

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM: THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE NATION

1 Kings 11- 2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 10 - 36

The glory that was Israel's during the forty-year reign of Solomon lasted only a short time. Read the following to see how soon the nation began to decline, and the reasons for its ultimate fall:

A. The Sin of Solomon: Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

1. What command of the Lord did Solomon break? 1 Kings 11:1-2

2. What happened to him as a result? 1 Kings 11:4

3. What did God say would happen as a result of this sin? 1 Kings 11:11-13

B. The Foolishness of Rehoboam: Read 1 Kings 12:1-17

1. When Solomon's son Rehoboam became king, what did the people ask him to do? 1 Kings 12:4

2. How did the people react when he refused to do this? 1 Kings 12:19

3. Who of all the nation remained true to Rehoboam and served him? 1 Kings 12:21a

C. The Decline and Fall of Israel:

1. After Jeroboam became king over the ten tribes of Israel, what was he afraid would happen? 1 Kings 12:26

2. What did he do to prevent this from happening? 1 Kings 12:27-28

3. What did God call this? 1 Kings 12:30

4. What did God say would happen because of this:
 - a. to Jeroboam's household? 1 Kings 13:34 _____
 - b. to the nation Israel? 1 Kings 14:15 _____
5. Whose example did nearly all the other kings of Israel follow? 1 Kings 15:25-26, 16:8-9, 18-19; 25-26, 30-31, 22:51-52, 2 Kings 3:1-3, 10:31, 13:1-2, 10-11, 14:23-24, 15:8-9, 17-18, 22-24, 27-28

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6. What happened to the nation Israel because of this? 2 Kings 17:6

D. The Decline and Fall of Judah:

1. What did the people of Judah begin to do in the days of King Rehoboam? 1 Kings 14:22

2. What happened in the fifth year of Rehoboam? 1 Kings 14:25-27

3. For whose sake was the nation of Judah spared for a time? 1 Kings 15:4-5

4. What was true of several of Judah's kings? 1 Kings 14:11, 22:42-43, 2 Kings 12:2, 14:1-3, 15:1-3, 32-34, 18:3, 22:1-2

5. Whose example did these kings follow?

6. Whose example did some of Judah's kings follow? 2 Kings 8:16-18, 25-27, 16:1-4

7. What did King Manasseh lead his people to do? 2 Kings 21:2, 9

8. What did God say would happen to Judah because of this? 2 Kings 21:10-15

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused God's chosen nation to fall into such decay and ruin?

2. What will happen to me if I permit sin to gain a foothold in my life?

MESSAGE TO ISRAEL AND JUDAH

During the Divided Kingdom Period, all the literature that was written took the form of messages from God to His wayward people. These fall into three groups: Messages to Israel and Judah before Israel's captivity; messages to heathen nations; and messages to Judah alone after Israel's captivity. The first group includes the messages of four prophets: Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, and Micah. Study these now:

THE BOOK OF HOSEA: GOD'S LOVE AND SINFUL ISRAEL

Hosea lived in Israel and prophesied to his own people over a period of at least 58 years, during the reign of Jeroboam II. See now how God used this home missionary:

A. God's First Messages to Hosea: Read Hosea 1

1. Why did God tell Hosea to take a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms?
Hosea 1:2

2. Why did God tell Hosea to name his wife's first child "Jezreel"? Hosea 1:4-5

3. Why did God tell Hosea to name his wife's second child "Lo-ruhamah" (which means "That hath not obtained mercy")? Hosea 1:6-7

4. Why did God tell Hosea to name his wife's third child "Lo-ammi" (which means "Not my people")? Hosea 1:8-9

5. In spite of all Israel's sins, what did God promise would happen to them? Hosea 1:10-11

B. Hosea's Dealings With His Wife: Read Hosea 2

1. What did Hosea discover that his wife had done? Hosea 2:1-5

2. Therefore, what did Hosea plan to do to her? Hosea 2:6

3. Why would he do this? Hosea 2:7b

4. What did Hosea's actions toward his wife picture to Israel? Hosea 2:8-23

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C. God's Later Message to Hosea: Read Hosea 3

