



BUILDING YOUR LIFE FOR GOD

Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Ezekiel,
Haggai, and Malachi

ABSTRACT

This quarter we will review the reasons behind the Babylonian Captivity. Then we will look at two prophets of the captivity, the return and rebuilding, along with a look at God's deliverance of the people through Esther and Mordecai. (The picture on the left is of the Ishtar Gate of Babylon and is currently housed in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, Germany.)

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Babylonian Empire



Medo-Persian Empire



Judah After the Return



Memory Passages

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” Genesis 1:1-3

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ” Genesis 12:1-3

“Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’ ” Genesis 50:19-20

“And Moses said to the people: ‘Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place.’ ” Exodus 13:3

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” Exodus 19:5

“Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” Exodus 40:34

“For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:45

“Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.” Numbers 11:1

“Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.’ ” Numbers 20:12

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5

“Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” Joshua 21:45

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Judges 17:6

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.” 1 Samuel 12:24-25

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

“I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.” 1 Kings 2:2-3

“And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word.” 1 Kings 18:21

“For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.” 2 Kings 17:22-23

“Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not depart from following the LORD God of their fathers.” 2 Chronicles 34:33

Lessons 1-4: “If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Daniel 3:17-18

Lessons 5-8: “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” Daniel 6:10

Lessons 9-13: “And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Nehemiah 8:5-6

Lesson One: God's People Become Slaves

Jer. 25:1-11; 52:1-16; 2 Chron. 36:15-21; Jer. 31:31-34; Lam. 1-5 (While reading the entire book of Lamentations is recommended, at a minimum read 1:1-6; 2:1-22; 3:22-27; 4:1-13; 5:1-22.)

1. When did the people of God divide into the two nations of Israel and Judah?
2. What did Jeroboam do out of fear that his subjects in Israel would switch their allegiance to Rehoboam?
3. Who took Israel into captivity ca. 722/721 B.C.?
4. How long had Jeremiah been prophesying by the time of Jer. 25?
5. What had he and the other prophets been pleading with the people to do?
6. How long were the Jews going to serve the king of Babylon?
7. The Babylonian Captivity took place in three key stages:
 - a. 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar made Judah a vassal state and carried some captives. Dan. 1:1-4
 - b. In 597 B.C. King Jehoiachin (Jechoniah/Coniah) and a larger group of captives were taken to Babylon. 2 Chr. 36:9-10 (Ezekiel was in this group, but had not yet been called to be a prophet. These were the "good figs" of Jer. 24.)
 - c. The temple and city of Jerusalem were destroyed in 586 B.C.
8. Who was the last king of Judah?
9. Why had the Lord sent His messengers to warn Judah? 2 Chr. 36
10. 2 Chr. 36 described the land as enjoying her _____ during the time of the Captivity.
11. Though Jeremiah often spoke a message of judgment, Jer. 31:31-34 looks to a brighter day. Where in the New Testament do we find this quoted?
12. List the different ways Lamentations 1:1-6 describes the suffering of Jerusalem and Judah.
13. Who is depicted in Lam. 2 as the destroyer of Jerusalem?
14. Why were God's people not completely consumed? Lam. 3:22-27
15. Cf. Lam. 4:10 to the words of Moses in Deut. 28:53-57.
16. Lamentations describes in an emotional way the fulfillment of God's warnings from Moses to Jeremiah.

