27-29, remembering to *see* what took place, to *feel* what each person must have felt, and to *think* about what is being said.

6. Re-read this speech again, marking every parallelism you can find.

7. What part of Esau's blessing was the same as Jacob's? Genesis 27:39-40

8. What part of it was the exact opposite of Jacob's? Genesis 27:39-40

9. Do you know how Genesis 27:40 has been fulfilled in history? Ask someone.

B. Jacob's Blessings on His Twelve Sons: Read Genesis 49:

1. After Jacob had received the blessings from his father, to whom would he ordinarily pass them on? See Geneses 49:3

2. Why would Jacob not give the blessings to Reuben? Genesis 49:4

3. Which son received the right to rule the family? Genesis 49:8a, c

4. What kind of people did Jacob predict would be descended from this son? Genesis 49:10a-b and THINK!

5. What would be the final fulfillment of this prediction? Genesis 49:10c-d

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6. To what son did Jacob give a double portion of his material wealth? Genesis 48:21-22, 49:22-26

7. Find two parallelisms in Jacob's blessing on Simeon and Levi: Genesis 49:5-7.

8. As you read Jacob's predictions concerning his other sons, seek to *see* the word-pictures he is painting of them. To what does he compare

a. Judah? Genesis 49:9 _____

b. Zebulun? Genesis 49:13 _____

c. Issachar? Genesis 49:14 _____

d. Dan? Genesis 49:17 _____

e. Naphtali? Genesis 49:21 _____

f. Joseph? Genesis 49:22 _____

g. Benjamin? Genesis 49:27 _____

9. What do these word-pictures teach you about human nature? THINK!

10. How could a study of these world-pictures help you in your own speech and writing?

11. How do these writings reflect in a special way the nature of the age which produced them?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who guided in the giving of each blessing, and the fulfillment of each prediction? See Numbers 23:19

2. Can I trust the hand of God to guide me surely toward the fulfillment of His perfect purpose for my life? Proverbs 3:5-6

THE BOOK OF JOB: JOB'S EARLY LIFE

Job 1:1 - 2:10

The book of Job is an example of the literature of the Age of the Patriarchs. Begin your study of this book now:

A. Introduction to the Book of Job:

1. Where did the man Job live? Job 1:1a

2. With what other country is this land associated in Lamentations 4:21? (Locate this country on the map, page 12)

3. What position did a man with a name similar to Job once hold? Genesis 36:31-35

(Ancient Jewish tradition says that this man *was* Job, and that the book was written by Moses. Since the land of Midian borders on the land of Edom, Moses could have learned of Job from Job's immediate descendants or from Job himself, when he was in the land of Midian (Exodus 2:15).

B. An Early Description of Job: Read Job 1:1-5

1. What kind of man was Job? Job 1:1

2. How many children did he have? Job 1:2

3. What possessions did he have? Job 1:3a

4. What position did he hold among men? Job 1:3b

5. What provision did Job continually make for his family? Job 1:5

C. The Battle Over Job: Read Job 1:6-12

1. When Satan appeared before God, what was God's boast concerning Job? Job 1:8

2. Why did Satan say that Job feared God? Job 1:9-10

3. What did Satan say Job would do if God should take away his possessions? Job 1:11

4. What power did God give to Satan? Job 1:12

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D. Job's First Testings: Read Job 1:13-22

1. In a single day, what did various messengers tell Job he had lost?

a. Job 1:14-15 _____

b. Job 1:16 _____

c. Job 1:17 _____

d. Job 1:18-19 _____

2. What was Job's reaction to these losses? Job 1:20-22

E. The Battle Over Job Continued: Read Job 2:1-6

1. When God repeated His boast against Job, what did Satan say? Job 2:4-5

2. What additional power did God give to Satan at this time? Job 2:6

F. Job's Second Testing: Read Job 2:7-10

1. What did Satan then do to Job? Job 2:7

2. What did Job's wife advise him to do? Job 2:9

3. What was Job's reply to this? Job 2:10

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who *caused* the terrible sufferings which came into job's life? Who *permitted* these sufferings, and limited them?