1. After this, what did God tell Hosea to do to his wife? Hosea 3:1

2. What did Hosea have to do in order to carry out this command? Hosea 3:2

3. What did Hosea tell his wife after this/ Hosea 3:3

4. What did this relationship picture to Israel? Hosea 3:4-5

D. God's Messages to Israel: Hosea 4 - 14

1. For what specific sins did God say He had a controversy (or dispute) with Israel? Hosea 4:6, 12b, 13

2. Against what in particular did God prophesy? Hosea 8:5-6

3. What did God say would happen to Israel? Hosea 11:5-7

4. How did God feel about this? Hosea 11:8-9a

5. What did God plead with Israel to do? Hosea 14:1

6. What did God promise to do after this? Hosea 14:4-7

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Have I broken the heart of the God who loves me, by departing from Him?
See Romans 2:4, II Peter 3:15a

2. What promise has God given me, if I will only return? John 6:37b.

THE BOOK OF AMOS: THE COMING DOOM OF SINFUL ISRAEL

At about the time of Hosea, or perhaps a little earlier, Amos came from Judah to Bethel, the religious capital of Israel, and prophesied. Study now his message:

A. The announcement of Coming Doom: Read Amos 1 - 2

1. How is the Lord pictured in Amos 1:27 (Contrast this with Hosea's picture of the Lord.)

2. Against who is His judgment promised? For what sins?

- a. Amos 1:3a, 5b and 1:3b _____

- b. Amos 1:6, 8b and 1:6b _____

- c. Amos 1:9a and 1:9b _____

- d. Amos 1:11a and 1:11b _____

- e. Amos 1:13a and 1:13b _____

- f. Amos 1:1a and 1:1b _____

- g. Amos 2:4a and 2:4b _____

- h. Amos 2:6a and 2:6b-8 _____

3. What did God promise to do to each of the heathen nations? Amos 1:4a, 7a, 10a, 12a, 14a, 2:2a

4. Why was Israel's sin worse than that of any of the heathen nations?

- a. Amos 2:9 _____

- b. Amos 2:10 _____

- c. Amos 2:11-12 _____

5. Therefore, what did God promise to do to Israel? Amos 2:13-16

B. Sermons Concerning the Coming Doom: Amos 3 - 6

1. Notice the series of questions in Amos' first sermon, Amos 3:1-6. How much did he say would be left of Israel after God's judgment? Amos 3:12

2. Notice in Amos' second sermon the five judgments God had already sent upon Israel, Amos 4:6, 7-8, 9, 10, 11.

3. What happened after each of these judgments? Amos 4:6b, 8b, 9b, 10b, 11b

4. Therefore, what did God warn Israel to do? Amos 4:12b

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5. In Amos' third sermon, what did he say God was pleading with Israel to do? Amos 5:4, 8, 14-15

6. On what two groups of people did he pronounce special woes? Amos 5:18, 6:1, 3-6

C. Visions Picturing the Coming Doom: Amos 7 - 9

1. Notice what Amos saw in his first two visions, Amos 7:1-2a, 4. What did he do after each of these, and what did God do as a result? Amos 7:2b-3, 5-6

2. Look up the word "plumbline" in a dictionary to understand Amos' third vision, Amos 7:7-9.

3. Who tried to stop Amos' ministry after this? Amos 7:10-17

4. What did Amos see in his fourth vision? How was this like Israel? Amos 8:1-2

5. What did Amos see in his fifth vision? Amos 9:1

6. What did God promise to do after all His Judgments? Amos 9:9, 11-15

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God have to pronounce such awful punishment upon Israel?

2. Have I refused God's goodness so long that His severity must now be shown to me? See Romans 11:22, Hebrews 12:29.

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH: THE SALVATION OF THE LORD

Isaiah, a native of Judah and Jerusalem, prophesied to his own people over a period of 40 - 60 years, beginning in the Divided Kingdom Period, and extending into the period when Judah stood alone as God's representative among the nations. The following lessons summarize the outstanding themes found in his prophecy.

THE CALL OF ISAIAH Isaiah 6

A. The Man Isaiah:

1. During the reign of what kings did Isaiah prophesy? Isaiah 1:1 (Locate these kings on your chart summarizing the Old Testament.)

