

OLD TESTAMENT BIOGRAPHY LESSON SERIES

Introduction

The Old Testament is a very large part of the Bible---much larger than the New Testament. God has provided us with this record for a reason: there is much that he wants us to learn. If we are wise we will make an effort to learn these lessons, thereby blessing our lives. (II Timothy 3:14-----Ezra 7:10)

How are these lessons taught? They are taught through the lives of people. The purpose of this class is two-fold:

- 1) Examine the lives of major Old Testament characters;
- 2) Reach conclusions concerning what God seems to be teaching us.

Procedure

Each student will receive an informational sheet for each character being studied. (Give out one sheet at a time.) At the top of each sheet is a list of scriptures. Read these scriptures aloud in class, class members taking turns reading. After each passage, stop and answer the questions which relate to that reading. Reach a consensus on the correct answer so each student can have the accepted answer. Continue this procedure for each succeeding passage.

Urge students to get a loose-leaf note book binder and save all lessons, both for later review and for use in teaching others.

Encourage class discussion of the information in the passages---what does God want us to get from this?

Do not worry about how far you get in the lessons in any particular session. Just mark the place where you left off and start there next time. (But don't drag things too much---keep things moving.)

ADAM

(Gen 1:1; 26-31; 2:4-4:12)

1. God created Adam from _____ and placed him in a garden called _____.
2. What was Adam forbidden to do? _____
3. Adam's wife was _____ who was made from _____.
4. What point is made concerning marriage in Genesis 2:23-24?

5. How did Satan tempt Eve? _____
6. What demonstrated Adam's weakness?

7. How were each of the following punished?
Adam: _____
Eve: _____
Serpent: _____
8. _____ and _____ were sons of Adam and Eve. Why did conflict develop between them and what was the outcome?

9. _____ and _____ were 2 other sons of Adam and Eve.
10. Make a list of important lessons we can learn from the lives of Adam and Eve?

NOAH

Gen. 5:28—9:29

1. Noah was son of _____. His 3 sons were ____, ____, and _____.

2. What did the Lord regret, and why?

3. Why did the Lord spare Noah? _____

4. What were the dimensions of the ark? _____

5. How did Noah gather the animals? _____

6. For how long was the rain to last? _____

7. At what age did Noah enter the ark? _____

8. The waters were on the earth for how long? _____

Where did the ark land? _____

9. What birds were sent from the ark---and why?

10. What promise did God make to Noah? _____

11. Why did Noah place a curse on Ham? _____

12. How long did Noah live after the flood? _____

Make a list of the important lessons we can learn from the life of Noah.

ABRAHAM

Gen. 11:26—18:33; 20:1-22:19; 23:1-25:11 (Genesis 12:1—25:11)

1. Abraham (called _____ for a while) was called by God to do what?

2. What were 3 specific promises made to Abraham?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. At age _____ Abram, along with _____ and _____ set out for a place called Haran.
4. Because of a famine Abram spent some time in _____.
5. What big mistake did Abraham make with respect to Sarai and Pharaoh?

6. Why did Abram and Lot separate? _____
7. Why did Lot need to be rescued?

8. What happened between Abram and Melchisedek?
_____. How did this become significant later (Psalms 110:4 and Hebrews 7)?

9. Why did Sarai want Abram to have a son by Hagar?

10. Hagar bore a son named _____ when Abram was age _____.

11. In Genesis 17 (when Abram was age ____), God established the covenant of _____ for all of Abram's descendants. In this chapter his name was changed to _____.
12. Why did Abraham laugh? _____
13. What did 3 visitors tell Abraham? _____
How did Sarah respond? _____
14. How did Abraham bargain with God concerning Sodom?

15. How did Lot escape from Sodom? _____
16. What mistake did Abraham repeat with King Abimelech?

17. Isaac was born when Abraham was age _____.
18. What happened to Hagar and Ishmael?

19. How did God test Abraham? _____
20. Sarah died at age _____. She was buried in the cave of _____, which Abraham bought from Ephron the _____.
21. What was Abraham's concern in finding a wife for Isaac?

22. Abraham later married _____ who bore him how many sons _____?
23. Abraham died at what age? _____

Make a list of important lessons we can learn from the life of Abraham.

ISAAC

Gen. 21:1-7; 22:1-14; 24:1-9; 25:19-34; 26:1-28:9; 35:28-29

1. Isaac was the son of _____ and _____.
2. There was strife between Isaac and his half-brother, _____.
3. How did God test Abraham with Isaac?