2. When trials come into my life, how should I react? See Job 1:20-21, 2:10

JOB AND HIS FRIENDS

Job 2:11 - 37:24

News of Job's great losses was not long in reaching the ears of his friends. Read now to see what happened when they heard this news:

A. The Arrival of the Friends: Read Job 2:11-13:

1. When some of Job's friends heard of his losses, what did they do? Job 2:11

2. What shows the terrible extent of Job's disease? Job 2:12a

3. What did the friends do when they arrived? Job 2:12b-13

B. Job's First Speech: Read Job 3:1-26:

1. What did Job do in his first speech? Job 3:1

2. How was this different from what Satan had said he would do? Job 1:11

3. Three great wishes are expressed in this speech. Summarize each briefly:

a. Job 3:3 _____

b. Job 3:11 _____

c. Job 3:10-21 _____

C. The Friends' Answers: Job 4-37:

1. Who was the first to answer Job? Job 4:1 (See Genesis 36:15-16 for a clue as to who this man may have been.)

2. Read Job 4:7-8, 17-19, Job 5:6-8, 17-19. Of what did he accuse Job? See especially verse 8.

3. In Job's answer, what was his main complaint? Job 6:14-15, 27

4. How long did Job's afflictions last? Job 7:3 (Notice in Job 7:5 and 13-14 the extent to which he suffered.)

5. Who was the next to speak? Job 8:1 (See Genesis 25:2, I Chronicles 1:32 for a possible clue as to who he was.)

6. To what did he compare Job's speeches? Job 8:2

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7. Read Job 8:3, 6, 11-13, 20. Of what did he accuse Job, especially in verse 13?

8. Read Job 9:32-35. In Job's answer, of what did he seem to be acutely aware? Job 9:32-32

9. What did he ask God to do? Job 10:2b

10. Who was the third friend to speak? Job 11:1 (We have no clue in the Bible as to who this man was.)

11. Read Job 11:1-6, 13-15. Of what did he accuse Job, especially in verse 3?

12. What did Job answer to all of his friends? Job 12:2-3, 13:2, 13

13. What did Job say about God? Job 13:15a

14. In Chapters 15-31 these three friends spoke again, two or three times each, and Job answered them. However, no new arguments were presented. When they had ceased, who then spoke? Job 32:2a

15. Why had he not spoken before? Job 32:4

16. Why was he angry with Job? Job 32:2b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did Job's friends know the real reason for Job's sufferings? Did Job himself know?

2. What should be my attitude when I cannot understand my sufferings? See Job 23:10, Job 13:15a

JOB'S LATER LIFE

Job 38-42

In their speeches, Job's four friends presented every explanation for his suffering that human reasoning could think of. Now see what happened next:

A. God's Words to Job: Read Job 38:1, 42:6

1. Out of what did God speak to Job? Job 50:1

2. What did God tell Job to do? Job 38:5

3. Read again Job 36:4-11, 16-24, 35-41, 59:13, 26, 27. What do these verses teach you about God?

4. How do you feel after you have read all of God's great questions?

5. What did Job realize about him self as a result of God's words? Job 40:4a

6. What did he decide never to do after this? Job 40:4b-5

7. Notice that after this, God asked Job another set of questions.
 - a. Read again these found in Job 40:8-14.
 - b. What animal do you think God is describing in Job 40:15-24? See especially verse 23. _____
 - c. What kind of animal is described in chapter 41? Note especially verses 7, 10, 15-17, 31-35. _____
 - d. See Job 15:26. Do you think god had to write out His speeches? _____
8. What did Job know about God as a result of all that he had been through? Job 42:2

9. What relationship with God did Job have now, that he had not had before? Job 42:5

10. How did he feel as a result of this? Job 42:6

B. God's Words to Job's Friends: Read Job 42:7-9

1. How did God feel toward Job's friends? Why? Job 42:7

2. What did He tell them to do? Job 42:8a (Note how this indicates the age in which Job lived. Who would have made these sacrifices after the time of Moses? Exodus 21:8, Leviticus 1:5-8)

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3. What was Job to do for them? Job 42:8b
-

C. God's Provision for Job: Read Job 42:10-17

1. What did the Lord do for Job when he prayed for his friends?
a. Job 42:10a _____
b. Job 42:10b _____
2. Who then came to visit Job and to comfort him? Job 42:11a
-
3. What did each one bring with him? Job 42:11b
-
4. What was the end result of all Job's sufferings? Job 42:12a
-
5. How did his possessions at this time compare with what he had had before? Job 1:3, 42:12 b
-
6. What other blessing did God give to Job? Job 42:16-17 (Note how Job's life span indicates the age in which he lived. Compare his age with that of Abraham's ancestors listed in Genesis 11:10-32; Abraham, Genesis 25:7; Jacob, Genesis 47:28; Joseph, Genesis 50:22; and Moses, Deuteronomy 34:7. About when would you say from this he lived?)
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did Job benefit in any way from the sufferings he experienced?
-
2. What should I remember in every suffering I experience? Romans 8:28
-

SECTION THREE: FROM EGYPT TO CANAAN.

THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF THE NATION

Exodus 1 - Joshua 24

We have seen how Abraham's family began to increase, and was preserved through Joseph. Read now what happened to them after they went to Egypt:

A. Abraham's Family in Egypt: Read Exodus 1:1-22:

1. By what name did Abraham's descendants come to be known in Egypt? Exodus 1:7, 9
(See Genesis 32:27-28)

-
2. Why did they not return to Canaan as soon as the famine was over? Genesis 15:13-16, 46:3, 50:24

-
3. What happened to them in Egypt? Genesis 47:27, Exodus 1:7

-
4. After Joseph died, what part of Genesis 15:13-16 was fulfilled? Exodus 1:11-14
-

B. The Deliverance From Egypt: Exodus 3-14:

1. When God saw the condition of the people, what did He do? Exodus 2:23-25, 3:4, 10

-
2. What did God have to send to make Pharaoh willing to let His people leave Egypt? See Exodus 11:1

-
3. How long had they stayed in Egypt? Exodus 12:40, 41 (See Genesis 15:13d)

-
4. What great miracle did God perform for them as they were leaving Egypt? Exodus 14:22
-

C. The Journey to Canaan: Exodus 15 - Deuteronomy:

1. How did the people know which route to take to Canaan? Exodus 13:21, Numbers 9:15-23

-
2. When they reached Mt. Sinai, what two important things did God give them?

- a. Exodus 19:5, 21:1

- b. Exodus 25:9

-
3. When the 12 spies brought back their report on the land, what did the people do? Numbers 14:1-4
-

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4. What happened to them because of this? Numbers 14:32-33
-

D. The Conquest and Division of Canaan: Joshua 1-24:

1. Why was Moses not permitted to lead the people into the land of Canaan? Numbers 27:12-14, 20:1-13

2. Notice the three phases of the conquest under Joshua:
 - a. The central campaign, centered around Jericho: Joshua 6-8.
 - b. The southern campaign, centered around Beth-horon: Joshua 10.
 - c. The northern campaign, centered around Lake Merom: Joshua 11.
3. List the great miracles God performed for them:
 - a. As they entered the land: Joshua 3:14-17 _____
 - b. At Jericho: Joshua 6:20 _____
 - c. At Beth-horon: Joshua 10:11 and 12-14 _____
4. What did Joshua do with the land of Canaan after he had conquered it? Joshua 11:23b

5. Look up the word “nation” in a large dictionary, and notice the requirements for a nation. How many of these did Israel now have?
 - a. Exodus 1:7, 9, 12 _____
 - b. Genesis 42:23 _____
 - c. Exodus 1:17a, 25:9 _____
 - d. Exodus 19:5, 21:1 _____
 - f. Joshua 11:23b _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was there any part of God’s prediction to Abraham which was not fulfilled?

2. How should I feel about the promises God has given to me? Hebrews 10:23b, Romans 4:21.

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THE SONG OF MOSES AND MIRIAM

Exodus 13:17 - 15:21

One of the best known events of this period of Israel's history is that which took place just as they were leaving the land of Egypt after the Ten Plagues had spoiled the Egyptians. Review briefly this event, and study the song which grew out of it:

A. The Crossing of the Red Sea: Read Exodus 13:17 - 14:31

1. On the map on page 18, trace the journey of the Israelites from the land of Goshen in Egypt to the edge of the Red Sea. See Exodus 13:20, 14:2 for the names of the places they passed through.

2. Who followed the Israelites to this point? Exodus 14:5-9

3. How did the Israelites feel when they saw these people? Exodus 14:10

4. What was Moses' answer to them? Exodus 14:13-14

5. What were the people of Israel then able to do? Exodus 14:16, 21-22, 29

6. What happened to the Egyptians when they tried to follow them? Exodus 14:23-28

7. What effect did this event have upon the people of Israel? Exodus 14:30-31

8. If you had seen what the Israelites saw, what would you feel like doing?

9. What did the Israelites do? Exodus 15:1a

B. The Song of Moses and the Children of Israel: Read Exodus 15:1-21

1. To whom did the people give the credit for this great victory? Exodus 15:1b

2. What had the Lord been to Israel before this time? Exodus 15:2a

3. What had He become to them through this experience? Exodus 15:2b

4. What new concept of God did they have now, that they had not had before? Exodus 15:3

5. Notice how verses 4 - 10 summarize the whole event briefly. To what two things were the armies of Pharaoh compared as they sank into the sea? Exodus 15:5, 10

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6. Notice the questions in verse 11. What is the answer to them?

7. Do you think this experience taught the Israelites anything about their God?
What?

8. What nations would hear about this event? Exodus 15:14-15 (Locate these on the maps,
pages 12 and 18.)

9. How would they feel as a result? Exodus 15:14-16

10. What did the Israelites confidently expect as a result of this? Exodus 15-17

11. Notice the climax of the song in verses 18-19. After this, who joined in the song?
Exodus 15:20-21

12. Notice their words in verse 21. What verse contains these same words?

13. Which *two* underlined words on page 10 describe these words? (THINK!)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do you think God was pleased with this song which was sung to Him?

