

PEPPER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Overview of the Bible

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Genesis to Malachi

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**7/7/2013**

These lessons are intended to provide an overview of the Old Testament and the makeup of the different sections and books.

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## Lessons 1 and 2: Overview of the Bible

1. The Bible is composed of \_\_\_\_\_ books. \_\_\_\_\_ books make up the Old Testament and \_\_\_\_\_ books are found in the New Testament.
2. The Old Testament was written in two languages, Hebrew and Aramaic.
  - a. What two books of the Old Testament contain sections of Aramaic?
3. The Old Testament is sometimes divided into five sections.
  - a. **Law.** Genesis through Deuteronomy
  - b. **History.** Joshua through Esther
  - c. **Poetry and Wisdom.** Job through Song of Solomon
  - d. **Major Prophets.** Isaiah through Daniel
  - e. **Minor Prophets.** Hosea through Malachi.
4. The New Testament was first written in Greek.
  - a. What Old Testament prophet foretold the rise of the Greek empire and compared its “great” ruler to a male goat?
  - b. Which New Testament writer was a physician? Reference?
  - c. Who wrote more New Testament books than any other writer?
5. The New Testament is sometimes divided into four sections.
  - a. **Gospels (Biographies).** Matthew through John
  - b. **History.** Acts
  - c. **Epistles (Letters).** Romans through Jude
  - d. **Prophecy.** Revelation
6. The Bible story.

(While the story of the Bible can be broken down different ways, this outline is taken from Bob Waldron’s three-cycle approach to studying the Bible).

  - Before the Flood
  - The Flood
  - Scattering of the People

- The Patriarchs
- Exodus from Egypt
- Wandering in the Wilderness
- Invasion and Conquest of Canaan
- The Judges
- United Kingdom
- Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone
- Babylonian Captivity
- Return and Rebuilding
- Years of Silence
- Life of Christ
- Early Church
- Letters to Christians

7. Key dates.

- a. Abraham probably lived about 2000 B.C.
- b. The exodus. Ca. 1450 B.C.
- c. Division of the kingdom. Ca. 930 B.C.
- d. Fall of Samaria/end of Israel. 721 B.C.
- e. First group of captives taken from Judah. 605 B.C.
- f. Second group of captives taken from Judah. 597 B.C.
- g. Destruction of Jerusalem/third group of captives taken from Judah. 586 B.C.
- h. Fall of Babylon. 539 B.C.
- i. Return under Zerubbabel. 536 B.C.
- j. Temple completed. 516 B.C.
- k. Ezra's return. 458 B.C.
- l. Walls of Jerusalem rebuilt. 445/444 B.C.

8. Chronology of the Old Testament.

- a. From Genesis through 2 Kings the Bible story largely follows in chronological order.
- b. 1 and 2 Chronicles cover the same years as 2 Samuel through 2 Kings.
- c. Ezra and Nehemiah complete the chronological story of the Old Testament.

- d. The story of Esther belongs in the period between Ezra 6 and 7.
  - e. Job probably lived about the time of Abraham.
  - f. Many of the Psalms were written by David (1 and 2 Samuel; 1 Chronicles).
  - g. Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and most of the Proverbs were written by Solomon. (1 Kings; 2 Chronicles).
  - h. Isaiah prophesied during the last years of the Divided Kingdom and the early years of Judah Alone. (2 Kings; 2 Chronicles)
  - i. Jeremiah in the last days of Judah Alone and the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity. (2 Kings; 2 Chronicles)
  - j. Lamentations is believed to have been written by Jeremiah soon after the fall of Jerusalem. (end of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles)
  - k. Ezekiel was taken captive in 597 B.C. and did his prophesying in Babylon. (2 Kings; 2 Chron.)
  - l. Daniel was taken captive in 605 B.C. and evidently spent the rest of his life in Babylon. (2 Kings; 2 Chronicles)
  - m. Hosea lived shortly before Israel was taken captive by Assyria. (2 Kings)
  - n. Joel. (Date is uncertain. Could be as early as 1 Kings or as late as Nehemiah).
  - o. Amos prophesied about the same time as Hosea. (2 Kings)
  - p. Obadiah. (Date uncertain, but sometime in the period covered by 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles).
  - q. Jonah prophesied to Nineveh during the days of the Divided Kingdom. (2 Kings)
  - r. Micah prophesied to Judah at about the same time as Isaiah. (2 Kings; 2 Chronicles)
  - s. Nahum's message announced the doom of Nineveh. (2 Kings; 2 Chronicles)
  - t. Habakkuk announced the coming of the Chaldeans. (2 Kings; 2 Chronicles)
  - u. Zephaniah lived during the days of Josiah and foretold the destruction of Jerusalem. (2 Kings; 2 Chronicles)
  - v. Haggai helped inspire the people to rebuild the temple. (Ezra)
  - w. Zechariah also helped with the rebuilding of the temple. (Ezra)
  - x. Malachi probably lived somewhere around the time of Nehemiah.
9. Old Testament facts.
- a. Longest book?

Old Testament Survey

- b. Longest chapter?
- c. Shortest chapter?
- d. Book named for a woman from Moab?
- e. Only one chapter book of the Old Testament?

## Lessons 3 and 4: Genesis 1—Exodus 18

1. The Bible story.
  - a. Before the flood (Creation). Genesis 1-5
  - b. The flood. Genesis 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the people. Genesis 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Genesis 12-50
    - 1) Abraham. Genesis 12-25
    - 2) Isaac. Genesis 25-27
    - 3) Jacob. Genesis 28-35
    - \*) Esau. Genesis 36
    - 4) Joseph. Genesis 37-50
  - e. The exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1-18 (actually continues on to Num. 14)
2. Creation took place over a period of six days.
  - a. Were the six days of creation long periods of time or twenty-four hour days? Support your answer.
  - b. Unlike any other creature, man was created in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - c. What two passages from Gen. 1, 2 did Jesus quote in answer to a question about divorce?
3. List the consequences of sin for the serpent, the woman, and the man in Genesis 3.
  - a. The woman was promised that her \_\_\_\_\_ would bruise the \_\_\_\_\_ of the serpent.
  - b. How did the Lord keep Adam and Eve from returning to the garden of Eden?
4. Why did Cain kill Abel?
5. What one man in the genealogy of Gen. 5 never died?
  - a. Who lived the longest recorded life?

6. Why did God decide to destroy the world with a flood?
  - a. Locate at least three NT references to Noah and/or the flood.
  - b. Give the dimensions of the ark. Assuming the cubit to have been 18 inches, calculate the approximate volume of the ark.
  - c. Why was a curse placed on Ham's son Canaan?
  - d. From which of Noah's sons were the Israelites descended? The Amorites?
7. Why did the Lord scatter the people at the tower of Babel?
8. Abraham (Abram) left \_\_\_\_\_ of the Chaldeans and moved to \_\_\_\_\_, where he remained until his father died.
9. Various promises were made to Abraham, but the three most important elements were that...
  - a. He would become a great \_\_\_\_\_. Gen. 12:2
  - b. His descendants would be given the \_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan. Gen. 12:7
  - c. All nations would be blessed through his \_\_\_\_\_. Gen. 22:18
  - d. Where in the NT do we read that this third part of the promise referred specifically to Christ?
  - e. In Gen. 15 the Lord told Abraham that the land promise would not be fulfilled for approximately 400 years.
10. Why did Abraham take Hagar as his concubine? How old was Abraham when Ishmael was born?
11. How old was Abraham when circumcision was commanded as the sign of the covenant?
12. Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when Isaac was born.
13. Why were the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed?
  - a. How many people escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?
  - b. What two nations were descended from Lot?
14. Sarah died at the age of \_\_\_\_\_ and was buried in the cave of \_\_\_\_\_, near the city of Hebron.
15. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah? How did he "choose" his wife?
16. Abraham died at the age of \_\_\_\_\_.