Lesson Two: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego

Daniel 1-3

1. What righteous king had been told that some of his descendants would be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon?
2. What kind of men were selected to serve in the king's palace?
3. What were they to be taught as part of their training?
4. List both the Hebrew and Babylonian names given Daniel and his three friends.
5. Why did Daniel not want to drink the wine or eat the food assigned him?
6. What agreement did Daniel make with the steward in charge of him and his friends?
7. What did King Nebuchadnezzar think of these men at the end of their training?
8. Ch. 2 is set in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. When were Daniel and his friends selected for their special training and how long was it to last?
9. Who was brought before the king to tell him about his dream?
10. Note: Dan. 2:4b—7:28 is written in Aramaic, while the remainder of the book is in Hebrew.
11. Why did Nebuchadnezzar give orders to kill all the wise men?
12. Why did Daniel need time before explaining the dream to the king?
13. When the secret was revealed to Daniel, he took time to _____ God.
14. Daniel gave credit to _____ in _____ for revealing the secrets.
15. The image Nebuchadnezzar saw had a head of _____, chest and arms of _____, belly and thighs of _____, and legs of _____.
16. What caused the destruction of the image?
17. When would the indestructible kingdom be set up?
18. Daniel was promoted to be ruler over the entire province of _____.
19. Where did Nebuchadnezzar have a great image of gold erected?
20. What was everyone to do when the music sounded?
21. Who told the king about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego not bowing?

22. What was their response when given a second chance by Nebuchadnezzar?
23. How hot was the furnace when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into it?
24. What caused great astonishment when Nebuchadnezzar looked at the furnace?
25. What was to happen to anyone who disparaged the God of these three men?

Lesson Three: Daniel and Babylonian Kings

Daniel 4, 5

1. Daniel 4 is unique in that it is written by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
2. Where was Nebuchadnezzar when he had the dream of ch. 4?
3. Who was unable to explain the dream before Daniel was brought in?
4. Describe the tree he saw in his dream.
5. Who called for the tree to be cut down?
6. How long would the change from the heart of a man to that of a beast last?
7. What lesson was the Most High seeking to teach Nebuchadnezzar?
8. In light of this ominous dream and interpretation, what was Daniel's advice to the king?
9. How long after the dream did it take before the fulfillment took place?
10. What was the king saying when the voice from heaven spoke to him?
11. What did Nebuchadnezzar do when he returned to his senses?
12. Nebuchadnezzar was king from 605-562 B.C. Following his death, his son Evil-Merodach reigned for two years (cf. 2 Kings 25:27) before being assassinated. From 560-556 B.C. Neriglissar was king. His infant son, Labashi-Marduk, followed him as king, but was quickly killed and replaced by Nabonidus, who would reign until the fall of Babylon. The Belshazzar of Dan. 5 was actually the Crown Prince, but historians have learned that he often served as king during lengthy absences of his father.
13. Beginning in 559 B.C. Cyrus had been increasing his power in Persia and by 539 B.C. was ruling the powerful Medo-Persian kingdom. Daniel 5 is set in 539 B.C. when the kingdom of Babylon falls to the Medes and Persians.
14. What vessels did Belshazzar, his lords, his wives, and his concubines drink from at this great feast?
15. How did the king react when he saw the fingers of a hand writing on the wall?
16. Who urged the king to seek out Daniel?
17. Belshazzar promised to make Daniel the _____ ruler in the kingdom.
18. What historical event did Daniel accuse Belshazzar of ignoring?
19. What did the handwriting signify?
20. While Cyrus ruled the entire empire, _____ was made king in Babylon.

Lesson Four: Daniel and Ezekiel Obey

Daniel 6; 9:1-19; Ezekiel 1-3

1. Why did the king give thought to putting Daniel over his entire realm?
2. Daniel's enemies knew that they would have to use the _____ of his _____ against him.
3. What did Daniel do when he learned that the king had forbidden prayer to anyone other than himself?
4. Since Darius did not want to kill Daniel, why did he cast him into the den of lions?
5. What did the king do that night when Daniel was cast to the lions?
6. How was Daniel kept from harm?
7. Who ended up being thrown into the den of lions?
8. What did Darius say about the God of Daniel?
9. Whose writings led Daniel to make prayer and supplication, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes?
10. Daniel said that _____ belonged to the Lord, while _____ belonged to Judah and Israel.
11. He did not expect God's help because of their _____, but because of the Lord's _____.
12. Note that we are backing up chronologically to look at Ezekiel. He was called to prophesy in the _____ year of King Jehoiachin's captivity. This would be ca. 593 B.C. and about six years before the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.
13. Describe as best you can the living creatures Ezekiel saw.
14. The rims of the wheels were full of _____.
15. What was above the heads of the living creatures?
16. How did he describe the One sitting on the likeness of a throne?
17. What kind of response was Ezekiel told to expect from his audience?
18. What was Ezekiel given to eat? What NT prophet did something similar?
19. Ezekiel's forehead was made harder than _____.
20. What was his responsibility as a watchman for the house of Israel?

