

THE BEGINNING OF THE ERA

Judges 1-3

Although the kings and the armies of Canaan had been conquered many of the people of the land still lived in their cities. Read to see what God said should be done with them, and what the people of Israel actually did do with them:

A. God's Promises and Commands Concerning the Canaanites:

Read Exodus 23:20-33

1. What did God promise He would do for Israel as they entered their land? Exodus 23:27

2. How quickly would God give Israel the whole land? Exodus 23:29, 30

3. What command did God give concerning the people of the land?

Exodus 23:32

B. Israel's Fight Against the Canaanites: Read Judges 1

1. What tribe did God say should begin the fight to drive out the Canaanites?

Judges 1:1, 2a

2. What did God promise them before they began this fight? Judges 1:2

3. What was the twofold result of their battle? Judges 1:19

a. _____

b. _____

4. Summarize briefly the results of the battles.

a. Benjamin, vs. 21 _____

b. Manasseh, vs. 27 _____

c. Ephraim, vs. 29 _____

d. Zebulun, vs. 30 _____

e. Asher, vs. 31 _____

f. Naphtali, vs. 33 _____

g. Dan, vs. 34 _____

5. What did Israel do instead of obeying God's command? Judges 1:28

C. God's Evaluation of their Fight: Read Judges 2:1-5

1. After these battles, what did the angel of the Lord say the people had done? Judges 2:1, 2

2. What did He say would happen in the future because of this? Judges 2:3

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3. What did the people do when they heard these words? Judges 2:4

D. The Results of their Fight: Read Judges 2:6-23

1. What did the people do after the death of Joshua? Judges 2:11

2. What did God do as a result? Judges 2:14

3. How did the people feel after this? Judges 2:15b

4. What did God do when He heard their groaning? Judges 2:16

5. What did the people do over and over again in the days that followed? Judges 2:17-19

6. What did God do as a result? Judges 2:20-23

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused this dark era in the history of the nation Israel? (See Psalm 78:32, 33)

2. What will happen to me if I fail to believe God's promises fully, and obey His commands completely? (See Psalm 81:11-16)

THE EARLY JUDGES

Judges 3-5

The events recorded in the book of Judges might be summarized as a four-fold cycle of sin, punishment, repentance, and deliverance. Notice how this cycle is repeated over and over again throughout the book:

A. The First Judge: Read Judges 3:1-11

1. What sins were the people of Israel committing at this time? Judges 3:6

2. Into the hand of what enemy were they sold as a punishment? Judges 3:8

3. When they cried out to the Lord in repentance, what judge did He raise up? Judges 3:9

4. What happened as a result of this judges work? Judges 3:10, 11

B. The Second Judge: Read Judges 3:12-30

1. When the Israelites again did evil, what enemy did they have to serve?
Judges 3:12, 14

2. When the people cried to the Lord, what judge did He raise up? Judges 3:15

3. What happened as a result of this judges work? Judges 3:29, 30

C. The Third Judge: Read Judges 3:31

1. Who was the third judge?

2. From what enemy did he deliver Israel?

3. For what act was he especially noted?

D. The Fourth and Fifth Judges: Read Judges 4:1-24

1. When the people of Israel again did evil, to what enemy were they delivered? Judges 4:2

2. Who led the armies of this king? Judges 4:2b

3. What made the oppression of this enemy so terrible? Judges 4:3b

4. What did the people do as a result? Judges 4:3a

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5. Who was the judge of Israel at this time? Judges 4:4, 5

6. What was God's message through this judge to Barak? Judges 4:6, 7

7. On what condition did Barak agree to obey God's command? Judges 4:8

8. What did this judge tell him about the coming conquest? Judges 4:9

9. What was the main strength of Sisera's army? Judges 4:13

10. What was the main strength of Israel's army? Judges 4:15a

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

12. What did Sisera do when he saw how the battle was going?
Judges 4:15b, 17

13. What happened to him as a result? Judges 4:21

14. Read Deborah's song of praise for this deliverance in Judges 5. What had the people of Israel done that is mentioned twice? Judges 5:2, 9

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did Israel deserve to be delivered from any of her enemies?

2. In spite of all my sins and failures, what will God do when I repent and offer myself willingly to Him? (See 2 Chronicles 7:14)

GIDEON, THE SIXTH JUDGE

Judges 6-8

Perhaps the most personalized account of the life of any judge is found in the story of Gideon. Read the following to see what kind of man he was, and how the Lord accomplished His purpose through him:

A. The Call of Gideon: Read Judges 6:1-24

1. List briefly the parts of the cycle which led to the call of Gideon. Judges 6:1-6

2. What great task was Gideon called to perform? Judges 6:14

3. Did Gideon feel that he was qualified for such a task? Judges 6:15

4. What promise did the Lord give him? Judges 6:16

5. Of what did Gideon want to make sure before he undertook this task?
Judges 6:17

6. What sign did the Lord give him to prove this? Judges 6:21

B. The Beginning of Gideon's Work: Read Judges 6:25-40

1. What two things did God tell Gideon to do as the first step of his work?

a. Judges 6:25 _____

b. Judges 6:26 _____

2. When did he do this, and why? Judges 6:27

3. What were two results of his action? Judge 6:30, 31

4. Even after this event, of what was Gideon not sure? Judges 6:36

5. What two signs did God give him to make him absolutely sure?

a. Judges 6:37, 38 _____

b. Judges 6:39, 40 _____

C. The Choice of Gideon's Army: Read Judges 7:1-8

1. Why did the Lord tell Gideon there were too many in his army? Judges 7:2

2. How many did God allow Gideon to keep for his battle? Judges 7:7, 8

D. The Battle Against Midian: Read Judges 7:9-25

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1. What did God tell Gideon to do so that he would not fear this battle?

Judges 7:10, 11

2. How did Gideon arrange his soldiers for the battle? Judges 7:16a, 21a

3.

What were their weapons for this battle? Judges 7:16b

4. What did they do to win this battle? Judges 7:18, 20

5. What did the enemies do when they heard and saw Gideon's army?

Judges 7:21b, 22

6. Who then joined in the battle? Judges 7:23, 24 (see a map)

7. How far did Gideon pursue his enemies? Judges 8:4, 5, 8, 10 (see a map)

8. How many of the enemies fell in this battle? Judges 8:10b, 12

9. What was the final result of Gideon's work? Judges 8:28a, b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What kind of men and weapons does God choose for His work today (See 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; 2 Corinthians 10:4)

2. On what do I rely as I perform my service for the Lord? (See Zechariah 4:6b)

THE LATER JUDGES

Judges 9-21

Following the days of Gideon, a number of other men judged Israel. Read the following to learn what kind of men they were, and what feats they performed for Israel:

A. The Judges Following Gideon: Judges 9-12

1. What man tried to judge Israel without being called of God? Judges 9:1, 8:35

2. What eventually happened to this man? Judges 9:53

3. List the names of the next six judges, and one interesting fact about each:

- a. Judges 10:1 _____

- b. Judges 10:3 _____

- c. Judges 11:1, 31, 34, 35 _____

- d. Judges 12:8 _____

- e. Judges 12:11 _____

- f. Judges 12:13 _____

B. Samson, the Fourteenth Judge: Read Judges 13-16

1. What kind of person was Samson to be? Judges 13:5a; Numbers 6:1-8

2. Before Samson was even born, what did God say was to be his life's work? Judges 13:5b

3. How were Samson's parents prepared for the birth of this child?
Judges 13:8-23

4. For what outstanding characteristic was Samson noted? (*THINK!*)

5. List briefly three great examples of this characteristic:

- a. Judges 14:5, 6 _____

- b. Judges 15:13, 14 _____

- c. Judges 16:3 _____

6. What was the real secret of Samson's strength? Judges 13:25, 14:6, 15:14

7. List some things Samson did to carry out God's purpose for him:

- a. Judges 14:19 _____

- b. Judges 15:3-5 _____

- c. Judges 15:8 _____

- d. Judges 15:15 _____

- e. Judges 16:4-30 _____

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8. How was Samson's work different from that of the other judges? (*THINK!*) _____

9. What would you say was the outstanding weakness of Samson? Judges 14:1, 2, 16:1, 16:4

_____0. Contrast Samson with great leaders of Israel in former years-- Abraham, Moses, and Joshua. Do you think God was pleased with Samson's personal life?