17. When Isaac was 60 his wife gave birth to twins.
  - a. Why did Esau sell his birthright to Jacob?
  - b. How did Jacob deceive his father into giving him the blessing?
  - c. Where did Jacob go to escape the wrath of Esau?
18. Where was Jacob when he had the dream of angels ascending and descending a ladder?
  - a. Note that the three-fold promise was reaffirmed to Jacob.
  - b. Be able to tell the story of how Jacob came to be married to both Leah and Rachel.
  - c. List the 12 sons of Jacob and the four women who bore them.
  - d. How did Jacob come to have the name Israel?
19. What nation was descended from Esau?
20. Why were the brothers of Joseph envious of him?
  - a. Who stopped the others from killing him in Gen. 37?
  - b. Which brother first suggested selling him?
  - c. How did Joseph's brothers convince their father that Jacob was dead?
21. Who was the mother of Judah's twin sons, Perez and Zerah?
22. Why was Joseph thrown into prison?
23. Why did Pharaoh take Joseph from prison and make him governor over Egypt?
  - a. How old was Joseph when this happened?
  - b. Which one of Joseph's brothers offered to take the place of Benjamin when Benjamin had been accused of stealing Joseph's cup?
  - c. In what part of Egypt did the family of Jacob settle?
  - d. Why did the Israelites live separately from the Egyptians?
24. How did Ephraim come to be more highly blessed than his older brother Manasseh?
  - a. Why was Jacob's oldest son not given the birthright?

- b. Which two sons were told that their descendants would be scattered in Israel?
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ shall not depart from Judah, nor a \_\_\_\_\_ from between his feet, until Shiloh comes.
  - d. Where was Jacob buried?
  - e. What oath did Joseph extract from his kinsmen just before his death?
25. Approximately how many “Israelites” moved to Egypt?
- a. Why did Pharaoh come to fear the Israelites? What steps did he take to reduce their numbers?
  - b. How did baby Moses survive Pharaoh’s death order?
  - c. Why did Moses flee to the land of Midian? How old was Moses when he did this?
26. How old was Moses when the Lord appeared to him in the burning bush?
- a. What miraculous signs was Moses promised?
  - b. Who was Moses’ spokesman when he went back to Egypt?
27. List the ten plagues God sent on the land of Egyptians.
- a. What did the Israelites have to do to avoid the final plague?
  - b. How many Israelites left Egypt?
  - c. Why did the Lord not lead the Israelites through the land of the Philistines?
  - d. The Lord led the Israelites with a pillar of \_\_\_\_\_ by day and a pillar of \_\_\_\_\_ by night.
28. How did the Israelites cross the Red Sea?
- a. What new food did the Israelites eat on their way to Mt. Sinai?
  - b. Why was this food only given to them six days a week?
  - c. Near Rephidim the Israelites were attacked by the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Who was chosen to lead Israel in their first battle?

## Lesson 5: Exodus 19—Deuteronomy 34

1. We will cover Exodus 19—Deuteronomy 34 in three lessons. Lesson 5 will overview the historical content of Exodus and Leviticus. Lesson 6 will conclude the historical material found in Numbers and Deuteronomy and then Lesson 7 will focus on the Mosaic covenant, the priesthood, sacrifices, tabernacle, etc.
2. The Bible story.
  - a. Before the flood. Genesis 1-5
  - b. The flood. Genesis 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the people. Genesis 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Genesis 12-50
    - 1) Abraham. Genesis 12-25
    - 2) Isaac. Genesis 25-27
    - 3) Jacob. Genesis 28-35
    - \*) Esau. Genesis 36
    - 4) Joseph. Genesis 37-50
  - e. The exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1—Numbers 14
  - f. Wandering in the wilderness. Numbers 15—Deuteronomy 34
3. Israel spent close to a full year at Mt. Sinai. Ex. 19—Num. 10 (58 ½ chapters)
4. The Lord's covenant with Israel.
  - a. What did Israel have to do if they were to be God's special treasure? Ex. 19:3-6
  - b. Describe the appearance of Mt. Sinai in Ex. 19.
  - c. List the 10 Commandments.
  - d. More basic elements of God's law for Israel are found in Ex. 20:22—23:33.
  - e. Note Israel's acceptance of the terms of the covenant in Ex 19:8; 24:3, 7.
    - 1) Describe the things done by Israel in acceptance of the covenant in Ex. 24.
  - f. Though still without a land in Ex. 24, the descendants of Abraham had grown into a nation.
5. Moses on Mt. Sinai.
  - a. After the covenant had been accepted by Israel, Moses went back on the mountain for forty days. Ex. 25-31
  - b. During this time he received detailed instructions regarding the tabernacle and garments for the priests.

6. The covenant is broken.
  - a. Why did the people ask Aaron to make gods (or a god) for them in Ex. 32?
  - b. What did the Lord threaten to do to Israel as punishment for the golden calf?
7. The intercession of Moses. Ex. 32-34
  - a. The covenant had been broken and Israel was no longer going to enjoy the blessings of a special relationship with God (33:3).
  - b. However, the intercession of Moses, one who spoke with God “face to face” (33:11), led to a renewal of the covenant.
  - c. When Moses spoke with the Lord it would cause his face to shine (34:29-35). Locate a NT reference to this and explain why Moses used a veil to hide his face.
  - d. Ex. 35-40 describes the building of the tabernacle, the making of the priestly garments, and the erecting of the tabernacle.
8. The book of Leviticus contains instructions given at Mt. Sinai.
  - a. Ch. 1-7 provide details on sacrifices.
  - b. Ch. 8-10 describe the beginning of the Aaronic (Levitical) priesthood.
    - 1) Why did two priests lose their lives at the beginning of their priestly ministry?
  - c. Ch. 11-15 contain various laws related to clean and unclean things.
  - d. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is described in Lev. 16.
  - e. Ch. 17 deals with blood.
  - f. Ch. 18-20 contain various laws and penalties for breaking the laws.
    - 1) According to Lev. 19:2, why were they to be holy?
  - g. Ch. 21-25 deal with priests, sacrifices, and holy days.
  - h. Ch. 26 describes the blessings that will accompany obedience and the curses that will follow disobedience. Cf. Deut. 28.
  - i. Ch. 27 contains laws related to vows.

## Lesson 6: Exodus 19—Deuteronomy 34

1. We are covering Exodus 19—Deuteronomy 34 in three lessons.
  - a. Please review Lesson 5 and its overview of the historical content of Exodus and Leviticus.
  - b. In Lesson 6 we will conclude the historical material found in Numbers and Deuteronomy and Lesson 7 will focus on the Mosaic covenant, the priesthood, sacrifices, tabernacle, etc.
2. Numbers 1:1—10:10 take place at Mt. Sinai. Ca. 1450 B.C.
  - a. Ch. 1, 2: Numbering and organization of Israelites capable of going to war.
    - 1) Total number of soldiers counted?
    - 2) Largest tribe?
  - b. Ch. 3, 4: Numbering of the Levites and the duties of the three different Levite families.
    - 1) Age at which the Levites were numbered in ch. 3?
    - 2) Total number of Levites numbered?
    - 3) Which family of the Levites was responsible for transporting the tabernacle “furniture?”
  - c. Ch. 5: Various laws.
  - d. Ch. 6: Provides for the Nazirite vow and the priestly blessing.
  - e. Ch. 7: Lists in detail offerings made by the leaders of Israel.
  - f. Ch. 8: More laws relating to the tabernacle and the Levites.
  - g. Ch. 9: Provisions for those who were unable to eat the Passover.
  - h. Ch. 10: Instructions for signal trumpets.
3. Num. 10:11—14:45 conclude the Exodus from Egypt.
  - a. Ch. 10: Departure from Mt. Sinai.
  - b. Ch. 11: Israel’s murmuring, along with God’s provision and punishment.
    - 1) What was the complaint in 11:4-6?
    - 2) How did the Lord help Moses care for the people?
    - 3) What did the name Kibroth Hattaavah signify?
  - c. Ch. 12 tells of the complaint of Miriam and Aaron.