2. What do I do after God has done some great thing for me? Psalm 107:1, 2, 8

A SONG OF ISRAEL'S JOURNEY

Numbers 21:16-18

During all the journeys of the Israelites toward their Promised Land, and during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness, one great problem kept arising over and over again. Read below to see what this problem was, and how the people felt about it:

A. The Great Problem of the Wilderness: Locate each place on the map, page 18.

1. Immediately after the people left the Red Sea, what great problem arose? Exodus 15:22

2. What was the problem at Marah, their next stop? Exodus 15:23-24

3. How did the Lord solve the problem there? Exodus 15:25

4. What refreshing thing did they find at Elim, their next stop? Exodus 15:27

5. What was one great problem at Rephidim? Exodus 17:1-4

6. How did the Lord meet their need there? Exodus 17:5-7

7. After their year's stay at Mt. Sinai (during which time they received the Ten Commandments and built the Tabernacle) and after the spies had brought back the evil report and the forty years of wandering had begun, what problem arose when they reached Kadesh? Numbers 20:2-5

8. What different instructions did God give Moses for getting water from the rock at this time? Numbers 20:8

9. What did Moses do to get the water? Numbers 20:11

10. What did God say would happen to him because of this? Numbers 20:12

11. When they reached Horman, what problem again arose? Numbers 21:3-5

12. What did the Lord do to the people because they complained at this time? Numbers 21:6

13. What remedy did God provide for the people after this? Numbers 21:7-9

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14. After they had crossed the Arnon River, which separates the Moabites from the Amorites (see map, page 23) what did they find? Numbers 21:16

15. How do you think you would feel about this if you had been through all that the Israelites had been through? (THINK!)

16. What did the Israelites do on this occasion? Numbers 21:17a

B. The Song After the Wilderness Journeys: Read Numbers 21:16-18

1. Who had dug this well? Numbers 21:18a

2. What tools did they use in digging it? Numbers 21:18c

3. How did they know where to dig it? Numbers 21:18b

4. How had he known that there was water in this place? Numbers 21:16

5. What was the people's song to the well? Numbers 21:17

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What had God promised Israel before they began this journey? Exodus 6:8. How should they have felt when needs arose?

2. Have I learned to trust God to meet my needs, or do I murmur and complain until the need is met? Can I sing beforehand, or only afterwards?

THE PROPHECIES OF BALAAM

Numbers 22 - 24

One of the most unusual incidents in the history of Israel took place as they completed their journey and encamped just outside the Promised Land. Read about this incident and the literature which was written at this time:

A. The Problem of the Moabites: Read Numbers 22:1-41

1. Where were the people encamped at this time? Numbers 22:1 (Locate this place on the maps, pages 12 and 18).

2. How did the Moabites feel about this? Numbers 22:3-4

3. To whom did their king send for help at this time? Numbers 22:4b-6

4. What reputation did this man have? Numbers 22:6b

5. When the messengers arrived, what did Balaam tell them? Numbers 22:8

6. What was God's message to Balaam? Numbers 22:12

7. When a second group of messengers came, what did God permit Balaam to do?
Numbers 22:20

8. How did God feel about his going with them? Numbers 22:22

9. What miraculous thing took place as he journeyed? Numbers 22:22-33

10. What did Balaam then realize about his action? Numbers 22:34

11. What final caution did God give Balaam before he reached Moab? Numbers 22:35

B. The Prophecies of Balaam: Read Numbers 23:1 - 24:25

1. What did Balaam do before he spoke to Balak? Numbers 23:1, 3-5

2. Read Balaam's first prophecy in Numbers 23:7-10. What was his main question?
Numbers 23:8

3. What was his main prediction concerning Israel? Numbers 23:10

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4. What did Balak ask Balaam to do after this? Numbers 23:13

5. What did Balaam again do before he spoke? Numbers 23:15

6. Notice Balaam's wonderful words about God in his second prophecy, verse 1c. What did he predict Israel would do? Numbers 23:24

7. When Balaam saw that God would only bless Israel and not curse them, what did he do at the next place? Numbers 24:1

8. What happened to him anyway? Numbers 24:2b

9. Read Balaam's third prophecy, Numbers 24:3-9. What did he predict at this time? Numbers 24:8

10. Before Balaam returned to his own land, about what did he tell the king of Moab? Numbers 24:14

11. Read Balaam's fourth prophecy, Numbers 24:15-24. About whom do you think Balaam is talking in verses 17 and 19?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could anyone or anything stop God from fulfilling His promises to Israel?