4. Isaac married _____. How was she selected?

5. Isaac married at age _____. His twin sons, _____ and _____, were born when he was age _____.
6. How were Jacob and Esau different?

7. _____ sold his birthright to _____ in exchange for _____
(See Hebrews 12:16-17).
8. How did Isaac get into trouble in Gerar? _____
9. What promise was renewed to Isaac (Genesis 26:24)? _____

10. How did Rebekah and Jacob deceive Isaac?

11. What did Isaac foretell about Esau's future?

12. Why did Jacob flee - and how did Rebekah arrange it?

Make a list of helpful lessons we can learn from the life of Isaac.

JACOB

Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-33:20; 35:1-29

1. Jacob was the son of _____ and _____. _____ was his twin brother.
2. How were Jacob and Esau different? _____
3. Esau sold his _____ to Jacob.
4. How did Jacob deceive his father?

5. Jacob fled to _____, to his Uncle _____.
6. What marriage instructions did Isaac give Jacob?

7. What promise was renewed to Jacob? (Genesis 28:10-15)

8. Who did Jacob meet? How did he respond?

9. What offer did Jacob make to Laban?

10. How was Jacob deceived? _____
11. Who were Leah's 4 sons? _____
12. Because Rachel could not bear children, she gave _____, her handmaiden, to Jacob so she could have children for herself. She bore _____ and _____.
13. Then Leah gave her handmaiden, _____, to Jacob. She bore _____ and _____.

14. Later Leah bore 2 more sons, _____ and _____, along with a daughter named _____.
15. Finally, Rachel bore a son named _____.
16. What changed Laban's attitude toward Jacob? _____
17. Why did Jacob leave secretly? _____
18. What had Rachel stolen? _____
19. What was the outcome of the confrontation between Jacob and Laban?

20. What caused Jacob to become very frightened? _____
21. How did Jacob prepare to meet Esau? _____

22. What blessing did an angel give Jacob? _____
23. How did the encounter with Esau turn out?

24. God told Jacob to settle where? _____
25. What promise was renewed to Jacob? (35:9-12)

26. How did Rachel die? _____
27. Jacob grieved for years at the loss of his son _____
28. At what age did Jacob move to Egypt? _____
29. Jacob died after issuing special blessings on _____.

Make a list of lessons we can learn from the life of Jacob.

JOSEPH

Genesis 30:22; 37:1-36; 39:1-45:38; 46:28-48:22; 49:33-50:26

1. Joseph was son of _____ and _____.
2. Why were Joseph's brothers jealous? _____
3. What were Joseph's dreams about?

4. What did Joseph's brothers do to him---and at what age?

5. Who bought Joseph? _____
6. Why was Joseph so successful? _____
7. Why was Joseph imprisoned _____
8. How did God bless Joseph in prison? _____
9. What did Joseph tell the baker and cupbearer? _____
10. What were Pharaoh's dreams---and why did he call Joseph?

11. What was Joseph's recommendation to Pharaoh?

12. What role did Pharaoh give Joseph? _____
13. Joseph's name was changed to _____ and he was given _____,
daughter of _____ to be his wife.
14. Joseph began his work at age _____.
15. Joseph had 2 sons, _____ and _____.

16. What accusation did Joseph make against his brothers?

17. What were the brothers told to do? _____
18. _____ was left behind. What frightened the brothers on the way home?

19. Why was the second trip to Egypt delayed so long? _____
20. Why did Joseph leave his brothers to go to a private room?

21. _____ made an impassioned plea to Joseph.
22. Why may Joseph have said to his brothers, "Don't quarrel on the way" (to their home)?

23. Jacob's family moved to an area called _____.
24. Joseph was able to acquire the _____ and the _____ in Egypt for Pharaoh.
25. What did Joseph swear to his father? _____
26. Jacob placed a greater blessing on _____ than on _____
27. Joseph got permission from Pharaoh to do what?

28. How did Joseph reassure his brothers?

29. What request did Joseph make before he died (at age _____)?

Make a list of lessons we can learn from the life of Joseph.

MOSES

Exodus 1:6-6:12; 6:28-12:36; 13:17-14:31; 16:1-17:7; 18:13-19:25; 32:1-34:35;
Numbers 11:1-14:45; 16:1-17:13; 20:1-13; 21:4-9; 27:12-22;
Deuteronomy 1:19-40; 2:14-15; 3:21-29; 32:48-52; 34:1-12.

1. Why did Moses' parents hide him? _____
2. Moses was hidden among the _____ of the _____, watched by _____.
3. Moses was found by _____ who arranged for what?

4. Why did Moses flee to Midian? _____
5. In Midian Moses married _____, daughter of _____
6. How did God appear to Moses - and why?