- d. Ch. 13, 14: Twelve spies are sent into the land of Canaan and then the Israelites refused to enter.
  - 1) All twelve spies agreed that Canaan flowed with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but ten thought the \_\_\_\_\_ were too strong.
  - 2) What two spies had enough faith in God's power to believe the land could be taken?
  - 3) The Lord threatened to destroy the nation of Israel and start over again with Moses, but Moses interceded for the people.
  - 4) Upon whom did the Lord pronounce the death sentence in ch. 14?
  - 5) What happened when Israel decided to invade the land despite Moses' warning that the Lord would not be with them?
4. Num. 15—Deut. 34 cover the Wandering in the Wilderness.
  - a. Ch. 15: More Mosaic regulations, along with the story of a man who was put to death for violating the Sabbath.
  - b. Ch. 16, 17: Rebellion led by Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.
    - 1) What was the complaint against Moses and Aaron?
    - 2) How were the leaders of the rebellion killed?
    - 3) How were the 250 leaders who followed Korah killed?
    - 4) Why did the Lord kill 14,700 Israelites with a plague?
    - 5) Where was Aaron's rod when it budded in ch. 17?
    - 6) What was the purpose of this miracle?
  - c. Ch. 18: Laws relating to the priests and Levites.
  - d. Num. 19: Provisions for cleansing from the defilement of a dead body.
  - e. Num. 20: Moses' sin at Kadesh Barnea.
    - 1) Took place at the beginning of the 40<sup>th</sup> year in the wilderness.
    - 2) In Num. 20 Israel begins to journey toward Canaan.
    - 3) Who became high priest after the death of Aaron?

- f. In ch. 21 the Israelites took control of the land east of the Jordan. (Though not part of the promise to Abraham, it became part of Israel's territory).
    - 1) Why were the people afflicted with fiery serpents, and what was the cure?
    - 2) What two kings were defeated in Num. 21?
  - g. Num. 22-24: Balaam's failed attempt to curse Israel.
    - 1) What two nations conspired to hire Balaam? 22:7
  - h. Num. 25: Israelites committed harlotry and paid a steep price for it.
    - 1) How many died in this plague?
  - i. Ch. 26: The Israelites are numbered again.
    - 1) How many of the soldiers numbered in ch. 1 were still alive?
  - j. Ch. 27-30: Various laws of inheritance, offerings, and vows.
  - k. Ch. 31: Vengeance was taken on the Midianites.
  - l. Num. 32: 2 ½ tribes were given permission to settle in the land east of the Jordan.
    - 1) Why was Moses initially upset by their request?
  - m. Ch. 33: Review of the journeys of Israel.
  - n. Ch. 34: Describes the boundaries of Canaan and lists the names of the leaders responsible for dividing the land.
  - o. Ch. 35: Provides for 48 Levitical cities and 6 cities of refuge.
  - p. Ch. 36: Answers a question about the marriage of female heirs.
5. Deuteronomy concludes the Wandering in the Wilderness.
- a. While the name means *second law*, Deuteronomy is not a second law, but it does contain a review of the Law revealed at Mt. Sinai.
  - b. It takes place in the plains of Moab shortly before the death of Moses and consists largely of a series of speeches in which Moses exhorts the people to be faithful to God.
  - c. Ch. 1-11: Largely a review of Israel's failures during the 40 years in the wilderness.
  - d. Ch. 12-26: Reminds the new generation of the details of the Law they are to keep.
  - e. Ch. 27-30: Curses of disobedience and the blessings of obedience.

- f. Ch. 31, 32: Joshua is established as Moses' successor and Moses teaches the people a song of warning.
- g. Deut. 33: Moses blesses the tribes of Israel.
- h. Ch. 34: The death of Moses.
  - 1) What was Moses allowed to see just before his death?
  - 2) How old was he when he died?

## Lesson 7: The Tabernacle, Priesthood, and Atonement

1. During the time spent at Mt. Sinai the Lord entered into a covenant with Israel. This covenant remained in force for almost 1,500 years, but ended with the death of Christ (Heb. 9:11-17). This lesson looks at the tabernacle, the Aaronic (Levitical) priesthood, and the Day of Atonement, three elements of the covenant that should have special meaning to us.
2. The purpose of the tabernacle.
  - a. Why were they to make a sanctuary for God? Ex. 25:8
  - b. In Ex. 29:43-46, what reason did the Lord give for bringing Israel out of Egypt?
  - c. What did the glory of the Lord do when the tabernacle was completed?
  - d. Christians today are a holy temple being built together for a \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the Spirit. Eph. 2:20-22 (The KJV will only have one word for the two blanks).
  - e. The tabernacle of the Law of Moses is referred to as a copy of what things in Heb. 9:23, 24?
3. The tabernacle itself.
  - a. The tabernacle was a portable structure approximately 45'x15'x15' and was divided into two parts, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (or Holy of Holies).
  - b. What did the Lord stress about the building of it in Ex. 25:9, 40; 26:30?
  - c. The tabernacle had a framework of acacia boards (overlaid with gold) that were set in heavy silver sockets. It was then covered with four layers of cloth and skin. From the inside moving out they were linen, goats' hair, rams' skin, and badgers' skin.
    - 1) There is some question about the animal used for the outermost layer. Rather than badger, some translations have porpoise, seal, sea cow, and goat.
  - d. A special veil was made to divide the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Ex. 26:31-35
  - e. What creatures were woven into the curtains of linen and the dividing veil? Ex. 26:1, 31?
    - 1) How were Adam and Eve kept from returning to the garden of Eden and its tree of life? Gen. 3:22-24
  - f. The tabernacle itself was surrounded by a courtyard approximately 150'x75'. The courtyard was a white linen "fence" about 7 ½ feet high.
4. The furnishings of the tabernacle. Ex. 25, 30, 37, 38
  - a. The courtyard contained two items, a bronze laver and the altar of burnt offerings.
  - b. The Holy Place contained the table of showbread (Presence), the golden lampstand, and the altar of incense.

- c. The ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place served more than one purpose. Ex. 25:10-22
  - 1) The “box” contained the Testimony or covenant God had made with Israel.
  - 2) The “lid” served as the Mercy Seat where the blood of atonement was sprinkled.
  - 3) God’s Presence was manifested above the mercy seat between the two cherubim.
4. The priesthood.
  - a. Aaron and his sons were selected to be priests. Ex. 28:1
    - 1) Aaron was from the tribe of Levi, but only his direct descendants could serve as priests.
    - 2) While the Levites as a whole could not serve as priests, what special responsibility were they given? Num. 1:47-54
  - b. The priests wore special clothing designed for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ex. 28:2, 40
  - c. What was engraved on the two shoulder stones of the high priest’s ephod? On the 12 stones of the breastplate? Ex. 28:9-12, 15-21, 29
  - d. What was engraved on the gold plate attached to the high priest’s turban? Ex. 28:36-38
  - e. Our high priest today always lives to make \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Heb. 7:20-28
5. The Day of Atonement. Lev. 16
  - a. Define the word atonement.
  - b. What was done with the two goats on this day? Lev. 16:7-10, 15-22
  - c. Lev. 16:29 says that they were to afflict their souls on this day. What did this mean?
  - d. Read about our Day of Atonement in Heb. 9:6-14, 23-28.