2. What were the names of Isaiah's two sons? Isaiah 7:3, 8:3

3. What did Isaiah say about himself and his children? Isaiah 8:18

B. Isaiah's Vision: Read Isaiah 6:1-4

1. Whom did Isaiah see in his vision? Isaiah 6:1b

2. Where was He sitting? Isaiah 6:1c

3. What title might be given to Him according to this vision?

4. What did the seraphim (angels of the highest order) do in His presence? Isaiah 6:2b

5. What did one of them cry out? Isaiah 6:3

6. What two things happened when he cried out? Isaiah 6:4
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

C. Isaiah's Response to the Vision: Read Isaiah 6:5

1. What were Isaiah's first words after he saw this vision?

2. What did Isaiah realize about himself when he saw this vision?

3. What did he realize about the people of his nation?

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D. God's Provision for Isaiah: Read Isaiah 6:6-7

1. What did one of the seraphim do for Isaiah? Isaiah 6:6-7a

2. What did he say this would do for Isaiah? Isaiah 6:7b

E. God's Message to Isaiah: Read Isaiah 6:8-12

1. What question did the Lord ask? Isaiah 6:8a

2. What did Isaiah answer? Isaiah 6:8b

3. To whom did God say Isaiah should go? Isaiah 6:9a

4. How long was he to continue his work? Isaiah 6:11

5. Would the people respond to Isaiah's message? Isaiah 6:9b-10

6. What would eventually happen to them? Isaiah 6:23

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. When Isaiah realized the true condition of himself and his people, what desires did it arouse within him?

2. Do I see my great sinfulness, so that I cry out for cleansing? Do I see the sin of my people, so that I long to take God's message to them?

GOD'S MESSAGES TO ISAIAH

Isaiah 1, 5

In the first 39 chapters of his prophecy, Isaiah is concerned mainly with the approaching captivity of Judah. His main messages may be summarized as follows:

A. God's First Picture of Judah: Read Isaiah 1:1-9

1. What did God call the people of Judah? Isaiah 1:2b

2. What did He say they had done? Isaiah 1:2c

3. What animals did God say were better than Judah? Isaiah 1:3

4. How did God feel as a result of their actions? Isaiah 1:4b

5. What had He already done to them? Isaiah 1:5a

6. What was their condition already? Isaiah 1:5b-6

7. What had already happened to their land? Isaiah 1:7-8

8. How much of the original territory of Judah was left to them now? Isaiah 1:9

B. God's Second Picture of Judah: Read Isaiah 1:10-20

1. What did God call Judah in Isaiah 1:10?

2. List the different religious acts the people of Judah were doing at this time? Isaiah 1:11a-15

3. How did God feel about all these things? Isaiah 1:11b-15

4. What did God call the people of Judah to do? Isaiah 1:16-17

5. What did God promise to do for them if they would do this? Isaiah 1:18-19

6. What did god say would happen to them if they did not? Isaiah 1:20

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C. God's Third Picture of Judah: Read Isaiah 1:21-31

1. What did God call the city of Jerusalem? Isaiah 1:21

2. Notice the terrible sins that were being committed there, Isaiah 1:21-23.

3. What did God say He would do to the city? Isaiah 1:24-25

4. What would be God's purpose in doing this? Isaiah 1:26

D. God's Fourth Picture of Judah: Read Isaiah 5:1-30

1. About what did Isaiah tell a story? Isaiah 5:1

2. What had the owner done to this property? Isaiah 5:2a

3. What did he expect to get from it? Isaiah 5:2b

4. What did he actually get from it? Isaiah 5:2c

5. What did the owner ask about this property? Isaiah 5:4

6. What did the owner decide to do to this property? Isaiah 5:5-6

7. How did God say Judah was like this vineyard? Isaiah 5:7

8. Therefore, what did God say to Judah six times? Isaiah 5:8, 11, 18, 20, 21, 22

9. In spite of all that God had already done to Judah, how did He still feel toward her?
Isaiah 5:25

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. As what would God picture me, if He should send me a message today?

2. Have I so angered the Lord, that His hand is now stretched out in judgment over me? If so, what is His message to me? See Isaiah 1:18

GOD'S MESSAGES TO ISRAEL

Isaiah 7 - 10

Although the bulk of Isaiah's prophecy is directed to Judah, there is one passage concerning the northern nation Israel. Study now God's messages concerning her?