11. Do you think Samson's sin in any way affected his service for God?

C. Summary of the Times of the Judges: Judges 17-21

1. What was the rule of life for Samson and for those who lived after his day? Judges 17:6b, 21:25b

2. Notice some of the terrible things which took place as people practiced this rule: Judges 17-21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is it always sufficient to "let your conscience be your guide"? Why? (See 1 Timothy 4:2b; Hebrews 10:22)

2. What do I need besides my conscience to guide me? (See Psalm 119:9, 11)

THE CLOSE OF THE ERA OF THE JUDGES

1 Samuel 1-7

Conditions in Israel were so terrible during the era of the judges that by the end of this three hundred year period, even the priesthood was affected. Read the following to find out what the priests were doing, and what God did as a result:

A. The Condition of the Priesthood: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:26

1. Who had been ordained of God to be the priests of Israel? Exodus 28:1, 43

2. Who was the priest at this time? 1 Samuel 1:9b

3. Who would become the next priests? (*THINK!*)

4. What kind of men were Eli's sons? 1 Samuel 2:12, 17, 22

5. Did Eli know what his sons were doing? 1 Samuel 2:22-24

6. What did Eli do about his sons' actions? 1 Samuel 3:13b

B. God's Prediction to the Priests: Read 1 Samuel 2:27-36

1. What did God say would happen to Eli's household? 1 Samuel 2:33b, 34

2. What would God then do? 1 Samuel 2:35

C. God's Choice of a Leader: Read 1 Samuel 3

1. After a long silence (1 Samuel 3:1b), to whom did the Lord reveal Himself?
1 Samuel 3:4, 21

2. How had Samuel come to serve the Lord? 1 Samuel 1:11, 19, 20, 24-28

3. As time passed, what did people know about Samuel? 1 Samuel 3:19, 20

D. God's Prediction Fulfilled: 1 Samuel 4

1. Against whom did the people of Israel fight? 1 Samuel 4:1

2. Upon what did they depend for victory? 1 Samuel 4:3, 4

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3. What were three results of this battle? 1 Samuel 4:10b, 11

4. What happened when this news was brought back to the Tabernacle at Shiloh?

a. 1 Samuel 4:15-18

b. 1 Samuel 4:19, 20

E. The Work of Samuel: 1 Samuel 5-7

1. How long was the ark of God out of its proper place? 1 Samuel 6:1, 7:2

2. What did Samuel promise the people of Israel? 1 Samuel 7:3

3. When they did this, what did Samuel do for them? 1 Samuel 7:5, 8, 9

4. What happened in their next battle with the Philistines? 1 Samuel 7:10-14

5. What did Samuel do after this? 1 Samuel 7:15

6. 1 Corinthians 4:2 tells what Samuel had that God requires of all His servants. What is this?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why could Samuel accomplish under God what Eli and his sons could not?

2. What will happen to me if I do my work for the Lord in the same manner that Eli and his sons did theirs?

THE BEGINNING OF THE KINGDOM

1 Samuel 8–10

Under Samuel, the people of Israel had been brought back to God and had been able to conquer their enemies, the Philistines. It was not long before there was a feeling of unrest among them, once again. Read the following to find what caused this feeling, and what was done about it:

A. The People’s Request: Read 1 Samuel 8:1-6

1. What did the people ask of Samuel? 1 Samuel 8:5

2. Find two reasons why the people asked for this?

a. 1 Samuel 8:1b, 3, 5a _____

b. 1 Samuel 8:5b, 20 _____

3. How did Samuel feel about the people’s request? 1 Samuel 8:6

B. God’s Response to the People’s Request: Read 1 Samuel 8:7-9

1. What did God tell Samuel to do about the people’s request? 1 Samuel 8:7a

2. What did God say their request was a sign of? 1 Samuel 8:7b

3. What was Samuel to do first of all? 1 Samuel 8:9b

C. God’s Warning to the People: Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22

1. What did God, through Samuel, warn that the king would take from the people?

a. 1 Samuel 8:11 _____

b. 1 Samuel 8:13 _____

c. 1 Samuel 8:14, 15 _____

d. 1 Samuel 8:16 _____

e. 1 Samuel 8:17 _____

2. How would they eventually feel about this king? 1 Samuel 8:18

3. How did the people respond to God’s warning? 1 Samuel 8:19

D. God’s Choice of a King: Read 1 Samuel 10:1-23

1. Who was the first to be told who the new king would be? 1 Samuel 9:15-17

2. Who was the next to be told? 1 Samuel 9:1, 10:1, 21b

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3. What did God do for Saul to fit him for his new work? 1 Samuel 10:6, 9, 10

4. To what place were all the people gathered together after this?

1 Samuel 10:17

5. How did the people learn who their king would be? 1 Samuel 10:20, 21

6. What about Saul would be particularly appealing to the people?

1 Samuel 10:23

E. The People's Reception of the King: Read 1 Samuel 10:24-26

1. What was the general attitude toward the new king? 1 Samuel 10:24

2. When Saul went to his home, who went with him? 1 Samuel 10:26

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Although the people rejected God in asking for a king, what was God's attitude toward them?

2. What is God's attitude toward me today, if I reject His leadership of me?
(See Romans 5:8)

SAUL'S WORK AS KING

1 Samuel 11-15

After Saul had been chosen as king, he stayed at his own home until an emergency arose in Israel. Read the following to see what he did about this emergency, and what kind of king he became after that:

A. The War Against the Ammonites: Read 1 Samuel 11:1-15

1. Against what city of Israel did the Ammonites threaten to make war?

1 Samuel 11:1 (see a map)

2. What happened to Saul when he heard about this threat? 1 Samuel 11:6

3. What happened as a result of Saul's leadership at this time? 1 Samuel 11:11

4. What happened after this crisis was past? 1 Samuel 11:14, 15

5. What did Samuel promise the people at this time? 1 Samuel 12:14

6. What did Samuel prove to the people? 1 Samuel 12:16-19

7. What was Samuel's warning to the people? 1 Samuel 12:15, 25
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B. The War Against the Philistines: Read 1 Samuel 13:1-14

1. What happened after Saul had been reigning over Israel two years?

1 Samuel 13:3

2. How did this make the people of Israel feel? 1 Samuel 13:6, 7

3. What happened when Samuel did not come as soon as Saul expected him?

1 Samuel 13:8b

4. What did Saul do as a result? 1 Samuel 13:9, 12

5. What happened as soon as he had done this? 1 Samuel 13:10

6. What did Samuel say about Saul's actions? 1 Samuel 13:13a

7. Who alone was supposed to offer the sacrifices to God? (*THINK!*)

8. What did Samuel say would happen to Saul's kingdom because of this?

1 Samuel 13:1a, 14a

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9. What kind of man would God choose to lead His nation in the future?
1 Samuel 13:14b
-

C. The War Against the Amalekites: Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35

1. What was God's command to Saul through Samuel? 1 Samuel 15:3
-
2. In what two ways did Saul fail to carry out this command?
a. 1 Samuel 15:8a _____
b. 1 Samuel 15:9a _____
3. What did Saul say to Samuel when Samuel came to see him?
1 Samuel 15:13b
-
4. When Samuel proved that this was not true, on whom did Saul blame his sin?
1 Samuel 15:15, 21
-
5. To what terrible sins did Samuel compare the sin of Saul? 1 Samuel 15:23a
-
6. What did Samuel say would happen because of Saul's sin? 1 Samuel 15:23b, 26b, 28
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do you think Israel was happy with the king they had insisted on having?
-
2. What will happen to me if I am rebellious and stubborn, and insist on having my own way instead of letting God have His way with me? (See Psalm 106:15)
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SAUL'S SUCCESSOR PREPARED

1 Samuel 16-18

After Saul's rejection as king because of his disobedience to God, God began immediately to prepare his successor. Read below about these preparations, and Saul's reaction to them:

A. The Choice of Saul's Successor: Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. From whose household was the new king to be chosen? 1 Samuel 16:1

2. On what basis would Samuel have chosen him? 1 Samuel 16:6, 7a

3. On what basis did God say he must be chosen? 1 Samuel 16:7b

4. What was the new king doing when he was chosen to become king?

1 Samuel 16:11-13

B. His Early Preparation: Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23

1. What happened to Saul at about this time? 1 Samuel 16:14

2. What remedy was proposed by Saul's servants? 1 Samuel 16:15-17

3. Who was chosen to carry out this remedy? 1 Samuel 16:18-20

4. What other position was he given at this time? 1 Samuel 16:21

C. His Later Preparation: Read 1 Samuel 17:1-18:9

1. When the Philistines and their champion Goliath defied the armies of Israel, where was David? 1 Samuel 17:15

2. For what purpose was he sent to the scene of the battle?

1 Samuel 17:17, 18

3. What was the reaction of all the armies of Israel to the giant?

1 Samuel 17:24

4. What was David's reaction to the giant? 1 Samuel 17:26b, 32

5. On what did David base his confidence? 1 Samuel 17:34-37, 45-47

6. What was the outcome of his battle? 1 Samuel 17:48-54

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7. What position was David given as a result of his victory over the giant?
1 Samuel 18:2, 5

8. What did the women of Israel say about David's victory?
1 Samuel 18:7

How did their praise affect Saul? 1 Samuel 18:8, 9

D. Saul's Relationship to Him: Read 1 Samuel 18:10-30

1. Shortly after David's victory over the giant, what did Saul try to do to him?
1 Samuel 18:10, 11

2. To what position was David removed after Saul's efforts failed?
1 Samuel 18:13

3. For what reason did Saul plan to give his daughter to David as his wife?
1 Samuel 18:17, 21

4. How did Saul feel when he saw that none of his schemes worked as he had planned?
1 Samuel 18:12, 15, 28-30

5. Through all these events, what feelings were being aroused toward David
in the hearts of the people? 1 Samuel 18:5, 16, 30

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the real secret of David's success? 1 Samuel 16:7b, 8; 18:12, 28

2. Is my heart in such condition that I could be chosen and empowered by God to do a special work for Him? (See 2 Chronicles 16:9a)

THE CONTEST BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID

1 Samuel 19-31

As David rose to prominence among the people, Saul became more and more afraid of him. See now what his fear caused him to do, and how David reacted to his schemes:

A. Saul's Early Schemes Against David: Read 1 Samuel 19:1-24

1. What did Saul try to get his son Jonathan and all his servants to do?
1 Samuel 19:1

2. Why would Jonathan not do this? 1 Samuel 18:1, 3, 4, 19:2a,

3. What did Jonathan do instead? 1 Samuel 19:2b-7

4. What did Saul again try to do to David? 1 Samuel 19:8-10

5. How did Saul next try to kill David? 1 Samuel 19:11a

6. How did David escape this time? 1 Samuel 19:11b-17

7. What happened to the three groups of messengers Saul sent to capture David? 1 Samuel 19:20, 21

8. What happened to Saul when he went to capture David?
1 Samuel 19:22-24

B. Saul's Later Schemes Against David: 1 Samuel 20-26

1. Who did not know at first that Saul still planned to kill David?
1 Samuel 20:1, 2

2. Who gave David bread and a sword as he fled from Saul?
1 Samuel 21:1, 6, 8, 9

3. To what two places did David flee? 1 Samuel 21:10, 22:1, 2 (locate on a map)

4. Who joined David at this second place? 1 Samuel 22:1, 2

5. To what two other places did David then go? 1 Samuel 22:3, 5

6. What did Saul do to the priest who had helped David?

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1 Samuel 22:16-19

7. Who helped Saul in his next attempts to kill David? 1 Samuel 23:8

8. Why was David able to escape out of Saul's hand at Keilah?

1 Samuel 23:10-12

9. What kept Saul from capturing David at Ziph and Maon? 1 Samuel 23:27, 28

C. David's Reaction to Saul's Schemes: Read 1 Samuel 24 and 26

1. At Engedi, what temporarily stopped Saul's chase after David?

1 Samuel 24 (Read the whole chapter)

2. What did David do at Ziph when Saul once again began to pursue him?

1 Samuel 26 (Read the whole chapter)

3. Why would David not kill his enemy when he had opportunity?

1 Samuel 24:6, 26:9, 11, 23

4. To whom did David leave the task of repaying his enemy?

1 Samuel 26:10

5. Where did David live after this? 1 Samuel 27:1, 2

6. What eventually happened to Saul? 1 Samuel 31:1-6

7. What did David do when he heard about this? 2 Samuel 1:11, 12, 17-27

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How could David maintain such an attitude toward his enemy?

(See Proverbs 3:5, 6)

2. Do I always wait for God to work out His solution to my problems, or do I sometimes take matters into my own hands? (See Romans 12:19; Psalm 27:14, 37:7) _____

DAVID'S WORK AS A KING

2 Samuel 1–10

Shortly after the death of Saul and his sons, David was made king of Israel. Read to find how he was chosen, and what work he accomplished in this position:

A. David Chosen to Be King: 2 Samuel 1:1-5:5

1. Why did David return from the land of the Philistines to his own country?

2 Samuel 2:1

2. What happened after David arrived in Hebron? 2 Samuel 2:4
-

3. Who was made king over the other tribes of Israel? 2 Samuel 2:8, 9
-

4. What happened in the days that followed? 2 Samuel 3:1
-

5. What finally happened to Ish-bosheth? 2 Samuel 4:5-7
-

6. After this, why did the people of Israel say they wanted David to be their king? 2 Samuel 5:1-5
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B. David's Preliminary Work: Read 2 Samuel 5:6, 7:29

1. After David became king over all Israel, what city did he conquer and make the capital of his nation? 2 Samuel 5:5-7
-

2. Who built David's house or palace? 2 Samuel 5:11
-

3. What very important item did David bring to his city? 2 Samuel 6:2, 15-17
-

4. When David saw where it was placed, what did he want to do?
(See 1 Chronicles 17:1, 28:2)
-

5. Why did God say he might not do as he wished? (See 1 Chronicles 28:3)
-

6. What did God promise him instead? (See 1 Chronicles 28:5, 6)
-

C. David's Great Work: Read 2 Samuel 8

1. What nations did David conquer?

a. 2 Samuel 8:1 _____

b. 2 Samuel 8:2 _____

c. 2 Samuel 8:3 _____

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d. 2 Samuel 8:5 _____

e. 2 Samuel 8:14 _____

f. 2 Samuel 10:14 _____

2. Locate each of these on a map. Notice the difference in the size of the kingdom after these nations were conquered.

Who helped David in winning these wars? 2 Samuel 23:8-39

4. What was the real secret of David's success? 2 Samuel 5:10, 8:6, 14

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What work would the Lord have me to do for Him?

2. Under what conditions will I succeed in doing this work? (See Joshua 1:7-9)

DAVID'S GREAT SIN
2 Samuel 11-1 Kings 2

Although David had been greatly used of God to lead and to build up the nation Israel, he was not free from temptations and sin. Read about what he did on one occasion, and what results his action had on his family:

A. David's Sin: Read 2 Samuel 11:1-4

1. What did David do while his men went to battle? 2 Samuel 11:1

2. What did David see from the roof of his house? 2 Samuel 11:2

3. What did David discover about the woman he had seen? 2 Samuel 11:3

4. In spite of this fact, what did David do? 2 Samuel 11:4 (See Exodus 20:14)

B. The Results of the Sin: Read 2 Samuel 11:5-27

1. What was the first result of David's sin? 2 Samuel 11:5

2. What did David do to try to cover up for his sin? 2 Samuel 11:6-13 (See Proverbs 28:13)

3. When this scheme failed, what did David do? 2 Samuel 11:14-17 (See Exodus 20:13)

4. Then what did David do? 2 Samuel 11:26, 27a

5. How did God feel about what David had done? 2 Samuel 11:27b

6. Did David seem to realize what terrible things he had done?

C. The Punishment of the Sin: 2 Samuel 12-1 Kings 2

1. Whom did God use to show David the awfulness of his sin? 2 Samuel 12:1-9

2. What things did God say would happen to David because of his sin?
 - a. 2 Samuel 12:10 _____
 - b. 2 Samuel 12:11a _____
 - c. 2 Samuel 12:11b, 12 _____
 - d. 2 Samuel 12:14b _____
3. What did God say David had done by his sin? 2 Samuel 12:14

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4. How did David feel about the sin he had committed? (See Psalm 51)

5. Did David's attitude keep the punishment from being carried out?

List briefly the events which took place in David's family after this:

a. 2 Samuel 12:15-23 _____

b. 2 Samuel 13:1-14 _____

c. 2 Samuel 13:22-29 _____

d. 2 Samuel 15:1-10 _____

e. 2 Samuel 15:13-16a _____

f. 2 Samuel 15:16b, 16:21, 22 _____

g. 2 Samuel 18:9-17 _____

h. 1 Kings 1:5, 17, 18 _____

i. 1 Kings 2:24, 25 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the *beginning* of David's great sin? (See Matthew 5:27-30)

2. If I would keep away from great *outward* sins and their awful results, what must I guard continually? (See Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:19)

THE BEGINNING OF SOLOMON'S REIGN

1 Kings 1-3

After David had served forty years as king over Israel, the end of his life drew near. Read the following to see the events which took place shortly before his death, and shortly afterwards:

A. Solomon Made King: Read 1 Kings 1:1-40

1. When David was old, what son of his decided that he would be king?
1 Kings 1:1, 5

2. Which son had David promised would become king? 1 Kings 1:17

3. Who had to settle this dispute? 1 Kings 1:20

4. How was the dispute settled? 1 Kings 1:30-35

5. How did the people feel when they learned that Solomon was their new king?
1 Kings 1:39b, 40

B. David's Last Charge to Solomon: Read 1 Kings 2:1-4

1. What was David's chief concern for his son Solomon? 1 Kings 2:3a

2. What did David say would happen to Solomon if he would do this?
 - a. 1 Kings 2:3b _____
 - b. 1 Kings 2:4 _____

C. Solomon at Gibeon: Read 1 Kings 3:1-15

1. How is Solomon described at the beginning of his reign? 1 Kings 3:3a

2. What did the people do in those days because there was no house built for the Lord? 1 Kings 3:2

3. What did Solomon do at Gibeon? 1 Kings 3:4

4. What happened while he was there? 1 Kings 3:5a

5. What was Solomon told to do? 1 Kings 3:5b

6. For what one thing did Solomon ask? 1 Kings 3:9

7. For what reason did he ask for this particular thing? 1 Kings 3:6-8

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8. How did God feel about what Solomon had asked? 1 Kings 3:10

9. What did God actually give to Solomon?

a. 1 Kings 3:12 _____

b. 1 Kings 3:13 _____

10. What else did God promise to give Solomon if he would walk in His ways?

1 Kings 3:14

11. What did Solomon do after this? 1 Kings 3:15

D. Solomon's Early Life as King: Read 1 Kings 3:16-28

1. What difficult decision did Solomon have to make at the beginning of his reign? 1 Kings 3:16-23

2. How did he solve this problem? 1 Kings 3:24-27

3. What happened as a result of this incident? 1 Kings 3:28

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How was Solomon able to judge his people so wisely? (See 1 Kings 3:9, 12)

2. For what would I have asked if I had been in Solomon's place? Would God have been able to grant my request? (See James 4:3)

SOLOMON'S WORK AS KING

1 Kings 4-8

Probably no other king in all the world ever had such a glorious beginning to his reign as did Solomon. Read now to see what happened as his reign continued:

A. General Description of Solomon's Reign: Read 1 Kings 4:20-34

1. What did the people of Israel do during Solomon's reign? 1 Kings 4:20

2. What was the extent of his kingdom? 1 Kings 4:21, 24a

3. What was the chief characteristic of his reign? 1 Kings 4:24b, 25, 5:4

4. What happened because of Solomon's wisdom? 1 Kings 4:31b, 34

5. What was one great way that Solomon used his wisdom?
1 Kings 4:32, 33

B. Solomon's Great Work as King: Read 1 Kings 5:1-5; 1 Chronicles 29:1-25

1. What great purpose did Solomon have as he began his reign over Israel?
1 Kings 5:5

2. Who had already made preparation for this? (See 1 Chronicles 28:2)

3. What specific things had he prepared?

a. 1 Chronicles 28:11, 12, 19

b. 1 Chronicles 29:2

4. Who else did David enlist to contribute toward this building?
(See 1 Chronicles 29:5b-8)

5. How did the people feel when they had offered these things?
(See 1 Chronicles 29:9)

6. What did David say of all that he had prepared? (See 1 Chronicles 29:14, 16)

7. What two things did Solomon now prepare for the building? 1 Kings 5:18

C. The Building of the Temple: Read 1 Kings 6:1-38

1. How long after Israel left Egypt was the temple begun? 1 Kings 6:1

2. Of what was the house built?

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- a. Outside: 1 Kings 6:7 _____
 - b. Walls and ceilings: 1 Kings 6:15a _____
 - c. Floors: 1 Kings 6:15b _____
3. What kinds of decorations were on the walls of the house? 1 Kings 6:18, 29
- _____

What was probably the most unusual feature of the house?