2. What should I remember about all of God's promises to me? Numbers 23:19

THE FAREWELL SONG AND BLESSING OF MOSES

Deuteronomy 32 -34

After leading the Israelites from Egypt right up to the edge of the Promised Land, Moses again gave the law for the benefit of the new generation of Israelites who had grown up during the forty years of wilderness wanderings. Study now the words with which he closed his discourses and his ministry as Israel's leader:

A. Moses' Farewell Song: Read Deuteronomy 32:1-43

1. Notice the parallelisms with which Moses opened his speech, verses 1-2. About whom did he then speak? Deuteronomy 32:3-4

2. What had the people of Israel done against God? Deuteronomy 32:5-6

3. What did Moses call the people to remember? Deuteronomy 32:7-8

4. List all of the wonderful things God had done for Jacob (or Israel): Deuteronomy 32:10, 12

5. Notice all the things God had provided for Israel: Deuteronomy 32:13-14

6. In spite of all this, what had Israel done? Deuteronomy 32:15-18 (Jeshurun is another name for Jacob or Israel: See Isaiah 44:2)

7. How did the Lord feel when He saw this? Deuteronomy 32:19-25

8. What was the only reason God had not destroyed them completely? Deuteronomy 32:2;6-27

9. What did God wish they would do? Deuteronomy 32:29

10. Read verses 35-43. What did God say He would do unto His people? Deuteronomy 32:36a

10. What did God tell Moses on the same day that he spoke the above song to Israel? Deuteronomy 32:48-52

B. The Fatherly Blessing of Moses: Read Deuteronomy 33:1-29

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1. With a description of what did Moses begin his blessing? Deuteronomy 33:2-3

2. Notice the simplicity of the blessing for Reuben: Deuteronomy 33:6
3. Notice the two chief parts to Judah's blessing: Deuteronomy 33:7a-b

4. What did Moses say that the tribe of Levi would do? Deuteronomy 33:10

5. Notice the tenderness in the blessing for Benjamin: Deuteronomy 33:12

6. After many blessings for the tribe of Joseph, to what two animals was he compared? Deuteronomy 33:17

7. Where would Zebulun and Issachar get their treasures? Deuteronomy 33:19

8. To what animals were Gad and Dan compared? Deuteronomy 33:20, 22

9. How was Naphtali described? Deuteronomy 33:23

10. What wonderful promise was given to Asher? Deuteronomy 33:25b

11. About whom did Moses speak in closing his blessing to Israel? Deuteronomy 33:26-29

12. What happened to Moses just after this blessing was ended? Deuteronomy 34:1-12

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the outstanding theme of both Moses' song and his blessing?
2. _____
2. Am I so aware of the perfection's of my God that my thoughts, songs, speeches, and writings are filled with such praises as Deuteronomy 33:26-29?

THE UNUSUAL COMMAND OF JOSHUA

Joshua 9 - 10

One of the most unusual pieces of literature in all history was written in connection with the conquest of the land of Canaan by Joshua and his armies. Read below about this literature and the events which gave rise to it:

A. Joshua's First Conquests: Joshua 6-8

1. What was the name of the first great city which Joshua and his army conquered after entering Canaan? Joshua 6:1, 21, 24

2. What happened as a result of this victory? Joshua 6:27

3. What was the name of the second city that Joshua and his armies conquered? Joshua 8:1-2

B. The Reaction of Other Cities to These Conquests: Read Joshua 9:1 - 10:5

1. What did all the other kings do when they heard of Joshua's victories? Joshua 9:1-2

2. What did the inhabitants of the city of Gibeon do? Joshua 9:3-6, 15

3. Why did they do this? Joshua 9:24

4. When the King of Jerusalem heard of all these things, how did he feel? Joshua 10:1-2

5. To how many kings did he send for help? Joshua 10:3 (Locate their cities on the map, page 23)

1. What did all these kings decide to do? Joshua 10:4, 5b

C. The Battle for Gibeon: Read Joshua 10:6-14

1. To whom did the people of Gibeon send for help? Joshua 10:6

2. What did God tell Joshua before this battle? Joshua 10:8

3. What happened at the battle of Gibeon? Joshua 10:10a

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4. To what cities did Joshua chase the people as they fled from the battle? Joshua 10:10b
(Locate these cities on the map, page 23)

5. What miracle did God perform to help Israel at Both-horon? Joshua 10:11

6. As the battle progressed, on whom did Joshua call? Joshua 10:12a

7. What most unusual command did Joshua then give? Joshua 10:12b

8. Was there any human possibility of this command being obeyed? Had anything like this ever happened before? Joshua 10:14

9. Notice that Joshua' command and the result in Joshua 10:12-13 are poetry, quoted from the book of Jasber, probably a book of secular history. Since they are quoted in the Bible, however, we know that they are accurate.