## Lesson 8: Invasion and Conquest of Canaan

1. The Bible Story.
  - a. Before the Flood. Gen. 1-5
  - b. The Flood. Gen. 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the People. Gen. 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Gen. 12-50
  - e. Exodus from Egypt. Ex. 1—Num. 14 (Ca. 1450 B.C.)
  - f. Wandering in the Wilderness. Num. 15—Deut. 34
  - g. Invasion and Conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-24 (Ca. 1405 B.C.)
2. When did the Lord first promise to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants?
3. Where were the Israelites encamped when Moses died?
4. Which tribes had already asked for their inheritance on the eastern side of the Jordan?
5. Crossing the Jordan. Joshua 1-4
  - a. How many times in ch. 1 was Joshua urged to be strong and of good courage?
  - b. What reasons did Rahab give for hiding the spies in ch. 2?
  - c. How did the Israelites get across the Jordan?
6. The Central Campaign. Joshua 5-8
  - a. Before beginning the conquest the males of Israel were circumcised. Note the connection between circumcision and the land promise in Gen. 17:1-14.
  - b. Who appeared to Joshua at the end of ch. 5?
  - c. How were the Israelites able to take the city of Jericho?
  - d. Why did they initially suffer defeat at Ai?
  - e. Read Joshua 8:30-35. In essence, they were claiming the land as their own. Cf. Deut. 27.
7. The Southern Campaign. Joshua 9, 10
  - a. How did the Gibeonites trick Joshua and the Israelites into making a treaty with them?
  - b. How did the Lord aid Israel in defeating the kings of the south?

8. The Northern Campaign. Joshua 11
  - a. Josh. 11:18 notes that the conquest took a long time. The book never gives a specific number, but based on the words of Caleb in Josh. 14:6-10 we know it was approximately six years.
9. List of conquered kings. Joshua 12
  - a. How many kings were defeated by Joshua?
10. Division of the land. (The Land Promise is fulfilled). Joshua 13-21
  - a. How old was Caleb when he asked for his inheritance? Josh. 14
  - b. Use a map to visualize where each of the tribes received their inheritance.
  - c. How many cities were the Levites given?
  - d. List the six cities of refuge. Joshua 20
  - e. Though work remained to be done after the death of Joshua, the land promise was viewed as fulfilled. Josh. 21:43-45
11. The 2 ½ tribes return home. Joshua 22
  - a. Why did the majority in Israel threaten war against the 2 ½ tribes?
12. Joshua's challenge: Avoid the Corruption of the Canaanites. Joshua 23
  - a. What would happen if the Israelites made marriages with the remnant of the Canaanites? Josh. 23:11-13
13. Joshua's challenge: Choose the One Whom You Will Serve. Joshua 24
  - a. What choices did Joshua offer those who did not want to serve the Lord?
  - b. What choice did the people make that day?
  - c. How long did Israel remain faithful to the Lord? Josh. 24:31
  - d. Where were the bones of Joseph buried? Josh. 24:32

## Lesson 9: The Judges

1. The Judges.
  - a. The period of the Judges covers the books of Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel 1-8.
  - b. Fifteen judges are listed in these books.
    - 1) Othniel
    - 2) Ehud
    - 3) Shamgar
    - 4) Deborah
    - 5) Gideon
    - 6) Abimelech (Not chosen by God)
    - 7) Tola
    - 8) Jair
    - 9) Jephthah
    - 10) Ibzan
    - 11) Elon
    - 12) Abdon
    - 13) Samson
    - 14) Eli
    - 15) Samuel
2. The book of Judges.
  - a. Covers the first thirteen judges in ch. 1-16.
  - b. Ch. 17, 18 tell of how some from Dan came to settle in the north. (The events of these chapters probably took place fairly early in the period of the Judges.
  - c. Ch. 19-21 tell of the sordid crime committed in Gibeah and how Benjamin was almost completely annihilated. Since Phinehas, grandson of Aaron, was high priest (20:27, 28) it could not have been too many years after the death of Joshua.
3. The book of Ruth.
  - a. The story of how a young Moabite came to be part of God's family and in the lineage of David.
  - b. The book is set "in the days when the judges ruled," but exactly when is uncertain.
4. 1 Samuel 1-8.
  - a. 1 Samuel serves as a bridge between the Judges and the United Kingdom.

- b. The story of Eli is told in ch. 1-4, but in those chapters the real emphasis is on Samuel, his birth and then his selection as God's prophet.
  - c. In ch. 8 the people came to Samuel and requested that he appoint a king to rule over them.
5. The cycle of the period of the Judges.
  - a. A recurring cycle can be found throughout the approximately 350 years of this portion of Bible history.
  - b. Apostasy → Oppression → Repentance → Deliverance → Peace → Apostasy → ...
6. Understanding the apostasy and wickedness of that period.
  - a. What had Israel failed to do according to Judges 2:1-3? Cf. 3:5, 6.
  - b. A generation arose that did not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ nor the \_\_\_\_\_ which He had done for Israel. Judges 2:7, 10
  - c. In those days there was no \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel; everyone did what right in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Judges 17:6; 21:25
7. Which judge killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad?
8. Why did Gideon reduce his army down from 32,000 to 300?
9. How did Samson die?
10. How many Benjamite men were killed in Judges 20?
11. How did Ruth "propose" to Boaz?
12. Why did the Lord bring judgment on the house of Eli? 1 Samuel 2, 3
13. Why did the Philistines return the ark of the covenant to Israel? 1 Samuel 5, 6
14. In commemoration of a victory over the Philistines, Samuel set up a stone and called it \_\_\_\_\_ . 1 Samuel 7
15. What reasons did Israel give for wanting a king? 1 Samuel 8

## Lesson 10: The United Kingdom

1. Review of the Bible Story.
  - a. Before the Flood. Gen. 1-5
  - b. The Flood. Gen. 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the People. Gen. 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Gen. 12-50
  - e. Exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1—Num. 14
  - f. Wandering in the Wilderness. Num. 15—Deut. 34
  - g. Invasion and Conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-24
  - h. The Judges. Judges 1—1 Sam. 8
  - i. United Kingdom. 1 Sam. 9—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 1—2 Chronicles 9 (Ca. 1050-930 B.C.)
    - 1) Saul. 1 Sam. 9-31; 1 Chron. 9
    - 2) David. 2 Sam. 1-24; 1 Chron. 10-29
      - a) The Scriptures cited cover the reigns of these three kings, but the references could easily be divided differently. With few exceptions, David is the main focus of 1 Sam. 16-31 even though he was not yet king.
    - 3) Solomon. 1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chron. 1-9
    - 4) In addition to the historical material in 1 Sam.—2 Chron., much of the Wisdom Literature belongs to the period of the United Kingdom.
2. Why had Israel requested a king? 1 Sam. 8
3. The selection and reign of Saul.
  - a. Saul was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. When Saul began he was a humble, talented leader, but became filled with pride, disobeyed God, was envious of David, consulted a medium, and died in defeat.
  - c. How did Saul react when some questioned his selection as king? 1 Sam. 10:25-27; 11:12, 13
  - d. How did Saul rally the nation and rescue Jabesh Gilead? 1 Sam. 11
  - e. What acts of disobedience did Saul commit in 1 Sam. 13 and 15? How did he attempt to explain or justify these actions?
  - f. Why did Saul want to kill David?
  - g. Who was killed in 1 Sam. 22 because of aid given to David?