7. What excuse did Moses make to God? _____
How did God respond? _____
8. How did the Egyptians mistreat the Israelites? _____
9. Why were the Israelites angry at Moses and Aaron? _____
10. What miracles did the Egyptian magicians perform?

11. Name the ten plagues:

12. How did the Israelites avoid the 10th plague?

13. How did the Israelites “plunder” the Egyptians?

14. The Israelites left Egypt through the _____, pursued by the Egyptian _____ who met what fate? _____
15. What were some of the things the Israelites complained about?
(Ex. 15:24; 16:2; 17:2) _____
16. God fed _____ and _____ to the Israelites and provided water from a _____.
17. Israel camped at Mt _____ where God gave what to Moses?

18. Moses received instructions to build a tent called a _____.
19. How did Aaron and the people anger God? _____
20. How did Moses respond: to God _____
To the people? _____
21. (Numbers 9) Moses told the people to celebrate the _____.
22. What were ways some ways in which the Israelites were wearisome to Moses
(see Num. 11)? _____
24. What do we learn about Moses in Numbers 12?

25. What appeal to God did Moses make in Numbers 14?

26. What problem did Korah cause? _____

27. How did Moses and Aaron displease God in Numbers 29?

What was the penalty?

28. Why did Moses make a bronze snake?

28. (Deut. 3) Who was to lead the Israelites into Canaan? (See Deut. 31) _____

29. What instructions did Moses give Joshua? _____

30. Moses died on Mt. _____ at age _____.

Make a list of lessons we can learn from the life of Moses.

JOSHUA

Exodus 17:9-14; Numbers 14:1-2; 26-38; 27:12-23;
Deuteronomy 31:1-8, 14, 23; 34:1-12; Joshua 1:1-10:43; 23:1-16; 24:1, 14-33

1. The first mention of Joshua was when Moses chose him to lead the battle against the _____.
2. In this battle, Israel was winning as long as _____ and _____ held up _____.
3. Why was Joshua distressed by what the people did? (Num. 14)

4. What exceptions did God make for Joshua and Caleb?

5. Who was chosen to succeed Moses? _____
6. What instruction did Moses give Joshua (Deut. 31) as Moses was near the end of his life? _____
7. What instruction did the Lord give to Joshua?

8. Did the Israelites accept Joshua as their new leader? _____
9. God told Joshua to be _____ and very _____.
10. What arrangement was made with the Gadites, Reubenites, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh? _____
11. Two spies were sent to _____ where they stayed in the house of _____.
12. What arrangement was made to save Rahab?

13. How did the spies escape? _____

14. As the Israelites crossed the Jordan, they were led by what?

15. When did the waters of the Jordan stop flowing?

16. Why were 12 stones removed from the middle of the Jordan River?

17. The Lord exalted _____ in the eyes of the people and they stood in _____ of him from then on.
18. What were the reasons for setting up the stones?

19. Why was there mass circumcision? _____
20. Joshua was met by what unusual person? _____
21. What was Joshua told to do in attacking Jericho?

22. What were the orders regarding the treasures in Jericho?

23. What happened to Rahab? _____
24. Joshua pronounced a curse on whom? _____
25. Why did the army fail against Ai?

26. What happened to Achan? _____
27. What strategy did Joshua use to defeat Ai? _____

28. What did Joshua read to the whole assembly?

29. What trick did the Gibeonites play?

30. What basic mistake did the Israelites make (9:14)?

31. How were the Gibeonites penalized?

32. Why did Joshua have to defend Gibeon? _____

33. What was so unusual about the day of this battle?

34. What happened to the 5 kings? ----- _____

35. What happened to Eglon, Debir, and the other cities? _____

36. What were some key points in Joshua's message (chapter 23)?

What was his warning?

37. What admonition did Joshua continue to repeat?

GIDEON

Judges 6:1-8:35

1. Why did the Midianites successfully oppress the Israelites?

2. Why did an angel approach Gideon? _____
Why was Gideon skeptical? _____
3. Why did the people become angry at Gideon? _____
4. What sign was given to Gideon? _____
5. Gideon's army was reduced from _____ to _____. It was later reduced to _____.
6. What dream encouraged Gideon?

7. What did the Lord cause the Midianites to do?

8. What happened to Zebah and Zalmunna? _____
9. What big mistake did Gideon make?

10. What happened as soon as Gideon died?

Make a list of lessons we can learn from the life of Gideon.