10. What happened as a result of Joshua's command? Joshua 10:13-14

11. What were Joshua and his armies able to do because of this? Joshua 10:13

12. What were they later able to do? Joshua 10:40, 42a

13. What was the secret of their success at this time? Joshua 10:14b, 42b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What did it take on the part of Joshua to give such a command as this?

2. Do I have faith to call upon the Lord for impossible things which I need in order to accomplish my work for Him? Jeremiah 33:3

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SECTION FOUR: THE ERA OF THE JUDGES: THE DARK AGES OF THE NATION

Judges 1 - Ruth 4

Although under Joshua all the great kings of Canaan were subdued, and the land was assigned to the various tribes as their inheritance, there still was a great deal to be done before the land would belong completely to the Israelites. Find in the passages below what was to be done, and what was actually accomplished toward this goal:

A. God's Promises to Israel:

1. How much of Canaan had God promised to Israel? Genesis 15:18-21, Genesis 17:8

2. What had God promised He would do to the inhabitants of the land? Exodus 23:30

3. On what condition would God do this? Exodus 23:22a

B. God's Command to Israel:

1. What was Israel's part in bringing to pass God's promises?
 - a. Exodus 23:24b _____
 - b. Exodus 23:24c _____
 - c. Exodus 23:32 _____
 - d. Exodus 23:33 _____
2. What would happen if they did not do their part? Joshua 23:13
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

C. Israel's Reaction to God's Promises and Commands: Read Judges 1:1 - 2:2

1. How did the tribe of Judah react to God's command? Judges 1:19

2. Find the names of seven other tribes who reacted in the same way: Judges 1:21-34

3. How did God sum up the reaction of all the tribes? Judges 2:2b

4. What do you think was Israel's reaction to God's promises?

D. The Results of Israel's Reaction: Read Judges 2:3-23

1. What did God say would happen because of Israel's actions? Judges 2:3
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

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2. What did the people do after the death of Joshua?
 - a. Judges 2:11 _____
 - b. Judges 2:12a _____
 - c. Judges 2:12b _____
3. What did God do because of this? Judges 2:14

4. When they were distressed and cried to God, what did God do? Judges 2:16

5. In spite of God's help, what happened after this? Judges 2:19

2. The above cycle was repeated over and over again during the era of the Judges. Read Judges 17:6, 21:25 for a summary of this period.

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused this very dark period in Israel's history? What would have happened if Israel had reacted differently to God's promises and commands? See Isaiah 48:18.

2. Do I ever react to God's promises and commands as Israel did?

THE SONG OF DEBORAH AND BARAK

Judges 4 - 5

The most outstanding literature of the era of the Judges was written in connection with the work of two who lived near the beginning of this era. Read below about their work, and the literature which grew out of it:

A. The Rise of Deborah and Barak: Read Judges 4:1-9

1. What had the people of Israel done at this time? Judges 4:1

2. What did the Lord do to them as a result? Judges 4:2

3. What did they do after this? Judges 4:3a

4. Who was the judge of Israel at this time? Judges 4:4

5. Whom did she say God had called to lead the forces of Israel against the enemy? Judges 4:6

6. What had God promised would be the outcome of this battle? Judges 4:7

3. On what condition did this man agree to lead Israel into battle? Judges 4:8

8. What did Deborah then tell him? Judges 4:9

B. The Battle With Sisera: Read Judges 4:10-24

1. Where did the two opposing armies pitch camps? Israel, Judges 4:12, Sisera, Judges 4:13. (Locate these places on the map, page 25)

2. Who began the battle and why? Judges 4:14

3. Who was winning the battle and why? Judges 4:15

4. What was the result of the battle? Judges 4:16b

5. Who alone escaped? Judges 4:17a

6. To whose tent did he go? Judges 4:17, 11

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7. What did she do for him? Judges 4:19b

8. After this, what did she do? Judges 4:21

C. The Song of Deborah and Barak: Read Judges 5:1-31

1. Who received the glory for this victory? Judges 5:2-3

2. What had been the people's part in winning this victory? Judges 5:2b, 9

3. What had been the conditions in Israel before Deborah became judge? Judges 5:6-8

4. Notice the account of what happened as the men were called to battle. Judges 5:20-21

5. Notice the account of Jael's part in the victory: Judges 5:24-27. What new detail is recorded here? Judges 5:25b

6. Notice how the singers pictured in their minds the mother of Sisera and how she would feel about his not returning from battle: Judges 5:28-30

4. What was their prayer as they concluded this song? Judges 5:32

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. With the leaders and equipment that Israel had, could she ever have hoped to win this battle herself? See Judges 4:4, 8, 5:8

2. What must I have if I am to gain the victory in the battle as of my life? See Judges 5:14, 15a, 23; II Corinthians 2:14.