- h. How was Saul killed? 1 Sam. 31
  - i. Read 1 Chron. 10:13, 14.
4. David was selected as the second king of Israel years before Saul died.
- a. What was David's hometown? 1 Sam. 16
  - b. What event first brought David notoriety in Israel? 1 Sam. 17
  - c. Who became David's closest friend? 1 Sam. 18:1-3
  - d. Twice, while Saul was seeking his life, David had opportunities to kill Saul but refused to do so. 1 Sam. 24, 26
  - e. Where did David spend the last year and four months of Saul's life? 1 Sam. 27:1-7
5. The reign of David.
- a. In what city did David reign for the first seven years and six months? 2 Sam. 5:4, 5
  - b. Which one of Saul's sons sought to become king after his father's death?
  - c. Who was the commander of David's army?
  - d. What mistake did David make in 2 Sam. 6 (1 Chron. 13)?
  - e. What did David seek to do in 2 Sam. 7 (1 Chron. 17), only to be told that this job would belong to his son?
  - f. David's sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11) caused great suffering for David, his family, and Israel. List the consequences Nathan the prophet warned would take place. 2 Sam. 12:10-14
  - g. Whose rebellion drove David from Jerusalem in 2 Sam. 15?
  - h. How did this rebel leader die? 2 Sam. 18
  - i. Though David was not allowed to build the temple, 1 Chron. 21, 28, and 29 stress that David went to great effort and expense to assemble many of the materials that would be used in its construction.
6. The reign of Solomon.
- a. Which one of Solomon's half-brothers tried to usurp the throne? 1 Kings 1
  - b. What did Solomon request in 1 Kings 3:5-9? What additional things was he promised (1 Kings 3:10-14)? Which of the additional blessings was conditioned upon obedience to God?

- c. Note the peace and prosperity in the days of Solomon. 1 Kings 4:20-28
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ king of Tyre supplied cedar and cypress for the temple.
  - e. How long did it take to build the temple? 1 Kings 6:37, 38
  - f. What was said to have filled the temple in 1 Kings 8:10-13?
  - g. The queen of Sheba had heard of Solomon's great wisdom, but after visiting proclaimed, "...the \_\_\_\_\_ was not told me. Your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ exceed the fame of which I heard." 1 Kings 10:1-7
  - h. Read the account of Solomon's wealth in 1 Kings 10:14-29 and then read the warnings in Deut. 17:14-20.
  - i. Who was able to turn Solomon's heart away from allegiance to the Lord? 1 Kings 11:1-8
  - j. Because of Solomon's sin the kingdom divided after his death.
7. Memorable verses from this period.
- a. 1 Sam. 14:6; 15:22, 23; 16:7; 17:45-47; 26:9-11
  - b. 2 Sam. 7:12-16; 12:12, 23; 18:33; 24:24
  - c. 1 Kings 8:27, 56
  - d. 1 Chron. 15:13, 15

## Lesson 11: The Wisdom Literature

- \*. *Give Us a King* by Bob and Sandra Waldron has introductions, outlines, and summaries of the five books of the Wisdom Literature that most would find helpful. *Give Us a King* is primarily a study of the United Kingdom and is an invaluable aid when studying the lives of Saul, David, and Solomon.
- 1. Job.
  - a. While the story of Job probably took place about the time of the Patriarchs, the book was likely not written until the time of Solomon, or perhaps even a little later.
  - b. Summary: The Lord allowed Satan to afflict Job so that this righteous man suffered the loss of his possessions, his children, and his health. When all of this adversity had come upon Job, three friends came to mourn with him and comfort him. The friends ended up telling Job that his sins were responsible for his suffering, while Job insisted on his innocence. A fourth man then spoke up and rebuked Job for his self-justification, and also rebuked his three friends for their condemnation of Job. Finally, the Lord Himself spoke and basically told Job and his friends that He was still the Almighty and they didn't know what they were talking about. At the end of the book Job's losses were restored to him double.
  - c. Purpose of the book?
    - 1) "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan made the claim that Job only served God for what he could get out of Him (1:9). The essence of the book is a test—will a man serve God simply because He is the Almighty or must God "bribe" one to serve Him?
    - 2) Other lessons can be learned from the book, but the main emphasis of the book is found in ch. 38-41 when God speaks, asserts His power and authority, and declares that no one is worthy to question Him and His ways.
  - d. How did Job react when he was told that his oxen, donkeys, sheep, camels, servants, and children had been taken from him?
  - e. What was his response to his wife when she urged him to curse God and die?
  - f. Ch. 3-31 contain three rounds of speeches. Job opened with an "introductory" lament. After the introduction, there is a pattern of Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar speaking and Job answering, though in the third round Zophar did not speak. When the speeches began the friends told Job that he needed to repent of whatever sin he might have committed. As the speeches continued they made specific accusations against him. Job responded with protests of innocence and even proclaimed that he would like to talk to God and defend himself.
  - g. Elihu spoke in ch. 32-37. Why was he angry? 32:1-3
  - h. What challenge did the Lord issue Job in 38:2, 3 and 40:6, 7?
  - i. How long did Job live after this ordeal? 42:16, 17

2. Psalms.

- a. This book has been called the Jewish hymnal. It contains 150 songs covering a variety of topics, emotions, etc.
- b. Structurally, the book has five sections (books). These are 1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; 107-150.
- c. David wrote more of the psalms than anyone else, but there are also psalms attributed to the sons of Korah, Ethan, Heman, Asaph, Solomon, and Moses.
- d. What is the longest of the psalms? Shortest?
- e. In which psalm did David refer to Jesus as a priest according to the order of Melchizedek?
- f. What psalm is quoted in the prayer of the apostles in Acts 4:25, 26?

3. Proverbs.

- a. Proverbs is a book of practical wisdom and is invaluable in avoiding many of life's pitfalls. In this book we are not just told how to please God, but also how to have a better life here.
- b. Ch. 1-29 are attributed to Solomon, though ch. 25-29 were copied by Hezekiah's men.
- c. Ch. 30 is credited to Agur. Ch. 31:1-9 contains the words of King Lemuel. It is unclear if 31:10-31 continues the words of Lemuel or contains divinely collected wisdom from an unnamed source.
- d. What is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom? 1:7; 9:10

4. Ecclesiastes.

- a. In this book Solomon declares that life "under the sun" can be unfair (1:14, 15; 9:11, 12) and can seem quite empty if one expects to find satisfaction in worldly pleasures.
- b. Yet, Solomon exhorts his readers to seek to enjoy life, work, home, etc. as best they can despite life's uncertainties and inequities. Despite its unfairness, much of life is good and pleasurable.
- c. However, the key to the book is the conclusion. Don't live life under the sun as though this life is the end of our existence. Put God and His commandments first, for there will be a day of accounting. 12:13, 14
- d. Ecclesiastes has some Proverbs-like observations that can stand alone (e.g. 4:5, 6, 9-12; 7:1-4; 8:11; 10:1), but unlike Proverbs it needs to be seen as a unit leading one to the realization that God is in charge and we must choose to serve Him from our youth. 11:9—12:7

5. Song of Solomon.

- a. "The Song of Solomon is a love song. The writer deals beautifully and chastely with the feelings of affection, romance, and sexual attraction which enter into the courting process and into marriage." *Give Us a King*, p. 136

- b. Some treat the book as an allegory (fictional story) that represents God's love for Israel or Christ's love for the church. Others believe that while the two lovers were real, the story was included in the Scriptures as a type of Christ and the church.
- c. More likely is that the idea that the Wisdom Literature is rounded out with a celebration of love with all its passion as a gift from God.
- d. Most modern translations (including the NASB, NKJV, ESV, and NIV) indicate different speakers at various places.
  - 1) E.g. in the NKJV you have "THE SHULAMITE" speaking in 1:2-4a and "THE BELOVED" in 1:8-10. The ESV uses "SHE" and "HE." for these same verses.
  - 2) Though translators cannot be certain about every verse, these titles or headings are based on the gender of Hebrew pronouns, plural and singular usages, etc.
- e. If the Song of Solomon is a celebration of love, there are still two different interpretations that should be considered.
  - 1) Some see it as a collection of poems celebrating the love between a man and his wife, in particular Solomon and one of his wives.
  - 2) Others see it as a dramatic poem that tells the story of a Shulamite woman who is in love with a shepherd, but being wooed by Solomon for his harem. In the end true love wins out and she sticks with her beloved shepherd.
  - 3) The latter seems to be the better interpretation, but the former also has merit.