OTHNEIL, EHUD, DEBORAH

Judges 1 – 5:31

A very good way to get a better understanding of the Old Testament is to divide it into time periods. For example, consider the period from Adam to Noah as “Beginnings”. With Noah and the flood a whole new generation began...and became very wicked again. So make “Noah” the second period. With Abraham began a third period as God selected a people to be his very own, through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the “Patriarchs” (or fathers). So Genesis has 3 periods: Beginnings, Noah, and Patriarchs.

Exodus begins with a 4th period, the Captivity in Egypt. After Egypt came the Wilderness wandering period (#5). The 6th period was the Conquest period as the Israelites, led by Joshua, set about to subdue or drive out the Canaanites. After things became fairly well settled (although not entirely) God established a system of Judges (7th period) to rule the Israelites.

Judges 3 records the selection of the first Judge, OTHNIEL, nephew of Caleb. The book of Judges is a book of cycles. A pattern of behavior was repeated over and over---some 15 times. The Israelites had failed to obey God’s instructions to drive out the idolatrous nations from Canaan. Instead, the Israelites, time after time, turned to worship of the idols of their neighbors. To punish them, God allowed them to be overcome by neighboring nations, who mistreated them badly. In the next step the people cry out to God for deliverance., promising to serve him instead of idols. Next step: God raises up a judge to deliver from their oppressors. Next step: after a while the people go right back to idolatry. Then back to crying out to God and a new Judge brings deliverance. (One would think that the people would eventually get it right...but they never did---a pattern that began in the wilderness and continued throughout the Old Testament.)

Some Judges were more prominent than others. EHUD, a left-handed Judge, delivered the people from Moab domination, personally killing Eglon, the Moabite king. DEBORAH was the only woman judge. Judges 4 records the interesting story of Deborah’s role in the deliverance from Jabin, the king who had oppressed Israel for 20 years. Her commander, Barak, would not go into battle unless she went along (a really courageous sort of guy!) She went--- and they won. (Check out the full story!)

Ruth

Ruth 1:1-4:17

1. Ruth lived during what period? _____
2. Why did Elimelech and Naomi move to Moab? _____
3. _____ and _____ married _____ and _____.

4. Why did Naomi leave Moab? _____

5. What was Ruth's famous statement to Naomi?

6. Who was Boaz? _____

7. What work did Ruth do in the fields?

What kindness did Boaz show to Ruth---and why?

8. What did Naomi tell Ruth to do at the threshing floor?

9. What arrangement did Boaz make at the city gate?

10. What was the name of Ruth's son? _____. How was he significant?

Samuel, Saul, David

I Samuel 1:1-28; 2:12-3:21; 7:2-17, 8:1-11:15, 12:1-25, 13:1-14, 15:1-29:11, 31:1-13;
II Samuel 1:1-16, 2:1-5:25, 7:1-17, 11:1-27, 12:1-25, 15:1—19:43...I Kings 1:1-2:12

The lives of Samuel, Saul, and David are so inter-connected that they really cannot be totally separated. For this reason, their stories are being combined.

Samuel

1. Who were Elkanah's wives? _____

For what did Hannah pray? _____
2. What was Eli's accusation? _____
3. What was Hannah's promise?

4. How did Eli's sons sin? _____
5. How was Eli at fault? _____
6. What did the Lord tell Samuel about Eli? _____
7. Under Samuel's leadership, the _____ were defeated.
8. When the people asked for a king, what were some warnings given by Samuel?

9. God said the people had rejected _____

Saul

10. What was striking about Saul's appearance? _____
11. Saul met _____ while looking for _____
12. What did God tell Samuel about Saul?
13. _____
14. Why was Saul surprised? _____
15. What did Samuel tell Saul that he must do? _____
16. The 1st successful test of Saul's leadership was against whom? _____
17. What final warning did Samuel give? _____
18. What huge mistake did Saul make? _____
19. What was the consequence? _____
20. God rejected Saul after what event involving Agag?

Enter... **David**

21. Samuel anointed _____ to be future successor of Saul.
22. Why was David sent to Saul? _____
23. _____ was the hero of the Philistines.
24. Why was David sent to the battle front? _____
25. David was scolded by whom? _____
26. Why did the Philistines flee? _____
27. Why was Saul angry at David? _____
28. David and _____ became close friends.

29. What did David receive from Ahimelech? _____
30. David fled to Achish, King of _____
31. How did David deceive Achish?

32. What terrible thing did Doeg the Edomite do? _____
33. How did David show loyalty to Saul?

34. What kind of person was Nabal? Who was his wife?

35. Why did Saul search for a medium? Where did he find one? What message did he receive? From whom? _____
36. How did Saul die? Who else died that day?