Lesson Five: Ezekiel Warns the People

Ezekiel 4-5; 8-10; 11:22-25; 18; 33:21-33; 36-37; 43:1-11

1. Review. When was Ezekiel taken to Babylon and when did he begin to prophesy?
2. A key task before Ezekiel was to show his fellow-captives that they were not only going to be in Babylon a while, but would be joined by other captives. His mission was also to point the people back to God so that the future blessings could be theirs. Once Jerusalem had fallen in ch. 33 Ezekiel began to focus on the Lord's intent to bless Israel's future. In this book we often read, "they shall know that I am the Lord."
3. What "play" did Ezekiel put on in ch. 4?
4. How did he use his hair to demonstrate the future for Jerusalem and its inhabitants?
5. How was Ezekiel taken to Jerusalem in ch. 8? What did he witness in the temple?
6. What did the glory of the Lord do in ch. 9-11?
7. What had to happen before the men with battle-axes could begin their slaughter of the people?
8. Where and with whom did the slaughter begin?
9. What was the point of the proverb some were using in 18:2?
10. "The soul who _____ shall die. The _____ shall not bear the guilt of the _____, nor the _____ bear the guilt of the _____."
11. After the fall of Jerusalem Ezekiel had a message for the remnant left in the land. 33:23-29
12. What were the people saying about Ezekiel at the end of ch. 33?
13. Chapters 36, 37 depict the future glories of "Israel" when they would again have "David" as their king. The prophet uses images they could relate to in depicting the glory of Christ's spiritual kingdom.
14. What did the Lord promise to give them when He had gathered them out of all countries and brought them into their own land? 36:24-28
15. They would be His _____, and He would be their _____.
16. How did the dry bones come to life again?
17. What did the union of the two sticks signify in Ezek. 37?
18. The Lord promised to set His _____ in their midst forevermore.
19. What did the glory of the Lord do in ch. 43?

Lesson Six: Queen Esther

Esther 1-5

1. Ahasuerus (Xerxes) reigned from ca. 486-465 B.C. Chronologically, the events of Esther take place between chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra. Though Cyrus had given permission to the Jews to return to their homeland, it is clear from this book that many remained in the lands of captivity.
2. While the book of Esther does not specifically mention God, His providential hand is clearly seen in this book.
3. Ahasuerus reigned over 127 provinces, from _____ to _____.
4. How long did the feast of ch. 1 last?
5. Why did the king become angry with Queen Vashti?
6. What was Memucan so concerned about the behavior of Vashti?
7. Who had raised Esther as his own daughter?
8. Why was Esther given extra beauty preparations?
9. Why did she not reveal to anyone that she was a Jew?
10. Esther became queen in the _____ year of Ahasuerus' reign. (Ca. 479 B.C.)
11. How did Mordecai save the life of the king?
12. Who was Haman and why did he become angry with Mordecai?
13. How did Haman persuade the king to give orders to kill the Jews in his kingdom?
14. What did Esther send Mordecai when she heard that he was going about in sackcloth and ashes?
15. Why was Esther initially reluctant to approach the king on behalf of her people?
16. Mordecai was confident that somehow deliverance would come, but told Esther that perhaps she had come to the _____ for such a _____ as this.
17. She determined to go to the king and said, "If I _____, I _____."
18. What was her request when she appeared before the king?
19. What did Haman's wife and friends suggest he have prepared for Mordecai?