A. God's Prediction Concerning Israel: Read Isaiah 7:1-25

1. What did the king of Israel and the king of Syria do in the days of Ahaz, king of Judah?
Isaiah 7:1

2. What did God tell Isaiah to do at that time? Isaiah 7:3

3. What was God's message to Ahaz? Isaiah 7:4, 7

4. What did God predict concerning Ephraim (another name for Israel)? Isaiah 7:8b

5. What was God's sign to Ahaz that these things would really come to pass? Isaiah 7:14-16

6. To what did God compare the king of Assyria? Isaiah 7:20

B. God's Sign Concerning Israel: Read Isaiah 8:1-10

1. Isaiah's first son was named Shear-jashub, which means "a remnant shall return." Why did God tell him to name his second son Maher-shalal-hash-baz, which means "The spoil speedeth, they prey hasteth"? Isaiah 8:3-4

2. Why was God's punishment coming upon Israel? Isaiah 8:5-6 (Note: The waters of Shiloah (Siloam) were in Jerusalem.)

3. How far would the king of Assyria go? Isaiah 8:7-8

4. Why did Isaiah say Israel's and Syria's plans would not work? Isaiah 8:9-10

C. God's Message to Israel: Read Isaiah 9:8 - 10:4

1. What were the people of Ephraim saying at this time? Isaiah 9:10

2. Why were they saying this? Isaiah 9:9b

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3. What did God say He would do to Israel? Isaiah 9:11-12a

4. What was the great reason for God's anger against Israel? Isaiah 9:13

5. Who caused Israel to continue in this way? Isaiah 9:16

6. Therefore, what did God say He would do to Israel? Isaiah 9:14-15, 17a

7. What else did God say would happen to Israel? Isaiah 9:19-20

8. Of what sins was Israel especially guilty? Isaiah 10:1-2

9. Therefore, what did God say He would do to them? Isaiah 10:4a

10. How would God feel even after sending all these judgments on Israel? Isaiah 9:12b, 17b, 21b, 10:4b

D. God's Prediction Concerning Assyria: Read Isaiah 10:5-34

1. To what four things did God compare Assyria? Isaiah 10:5a, 5b, 15a, 15b

2. Why would Assyria come against Israel? Isaiah 10:6a

3. What did God say He would do after Assyria had accomplished His purposes? Isaiah 10:12b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What did the evil-doing of Syria, Israel, and Assyria cause God to do?

2. Can I expect to do evil, and get away with it? See Proverbs 11:21.

GOD'S MESSAGES TO SURROUNDING NATIONS

Isaiah 13 - 35

God spoke through Isaiah not only to His own people, but also to several other nations of that day. Study the following to see what He said to and about them:

A. The “Burden” (or Oracle) Concerning Babylon: Read Isaiah 13:1- 14:27

1. What did God say He would do to Babylon? Isaiah 13:11

2. What nation would God use to accomplish this? Isaiah 13:17

3. How long would this judgment affect this nation? Isaiah 13:19-22, 14:22-23

4. From an encyclopedia or Bible handbook, find out all you can about the fulfillment of this prophecy, and the condition of the land of Babylon today.

5. Against whom in particular in this nation did God speak? Isaiah 14:4

6. What did God say would happen to him? Isaiah 14:15-20

7. Why could one be sure that these things would come to pass? Isaiah 14:27

B. The “Burdens” Concerning Judah’s Neighbors: Isaiah 14:28 - 27:13

1. On which of Judah’s neighbors did God pronounce judgments? Give in a few words the main idea of each of these judgments:
 - a. Isaiah 14:29 and 14:30b _____
 - b. Isaiah 15:1a and 16:14 _____
 - c. Isaiah 17:1a and 17:1b-2, 6 _____
 - d. Isaiah 17:3a, 4 and 17:4-5 _____
 - e. Isaiah 18:1b and 18:1a _____
 - f. Isaiah 19:1a and 19:22 _____
 - g. Isaiah 20:3b and 20:4 _____
 - h. Isaiah 21:9a and 21:9b _____
 - i. Isaiah 21:11 _____
 - j. Isaiah 21:13 and 21:16-17 _____
 - k. Isaiah 23:1a and 23:15-18 _____
2. What was God’s message to Judah herself in this part of Isaiah’s prophecy? Isaiah 22:12-14

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3. How did Isaiah sum up all of these prophecies? Isaiah 24:1, 19, 20

4. What did Isaiah do after all that God had shown him concerning the nations? Isaiah 25:1-2

C. God's Messages of Woe: Isaiah 28 - 35

1. Upon what people did God pronounce messages of woe?

a. Isaiah 28:1 _____

b. Isaiah 30:1 _____

c. Isaiah 31:1 _____

d. Isaiah 33:1 _____

e. Isaiah 34:5b, 6b, 10-15 _____

2. What did God promise after giving these messages of woe? Isaiah 35:3-4, 10

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was there anything of all that God prophesied in these passages which did not come to pass as He had said?