37. How did David react to Saul's death?

38. What did Abner do? _____
39. When Abner changed sides, what did David demand?

40. Why did Joab kill Abner?

37. Who was Mephibosheth? _____
38. Why was Mephibosheth killed? What happened to the killers?

39. David became king over a united Judah and Israel when he was _____ years old and reigned _____ years.

40. What place did David conquer from the Jebusites? _____

41. _____, King of _____ sent materials to David for building his palace.

42. Who did God say was to build his house (temple)? _____

43. When "kings went to war", David did what?

44. _____ was wife of _____, the Hittite.

45. What was admirable about Uriah?

46. How did David have Uriah killed - and why?

47. God sent _____ to express his anger with David.

48. Nathan told David a story about what? _____

49. What were 2 penalties to be faced by David?

Enter... **Solomon**

50. Bathsheba bore another son named _____

51. David's son _____ made himself popular with the people.
52. _____ gathered a following and declared himself king.
53. How did David respond to Absalom's conspiracy?

54. Ahithophel was advisor to _____. _____ was asked by David to secretly work against the advice of Ahithophel.
55. As David fled he was cursed by _____.
56. Ahithophel advised Absalom to do what on the roof?

57. _____ cursed David as he fled.
58. Whose advice did Absalom take? _____
59. What happened to Ahithophel? _____
60. How did Joab disobey David concerning Absalom?

60. Why was Joab upset with David?

61. As David neared death, one of his sons _____ tried to make himself king.
62. It was David's wish that _____ should become king.

63. _____ was the priest and _____ the prophet who arranged to have Solomon declared king.

64. In his final words to Solomon, David mentioned the need for punishment to be carried out on _____ and _____.

Solomon

I Kings 1:11-3:29; 4:29-7:12; 8:1-21; 9:1-9; 10:1-11:43

1. _____, the prophet and Bathsheba got David's agreement and hurried to have Solomon proclaimed King.
2. (On the back) What were some directions that David gave to Solomon?
3. _____, _____, and _____ were 3 men whom Solomon had killed.
4. What offer did God make to Solomon? _____
How did Solomon respond? _____
5. God promised Solomon both _____ and _____.
What was God's "if"? _____
6. Solomon made a wise decision concerning two _____.
7. What were some examples of Solomon's wisdom and knowledge?

8. _____, King of _____ provided large quantities of _____ to help Solomon build _____.
9. What promise was repeated to Solomon (6:11)?

10. The temple was built in _____ years.
11. It took Solomon 13 years to build what? _____
12. In a special ceremony the _____ was brought into the temple.
13. What is significant about I Kings 9:4? _____
14. _____ came to check on reports about Solomon. What was her response? _____

15. Why were Solomon's older years so disappointing?

16. What punishment did God assign to Solomon?

17. What did Hadad and Rezon have in common?

18. _____, the prophet told _____ that God would give him control of _____ tribes - and that he would have an enduring dynasty - IF

The Divided Kingdom

God promised Solomon that if he would remain faithful his descendants would continue to occupy the throne. Sadly, Solomon left the Lord, allowing his idolatrous foreign wives to turn his heart away from God and to the worship of idols.

After Solomon's death his son Rehoboam became king. But because of his harsh treatment of the people, the ten northern tribes broke away to form a northern kingdom....thus ending the United Kingdom period.

God chose Jeroboam, one of Solomon's officials, to lead the Northern Kingdom. Abijah the prophet told Jeroboam that if he remained faithful to God he would have an enduring dynasty of his own.

But, like Solomon and so many before him, Jeroboam did not remain faithful to God - and the Lord turned against him also.

Thus began a period of division - the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom (see map). The books of I and II Kings trace the history of each kingdom. It is mostly a dismal history. Every Northern king did evil in God's sight, as did most of the Southern kings. God sent a stream of prophets to warn the people of coming disaster if they did not turn from idols to serve God---but with little effect. (See chart for when various prophets appeared.)

After a little over 200 years the Assyrians came and conquered the Northern Kingdom forcing most of the people into exile (722 B.C.) The Southern Kingdom lasted about 300 years, but the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar came and destroyed Jerusalem and forced masses of people into exile in Babylon (586 B.C.)

This biography series features a few of the better known kings who lived in the Divided Kingdom period. The student is encouraged to read I and II Kings in order to gain a fuller understanding of this period.

Rehoboam & Jeroboam

1 Kings 11:42---14:31

This biography series features a few of the better-known kings of the Divided Kingdom period. The student is encouraged to read I and II Kings in order to gain a fuller understanding of this period.