Lesson Seven: God Uses Esther to Take Care of His People

Esther 6-10

1. Review: It is ca. 474 B.C. and Esther, a Jewish woman who was among those who chose not to return to Canaan, must ask King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) to spare the Jewish people from destruction at the hands of Haman.
2. What did the king do when he had trouble sleeping the night before he was to go to the banquet prepared by Queen Esther?
3. Why did the king then want to honor Mordecai?
4. What was going through Haman's mind as he was giving the king ideas about how to properly honor someone?
5. What did his wife and his wise men tell Haman when he related the story of his humiliation before Mordecai?
6. What did the king promise to give Esther?
7. What did the king do first when he learned of Haman's wicked plot?
8. Where was Haman when the king returned?
9. Haman was then _____ on the _____ he had prepared for Mordecai.
10. Who was chosen to replace Haman?
11. Though the king couldn't simply revoke the first law, he did issue a second decree that allowed the Jews to do what?
12. What did a significant number of the people of the land do when the second decree was read?
13. From that day forward the Jews celebrated the Feast of _____ in the month of _____.

Lesson Eight: God Brings His People Home

Ezra 1-6; Zechariah 4

1. Ezra opens in the first year of Cyrus, i.e. the first year he ruled over Babylon, and this was probably 539 B.C.
2. What did Cyrus say that the Lord had commanded him to do?
3. What prophet had earlier spoken of Cyrus as the Lord's anointed?
4. How did many who were not going to Canaan to rebuild the temple help those who were going?
5. Sheshbazzar (Zerubbabel) was given the _____ of the house of the Lord which had been taken by _____.
6. How many people returned to Jerusalem and Judah with Zerubbabel?
7. When did the remnant first begin to offer burnt offerings on the new altar they had built?
8. When did they begin work on the temple?
9. What was the reaction of the people when the foundation of the temple was laid?
10. Ezra 4 tells of work being halted on the temple and does so by reporting the historical facts. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah, who came on the scene in 520 B.C. to get the work restarted, show us that the external opposition could be overcome once the people made the temple a priority and put their trust in God.
11. Who opposed the rebuilding of the temple after being told they could not be a part of the project?
12. How did the opponents persuade the Persian king to order a halt to the rebuilding of the very temple Cyrus had ordered built?
13. Who rose up in the second year of Darius (520 B.C.) to get the Jews moving again?
14. Who led the rebuilding effort? 5:2
15. What did the Jews do this second time when they were challenged by the governor of the region?
16. Where did Darius find a copy of the decree issued by Cyrus?
17. What was Tattenai ordered to do to assist in the temple work?
18. The temple was completed in the _____ year of King Darius (516 B.C.).
19. What feast did they celebrate at the end of ch. 6.
20. Note: There is about a fifty-eight year gap between ch. 6 and 7 of Ezra.

Lesson Nine: Ezra Helps the People

Ezra 7-10

1. Take note that Ezra was descended from Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron. What was Phinehas known for when Israel was involved in fornication with the Midianite women?
2. What was a scribe?
3. Ezra prepared his _____ to seek the _____ of the Lord, and to do it, and to _____ it in Israel.
4. It was ca. 458 B.C. when Ezra led this second return.
5. What did the king instruct Ezra to do with the gold and silver he was carrying to Jerusalem?
6. Who was granted an exemption from taxes?
7. What powers did the king grant Ezra in 7:25-26?
8. When Ezra assembled his group, he realized he had no _____.
9. Why was Ezra ashamed to ask the king for an armed escort?
10. What was the initial response of Ezra when he heard that the people were intermarrying with the people of the surrounding lands?
11. Ezra spoke of being too ashamed and humiliated to lift up his _____ to God.
12. What did a large group of people do while Ezra was praying, confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God?
13. Who swore an oath to assist Ezra in dealing with the improper marriages?
14. When did the assembly gather in the open square to begin dealing with the pagan marriages?
15. How long did it take Ezra and the other leaders to finish questioning everyone about the pagan wives?