THE SAYINGS OF SAMSON

Judges 13 - 16

One outstanding judge, who lived near the end of the era, was famous for his poetic sayings. Read about his life below, and see how these sayings grew out of it:

A. Samson's Birth: Read Judges 13:1-25

1. What enemy did Israel serve at this time? Judges 13:1

2. What did God promise about Samson before he was even born? Judges 13:5b

3. What happened to Samson as he grew up? Judges 13:25

B. Samson's Riddle: Read Judges 14:1 - 15:8

1. After Samson's first visit to the land of the Philistines, what did he ask his father to do? Judges 14:1-2

2. As Samson returned to the land of the Philistines with his father and mother, what great thing did he do? Judges 14:5-6

3. How was he able to do this? Judges 14:6a

4. When he returned to take his wife, what did he find? Judges 14:8-9

5. At his marriage feast, what did Samson tell to his thirty companions? Judges 14:12

6. What was to be their prize if they could discover the meaning within the seven days of the feast, and his prize if they could not? Judges 14:12-13

7. Read Samson's riddle in verse 14. What characteristic of Hebrew poetry do you notice? (See page 10)

8. When the young men could not in three days find the meaning of the riddle, whose help did they seek? Judges 14:15a

9. What did they threaten to do if she did not discover the meaning for them? Judges 14:15b

10. How did she discover the meaning? Judges 14:16-17

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11. When the young men told Samson the meaning of his riddle, what did he say? Judges 14:18b

11. This is a second famous saying of Samson. What do you think it means?

12. How did Samson obtain the reward he had promised for answering his riddle? Judges 14:19

12. When Samson's wife was given to his friend, what did Samson do to the Philistines? Judges 15:3-5

When the Philistines burned his wife and her father, what did Samson do to get even with them? Judges 15:6-8

C. Samson's Great Strength: Read Judges 15:9-20

1. What happened when the men of Judah bound Samson to deliver him to the Philistines? Judges 15:14-15

2. Read Samson's third famous saying in verse 16. What characteristic of Hebrew poetry do you find?

3. Read Judges 16:4-20. Why did Samson lose his strength? Judges 16:20b

4. How did Samson's life end? Judges 16:21-30

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What great weakness of Samson led to his downfall both in riddle-telling and in serving the Lord? See Judges 14:16-17; 16:15-27

2. Will I allow some weakness or besetting sin of mine to limit or end my usefulness in the Lord's service? Romans 6:12-14

THE BOOK OF RUTH: RUTH'S DECISION

Ruth 1

One of the most beautiful pieces of literature of all time is the book of Ruth. As you read this moving story (which could be called an epic - see page 1) be sure to see each scene in your mind's eye, and to feel what the various characters must have felt. Think, too, about what is said, and why:

A. The Years in Moab: Read Ruth 1:1-5

1. When did the story of Ruth take place? Ruth 1:1a

2. What condition existed in the land of Israel at the beginning of the story? Ruth 1:1b

3. What did one Israelitish family do because of this? Ruth 1:1c

4. Who were the members of this family? Ruth 1:2a

5. Locate their hometown on the map, page 25, and trace the way you think they would have journeyed to their new home.

6. What happened not too long after they arrived in this new country? Ruth 1:3

7. Then what did the two sons of the family do? Ruth 1:4a

8. What command had God given to the Israelites long before this time? Deuteronomy 7:3, 23:3

9. What happened after about ten years? Ruth 1:4b-5

10. Why did Naomi feel that all this had happened to her? Ruth 1:13b, 20b, 21b

B. The Great Decisions: Read Ruth 1:6-18

1. After this, what news reached Naomi about her own homeland? Ruth 1:6b

2. What did she decide to do? Ruth 1:6a, 7

3. As they began the journey, what did Naomi suggest that he daughters-in-law do? Ruth 1:8

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4. What did she trust would happen to them if they did this? Ruth 1:9

5. Who would ordinarily marry them if they should return to Israel? See Deuteronomy 25:5

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused Ruth to give up all in order to go with Naomi?