1. What advice was given to Rehoboam by the older men?

2. What advice did the younger advisors give?

3. How did the people respond to Rehoboam's decision?

4. Which 2 tribes stayed with Rehoboam? _____ & _____

5. Jeroboam made 2 _____ which he set up in _____ and _____ because he was afraid of what? _____

6. A man of God came to Bethel and cried out against what ?

7. What happened to Jeroboam's hand? _____

8. What important lesson can we learn from the fate of this man of God?

9. How did Jeroboam try to fool Ahijah - and what bad news did he receive?

10. Idolatry also spread in the South under Rehoboam; as a result, Shishak did what? _____

Hezekiah

II Kings 18:1—20:21

1. Hezekiah reigned _____ years. What did he do about idolatry?

2. What does 18:5 say about Hezekiah?

3. What happened to the Northern Kingdom (Samaria) during Hezekiah's reign?

4. What happened to the people of the North---and why?

5. How did Hezekiah try to bribe the Assyrian King Sennacherib?

6. What threats were made against Hezekiah by the Assyrians?

7. How did the Assyrians belittle God?

8. What did Hezekiah do with Sennacherib's letter?

9. What did the Lord do to the Assyrian army?

10. What happened to Sennacherib?

11. What did Isaiah say about Hezekiah's illness - and how did he respond?

12. How did God respond to Hezekiah's prayer? _____

13. What sign was given to Hezekiah?

14. What prediction did Isaiah make concerning Babylon?

Ahab, Elijah, Elisha

Ahab was one of the most wicked kings of the Divided Kingdom period. His wife, Jezebel, was as bad as he was. He lived at the time of the prophets Elijah and Elisha---who were in frequent conflict with him.

1. Ahab married _____ and was also a worshipper of _____.
2. Elijah told Ahab that there would be no _____ or _____ except at his word.
3. Elijah fled east of the Jordan where he was fed by _____.
4. A widow in Zarephath was blessed by a continual supply of _____ and _____ . What did Elijah do for her later?

5. _____ was Ahab's administrator. He had saved the lives of _____ prophets.
6. Elijah told Obadiah that he would do what? _____
7. Elijah gave a great demonstration of God's power on Mount _____.
8. What happened to Baal's prophets? _____
9. Elijah told Ahab that _____ was coming.
10. Why did Elijah again run for his life? _____. He traveled 40 days to Mt. _____.
11. Elijah was to anoint _____ as King of Israel. (He would take vengeance against the house of Ahab.)
12. Elijah was to anoint _____ to be his successor.
13. Elisha burned his _____ and became Elijah's servant.
14. _____, King of _____, besieged Samaria and threatened Ahab, but God promised to do what?

15. God was angry because Ahab had spared the life of _____, (who had twice attacked Samaria).

16. Jezebel had _____ killed so Ahab could have _____.

17. What did the prophet say would happen to Ahab?

18. What happened to Jezebel?

19. Why did Ahab hate Micaiah? _____

20. How was Ahab killed? _____

21. Elijah told Ahaziah he would die - after he wanted to consult whom?

22. Elijah went to heaven in a _____

23. What did Elisha ask for from Elijah? _____

24. What did Elisha put into water to purify it? _____

25. Elisha called on the Lord who sent water - which led to the defeat of _____.

26. Through Elisha the Lord provided much _____ to help a prophet's widow.

27. How did God bless a Shunammite woman through Elisha?

28. What did Elisha do that reminds you of what Jesus did?

29. _____ was a commander in the army of _____ who had what problem? _____

30. Why was the King of Israel angry? _____

31. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do?

32. Why was Naaman angry at Elisha?

33. Why did Gehazi become leprous?

34. Elisha caused what to float? _____
35. At Elisha's prayer, his servant saw what?

36. _____, King of _____, besieged _____,
causing great famine.
37. What caused the Aramean army to flee? _____
38. Who discovered the abandoned Aramean camp? _____
39. Hazael murdered whom? _____
40. How did Jezebel die---and how was Elijah's prophecy fulfilled?

41. II Kings 13:14-20 records the death of _____.

Daniel

Daniel 1:1—6:28

When Nebuchadnezzar conquered the land of Judah he transported large numbers of people to Babylon. This included many people from the royal family and others who had been in positions of nobility. These included a young man named Daniel.

Daniel was an especially devout and gifted young man. God blessed him abundantly, including the gifts of prophecy and dream interpretation. Not only is the book of Daniel a grand confirmation of God's blessings on the righteous, but it contains an important set of prophecies concerning the coming of the kingdom of Christ. (This series of biographies will not explore in depth the prophecies in the book).