Lesson Ten: Nehemiah and the Walls of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 1-6

1. Understanding time and chronology. It was probably late in 445 B.C. when the book of Nehemiah opens. The month of Chislev would roughly correspond to our mid-November to mid-December. The month of Nisan is around mid-March to mid-April.
2. Where was Nehemiah when he received the bad news about the wall and gates of Jerusalem?
3. With great sadness Nehemiah _____ and _____ as he sought God's help.
4. As you go through the book pay attention to the number of times Nehemiah prays. While he was a man of action, he was also a man of prayer.
5. Nehemiah asked the Lord's help in obtaining mercy from whom?
6. What was Nehemiah's job?
7. What did the king ask Nehemiah that caused him great fear?
8. Nehemiah requested permission to go to the city of his fathers' _____ and rebuild it.
9. What kind of letters did Nehemiah request from the king?
10. What did Nehemiah do before informing the leading officials of Jerusalem about his intentions?
11. What three men laughed at Nehemiah and accused him of rebelling against the king?
12. Who was the first man mentioned as rising up to build?
13. Whose nobles refused to join in the work?
14. What army did Sanballat control?
15. Tobiah mockingly said that a _____ would break down the wall the Jews were building.
16. When threatened by their enemies, they _____ and set a _____.
17. Describe the precautions taken by Nehemiah in ch. 4.
18. Why were some of the Jews being sold into slavery?
19. What did Nehemiah and his brothers choose not to eat?
20. Compare the daily provisions at his table with those at Solomon's in 1 Kings 4:22-23.
21. What reason did Nehemiah give for not meeting with Sanballat and Geshem?
22. _____ was hired by the opposition to try to get Nehemiah to sin.
23. The wall was completed in _____ days.

Lesson Eleven: Ezra and Nehemiah

Nehemiah 8-13

1. Review:
 - a. Why had Nehemiah come to Jerusalem?
 - b. How long had it taken them to complete the task?
2. The reading of the Law in ch. 8 took place in the seventh month, a month that began with the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), and included the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths).
3. Where did the people gather for the reading of the Law?
4. How long did the reading of the Law last that first day?
5. Where did Ezra stand for the reading?
6. What did the people do when Ezra opened the book? When Ezra blessed the Lord?
7. How did the Levites help the people that day?
8. What did Nehemiah, Ezra, and the scribes want the people to do instead of weeping?
9. How long had it been since the people had kept the Feast of Tabernacles the way it was supposed to be observed?
10. On the twenty-fourth day of the month they _____ from the Law for one-fourth of the day and then _____ and _____ for another one-fourth of the day.
11. As you read ch. 9 pay attention to the acknowledgement of their national habit of disobeying God.
12. When was the Sabbath made known to Israel?
13. Who was enjoying the produce of the land? 9:36-37
14. What did the people promise in the covenant they made with God? 10:29-39
15. Why were lots cast at the beginning of ch. 11? Cf. 7:4.
16. Who led the two thanksgiving choirs at the dedication of the wall?
17. Why were Ammonites and Moabites to be excluded from the congregation of Israel?
18. What evil did Eliashib the priest commit while Nehemiah was away from Jerusalem?
19. Why had the Levites and singers returned to working in their fields?

20. How did Nehemiah put a stop to the violations of the Sabbath?
21. What did Nehemiah do when he realized intermarriages with the surrounding nations was becoming a problem again? Cf. this with Ezra 9-10.
22. Why did Nehemiah drive out one of the high priest's grandsons?