1 Kings 6:20, 22, 28, 30, 32, 35

5. How long did it take to complete the house? 1 Kings 6:37, 38
- _____

6. What other house adjoined the temple? 1 Kings 7:1
- _____

D. The Dedication of the Temple: Read 1 Kings 8:1-30

1. What kinds of furnishings were placed in the temple? 1 Kings 7:48-51

2. What very important item was placed in the temple? 1 Kings 8:1

3. What happened when the priests who carried it came out of the holy place? 1 Kings 8:10, 11

4. When Solomon prayed, dedicating the house to the Lord, how did he feel about it? 1 Kings 8:27

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What does God desire for His dwelling-place on earth today?
(See 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17)

2. If I gave God the very best that I have, would it be sufficient for Him? Would I really be *giving* Him anything at all? (See 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)

THE SPLENDOR OF SOLOMON'S REIGN 1 Kings 9–10

Just as David's work of conquering the surrounding nations made Israel great geographically, so Solomon's work of building great structures within the nation made it great materially and politically. Read the following to see something of its greatness and glory:

A. God's Message to Solomon: Read 1 Kings 9:1-9

1. What happened after Solomon had completed the temple and his own palace? 1 Kings 9:1, 2

2. What did God say about the prayer Solomon had prayed in dedicating the temple? 1 Kings 9:3

3. On what condition did God say Solomon's descendants would continue to be kings of Israel? 1 Kings 9:4, 5

4. What did God say would happen if they did not meet these conditions? 1 Kings 9:6-9

B. Other Works of Solomon: Read 1 Kings 9:15-28

1. What else did Solomon build besides the temple and his palace? 1 Kings 9:15, 19

2. What people did Solomon force to help him with this work? 1 Kings 9:20, 21

3. What else did Solomon have that would make his nation great? 1 Kings 9:26

4. Who helped Solomon make a success of this part of his work? 1 Kings 5:1, 9:27 (See 2 Samuel 5:11)

5. What was the chief product that was brought in this way to Jerusalem? 1 Kings 9:28

C. The Fame of Solomon: Read 1 Kings 10:1-13

1. Who heard of the fame of Solomon? 1 Kings 10:1a

2. What did she come to Jerusalem to do? 1 Kings 10:1b, 2a

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3. What was the outcome of her interview with Solomon? 1 Kings 10:3

4. How did she feel when she saw the great wisdom and riches of Solomon? 1 Kings 10:5b

5. What did she say? 1 Kings 10:7b

To whom did she give the glory for all that she had seen? 1 Kings 10:9

7. What did she and Solomon do before she returned to her own country?
1 Kings 10:10-13

D. The Riches of Solomon: Read 1 Kings 10:14-29

1. Of what were Solomon's targets and shields made? 1 Kings 10:16, 17

2. Of what was his throne made? 1 Kings 10:18-20

3. Of what were his drinking vessels made? 1 Kings 10:21

4. What very interesting things were brought to Solomon by his navy? 1 Kings 10:22

5. Who else brought riches to Solomon? 1 Kings 10:23-25

6. What four other expensive things were very plentiful in Jerusalem?
1 Kings 10:26, 27

7. What two things did Solomon buy from Egypt? 1 Kings 10:28, 29

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What in Israel's history had laid the groundwork which made it possible for God to bless her with such riches and glory?

2. For what purpose are God's gifts always given? (See Ephesians 1:3, 12)

THE END OF SOLOMON'S REIGN

1 Kings 11

During the reign of Solomon, Israel was the most powerful nation on earth. The city of Jerusalem was the most splendid city in all the world, and the Temple was the most beautiful and costly building in existence. Read now to see what was to be the future of this glorious nation, and what determined the course of its history:

A. Solomon's Wives: Read 1 Kings 11:1-8

1. Whom did Solomon first marry? 1 Kings 3:1b

2. For what reason did he probably marry her? 1 Kings 3:1a (Look up "affinity" in a dictionary)

3. What other women did Solomon later marry? 1 Kings 11:1

4. What had God commanded concerning the people of these nations?
1 Kings 11:2a

5. Why had God given this command? 1 Kings 11:2b

6. How many wives did Solomon have in all? 1 Kings 11:3

7. What did Solomon do for each of his wives? 1 Kings 11:7, 8

8. What did this cause Solomon to do? 1 Kings 11:3b, 4, 6

B. God's Message to Solomon: Read 1 Kings 11:9-13

1. How did the Lord feel about what Solomon had done? 1 Kings 11:9a

2. For what special reason should Solomon have known better than to do this? 1 Kings 11:9b, 10

3. What did God say He would do because of Solomon's sin?
1 Kings 11:11b

4. When would God do this? 1 Kings 11:12

5. How much of the kingdom would Solomon's descendants be able to keep? 1 Kings 11:13a

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6. For whose sake would they be able to keep this part? 1 Kings 11:13b

C. Solomon's Later Reign: Read 1 Kings 11:14-43

1. What had been the chief characteristic of Solomon's earlier reign?
1 Kings 4:24b, 25, 5:4

2. Toward the end of Solomon's reign, what did God do? 1 Kings 11:14a, 23a

Name the two who fought against Solomon, and locate their countries on a map. 1
Kings 11:14b, 23b, 24

4. Who was a third enemy of Solomon? 1 Kings 11:26a, c

5. What position did this man have at first? 1 Kings 11:26b

6. What position had Solomon given him when he was repairing the city of
Millo? 1 Kings 11:28

7. As Jeroboam was going about this work, who met him one day in a field?
1 Kings 11:29a

8. What did this prophet do? 1 Kings 11:29b-31

9. What did Jeroboam do after this? 1 Kings 11:26c

10. What did Solomon try to do as a result? 1 Kings 11:40a

11. Where did Jeroboam go after this? 1 Kings 11:40b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused the great contrast between the beginning of Solomon's reign and the end of
it? (See Isaiah 59:1, 2)

2. What must I do to make sure that my life and work on earth do not end in such a pathetic
way as did Solomon's? (See 1 Samuel 12:24)

DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

1 Kings 12:1-24

Because of the awful sin of Solomon, the glory that had become Israel's during the 120 years of her Golden Age was destined to vanish. Read now about the events which took place shortly after Solomon died and left his kingdom to his son, Rehoboam:

A. The People's Request of Rehoboam: Read 1 Kings 12:1-5

1. Where was Rehoboam to be made king? 1 Kings 12:1a

2. Who was gathered there for this great occasion? 1 Kings 12:1b

3. What other important person had come for this occasion? 1 Kings 12:2, 3

4. What did all these people request of Rehoboam? 1 Kings 12:4

5. What did they promise Rehoboam if he would grant this request?

1 Kings 12:4b

B. Rehoboam's Decision Concerning This Request: Read 1 Kings 12:5-11

1. How long did Rehoboam ask to be permitted to consider this request?

1 Kings 12:5

2. With whom did Rehoboam consult first? 1 Kings 12:6

3. What did they suggest that Rehoboam do? 1 Kings 12:7

4. What did Rehoboam do with the advice he had received from them?

1 Kings 12:8a

5. With whom did he next consult? 1 Kings 12:8b

6. What did they advise Rehoboam to do? 1 Kings 12:10b, 11

7. Whose advice did Rehoboam fail to seek? (Remember David, and *THINK!*)

C. Rehoboam's Answer to the People: Read 1 Kings 12:12-15

1. When the people once more assembled before Rehoboam, how did he speak to them? 1

Kings 12:13a

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-
2. Whose advice did Rehoboam follow in giving his answer to the people?
1 Kings 12:13b, 14
-

D. The People's Reaction to Rehoboam's Answer: Read 1 Kings 12:16-20

1. What did most of the people of Israel do when they heard Rehoboam's answer? 1 Kings 12:16, 19
-
2. What did they do to the messenger Rehoboam sent to them? 1 Kings 12:18
-
3. What did they do after this? 1 Kings 12:20a
-
4. Who of all the nation continued to follow Rehoboam?
1 Kings 12:17, 20b, 21a
-

E. Rehoboam's Response to Israel's Action: Read 1 Kings 12:21-24

1. After this, what did Rehoboam plan to do? 1 Kings 12:21b
-
2. Why did he not carry out his plans? 1 Kings 12:22-24
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. When I have a decision to make, with whom do I consult? Whose advice do I seek? (See James 1:5; Psalm 1:1a)
-
2. What might be the results in my life if I follow Rehoboam's example? (See Psalm 1:6b)
-