1. What kind of training was to be given to Daniel, Hananiah, and Azariah?

2. These young men were to be trained to do what?

3. What new names were given?

4. The young men asked to eat _____ rather than _____.

5. Why was Nebuchadnezzar going to execute all the "wise men"?

6. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was of a huge statue made of what 4 materials?

7. These 4 portions of the statue represented 4 _____.

8. What was the problem with the 4th kingdom?

9. What important event was to occur during the time of the 4th kingdom?

It is widely accepted that these were the 4 kingdoms:

- Gold: Nebuchadnezzar and Babylonians
- Silver: Medo-Persian Empire
- Bronze: Greek Empire (Alexander the Great)
- Iron & Clay: Roman Empire

10. As prophesied, the kingdom of Christ was established during the Roman empire.

11. How did Nebuchadnezzar reward Daniel?

12. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

13. What were all the government officials to do re: the golden image?

14. What was the penalty for disobeying the king?

15. Why was the king amazed?

16. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a great tree----which represented what?

_____. Nebuchadnezzar lost his power for how long? _____

The Bible does not tell how long it was between the rule of Nebuchadnezzar and the rule of Belshazzar or what their relationship was. Daniel, chapter 5, records the last day of Babylonian rule. That night the army of Darius the Mede invaded and took over as ruler.

17. At Belshazzar's banquet, the guests drank from vessels from where?

18. What frightened Belshazzar? _____

19. Daniel said that Belshazzar's kingdom would be given to whom?

20. Why were administrators resentful of Daniel?

21. What trap was set to get Daniel in trouble?

22. How were Daniel's enemies punished?

Esther

Esther 1:1-10:3

The book of Esther involves events during the period of the Babylonian captivity. Mordecai was one of the captives taken to Babylon. Esther was his cousin, whom he raised after she was orphaned.

1. King _____ gave a great banquet for all the nobles and officials in the land.
2. The king ordered his wife, _____, to come before the crowd and show off her beauty.
3. When the queen refused to come, his advisors said he should seek a new _____.
4. What concern was expressed by his advisors?

5. A Jew named _____ arranged for his cousin, _____, to enter the "beauty contest".
6. Mordecai told Esther not to reveal _____.
7. _____ was chosen to be queen.
8. Esther told the king about a plot to kill the king, as discovered by _____.
9. A man named _____ was elevated to high position, but he became very angry when _____ would not bow down to him.
10. When Haman learned that Mordecai was a Jew he plotted to do what with all the Jews?
11. Xerxes agreed to kill all _____.
12. Mordecai told Esther to do what? _____
13. Esther might be killed unless the king did what when she went to see him?
14. Esther invited the king to a _____
15. At the banquet, Esther requested what? _____

16. Haman felt very proud, but was very irritated because _____
_____.
17. Haman's wife suggested that what be done to Mordecai?

18. Why did the king choose to honor Mordecai?

19. Did Haman have a reason to be disappointed? _____
20. What did Esther ask the king to do? _____
21. What happened to Haman? _____
22. Who replaced Haman? _____
23. A new edict from the king authorized the Jews to do what?

24. The word _____ was used to honor the days when the Jews defended themselves.
25. Who became second in power to the king? _____

Ezra

Ezra 1:1-8; 2:64-7:28; 8:15-10:17

Restoration

The Babylonian captivity occurred after many generations of idolatrous rebellion of the Israelites against God. Jeremiah prophesied (Jeremiah 25:11-12) that the captivity would last seventy years.

The book of Ezra tells of what happened at the end of seventy years as King Cyrus of Persia issued a proclamation allowing any of the Jews who wished to do so to go back to Jerusalem - and to re-build the temple.

The return to Jerusalem occurred in three main groups over an extended period of time. The first group was led by ZERUBBABEL in 538 B.C. EZRA led the second group in 458 B.C. (80 years after the first group). Finally, NEHEMIAH led a group in 444B.C. (14 years after Ezra).

As the books of Ezra and Nehemiah reveal, the Restoration was by no means quick, smooth, or trouble-free. The success that was achieved was largely as a result of heroic efforts on the parts of Ezra, Nehemiah, and others. (These men, whose names are relatively obscure, deserve much more admiration than they usually receive.)

1. As prophesied by _____, a proclamation by _____, King of _____, allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem.
2. Cyrus also brought out articles from the _____ which _____ had taken from Jerusalem.
3. The first group to return to Jerusalem was led by _____.
4. The returnees built an _____ and celebrated the Feast of _____.
5. In the second year the people began to re-build the _____.
6. A number of enemies opposed rebuilding the _____ and bribed officials to frustrate their plans.