## Lesson 12: The Divided Kingdom

1. Recommended study guide: *Till There Was No Remedy* by Bob and Sandra Waldron. In addition to material on the historical books of the Divided Kingdom, it contains an introduction and overview of the prophets of that period.
2. Review of the Bible Story.
  - a. Before the Flood. Gen. 1-5
  - b. The Flood. Gen. 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the People. Gen. 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Gen. 12-50
  - e. Exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1—Num. 14
  - f. Wandering in the Wilderness. Num. 15—Deut. 34
  - g. Invasion and Conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-24
  - h. The Judges. Judges 1—1 Sam. 8
  - i. United Kingdom. 1 Sam. 9—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 1—2 Chronicles 9 (Ca. 1050-930 B.C.)
  - j. Divided Kingdom. 1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 10—31 (Ca. 930 B.C.-721 B.C.)
    - 1) While the account in 1 and 2 Kings covers both Israel and Judah, 2 Chronicles keeps its focus on Judah.
3. The division of the kingdom.
  - a. Why did the Lord tear the kingdom from Solomon's son? 1 Kings 11:1-13
  - b. What did the Lord promise to do for Jeroboam if he would be obedient to Him? 1 Kings 11:38
  - c. Who was the prophet that conveyed this message to Jeroboam?
  - d. What request did Jeroboam and the assembled Israelites make of Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12? What was Rehoboam's response?
  - e. Why did Jeroboam build two golden calves?
  - f. Who emigrated from Israel to Judah after Jeroboam made his changes in the worship? 2 Chron. 11:13-17 (Something similar happened during Asa's reign. 2 Chron. 15:9)
4. Overview of Israel.
  - a. Israel had 19 kings during its approximately 210 years of existence as a separate nation, and all were unfaithful to the Lord.
  - b. While the throne in Judah remained, with one brief exception, in the family of David, the kings of Israel came from nine different families.

- c. Eight kings of Israel were assassinated by their own people. (This includes Zimri who burned the house down around himself while Omri had the city under siege).
  - d. In the days of Menahem the Assyrians forced Israel to pay tribute to them. 2 Kings 15:17-22
  - e. Under Pekah much of the nation was taken into captivity by Assyria. 2 Kings 15:27-29
  - f. The end came during the reign of Hoshea. 2 Kings 17
    - 1) What had Hoshea done to anger Shalmaneser king of Assyria?
  - g. The Assyrians repopulated Israel with other people they had taken captive and produced the Samaritans, a people who were of mixed ancestry and a corrupted worship.
5. Overview of Judah.
- a. During the Divided Kingdom Judah had 13 rulers, all except one from the house of David.
  - b. While Judah had its share of evil rulers, it was also blessed with several good, righteous rulers.
    - 1) Though Asa showed weakness of faith at the end, for most of his reign he was faithful to the Lord and sought to bring spiritual reform to Judah. 1 Kings 15; 2 Chron. 14-16
    - 2) While Jehoshaphat was too cooperative with Israel, he was dedicated to the Lord and sought to eliminate idolatry throughout the land. 1 Kings 22; 2 Chron. 17-20
    - 3) Amaziah served God through at least part of his reign, though never as wholeheartedly as he should have. 2 Kings 14; 2 Chron. 25
    - 4) While Uzziah sinned in seeking to offer incense, his fifty-two year reign was one of reform and service to God. 2 Kings 15; 2 Chron. 26
    - 5) Jotham was another good influence in Judah. 2 Kings 15; 2 Chron. 27
    - 6) Hezekiah was king of Judah when Israel fell. His righteous influence was a key factor in helping Judah survive the Assyrian onslaught. 2 Kings 18; 2 Chron. 29-31
7. The prophets.
- a. Several pre-literary prophets lived during this time period, with Elijah and Elisha the best known.
  - b. The dates of Obadiah and Joel are uncertain, but they may have lived during the time of the Divided Kingdom.
  - c. Jonah, Amos, and Hosea prophesied to Israel. (Jonah is best known for being sent to Nineveh, but 2 Kings 14:25 cites the fulfillment of his prophecy regarding Israel).
  - d. Isaiah and Micah began to prophesy to Judah before the fall of Israel, but their work carried over into the time of Judah Alone.

8. Why did Asa become angry with Hanani? 2 Chron. 16
9. How long did Zimri reign? 1 Kings 16
10. Omri made the city of \_\_\_\_\_ his capital. 1 Kings 16:21-28
11. Who was said to have stirred Ahab up to do wickedness? 1 Kings 21:25
12. Elijah had a contest with \_\_\_\_\_ prophets of Baal on Mt. \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Kings 18
13. How many Israelites had not bowed to Baal according to 1 Kings 19?
14. How did Elijah's earthly life end?
15. List four miracles performed by or at the direction of Elisha.
16. How did Athaliah become the ruler of Judah? 2 Kings 11; 2 Chron. 22
17. Why was Uzziah (Azariah) struck with leprosy? 2 Chron. 26
18. Some memorable verses from this period.
  - a. 1 Kings 12:28; 16:30-33; 18:17, 18, 20:11; 21:25
  - b. 2 Kings 5:8-14; 6:15-17; 9:22
  - c. 2 Chron. 14:11; 15:1, 2; 16:7-9; 19:1, 2; 24:24; 26:5, 15, 16

## Lesson 13: Judah Alone

1. Review of the Bible Story.
  - a. Before the Flood. Gen. 1-5
  - b. The Flood. Gen. 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the People. Gen. 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Gen. 12-50
  - e. Exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1—Num. 14
  - f. Wandering in the Wilderness. Num. 15—Deut. 34
  - g. Invasion and Conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-24
  - h. The Judges. Judges 1—1 Sam. 8
  - i. United Kingdom. 1 Sam. 9—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 1—2 Chronicles 9 (Ca. 1050-930 B.C.)
  - j. Divided Kingdom. 1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 10—31 (Ca. 930-721 B.C.)
  - k. Judah Alone. 2 Kings 18—25; 2 Chronicles 32-36 (721-586 B.C.)
    - 1) In addition to the material found in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, the book of Jeremiah also contains historical material from this time period.
2. Summary of Judah Alone.
  - a. In the 40 or so years following the fall of Samaria the tiny nation of Judah continued to deal with the Assyrians. They were able to avoid complete devastation, but were greatly weakened by the attacks. 2 Kings 18:13-16
  - b. Micah had warned of complete devastation (Micah 3:12), but the righteous king Hezekiah, assisted by the prophesying of Isaiah and Micah, was able to save Judah from Assyrian captivity.
  - c. Unfortunately, Hezekiah was succeeded by a wicked son named Manasseh who reigned for 55 years and wielded a terrible influence on Judah. 2 Kings 21:16
  - d. Though Manasseh repented near the end of his life, he was followed by his own wicked son Amon.
  - e. But in 640 B.C. eight year old Josiah came to the throne, and in the twelfth year of his reign he began an intensive reform and restoration effort in Judah.
  - f. In 609 B.C. Josiah was killed by the Egyptian army as he sought to prevent Egypt from helping the Assyrians.
  - g. Josiah was followed on the throne by an evil son named Jehoahaz who only reigned for three months before being taken captive to Egypt.
  - h. Pharaoh Necho then placed Jehoiakim, another son of Josiah, on the throne. Jehoiakim's evil reign lasted from 609 to 598 B.C.
  - i. During the reign of Jehoiakim the Babylonians forced Judah to submit to their authority and took a small group of captives back to Babylon in 605 B.C.
  - j. Jehoiakim was followed by his son Jehoiachin (Jeconiah, Coniah) who reigned for three months before being taken to Babylon along with a large group of captives in 597 B.C.