2. Do I ever have to make decisions such as the one Ruth made? See Genesis 2:24; Luke 9:23; Matthew 13:44-46.

RUTH'S REWARD

Ruth 2 - 4

After Naomi and Ruth had returned to Bethlehem, they had to have some means of earning a living. Read now to see what they did, and what the results of this were:

A. Ruth's Labor: Read Ruth 2:1-23

1. What did Ruth decide to do to earn a living for herself and her mother-in-law? Ruth 2:2
(Look up this work in a dictionary)

2. What people had the special privilege of doing this? Leviticus 19:9-10

3. Who owned the field Ruth "happened" to choose? Ruth 2:3

4. What kind of man was he? Ruth 2:1

5. What can you tell about him from his greeting to his reapers? Ruth 2:4

6. How did he treat Ruth when he discovered her in his fields? Ruth 2:8-9, 13

7. What three things had he heard about Ruth that made him want to help her?
 - a. Ruth 2:11a _____
 - b. Ruth 2:11b _____
 - c. Ruth 2:12b _____
8. Who did he pray would reward her fully for all this? Ruth 2:12a

5. What special provision did Boaz make for Ruth at meal time? Ruth 2:14

10. What command did Boaz give his reapers concerning Ruth? Ruth 2:15-16

11. How much did she glean the first day? Ruth 2:17. (This was about a bushel. Think how long that would last for two.)

12. When Ruth told her mother-in-law where she had gleaned, what additional fact did she learn about Boaz? Ruth 2:20b

13. How long did Ruth continue to glean in Boaz's fields? Ruth 2:23

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B. Naomi's Plans: Read Ruth 3:1-18

1. At the end of this time, what responsibility did Naomi feel for her daughter-in-law?
Ruth 3:1

2. Since Boaz was their near kinsman, what duty did he have? See Deuteronomy 25:5-6.

3. When Ruth, in obedience to Naomi, reminded Boaz of this duty, how did he feel about it? Ruth 3:10 (Note: It was the custom for a widow to lie down at the feet of her husband's relative to indicate her willingness to marry him.)

4. Why was he glad to do what she requested? Ruth 3:11

5. Why could he not do this immediately? Ruth 3:12-13

C. Boaz's Action: Read Ruth 4:1-22

1. When Boaz reminded the nearest kinsman of his duty, what did the kinsman decide?
Ruth 4:6 (Notice what he did to signify this: Ruth 4:7-8. See Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

2. What did Boaz then do? Ruth 4:9-13

3. What two famous people were later descended from Boaz and Ruth?
 - a. Ruth 4:17b, 22b _____
 - b. Matthew 1:5, 16 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Which was greater - what Ruth gave up to come to Canaan, or what she gained?

2. How do the things I give up to become a Christian compare with the things that I gain by doing so? See Romans 8:18; II Corinthians 4:17-18.

THE SONG OF HANNAH

1 Samuel 1 - 2

At the very end of the era of the Judges, another beautiful piece of literature was written. Read below about its author, and the events which caused it to be written:

A. Hannah's Problems: Read 1 Samuel 1:1-8

1. Who is the man in this story? 1 Samuel 1:1

2. Where did he live? 1 Samuel 1:1a, 19 (Locate this city of Ramah on the map, page 25).

3. What was peculiar about his family, in contrast to families of our culture? 1 Samuel 1:2a

4. What was the first great problem of his wife Hannah? 1 Samuel 1:2b

5. Where did this man go every year? 1 Samuel 1:3a (Locate this city on a map)

6. When he made his sacrifices, why did he always give Hannah more than he gave his other wife and her children? 1 Samuel 1:4, 5

7. What was Hannah's second great problem? 1 Samuel 1:6

8. What did Hannah do because of these problems? 1 Samuel 1:7b

B. Hannah's Prayer: Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18

1. After the sacrifices were eaten, what else did Hannah do about her problems? 1 Samuel 1:10

2. For what did she ask the Lord? 1 Samuel 1:11a

3. What did she promise to do if God would grant her request? 1 Samuel 1:11b

4. What did Eli, the priest, think was wrong with Hannah? 1 Samuel 1:12-15

5. When he learned of her true condition, what did he say to her? 1 Samuel 1:17

6. How did Hannah feel after this? 1 Samuel 1:18

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C. Hannah's Purpose: Read 1 Samuel 1:19-28

1. What happened after this family returned to their home? 1 Samuel 1:20

2. How long did Hannah keep her son? 1 Samuel 1:22, 24

3. Then what did she do with him? 1 Samuel 1:24b, 28

D. Hannah's Song: Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

1. How did Hannah feel as she gave her son to the Lord? 1 Samuel 2:1-2

2. About whom did Hannah speak in her prayer? 1 Samuel 2:3-5

3. What is the main theme of her song in verses 6-10?

E. Hannah's Reward: Read 1 Samuel 2:18-21

1. What did Samuel do as a child? 1 Samuel 2:11, 18

2. What did his mother do for him each year? 1 Samuel 2:19

3. How did the Lord reward Hannah for giving her son to Him 1 Samuel 2:20-21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How would Hannah have felt if she had not kept her promise to the Lord? What would have been her reward?

2. Have I kept all the promises I have made to the Lord in my times of distress? (See Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