2. When God makes promises to me through His Word, what should I expect to happen? See Isaiah 14:27.

GOD'S MESSAGE CONCERNING JUDAH'S FUTURE

Isaiah 40 - 48

Although glimpses of Judah's future appear in Isaiah 1 - 39, this phase of Isaiah's message is seen in its fullness in chapters 40 - 48. Study now selected passages from these chapters, which sum up God's predictions in this regard:

A. God's Description of Himself: Read Isaiah 40:1-2, 12-31

1. Why should Jerusalem be comforted at the time spoken of in Isaiah 40:1-2?

2. Who would come to her to accomplish this? Isaiah 40:3b, 5a, 9b, 10a

3. How did the Lord describe Himself in Isaiah 40? In terms of a man, tell:
 - a. what He could hold in the follow of His hand? Isaiah 12a _____
 - b. how wide the heavens would be to Him: Isaiah 12b _____
 - c. how much all the dust of the earth would be to him: Isaiah 12c _____
 - d. what He could do with the mountains and hills: Isaiah 12d _____
 - e. what all the nations would be like to Him: Isaiah 15a, 17 _____
 - f. what He could do with all the islands: Isaiah 15b _____
 - g. how much it would take to make a fire for Him: Isaiah 16a _____
 - h. how much it would take for Him to make a sacrifice: Isaiah 16b _____
4. What is the answer to the questions in Isaiah 40:13-14?

5. Is it possible to make an image that would represent God in all this glory? See Isaiah 40:18-24

6. What is another proof of God's greatness? Isaiah 40:25-26

7. Because God is so great, what is He able to do for His people? Isaiah 40:28-31

B. God's Challenge to the Idols and Images: Read Isaiah 40:18-20, 44:9-20, 41:21-24

1. What kind of image would the rich man make? Isaiah 40:19

2. What kind of image would the poor man make? Isaiah 40:20

3. Notice what they would say as they were making these images? Isaiah 41:6-7

4. Notice how they would go about making these idols: Isaiah 44:10, 13

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5. What would they do with the rest of the tree from which they had made an idol? Isaiah 44:14-20

6. What did God challenge the idols to do, to prove that they are gods? Isaiah 41:22a, 23a

C. God's Answer to His Own Challenge: Red Isaiah 44:21 - 45:25

1. What was God's message at this time to Jerusalem and Judah? Isaiah 44:26

2. What great person who had not yet been born did God call by name? Isaiah 44:28, 45:3b, 4

3. What did God say he would do? Isaiah 44:28

4. What would God do for him to make this possible? Isaiah 45:1-3

5. What did this prediction prove about God? Isaiah 45:5-6, 18b, 21b, 22b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there anything in the future about which God does not already know, which He could not predict if He so chose?

2. If God is as great as this, what should I do? Isaiah 44:22a

GOD'S MESSAGE CONCERNING THE COMING MESSIAH

Isaiah 49 - 57

Never in the Old Testament is so much found about the coming Messiah of Israel as in the pages of Isaiah's prophecy. Study these prophecies below:

A. The Varied Descriptions of Messiah: Isaiah 1- 48

1. What name could be given to the messiah from each of the following verses?
 - a. Isaiah 7:14 (Matthew 1:22-23)_____
 - b. Isaiah 9:6a (Luke 21:1, John 3:16)_____
 - c. Isaiah 11:1-2_____
 - d. Isaiah 16:5 (Luke 1:31-33)_____
 - e. Isaiah 28:16, 8:14 (Romans 9:33, I Peter 2:6-8)_____
 - f. Isaiah 32:1, 33:17_____
 - g. Isaiah 40:11 (John 10:11, 14-16)_____
 - h. Isaiah 42:1 (Matthew 12:15-21, Philippians 2:7)_____
 - i. Isaiah 42:6-7, 9:2, 51:4, 60:1, 3 (Matthew 4:15-16, John 8:12)_____
 - j. Isaiah 45:21-22_____
2. What important person connected with Jesus' first coming is mentioned in Isaiah 40:3-5? See Matthew 3:1-3