Lesson Twelve: God's Prophets: Haggai and Malachi

Haggai 1-2; Malachi 1-4

1. Haggai began his work in 520 B.C. What prophet worked alongside Haggai in urging the returned remnant to rebuild the temple?
2. Count the number of times in Haggai where "thus says the Lord" or similar words are found.
3. What was the response of Haggai when the people said it wasn't time to rebuild the temple?
4. Why were the people suffering from hard times?
5. Haggai wanted _____ the governor and _____ the high priest to take the lead in getting the temple rebuilt.
6. The Lord assured the people, "I am _____ you," and "My Spirit _____ among you."
7. One of the problems was that the people saw this new temple as _____ compared to the old temple built by Solomon.
8. Pay attention to the dates Haggai gives for each of his prophecies. When did he begin? When did he promise the people that the Lord would begin to bless their harvests?
9. Malachi is a unique book in its literary structure. The Lord will make a statement or accusation and the people will question what He has said. Then the Lord, through Malachi, responds to the question.
10. How did the Lord use Edom to show that Israel was loved?
11. A father should be shown _____, and a master _____.
12. How had Israel despised the Lord's name?
13. Why did Malachi tell the people that they needed to close the doors of the temple and stop offering sacrifices to the Lord?
14. What kind of animals were they bringing as offerings?
15. What group does the prophet sharply rebuke in the first portion of ch. 2?
16. In what two ways were the people profaning God's marriage plan?
17. What were they saying that wearied the Lord?
18. Where in the New Testament is Mal. 3:1 quoted?
19. The Lord's coming is compared to a _____ fire and a _____ soap.

20. How had they robbed God?
21. What book was written for those who feared the Lord?
22. Who would rise up with healing in His wings?
23. What prophet would be sent before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord?

Lesson Thirteen: Look at What We Have Learned!

1. Why was the first couple driven from the Garden of Eden?
2. Why did God send the flood in the days of Noah?
3. How did the Lord cause the people to scatter after the flood.
4. In what two cities did Abraham live before arriving in Canaan?
5. What were the three most significant promises made to Abraham?
6. What three women bore children for Abraham? Which one bore the child of promise?
7. Isaac married _____ and had twin sons, _____ and _____.
8. List the twelve sons of Jacob.
 - a. Who was the oldest?
 - b. The favorite?
 - c. The one through whom the Messiah was to come?
 - d. The son from whom the priests came?
9. Summarize the story of how Joseph ended up in Egypt and becoming the deliverer of his family.
10. Why did Pharaoh enslave the Israelites?
11. How old was Moses when the Lord appeared to him at the burning bush?
12. List the ten plagues used to show the Lord's power and deliver Israel.
13. What annual feast commemorated their exodus from Egypt?
14. Describe Mt. Sinai when the Lord spoke the Ten Commandments.
15. List the different furnishings of the Tabernacle.
16. What filled the Tabernacle upon its completion?
17. Why were Nadab and Abihu killed?
18. "You shall be _____, for I the Lord your God am _____."
19. Why did Israel refuse to enter the land of Canaan?
20. How long did they have to remain in the wilderness?
21. Why was Moses not allowed to enter the land of promise?
22. Who were the two kings defeated by Israel east of the Jordan?
23. Who hired Balaam?
24. Why did Israel fight a war against Midian?

25. Where did the speeches of Deuteronomy take place?
26. What was Moses allowed to view before he died?
27. Where did Israel suffer its only defeat under the leadership of Joshua?
28. Use a map to review the locations of the twelve tribes.
29. What warning did Joshua give the people in Josh. 23?
30. Why did Israel suffer oppression in the time of the judges?
31. List the judges raised up by God to deliver the people.
32. Which tribe was almost wiped out during the period of the judges?
33. Ruth was from the tribe of _____, but came with Naomi to live in the village of _____.
34. Why did the Lord bring a harsh judgment on Eli and his house?
35. What did the stone called Ebenezer signify?
36. Why did the people demand that Samuel give them a king?
37. What sins did Saul commit that caused the Lord to reject him?
38. What did David do on two occasions when he had an opportunity to kill Saul?
39. How many years did David reign in Hebron? In Jerusalem?
40. List the things David suffered as a result of his sin with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah.
41. 1 Chron. 28, 29 point out that David collected a lot of materials for the building of the _____.
42. Who tried to usurp the throne shortly before David's death?
43. Solomon was blessed with more _____ than any man before or after.
44. What was his greatest building accomplishment?
45. What was the downfall of Solomon?
46. After Solomon's death, the people, led by Jeroboam, complained that Solomon had done what?
47. What did Jeroboam do to try to prevent his people from going to Jerusalem to worship?
48. Which prophet stood against the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel?
49. Jehoshaphat had a weakness for making _____ with the kings of _____.
50. After Elijah's ascension, _____ became the prophet to Israel.
51. Who was cleansed of leprosy in 2 Kings 5 and who contracted it?
52. How did Jezebel die?
53. Name the only ruler of Judah who was not descended from David.