JEROBOAM, FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

1 Kings 12:25–14:20

The judgment of God, which was promised because of the sin of Solomon, had now come to pass as a result of the foolishness of Rehoboam. Therefore, instead of the one great nation, there were now two smaller nations, Israel and Judah. The next few lessons will be devoted to the study of the northern nation, Israel, which was the larger of the two. Read now about her first king, Jeroboam:

A. The Beginning of Jeroboam's Reign: Read 1 Kings 12:25-53

1. What promise had God given Jeroboam when He first promised him the ten tribes? 1 Kings 11:38

2. After Jeroboam became king, what did he fear would happen to his kingdom? 1 Kings 12:26

3. What was he afraid would happen to him as a result? 1 Kings 12:27b

4. What did he think might cause these things to happen? 1 Kings 12:27a

5. What did he do in order to keep them from coming to pass? 1 Kings 12:28a

6. What did he tell the people of his nation about the idols which he had made? 1 Kings 12:28b

7. What did the people do as a result of Jeroboam's leadership? 1 Kings 12:30b

8. What does God in His Word call the action of Jeroboam and his people? 1 Kings 12:30a

B. God's Message to Jeroboam: Read 1 Kings 13:1-10

1. As Jeroboam was making a sacrifice upon his altar, what messenger came to him? 1 Kings 13:1

2. What did he predict would happen upon Jeroboam's altar? 1 Kings 13:2b

3. What sign did he give that his prediction would actually come to pass? 1 Kings 13:3

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4. What did king Jeroboam do when he heard the man of God's prediction?

1 Kings 13:4a

5. What happened to the king as a result of this? 1 Kings 13:4b

6. What else happened at about this time? 1 Kings 13:5

7. What did the king then ask the man of God to do? 1 Kings 13:6

8. After the man of God had done this, what did the king ask him to do?

1 Kings 13:7

9. Why did the man of God refuse to do this? 1 Kings 13:8-10

C. Jeroboam's Response to God's Message: Read 1 Kings 13:33–14:20

1. What did Jeroboam do after God had warned him about his wicked way?

1 Kings 13:33a

2. What did God say would happen to Jeroboam's household as a result of this? 1 Kings 13:34, 14:11

3. What did God say would eventually happen to the nation Israel because of this sin? 1 Kings 14:15, 16

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused Jeroboam to commit the terrible sin of establishing calf-worship in the place of God-worship?

2. What terrible sins will I commit if I am so fearful that I fail to trust God to carry out the promises He has made to me? (See Numbers 23:19)

THE EARLY KINGS OF ISRAEL

1 Kings 15–16

We have seen the example that was set for the nation Israel during the 22-year reign of her first king, Jeroboam. Now see what kind of men followed him as king:

A. The Second King of Israel: Read 1 Kings 15:25-28

1. What was the name of the second king of Israel? 1 Kings 15:25a

2. How long did he reign? 1 Kings 15:25b

3. How is this king described? 1 Kings 15:26

4. What happened to end his reign? 1 Kings 15:27, 28

B. The Third King of Israel: Read 1 Kings 15:29-34

1. What was the name of this king? 1 Kings 15:33a

2. How long did he reign? 1 Kings 15:33b

3. How is this king described? 1 Kings 15:34

4. What did he do during his reign? 1 Kings 15:29, 30

C. The Fourth King of Israel: Read 1 Kings 16:8-11

1. What was the name of this king? 1 Kings 16:8a

2. How long did he reign? 1 Kings 16:8b

3. What happened to end his reign? 1 Kings 16:9, 10

4. What was he doing at this time? 1 Kings 16:9b

D. The Fifth King of Israel: Read 1 Kings 16:12-20

1. What was the name of the king? 1 Kings 16:15a

2. How long did he reign? 1 Kings 16:15b

3. What did he do as soon as he began to reign? 1 Kings 16:11-13

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4. What happened to end his reign? 1 Kings 16:16-19

5. How is this king described? 1 Kings 16:19

E. The Sixth King of Israel: Read 1 Kings 16:21-28

1. What was the name of this king? 1 Kings 16:23a

2. How long did he reign? 1 Kings 16:2b

3. What was the outstanding event of his reign? 1 Kings 16:24

4. How is this king described? 1 Kings 16:25, 26

F. The Seventh King of Israel: Read 1 Kings 16:29-34

1. What was the name of this king? 1 Kings 16:29a

2. How long did he reign? 1 Kings 16:29b

3. How is this king described? 1 Kings 16:30, 33b

4. Whom did this king marry? 1 Kings 16:31a

5. What new sin did he introduce into Israel? 1 Kings 16:31b-33a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What did all of these kings have in common? What was the one great reason for their sinfulness? (See 1 Kings 15:25, 26, 34, 16:19, 26, 31; Luke 17:1, 2)

2. If people follow *my* example, what kind of lives will they lead?

ELIJAH, PROPHET TO ISRAEL

1 Kings 17–19

After the terrible behavior of Israel's first seven kings, it was to be expected that God would send some sort of judgment on the nation. Read the following to see exactly what He did send.

A. Elijah's Prediction and Its Results: Read 1 Kings 17:1–18:16

1. What prediction did Elijah make before King Ahab? 1 Kings 17:1

2. What did Elijah have to do as a result of this prediction? Why?
1 Kings 17:3a, 18:8-10

3. What two miracles did God perform to keep Elijah alive during the drought?
 - a. 1 Kings 17:6 _____
 - b. 1 Kings 17:9-16 _____
4. What miracle did God give Elijah power to perform during these years?
1 Kings 17:17-24

5. How long did the drought continue? 1 Kings 18:1 (See also James 5:17)

6. At the end of this time, what did King Ahab and his servant have to do?
1 Kings 18:5, 6

7. What did God then tell Elijah to do? Why? 1 Kings 18:1

B. Elijah's Appearance Before Ahab: Read 1 Kings 18:17-24

1. Of what did Ahab accuse Elijah when he saw him? 1 Kings 18:17

2. Why did Elijah say the trouble had come upon Israel? 1 Kings 18:18

3. What three groups did Elijah tell Ahab to gather together at Mt. Carmel?
1 Kings 18:19

4. What did Elijah urge the people to do? 1 Kings 18:21

5. How did he suggest that they prove who was really God? 1 Kings 18:23, 24a

6. Did the people agree that this would be a good test? 1 Kings 18:24b

C. The Contest Between Baal and God: Read 1 Kings 18:25-46

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1. After Baal's prophets had made ready their bullock, what did they do?
1 Kings 18:26, 28

2. How long did they continue to call upon Baal without getting an answer?
1 Kings 18:26, 29

3. After Elijah had repaired God's altar and made ready his bullock, what did he tell the people to do? 1 Kings 18:33b, 34

4. Then what did Elijah ask God to do? 1 Kings 18:36, 37

5. What happened as soon as Elijah had finished his prayer? 1 Kings 18:38a

6. What was burned up as a result? 1 Kings 18:38b

7. What did the people decide as a result of this contest? 1 Kings 18:39

8. What did Elijah then do with the prophets of Baal? 1 Kings 18:40

9. What did God send to Israel after the people had acknowledged that He was the only true God? 1 Kings 18:41, 45

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I permitting any false gods to share God's place in my life?
(See Isaiah 42:8)

2. What will God have to do to make me give Him His rightful place?

OTHER PROPHETS TO ISRAEL

1 Kings 20–2 Kings 10

Through Elijah, the people acknowledged that God was the only true God, but Ahab and Jezebel did not. Read now to see how God continued to deal with them:

A. God's Warnings to Ahab: 1 Kings 20–22

1. After the contest at Mt. Carmel, who came up against Israel and beseiged the city of Samaria? 1 Kings 20:1

2. What message did God send to Ahab through a prophet? 1 Kings 20:13a

3. Why did God say He would help Ahab in this way? 1 Kings 20:13b

4. After God gave Ahab victory over the Syrians, what did Ahab do with Ben-hadad their king? 1 Kings 20:34b

5. What message did God send to Ahab after this? 1 Kings 20:42

6. After Ahab returned to his home, what did he ask his neighbor to sell him? 1 Kings 21:1, 2

7. When his neighbor refused, what did Ahab's wife do in order to gain possession of this property for him? 1 Kings 21:8-13

8. When Ahab went to take possession of the property, what threefold message did Elijah bring to him from God?
 - a. 1 Kings 21:19b _____
 - b. 1 Kings 21:23 _____
 - c. 1 Kings 21:21, 24 _____
9. When Ahab humbled himself before God after this, what did God do to soften his punishment? 1 Kings 21:29b

10. When Ahab and the king of Judah went to battle at Ramoth-Gilead, what prophet did God send to him there? 1 Kings 22:8, 27, 28

11. What happened to Ahab as a result of this battle? 1 Kings 22:34-38

B. God's Warnings to Ahab's Sons: 2 Kings 1–10

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1. When Ahaziah, eighth king of Israel, sent men to ask Baal-Zebub if he would recover from his fall, what message did Elijah send to him? 2 Kings 1:3, 4

2. What happened to Elijah shortly after this? 2 Kings 2:11

3. What prophet then took Elijah's place, and helped Jehoram, ninth king of Israel, win a victory over Moab? 2 Kings 2:12-15, 3:11-18

4. Notice the many great miracles he did to show God's great power to Israel:
 - a. 2 Kings 4:1-7 _____
 - b. 2 Kings 4:18-37 _____
 - c. 2 Kings 4:38-41 _____
 - d. 2 Kings 4:42-44 _____
 - e. 2 Kings 5:1-17 _____
 - f. 2 Kings 6:1-7 _____
5. What terrible thing happened during the reign of Jehoram? 2 Kings 6:24, 25