B. The Messiah's Main Task: Read Isaiah 49:1-6

1. As what is the Messiah pictured in these passages? Isaiah 49:5, 6a

2. As such, what would He do for Israel? Isaiah 49:5-6a

3. However, what would be His main task? Isaiah 49:6b

C. The Messiah's Means of Accomplishing His Task: Read Isaiah 50:1-11

1. What would the Messiah spend much of His time doing? Isaiah 50:4a

2. What part of Messiah's life is predicted in Isaiah 50:4b. See Mark 1:35

3. Of what famous saying of Messiah does Isaiah 50:5 remind you? See Luke 22:42

4. What would this attitude cause Him to do? Isaiah 50:7

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D. Messiah's Task Accomplished: Read Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

1. What would happen to Messiah's face and body as a result of His sufferings? Isaiah 52:14

2. What would this bring to Him? Isaiah 53:3a

3. How would His own people feel about Him as this happened? Isaiah 53:3b, 4b

4. Yet, what would be the whole purpose of His suffering? Isaiah 53:4a, 5, 6

5. What would be His reaction to all these sufferings? Isaiah 53:7

6. What would finally happen to Him? Isaiah 53:8b-9

7. What would be the final result of His sufferings? Isaiah 53:11

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there any possible doubt as to whose coming is predicted in these verses?

2. Has Messiah's purpose for coming into the world been accomplished in me? Is He satisfied with me? See Isaiah 53:11a.

GOD'S MESSAGES CONCERNING THE DISTANT FUTURE

Isaiah 2 - 4, 11- 12, 25 - 27, 58 - 66

Throughout the book of Isaiah are pictures of Judah which we today know portray not her immediate future following her return from captivity, but her distant future - that which still today is in the future. Study some of these passages now:

A. The First Message: Isaiah 2 - 4

1. What time do these verses picture? Isaiah 2:2a

2. Who will judge the nations at this time? Isaiah 2:4a

3. What will the nations do? Isaiah 2:4b

4. Who alone will be exalted in that day? Isaiah 2:11, 17

5. What will God again cause to be seen in Israel? Isaiah 4-5

B. The Second Message: Isaiah 11-12

1. Who will rule over the earth in that day? Isaiah 11:1-2

2. What will He do to the wicked? Isaiah 11:4b

3. What will be true of all harmful animals in that day? Isaiah 11:6-9, 65:25

4. What will God do to the people of Israel and Judah in that day? Isaiah 11:11-12

5. Notice the song that will be sung by God's people in that day? Isaiah 12:1-6

C. The Third Message: Isaiah 25:6 - 27:13

1. What will God do for His people in that day? Isaiah 25:8

2. What will His people say of Him in that day? Isaiah 25:9

3. Notice another song that will be sung in that day: Isaiah 26:1-7

4. Notice the attitude of God's people toward idols then: Isaiah 26:13-14

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5. What did God promise that His people would do in that day? Isaiah 27:12-13
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D. The Fourth Message: Isaiah 58-66

1. What promises did God make concerning the city of Jerusalem in that day?

- a. Isaiah 60:10 _____
- b. Isaiah 60:11 _____
- c. Isaiah 60:12-14a _____
- d. Isaiah 60:14b _____
- e. Isaiah 60:15b _____
- f. Isaiah 60:18a _____
- g. Isaiah 60:19-20 _____
- h. Isaiah 60:21 _____

2. What will God give in that day to those who mourn? Isaiah 61:3
-

3. What will God's people be called in that day? Isaiah 61:6
-

4. What else will God do in that day? Isaiah 63:3-4, 64:1-2, 66:15
-

5. What will happen to those who have transgressed against Him? Isaiah 66:24
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. With which group will I be at that day - those who serve the Lord, or those who transgress against Him?
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2. Will the day of His coming be for me a great day - or a terrible day? See Joel 2:31b.
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THE BOOK OF MICAH: JUDGMENT AND BLESSING FOR BOTH KINGDOMS