54. Who was the king of Israel when Samaria fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C.?
55. What righteous king helped save Judah from the Assyrians?
56. Who was the last righteous and reforming king of Judah?
57. Which Old Testament prophet held a high position in both the Babylonian and Persian governments?
58. Which Old Testament prophet lived among the people of captivity in Babylon?
59. What two men led the first group of captives in returning to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple? Which two Minor Prophets helped inspire the rebuilding of the temple?
60. Describe how Mordecai and Esther were used to deliver God's people from destruction.
61. What was the key issue Ezra had to deal with in Ezra 9, 10?
62. What position did Nehemiah hold before going to Jerusalem?
63. Nehemiah's first great task was the rebuilding of what?
64. List three problems addressed by Nehemiah in ch. 13.

Appendix: The Prophets

1. Key prophetic themes. (All of these are not found in every prophetic book, but these themes recur often throughout the prophets.)
 - a. The necessity of repentance.
 - b. The Day of the Lord.
 - 1) The Day of the Lord signified God's judgment on a nation, usually at the hands of another nation.
 - c. God's concern for all the nations.
 - d. The coming of the Messiah and the new spiritual order.
2. Some great lessons that stand out in the writings of the prophets.
 - a. God hates and punishes sin.
 - b. Yet, God is also merciful.
 - c. The Lord keeps His promises for good and bad.
 - d. God's providence rules in the nations for the advancement of His cause and His people.
 - e. The great majesty of the Lord is emphasized.

Prophet	Time Period	Date	Prophesied to...*
Isaiah	Divided Kingdom; Judah Alone	Ca. 740-700 B.C.	Judah
Jeremiah	Judah Alone; Babylonian Captivity	Ca. 627-586 B.C.	Judah
Ezekiel	Babylonian Captivity	Ca. 593-573 B.C.	Judah
Daniel	Babylonian Captivity	Ca. 605-537 B.C.	**
Hosea	Divided Kingdom	Ca. 750-725 B.C.	Israel
Joel	Divided Kingdom (?)	Uncertain; possibly ca. 830 B.C.	Judah
Amos	Divided Kingdom	Ca. 760-755	Israel
Obadiah	Divided Kingdom Or Judah Alone	Uncertain; ca. 845 B.C. or 586 B.C.	Edom
Jonah	Divided Kingdom	Ca. 790 B.C.	Nineveh
Micah	Divided Kingdom; Judah Alone	Ca. 735-700 B.C.	Judah
Nahum	Judah Alone	Between 663 and 612 B.C.; most likely time between 640 and 625 B.C.	Nineveh (a message of comfort to Judah regarding the fall of Nineveh)
Habakkuk	Judah Alone	Ca. 609-606 B.C.	Judah
Zephaniah	Judah Alone	Reign of Josiah; likely between 640 and 625 B.C.	Judah
Haggai	Return and Rebuilding	520 B.C.	Judah
Zechariah	Return and Rebuilding	520-? B.C.	Judah
Malachi	Return and Rebuilding	Possibly before Ezra and Nehemiah or ca. 425 B.C.	Judah

*Many of the prophets directed their message to more than one nation, but these are the primary recipients/targets of their prophecies.

**Daniel, as a servant of Babylon and Persia, did not preach directly to the people as other prophets did, but his prophecies looked to the future of God's people and God's dealings with the kingdoms of men.