6. How bad did conditions get in the city of Samaria as a result?
2 Kings 6:26-29

7. After this crisis had passed, what other great judgment of God did Elisha announce? 2 Kings 8:1

8. After this, whom did Elisha have one of the prophets anoint as tenth king of Israel? 2 Kings 9:2

9. Who did he kill as soon as he was anointed? 2 Kings 9:24-26, 30-37, 10:1-11, 18-28

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did these terrible judgments fall upon Ahab, his family, and the nation of Israel? (See Proverbs 29:1)

2. Can I ignore God's repeated warnings and expect to lead a happy life?

THE LAST KINGS OF ISRAEL

II Kings 1-17

We have seen the extreme wickedness of Ahab and his family, and the severe judgments of God which fell upon them. Now see what kinds of kings followed Ahab:

A. The Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Kings: 2 Kings 1–10

1. What kind of kings were Ahaziah, Jehoram, and Jehu? 1 Kings 22:51-53,
2 Kings 3:1-3, 10:29, 31

-
2. What did God begin to do to Israel during the reign of Jehu?
2 Kings 10:32, 33 (Look at a map)
-

B. The Eleventh through Fourteenth Kings: Read 2 Kings 13:1-25, 14:23-29, 15:8-12

1. What two things did all four of these kings have in common?
 - a. 2 Kings 15:12 _____
 - b. 2 Kings 13:2, 13:11, 14:24, 15:9 _____
2. What did the Lord do to Israel in the days of Jehoahaz, eleventh king of Israel? 2 Kings 13:3

-
3. What happened during the reign of Jehoash (Joash), twelfth king of Israel?
2 Kings 13:14, 20
-

4. Whom did God permit to oppress Israel all his days? 2 Kings 13:22
-

5. In spite of all Israel's wickedness, what did God refuse to do at this time?
2 Kings 13:23
-

6. What prophet prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam, thirteenth king of Israel (called Jeroboam 2)? 2 Kings 14:25b
-

7. Although Israel's affliction was very bitter at this time, what did God still refuse to do?
2 Kings 14:26, 27
-

8. What happened to end the reign of Zachariah, fourteenth king of Israel?
2 Kings 15:10
-

C. The Fifteenth through Eighteenth Kings: Read 2 Kings 15:13-31

1. How long did Shallum, the fifteenth king of Israel, reign? 2 Kings 15:13b
-

2. What did the other three kings all have in common? Compare 2 Kings 15:24, 28
-

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3. What did Shallum, Pekahiah, and Pekah have in common? Compare 2 Kings 15:14, 25, 30

4. What enemy began to oppress Israel in the days of Menahem, the sixteenth king of Israel? 2 Kings 15:19

5. What did this enemy do in the days of Pekah, the eighteenth king of Israel? 2 Kings 15:29

D. The Nineteenth King: Read 2 Kings 17:1-41

1. What kind of king was Hoshea, the nineteenth king of Israel? 2 Kings 17:2

2. What happened in the ninth year of his reign? 2 Kings 17:6 (See a map)

3. For what great sin did this happen to Israel? 2 Kings 17:7b, 10a, 12a, 16b

4. What made Israel's guilt even worse in God's sight? 2 Kings 17:13, 14

5. What did the people whom Assyria afterward placed in the cities of Israel do? 2 Kings 17:33, 41

6. Of what New Testament people were these people the ancestors? (See John 4:9)

7. Do you think Israel ever returned to her own land?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was there anything that God might have done for Israel that He did not do?

2. What will eventually happen to me if I refuse to heed God's warnings? (See Hebrews 9:27)

THE EARLY KINGS OF JUDAH

1 Kings 14–2 Kings 18

During the 200 – 250 years of the Divided Kingdom, the nation Israel had a total of 19 kings, all of whom were evil. During this same period of time, Judah had only 13 rulers. As you study about these below, see what basic differences you can discover between them and the kings of Israel:

A. The First Four Kings of Judah: Read 1 Kings 14:21–15:24, 22:41-49

1. What two great sins did the people of Judah begin to commit during the days of Rehoboam? 1 Kings 14:23, 24

2. What terrible judgment came to Judah in the fifth year of Rehoboam?
1 Kings 15:25-27

3. What kind of king was Abijam (Abijah), the second king of Judah?
1 Kings 15:3

4. Why did God not destroy the people of Judah immediately for their sins?
1 Kings 15:4, 5

5. What kind of king was Asa, the third king of Judah? 1 Kings 15:11, 14b

6. What two sinful things did Asa take away from the land of Judah?
1 Kings 15:12

7. What kind of king was Jehoshaphat, the fourth king of Judah? 1 Kings 22:43b

B. The Fifth through Tenth Kings of Judah: Read 2 Kings 8:16-27, 11:1–12:21

1. What kind of king was Jehoram (Joram), the fifth king of Judah?
2 Kings 8:18a

2. Whose example did he follow? 2 Kings 8:18b

3. Whom did he marry? 2 Kings 8:18c

4. Although Judah became very wicked at this time, for whose sake did God spare her from being destroyed? 2 Kings 8:19

5. What kind of king was Ahaziah, the sixth king of Judah? 2 Kings 8:27

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6. After Ahaziah was killed by Jehu, king of Israel, who killed Ahaziah's sons and usurped the throne of Judah? 2 Kings 11:1, 3b

7. Who escaped from her cruelty, unknown to her? 2 Kings 11:2, 3

8. What finally happened to her? 2 Kings 11:20b

9. After this, what did Jehoiada the priest make the people of Judah promise?
2 Kings 11:17

10. What did they do to the idols? 2 Kings 11:18a

11. What kind of king was Jehoash (Joash), the seventh king of Judah?
2 Kings 12:2

12. What important thing did Joash do during his reign? 2 Kings 12:14

13. What kind of king was Amaziah, the eighth king of Judah? 2 Kings 14:3

14. What kind of king was Azariah (also called Uzziah), the ninth king of Judah?
2 Kings 15:3

15. What was unusual about this king? 2 Kings 15:5

16. What kind of king was Jotham, the tenth king of Judah? 2 Kings 15:34

C. The Eleventh and Twelfth Kings of Judah: Read 2 Kings 16:1-20

1. What kind of king was Ahaz, the eleventh king of Judah? 2 Kings 16:2b-4

2. What kind of king was Hezekiah, the twelfth king of Judah, who reigned at the time of Israel's capture? 2 Kings 18:3, 5-7

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did the nation Judah last longer than the nation Israel?

2. What can I do to help my nation continue for a long time? Proverbs 14:34

HEZEKIAH, OUTSTANDING KING OF JUDAH

2 Kings 18-20

Periodically, Judah's good kings were able to turn their people back to the Lord, so that their nation was spared for some 135 years after Israel was taken captive. Outstanding among these good kings was Hezekiah. Study below about his reign:

A. The Beginning of Hezekiah's Reign: Read 2 Kings 18:1-12

1. What did Hezekiah do as he began his reign? 2 Kings 18:4a

2. What had Ahaz promised Assyria for help against his enemies, Syria and Israel? 2 Kings 16:7

3. What did Hezekiah do after he began to reign? 2 Kings 18:7b

B. Assyria's First Threat: Read 2 Kings 18:13-16

1. What did Assyria do in Hezekiah's fourteenth year? 2 Kings 18:13

2. What did Hezekiah promise to do as a result? 2 Kings 18:14

3. What did Hezekiah have to do to pay what he had promised? 2 Kings 18:15, 16

C. Assyria's Second Threat: Read 2 Kings 18:17– 19:8

1. Later, at what city did the king of Assyria encamp? 2 Kings 18:17 (See a map)

2. Against what did his messengers warn the king and people of Judah? 2 Kings 18:19, 22, 28-30

3. What proof did he give that Judah would not be able to resist him? 2 Kings 18:33-35

4. When king Hezekiah heard of this threat, what two things did he do?
 - a. 2 Kings 19:1 _____
 - b. 2 Kings 19:2-4 _____
5. What was God's message to Hezekiah through Isaiah? 2 Kings 19:6, 7

6. What temporarily delayed Assyria's attack against Jerusalem? 2 Kings 19:8, 9a

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D. Assyria's Third Threat: Read 2 Kings 19:9-37

1. Later, when Hezekiah received another threat from Assyria, what did he do? 2 Kings 19:14

2. What did Hezekiah then ask God to do? 2 Kings 19:19a

3. Why did he ask God to do this? 2 Kings 19:19b

4. What message did God send to Hezekiah through Isaiah? 2 Kings 19:20b

5. What did God say He would do to the King of Assyria? 2 Kings 19:28

6. What did God say the Kings would not be allowed to do? 2 Kings 19:32

7. Why did God say He would defend and save the city? 2 Kings 19:34

8. After this, what happened to the armies of the King of Assyria? 2 Kings 19:35

9. What happened to the King himself? 2 Kings 19:37

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What made it possible for the tiny country of Judah to overcome the threats of the great country of Assyria? 2 Chronicles 32:7, 8

2. To whom do I go--upon whom do I depend for help--when I face great problems?

THE LATER KINGS OF JUDAH

2 Kings 21–25

After the first six years of Hezekiah's reign, the tiny nation Judah stood alone as God's representative upon earth. How well she represented God under Hezekiah we have seen. Now discover what happened after his reign was concluded:

A. The Reign of Manasseh, the Thirteenth King of Judah: Read 2 Kings 21:1-18

1. What kind of king was Manasseh, Hezekiah's son? 2 Kings 21:2a

2. Whose example did he follow:
 - a. 2 Kings 21:2b _____
 - b. 2 Kings 21:3b _____
3. What did he put in the courts of the house of the Lord? 2 Kings 21:5

4. What did the people of Judah do as a result of Manasseh's leadership?
2 Kings 21:9

5. Because of the sins of Manasseh and Judah, what did God through the prophets warn that he would do to Judah? 2 Kings 21:10-15

6. What was another great sin of Manasseh? 2 Kings 21:16

B. The Reign of Amon, the Fourteenth Kings of Judah: Read 2 Kings 21:19-26

1. What kind of king was Amon, the son of Manasseh? 2 Kings 21:20-22

2. What happened to end his reign? 2 Kings 21:23

C. The Reign of Josiah, the Fifteenth King of Judah: Read 2 Kings 22:1–23:30

1. What kind of king was Josiah, Amon's son? 2 Kings 22:2

2. What did Josiah have the people do during his reign? 2 Kings 22:5

3. What did the high priest find in the process of doing this? 2 Kings 22:8

4. What did the king do when he heard the words of this book? 2 Kings 22:11

5. What did he ask the priests and others to do? 2 Kings 22:13a

6. What was God's message to him concerning Judah? 2 Kings 22:15-17

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7. What comforting promise did God also send to the king? 2 Kings 22:20

8. Why did God make this promise to Josiah? 2 Kings 22:19

9. To whom did Josiah read the words of the book he had found? 2 Kings 23:2

10. What did he then remove from Judah? 2 Kings 23:4-14

11. What feast did the king cause the people to keep? 2 Kings 23:21

12. Although Josiah was one of the two best kings Judah ever had, what was God still determined to do? 2 Kings 23:25-27

13. What happened to end the reign of this great king? 2 Kings 23:29

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could the good that Judah did under Josiah make up for the evil he had done under Manasseh?

2. Can I continue in evil--doing now, and expect to make up for it later?

THE CAPTURE OF JUDAH

2 Kings 24-25

God's judgment upon Judah already having been pronounced, all that remained for the kings who followed Josiah was the expectation of that judgment being carried out. Read below to see how this was done:

A. The Reign of Jehoahaz, Sixteenth King of Judah: Read 2 Kings 23:31–24

1. What kind of king was Jehoahaz, Josiah's son? 2 Kings 23:32

2. What happened to end his reign after only three months?

2 Kings 23:33a, 34b

B. The Reign of Jehoiakim, Seventeenth King of Judah: Read

2 Kings 23:34–24:7

1. What kind of king was Jehoiakim, another son of Josiah? 2 Kings 23:37

2. To whom did Jehoiakim have to pay tribute during his reign?

2 Kings 23:33, 35

3. What other king came up against Jehoiakim in the third year of his reign?

2 Kings 24:1; Daniel 1:1

4. What did he take away when he captured Jerusalem at this time (606 B. C.)?

a. Daniel 1:3-4

b. Daniel 1:2

5. After Jehoiakim rebelled (2 Kings 24:1b), what happened to him in 597 B. C.? 2

Chronicles 36:6

C. The Reign of Jehoiachin, Eighteenth King of Judah: Read 2 Kings 24:8-16

1. What kind of king was Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim? 2 Kings 24:9

2. What happened after he had reigned only three months? 2 Kings 24:10, 11

3. What was taken away to Babylon at this time?

a. 2 Kings 24:12, 15

b. 2 Kings 24:13

c. 2 Kings 24:14

D. The Reign of Zedekiah, Nineteenth King of Judah: Read 2 Kings 24:17–25:21

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1. What kind of king was Zedekiah, a third son of Josiah? 2 Kings 24:19

2. What happened in the eleventh year of his reign (586 B. C.), after he rebelled against the king of Babylon? 2 Kings 24:20b
 - a. 2 Kings 25:2 _____
 - b. 2 Kings 25:6, 7 _____
 - c. 2 Kings 25:9 _____
 - d. 2 Kings 25:10 _____
 - e. 2 Kings 25:11; Jeremiah 52:29 _____
 - f. 2 Chronicles 36:18 _____
3. Five years later in 581 B. C., how many people were carried to Babylon?
Jeremiah 52:30

4. Who alone was left in the land of Judah? 2 Kings 25:12

5. What did the captives have to do in Babylon? 2 Chronicles 36:20b

6. How long had God said they would have to stay there? Jeremiah 25:11

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused the pitiful downfall of the once great nation of Israel?

2. What will eventually happen to me if I allow sin to gain a foothold in my life? (See Revelation 21:8)

THE CAPTIVITY: THE SUBJECTION OF THE NATION TO FOREIGNERS

2 Kings 17:24–25, 2 Chronicles 36

We have seen the mighty empire that was David's and Solomon's divide and crumble into ruins. Study the following to see what happened to each part of the nation after it fell and was carried away into captivity:

A. The Capture of Israel:

1. To what country were the Israelites carried away in the year 722 B. C.?

2 Kings 17:6a

2. List three distinct places to which they were carried. 2 Kings 17:6b

3. What do you suppose happened to the Israelites after this? (*THINK!*)
-

B. The Capture of Judah:

1. To what country was Judah carried captive? 2 Kings 24:10, 15, 16
-

2. What things were carried away at the capture of Jerusalem in (606 B. C.)?

a. Daniel 1:3, 4

b. Daniel 1:2

3. After Jehoiakim rebelled (2 Kings 24:1), what happened to him in (597 B. C.)?
-

4. Three months later (2 Kings 24:8), what else was carried away?

a. 2 Kings 24:12, 15

b. 2 Kings 24:13

c. 2 Kings 24:14

5. Eleven years later, in 586 B. C., what happened?

a. 2 Kings 25:2

b. 2 Kings 25:6, 7

c. 2 Kings 25:9

d. 2 Kings 25:10

e. 2 Kings 25:11; Jeremiah 52:29

f. 2 Chronicles 36:18

6. Five years later, in (581 B. C.), how many people were carried to Babylon? Jeremiah 52:30
-

C. Events in Judea During Judah's Captivity:

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1. Who was left in the land of Judea when the others were carried captive?
2 Kings 25:12

2. Who joined them after they heard the outcome of the war in Judah? Jeremiah 40:11, 12

3. What message had God given to them through the prophet Jeremiah? Jeremiah 42:19

4. What did the people do, three months after Jerusalem was captured? Jeremiah 43:4-7; 2 Kings 25:26

5. What had God said would happen to them if they did this?
Jeremiah 42:15-18

6. What important person did they take with them? Jeremiah 43:6b

D. Events in Babylon During Judah's Captivity:

1. What important person was among the captives in Babylon? Ezekiel 1:1

2. What did he do there? Ezekiel 1:1b, 3

3. Why did God not completely forsake His people? 1 Samuel 12:22

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was God's attitude toward His chosen people even after all their sins?

2. What is God's attitude toward me right now?

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL: AMONG THE CAPTIVES IN BABYLON

Ezekiel was a priest who was carried captive to Babylon along with King Jehoiachin, eleven years before the destruction of Jerusalem. Five years later, he began his ministry as a prophet, which continued for about 22 years. Study now his prophecy:

A. The Call of Ezekiel: Read Ezekiel 1-3

1. What did Ezekiel see at the very beginning of his ministry? Ezekiel 1:1b, 26-28

2. By what name did God call Ezekiel? Ezekiel 2:1a, 3a, 6a, etc.

3. To what kind of people was Ezekiel to minister? Ezekiel 2:3, 4, 3:7 (Find four words.)

4. How was Ezekiel to act among them? Ezekiel 2:6, 3:8, 9

5. What was Ezekiel to do? Ezekiel 3:17-21

B. Messages of Warning Before the Destruction of Jerusalem:

Read Ezekiel 4-32

1. Notice what God told Ezekiel to do in Ezekiel 4:1-3. What would this show the captives about Jerusalem?

2. Notice what God told Ezekiel to eat in Ezekiel 4:9-15. What did this show that people in Jerusalem would do? Ezekiel 4:16, 17

3. Notice what God told Ezekiel to do to his hair in Ezekiel 5:1-4. What did this show would happen to the people of Jerusalem? Ezekiel 5:12

4. What could the few hairs bound in Ezekiel's skirt represent? Ezekiel 6:8-10

5. What would the people of Jerusalem learn through these sufferings? Ezekiel 6:7b, 13a, 14b, 7:4b, 9b, 27b, 12:15, etc.

6. Where was Ezekiel taken in one of his visions? Ezekiel 8:3

7. What did he see happening there at this time (about 5 years before the city was destroyed)? Ezekiel 8:5b, 10, 14, 16, 17b

8. Because of this, where did the glory cloud symbolizing God's presence go?

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- a. Ezekiel 9:3a _____
 - b. Ezekiel 10:18 _____
 - c. Ezekiel 10:19 _____
 - d. Ezekiel 11:23 _____
9. In spite of all this, what did God still call His people to do? Ezekiel 18:23, 31, 33:11

10. From whom did Ezekiel learn of the siege of Jerusalem? Ezekiel 24:1, 2

- a. When? _____
 - b. Compare with 2 Kings 25:1 _____

C. Messages of Comfort After the Destruction of Jerusalem:

Read Ezekiel 33-48

1. To what did God compare the former leaders of His people? Ezekiel 34:2b

2. What did God promise to do for His people in the future? Ezekiel 34:11-16 (especially 13)

3. Who would then become their shepherd? Ezekiel 34:23, 24 (To whom else could this refer? See Ezekiel 37:24-28.)

4. What else would God do for them? Ezekiel 36:25-27

5. Then what would happen? Ezekiel 43:2-5

6. What would their city be called after that? Ezekiel 48:35b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was God's heart attitude toward these people whom He had to destroy? (See Luke 13:34, 35, 19:41-44)

2. Because of my continued sin, has the glory of God departed from my life? Or because of my repentance, can God say of me, "The Lord is Here"?