- k. Nebuchadnezzar then made Zedekiah, another son of Josiah, king. In the ninth year of his reign Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar then came, besieged Jerusalem, and in Zedekiah's eleventh year Jerusalem was destroyed and many more captives were taken to Babylon.
  - l. The Babylonians allowed a remnant to remain in Judah, but when Gedaliah, the governor appointed by Babylon, was murdered the remnant fled to Egypt.
3. Prophets of this time period.
- a. Both Isaiah and Micah began to prophesy during the last years of the Divided Kingdom and continued into the period of Judah Alone.
  - b. Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah all prophesied during this period.
  - c. Jeremiah began to prophesy ca. 627 B.C. and continued his prophetic work throughout the last years of Judah. After the fall of Jerusalem he was taken to Egypt with the remnant.
  - d. Daniel was taken captive in 605 B.C. and did all of his prophetic work while serving in the royal courts of the conquering kings.
  - e. Ezekiel was taken captive in 597 B.C. and began to prophesy in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of captivity. While he began to prophesy before the destruction of Jerusalem, all of his work was done among the captives in Babylon.
4. Important world developments.
- a. Under Nabopolassar Babylon established its independence from Assyria in 625 B.C.
  - b. In 612 B.C. the combined forces of the Medes and Babylonians destroyed Nineveh, capital of Assyria.
  - c. In 609 B.C. the Assyrians suffered a final defeat at Carchemish.
  - d. From 609 B.C. to 605 B.C. the Egyptians were the controlling power from Egypt to the Euphrates River.
  - e. In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar, crown prince of Babylon, attacked the Egyptians at Carchemish and pushed them back to their borders. It was at this time that Babylon made Jehoiakim his vassal and carried a small group into captivity.
5. Questions.
- a. What did Hezekiah do with the letter sent to him by the Assyrian king? 2 Kings 19:14-19
  - b. Hezekiah's life was extended \_\_\_\_\_ years because of his prayer. 2 Kings 20
  - c. How did Manasseh "escape" his own personal captivity? 2 Chron. 33
  - d. What reason was given for the destruction of Judah in 2 Kings 24:1-4?
  - e. What "lost" item was found during the restoration of the temple? 2 Kings 22; 2 Chron. 34

- f. Whose prophecy did Josiah fulfill in 2 Kings 23:15-20?
  - g. What was Zedekiah forced to witness before his eyes were put out? 2 Kings 25:7
  - h. Who assassinated Gedeliah? 2 Kings 25:22-26
6. Memorable passages.
- a. 2 Kings 18:20, 21; 19:14; 22:7
  - b. 2 Chron. 32:7, 8; 36:15-17

## Lesson 14: Babylonian Captivity; Return and Rebuilding

1. Review of the Bible Story.
  - a. Before the Flood. Gen. 1-5
  - b. The Flood. Gen. 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the People. Gen. 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Gen. 12-50
  - e. Exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1—Num. 14
  - f. Wandering in the Wilderness. Num. 15—Deut. 34
  - g. Invasion and Conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-24
  - h. The Judges. Judges 1—1 Sam. 8
  - i. United Kingdom. 1 Sam. 9—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 1—2 Chronicles 9 (Ca. 1050-930 B.C.)
  - j. Divided Kingdom. 1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 10—31 (Ca. 930-721 B.C.)
  - k. Judah Alone. 2 Kings 18—25; 2 Chronicles 32-36 (721-586 B.C.)
  - l. Babylonian Captivity. 2 Kings 24, 25; 2 Chronicles 36; Ezekiel; Daniel
  - m. Return and Rebuilding. Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther
2. The Captivity.
  - a. See Lesson 13 for the three stages of captivity.
  - b. The historical books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles provide few details about the captivity, but the prophetic books of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel provide us with some historical facts about those living in Babylon.
  - c. Jeremiah wrote to those captives taken in 597 B.C. and urged them to make themselves at home since the captivity would last 70 years. Jer. 29
  - d. It would appear that they may have become too comfortable, for when it was time to return only a small number decided to return to Judah.
3. The return and rebuilding.
  - a. Babylon fell to the combined forces of the Medes and Persians in 539 B.C. Then, as God had prophesied in Isa. 44, 45, Cyrus allowed the Jews to return.
  - b. Ezra 1, 2 tells of the initial return led by Zerubbabel. 536 B.C.
  - c. Soon after their return the remnant began work on the temple, but little was accomplished until 520 B.C. when the prophets Haggai and Zechariah stirred up the people and the temple was completed in 516 B.C. Ezra 3-6; Haggai 1, 2; Zech. 1-8
  - d. The story of Esther actually takes place between the events of Ezra 6 and 7.
    - 1) A young Jewish maiden is selected by King Ahasuerus to be his queen ca. 479 B.C.
    - 2) Ca. 474 B.C. Esther and her cousin Mordecai, who had been a step-father to her, saved the Jewish people from a plot to destroy them.
  - e. In 458 B.C. Ezra the scribe led a small group back to Judah. Ezra 7, 8
  - f. After his return Ezra dealt with a problem of intermarriage with pagan wives. Ezra 9, 10

- g. Nehemiah led a small contingent back to Jerusalem in 445 B.C. and the walls of the city were rebuilt under his leadership.
- h. Nehemiah faced external and internal opposition, but was able to get the walls rebuilt and accomplished much in the way of spiritual reform.
- i. The prophet Malachi dealt with some of the same problems as Nehemiah.

4. Questions.

- a. What did Daniel and his three friends refuse to do in Dan. 1?
- b. Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego thrown into a fiery furnace? Dan. 3
- c. How long had Daniel been in Babylon when he was thrown to the lions? Dan. 6
- d. Ezekiel's head was harder than \_\_\_\_\_. Ezek. 3:8, 9
- e. How many were in the group Zerubbabel led back to Judah in 536 B.C.? Ezra 2:64-67
- f. Who sought to kill all the Jews in the time of Esther?
- g. Why was Esther reluctant to ask her husband the king to spare her people? Esther 4
- h. The feast of \_\_\_\_\_ commemorated the deliverance of the Jews in the days of Esther and Mordecai. Esther 9:20-32
- f. Ezra was said to have prepared or set his heart to do what? Ezra 7:10
- g. What were those who had married pagan wives required to do? Ezra 10
- h. Before going to Judah, Nehemiah was \_\_\_\_\_ to King \_\_\_\_\_. Neh. 2:1
- i. Who opposed the rebuilding of the wall in Neh. 4?
- j. What problems arose among the Jews in Neh. 5:1-5?
- k. How did Nehemiah show his displeasure over the mixed marriages in Neh. 13:22-27?