7. A letter to King _____ led to a stoppage in the construction of the temple until the second year of King _____.
8. Under the direction of the prophets _____ and _____ work on the temple resumed.
9. Governor Tattenai asked King _____ to search the record to see if King _____ had issued a decree authorizing rebuilding the Temple.
10. What was the basic message of Darius to Tattenai? _____

11. The temple was completed in the ____ year of King Darius.
12. Ezra went to Jerusalem during the reign of _____.
13. Did Ezra have the King's blessings? _____
14. Why did Ezra not want to ask the king for protection on their journey?

15. Ezra was in great distress when he learned what?

16. What did Ezra confess to God?

17. What solution was decided on concerning foreign wives?

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1:1-7:5; 8:1-9:38; 10:28-11:2; 12:27-13:30

Introduction

As noted in the introduction to the Ezra study, after 70 years of captivity in Babylon, groups of Jews gradually made the long trip back to Jerusalem. The first group was led by Zerubbabel in 538 B. C. Ezra's group came 80 years later. The hope was that the returning Jews could successfully re-build Jerusalem and the temple. Nehemiah made his trip 14 years after Ezra went to Jerusalem. Ezra was more of a priest and teacher, but Nehemiah's work was more as a ruling authority.

Nehemiah held the special position of Cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, and therefore had frequent access to the king. Nehemiah was a very religious man who had deep concerns about the progress of the re-building work in Jerusalem. He kept getting dismal reports about the lack of progress there. His sadness was apparent to the king who inquired as to what the problem was. The succeeding events show what a special person Nehemiah was---and how God worked marvelously in supporting him.

The story of Nehemiah's faith, his courage, and his persistence is one of the most inspiring stories in the Old Testament.

When the Jews were exiled from Jerusalem, other people moved in. These were people who were not friendly to the Jews. When the local governors, including Tobiah and Sanballat, saw the success of Nehemiah in re-building Jerusalem, they became increasingly alarmed and made every effort to stop the increase in Jewish power. Nehemiah's strong defense against their efforts is a major theme in the book.

1. Why did Hamani's report cause Nehemiah to cry? _____
2. What did Nehemiah confess---and what was his request?

3. What was Nehemiah's occupation? _____
4. What did Artaxerxes notice about Nehemiah? _____

5. Nehemiah _____ before he made his request to the king.
6. What were 2 things which Nehemiah asked the king to do?

7. _____ and _____ were opposed to helping the Jews.
8. What did Nehemiah do at night?

9. What did Nehemiah propose to the Jewish leaders?

10. What did Nehemiah tell Tobiah, Sanballat, and Geshem?

11. The city walls were re-built in sections by different groups. What were 4 gates that were mentioned?

12. _____ and _____ heaped scorn on the builders. What prayer did Nehemiah offer concerning them?

13. There was success in the re-building because the people worked with “ _____
_____ ”.
14. How did Nehemiah respond to the threats of their enemies?

15. What was said about a trumpet?

16. What was the outcry of the poor?

17. How did Nehemiah respond to the outcry of the poor?

18. For _____ years Nehemiah did not burden people with heavy taxes. This was out of _____ for God.
19. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem kept asking Nehemiah to do what?

- What was Nehemiah's response? _____
20. His enemies accused Nehemiah of trying to become what?

21. Tobiah and Sanballat hired _____ to prophesy against Nehemiah.
22. The wall was completed in _____ days.
23. _____ had a lot of influence with many of the nobles of Judah. He sent letters trying to _____ Nehemiah.
24. Nehemiah put _____, his brother, in charge of Jerusalem because he was a man of _____ and feared _____.
25. Jerusalem was spacious, but not many people lived in the city because the _____ had not been rebuilt.
26. Ezra was a _____ of the _____.
27. The people gathered before Ezra as he stood on a _____ and read aloud the _____ of _____.
28. As Ezra read there were Levites who helped the people to _____ what was being read.
29. Nehemiah told the people not to grieve but to do what? _____
30. From the reading of the law the people learned of the law to live in _____ for a period of _____ days.

31. The Israelites spent hours _____ their _____ and praising God.
32. The people took an oath to follow the _____ of _____.
33. One in 10 people was to live where? _____
34. Nehemiah arranged for a great celebration at the dedication of the _____.
35. While Nehemiah was not in _____ the priest had allowed _____ to have a large room in the _____.
36. How did Nehemiah respond to this? _____
37. Why were some beaten and had their hair pulled out?