THE BOOK OF DANIEL: IN THE PALACE IN BABYLON

The book of Daniel covers the entire seventy years of the Babylonian Captivity. Daniel himself was one of the first large group of people to be carried away, and his ministry continued through the third year of Cyrus, King of Persia, who gave the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. Read to see how his ministry differs from Ezekiel's:

A. The Man Daniel: Read Daniel 1:1-5

1. What kind of family did Daniel come from? Daniel 1:3; 2 Kings 24:14

2. What qualities did Daniel have that made the king's officer choose him? Daniel 1:4a

3. What two things did the king want those who were chosen to do?
Daniel 1:4b

4. How long was their training to last? Daniel 1:5b

5. What were they to eat and drink during this time? Daniel 1:5a

B. Daniel's Purpose: Read Daniel 1:6-21

1. What did Daniel purpose in his heart? Daniel 1:8

2. What was Daniel's attitude as he sought to carry out this purpose?
Daniel 1:8b-13

3. Was Daniel permitted to continue to be true to his purpose? Daniel 1:14-16

4. What was the effect of Daniel's purpose on himself and his friends?
 - a. Physically? Daniel 1:15 _____
 - b. Mentally? Daniel 1:17 _____
 - c. Compared to others who were trained with them? Daniel 1:19

 - d. Compared to the magicians and astrologers of the kingdom?
Daniel 1:20 _____
5. What positions were given to Daniel and his friends? Daniel 1:19b

C. Daniel's Purpose Tested: Daniel 2-6

1. In succeeding years, how was Daniel tested again? Daniel 6

2. In spite of these testings, what happened to Daniel?

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- a. Daniel 2:49b _____
- b. Daniel 6:1-3 _____
- c. Daniel 6:28 _____

3. How were Daniel's friends later tested? Daniel 3

4. What happened to them?

- a. Daniel 2:49a _____
- b. Daniel 3:30 _____

D. The Results of Daniel's Purpose: Read Daniel 7-12

1. What did God later give to Daniel? Daniel 7:1b, 8:1, 10:1b

2. What did Daniel do after he read Jeremiah's prophecy that Jerusalem's desolations would last 70 years? Daniel 9:2-4, 16-19

3. Do you think Daniel's prayers had any effect in bringing the captivity to an end? Daniel 10:12

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I have a heart purpose that will keep me true to God, regardless of how difficult the circumstances might be?

2. What good things does God have planned for me, that I might miss if I am not true to Him at all times? (See 2 Chronicles 16:9a)

THE FIRST RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL AND JESHUA Ezra 1–6

Just as the capture of Judah took place in several stages, so also did the return of the captives to their national homeland. Study now about the first return, which took place in 536 B.C., exactly 70 years after the first captives left Judah:

A. The Command to Return: Read Ezra 1:1-11

1. What happened to the kingdom of Babylon in 526 B. C.? Daniel 5:28

2. What were the names of the first two kings of the new kingdom?
Daniel 5:31, 6:28

3. How did God begin to fulfill His promise He had made to the Jews through Jeremiah?
Jeremiah 29:10; Ezra 1:1b

4. What two things did the new king want the people of Judah to do? Ezra 1:3

5. How did the king say those who did not go back were to help? Ezra 1:4

6. What special vessels did the king give them to take back to Jerusalem?
Ezra 1:7-11

B. The People's Work in Judah: Read Ezra 3:1-4:6, 23-5:5

1. How many of the people went back at this time? Ezra 2:1, 64, 65

2. What did they do first when they returned? Ezra 3:2

3. What did the people do after they had laid the foundations of the temple? Ezra 3:11-12

4. Who then asked to help with the building of the temple? Ezra 4:1-2

5. What did they do when Zerubbabel and Joshua would not let them help?
Ezra 4:4-6

6. What happened as a result? Ezra 4:24

7. What caused the work on the temple to begin again? Ezra 5:1-2

8. Who next questioned their right to build the temple? Ezra 5:3

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9. Why could they not stop the work? Ezra 5:5

10. What king made a decree that the work should be completed?
Ezra 6:1, 8, 12

11. How did the people feel when they had completed the building?
Ezra 6:16, 22

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What made it possible for Judah to complete the temple in spite of all the opposition and interruptions? (See Numbers 23:19)

2. Need I allow anything to stop me from completing my God given tasks?

THE SECOND RETURN UNDER EZRA

Ezra 7-10

About eighty years after the first group of captives had returned to Jerusalem, a second group returned, in 457 B.C., under the leadership of Ezra. Read about them below:

A. The Command to Return: Read Ezra 7:1-28

1. Who was Ezra? Ezra 7:6

2. From whom was he descended? Ezra 7:5

3. What kind of person was he? Ezra 7:10a

4. What did he want to do in Judah? Ezra 7:10b

5. Who did the king say might go with him? Ezra 7:13

6. What were they to carry with them? Ezra 7:15, 16, 19

7. What wonderful promise did the king make to Ezra? Ezra 7:20-22

8. What two things did the king want Ezra to do in Judah? Ezra 7:25

a. _____

b. _____

9. What did Ezra do when he learned all that the king had commanded
Ezra 7:27, 28

10. Who went up with Ezra to Jerusalem? Ezra 7:7, 28b

B. The Journey to Jerusalem: Read Ezra 8:1,15-36

1. Where did the people gather to begin their journey to Jerusalem? Ezra 8:15a

2. What did they discover they were lacking at this time? Ezra 8:15b

3. When these were provided what did Ezra have all the people do? Ezra 8:21

4. Why did they not have soldiers to guard them on their journey? Ezra 8:22

5. Who was responsible for all the silver and gold on the journey? Ezra 8:24-30

6. How long did it take them to make the journey? Compare Ezra 8:31 with

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Ezra 7:8

7. What did all the people do when they arrived at Jerusalem? Ezra 8:35
-

C. The Work of Ezra in Jerusalem: Read Ezra 9:1-10:17

1. After this, what great sin did Ezra discover that the first group of people had committed?
Ezra 9:1, 2

2. How did Ezra feel about this? Ezra 9:3, 4

3. What did Ezra do about this sin? Ezra 9:5-15

4. What did the leaders suggest that they do to correct this situation? Ezra 10:3

5. Did the people agree to do this? Ezra 10:9-12

6. How long did it take Ezra to complete this work? Compare Ezra 10:16 and 17

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was it that made possible this return to Jerusalem, and all of Ezra's work? Ezra 7:6b, 9b, 28b, 8:18a, 22b, 31b

2. To what do I owe all that has been done for me and through me in the past?

THE THIRD RETURN UNDER NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 1-13

After Ezra's group returned to Judah, thirteen years passed before anyone else came back from the land of the captivity. Then, in 444 B. C., Nehemiah returned. Read now to discover the circumstances connected with his return, and the results of his work in Judah:

A. Nehemiah's Journey to Jerusalem: Read Nehemiah 1:1-2:20

1. Who was Nehemiah? Nehemiah 1:11b

2. When men returned to Babylon from Jerusalem, what report did they bring about conditions in Judah? Nehemiah 1:3

3. What did Nehemiah do when he heard this report? Nehemiah 1:4, 5, 11

4. After four months, when the king noticed his sadness, what did Nehemiah ask the king to let him do? Nehemiah 2:5

5. Why were Nehemiah's requests granted? Nehemiah 2:8b

6. Who accompanied Nehemiah on his journey? Nehemiah 2:9b

7. What did Nehemiah do shortly after he reached Jerusalem?
Nehemiah 2:12-16

8. What did the rulers say when Nehemiah suggested that they build the walls of the city?
Nehemiah 2:18

9. Who opposed their work? Nehemiah 2:10, 19

B. The Building of the Gates and Walls: Nehemiah 3-7

1. After the work was begun, what did their enemies say about their wall? Nehemiah 4:3b

2. What did the people do after this? Nehemiah 4:4, 5

3. When the wall was half built, what did their enemies do? Nehemiah 4:8

4. Then what did the people of Judah do? Nehemiah 4:9

5. How did the people work from then on? Nehemiah 4:16-18a

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6. When the enemies tried to get Nehemiah to meet with them, what did he answer?

Nehemiah 6:3a

7. How long did it take them to complete the building of the walls?

Nehemiah 6:15b

8. What did the enemies know about the work when it was done?

Nehemiah 6:16b

9. Describe the city after Nehemiah's work was completed. Nehemiah 7:4
-

C. The Law Taught to the People: Read Nehemiah 8-13

1. After the walls were completed, what did the people ask Ezra to do? Nehemiah 8:1-3
-

2. What did the people do as a result of this? Nehemiah 8:9b, 9:2
-

3. What did they promise to do from then on? Nehemiah 10:29
-

4. This is the end of the Old Testament story. Does it seem complete to you?
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. For what purpose did God make it possible for His people to return to their own land and rebuild their capital city? What did He yet plan to accomplish through them? (See Genesis 12:2, 3, 28:14b; Galatians 3:16)
-

2. For what purpose does God show His infinite mercy and love toward me today? (See 2 Corinthians 9:8)
-