5. Memorable passages.

- a. Daniel 1:8; 3:16-18; 4:32
- b. Ezra 7:10; 9:5, 6
- c. Nehemiah 9:17; 13:26
- d. Esther 4:13-16

## Lessons 15, 16: The Prophets

1. Review of the Bible Story.
  - a. Before the Flood. Gen. 1-5
  - b. The Flood. Gen. 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the People. Gen. 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Gen. 12-50
  - e. Exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1—Num. 14
  - f. Wandering in the Wilderness. Num. 15—Deut. 34
  - g. Invasion and Conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-24
  - h. The Judges. Judges 1—1 Sam. 8
  - i. United Kingdom. 1 Sam. 9—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 1—2 Chronicles 9 (Ca. 1050-930 B.C.)
  - j. Divided Kingdom. 1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 10—31 (Ca. 930-721 B.C.)
  - k. Judah Alone. 2 Kings 18—25; 2 Chronicles 32-36 (721-586 B.C.)
  - l. Babylonian Captivity. 2 Kings 24, 25; 2 Chronicles 36; Ezekiel; Daniel
  - m. Return and Rebuilding. Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther
2. The literary prophets all fit into parts j-m of the Bible story.
  - a. Name at least two prophets from the period of the United Kingdom that did not record their prophecies in a book.
  - b. What non-literary prophet from the period of the Divided Kingdom appeared with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration?
3. Understanding the prophets.
  - a. Learn as much as you can about the background.
    - 1) To whom was it written? When was it written and under what circumstances?
    - 2) Bible dictionaries, commentaries, encyclopedias, etc. can be helpful.
    - 3) Most importantly, study the historical books that cover the time of the prophet.
  - b. The New Testament is the best commentary possible on the Old Testament.
  - c. The prophets often expressed their truths with figurative language.
  - d. Realize that sometimes the prophets contain promises that were conditional.
  - e. Focus on the main and/or clear points of the prophetic message.
4. 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.
5. 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	Propheesied 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	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.

6. Lamentations:
  - a. A five poem lament for the fallen city of Jerusalem, Lamentations is believed by most to have been written by Jeremiah.
  - b. The first four chapters are alphabetic, with the third chapter devoting three verses to each of the Hebrew letters.
  - c. Though the book might be called a funeral dirge for a once proud city, there are notes of triumphant faith in it. See especially Lam. 3:22-24.
  
7. Questions.
  - a. Where in the NT is Isa. 9:1, 2 quoted?
  - b. Find two NT passages that quote from Isa. 53.
  - c. Where in the NT do we find Jer. 31:31-34 quoted?
  - d. How did Ezekiel use his hair to symbolize what would happen to Judah? Ezek. 5
  - e. Describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Dan. 2 and explain the interpretation of the dream.
  
  - f. Who was Hosea's wife? Her three children?
  
  - g. Where in the New Testament is Joel 2:28-32 quoted?
  - h. What was the occupation of Amos before he was sent to Israel to prophesy?
  - i. The Edomites were the descendants of \_\_\_\_\_, older brother of Jacob.
  - j. Why did Jonah become angry in Jonah 4?
  - k. Where in the New Testament is Micah 5:2 quoted?
  - l. The Lord is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the day of trouble for those who trust in Him. Nahum 1:7
  - m. Find the three places in the New Testament where Hab. 2:4 is quoted.
  - n. According to Zeph. 3:12, the Lord intended His judgment on Israel to produce a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  - o. Why was God not blessing His people in the days of Haggai? 1:1-11
  
  - p. Zechariah foresaw one he called the Branch who would be priest and sit on the \_\_\_\_\_ and rule.
  - q. How had the people profaned the name of the Lord in Mal. 1:12-14?

## Lesson 17: Years of Silence (Between the Testaments)

1. Review of the Bible Story.
  - a. Before the Flood. Gen. 1-5
  - b. The Flood. Gen. 6-10
  - c. Scattering of the People. Gen. 11
  - d. The Patriarchs. Gen. 12-50
  - e. Exodus from Egypt. Exodus 1—Num. 14
  - f. Wandering in the Wilderness. Num. 15—Deut. 34
  - g. Invasion and Conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-24
  - h. The Judges. Judges 1—1 Sam. 8
  - i. United Kingdom. 1 Sam. 9—1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles 1—2 Chronicles 9 (Ca. 1050-930 B.C.)
  - j. Divided Kingdom. 1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 10—31 (Ca. 930-721 B.C.)
  - k. Judah Alone. 2 Kings 18—25; 2 Chronicles 32-36 (721-586 B.C.)
  - l. Babylonian Captivity. 2 Kings 24, 25; 2 Chronicles 36; Ezekiel; Daniel
  - m. Return and Rebuilding. Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther
  - n. Years of Silence. Daniel 2, 7, 8, 11, 12
  - o.\* Life of Christ. Matthew—John
  - p.\* Early Church. Acts
  - q.\* Letters to Christians. Romans—Revelation

\*. We will not be covering the last three this quarter, though we will be looking at one letter to Christians, viz. the letter to the Hebrews.
2. A study of the period between the close of the Old Testament and Gabriel's appearance to Zacharias in Luke 1 can be very rewarding.
  - a. While God was not speaking directly to the prophets during this time (hence the term Years of Silence), much of Daniel deals with this time period.
    - 1) Your understanding of Daniel will be aided by a study of the time between the testaments.
  - b. The situation in Palestine changed dramatically from the close of the Old to the opening of the New.
    - 1) New world power—Rome.
    - 2) New language—Greek.
    - 3) New divisions—Sadducees and Pharisees.
    - 4) New place of worship—synagogues.
  - c. Faith in the power and providence of God will be strengthened.
3. Read Daniel 8.
  - a. The Medo-Persian king (kingdom) was depicted as a \_\_\_\_\_ with two \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The Greek kingdom was pictured as a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. What happened to the goat's horn?
  - d. Who caused the daily sacrifices to be taken away?

4. Key events of the Years of Silence.
  - a. Fall of the Persian Empire. 331 B.C.
  - b. Rise of the Grecian Empire.
    - 1) Alexander the Great was born in 356 B.C., tutored by Aristotle, and became king at age 20.
    - 2) He died in 323 B.C. shortly before his thirty-third birthday.
  - c. Splintering of the Grecian Empire. 323 B.C.
  - d. The Seleucid kingdom (Syria) battled the Ptolemaic kingdom (Egypt) for control of Palestine.
    - 1) In the first twenty years after the death of Alexander Judea changed hands five times before the Ptolemies took control.
      - a) Ca. 280 B.C. Ptolemy Philadelphus commissioned the translation of the Jewish Scriptures into Greek.
      - b) This Greek translation would come to be known as the Septuagint and was commonly used in the first century.
    - 2) In 198 B.C. the Ptolemies surrendered control of Palestine to Seleucids one last time.
  - e. The Maccabean Revolt.
    - 1) Led by a family known as the Hasmoneans, the Jews won several key victories over much larger armies.
    - 2) Research: How did a revolt led by the Hasmoneans come to be known as the Maccabean Revolt?
    - 3) It began in 167 B.C. and independence was gained in 142 B.C.
    - 4) What Jewish holiday celebrates the recapture of the temple in December of 164 B.C.?
    - 5) Where in the NT is this feast mentioned? (Hint: the NT uses a different name for it than the one most commonly used today).
  - f. The development of the various sects of the Jews.
    - 1) The Pharisees and Sadducees both appear to have developed during or shortly after the time of the Maccabean Revolt.
    - 2) The Pharisees seem to have sprung from a group called the Hasidim (the pious ones). The Hasidim had strongly opposed the corrupting influences of the Seleucids and initially supported the Hasmoneans in the Maccabean Revolt, but at some point separated themselves from the Hasmoneans.
    - 3) When the Revolt began the Hasmonean family was known for its zeal for the Lord, but through the years it became an aristocratic, world-minded family with great power and influence and the Sadducees largely sprang from them.

- 4) The Essenes evolved at some point between the Revolt and the first century A.D., but their origins are unknown. Unlike the Pharisees and Sadducees they tended to live in their own separate communities.
  - a) The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 at an Essene site called Qumran.
- g. Rome entered Jerusalem in 63 B.C.
  - 1) General Pompey even went into the Most Holy Place.
- h. Herod the Great (an Idumean/Edomite) became king of Judea in 37 B.C.
  - 1) The Parthians had invaded Jerusalem in 40 B.C. and the Romans granted Herod his kingship with the hope that Herod would fight the battle against the Parthians for them.
  - 2) Herod succeeded and Judea was now ruled by an Edomite loyal to Rome.
5. The time was now right.

*“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law....” Galatians 4:4*