Micah, a native of the small town of Morasheth or Mareshah in Southwest Judah, near the Philistine city of Gath, was the only one of the prophets to address his messages specifically to both Israel and Judah. He was a country preacher, preaching mostly to the poor people in Samaria and the western towns of Judah. His ministry covered about 50 years - and took place at about the same time that Isaiah was preaching to the leaders of the people in the city of Jerusalem. His themes follow:

A. God's Witness Against His People: Read Micah 1 - 3

1. For what reason was the Lord going to be witness against His people? Micah 1:2-5a

2. What would be the punishment of Samaria for this? Micah 1:6

3. How did Micah feel about this? Micah 1:8-9

4. Whom did he not want to hear about it? Why? (THINK! Who lived at Gath?) Micah 1:10a

5. For what sins did God condemn Israel? What commands had they broken?
 - a. Micah 1:7 _____
 - b. Micah 2:1 _____
 - c. Micah 2:2a _____
 - d. Micah 2:2b _____
 - e. Micah 2:2c _____
 - f. Micah 2:11 _____
6. Against whom did He especially speak? Micah 3:1, 5, 11

7. To what did He compare them/ Micah 3:2-3

8. What would be the punishment of Zion and Jerusalem? Micah 3:12

B. God's Comfort for His People: Read Micah 4 - 5

1. What was one great reason God's people could be comforted? Micah 4:1-4

2. What was an even greater reason? Micah 5:2 (THINK! To Whom does this refer?)

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C. God's Pleading With His People: Red Micah 6:1 - 7:6

1. What did God ask His people to do? Micah 6:3b

2. What in particular did He want them to tell Him? Micah 6:3a

3. What would God rather have from His people than burnt offerings of calves, rams, oil, etc.? Micah 6:6-8

4. What did Micah say about the men of his day? Micah 7:2-5

5. To what did he compare the best of them? Micah 7:4

6. What people was it not safe to trust? Micah 7:5-6

D. God's Consolation for His People: Read Micah 7:7-20

1. Therefore, to Whom alone could Micah turn? Micah 7:7

2. What was one great cause for his consolation? Micah 7:8-9

3. What was a second great cause for consolation? Micah 7:18-20

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could any other god be like the Lord in seeing the sins of people, calling them to repentance, and offering them pardon and comfort?

2. Have I seen my sins as God sees them, and turned to Him for pardon?

MESSAGES TO HEATHEN NATIONS

Two prophets of the Divided Kingdom Period addressed their messages chiefly to heathen nations. Both of these were from the northern kingdom Israel, and both spoke to their chief enemy, Assyria, addressing their remarks especially to Nieveh, the capital city. Study now about Jonah, the first of these prophets:

THE BOOK OF JONAH: GOD'S LOVE FOR HEATHEN NATIONS

II Kings 14-25 tells us that Jonah was a native of Gath-hepher, a town near Nazareth in northern Israel, and that he prophesied concerning his own nation Israel. However, he is best known for his autobiographical account of his prophecy to a heathen nation. Study this account now:

A. God's Command to Jonah: Read Jonah 1:1-2

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go? Jonah 1:2a

2. What did He tell Jonah to do there? Why? Jonah 1:2b

3. Why would it be hard for Jonah to do this? What was Israel's relationship to Nineveh?

B. Jonah's Reaction and Its Results: Read Jonah 1:3 - 2:10

1. Where did Jonah decide to go? Jonah 1:3a (Note: This is thought to be Tartessus, on the west coast of Spain.)

2. Why was he planning to go there? Jonah 1:3a, 3c

3. What arose after he had boarded the ship? Jonah 1:4

4. When the sailors cast lots, who did they discover was the cause of their trouble? Jonah 1:5-7

5. How did they feel when they learned why this trouble had come upon Jonah? Jonah 1:10

6. What did Jonah tell them they must do to quiet the sea? Jonah 1:10-11

7. What happened to Jonah after they finally did this? Jonah 1:13-17

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8. What did Jonah do then? Why? Jonah 2:1, 2a

9. What did he promise God that he would do? Jonah 2:9b

10. What happened after this? Jonah 2:10

C. God's Second Command To Jonah: Read Jonah 3:1-2

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go this time? Jonah 3:2a

2. What was he to do there? Jonah 3:2b

D. Jonah's Reaction and Its Results: Read Jonah 3:3-10

1. What did Jonah do this time? Jonah 3:3

2. What did he preach there? Jonah 3:4b

3. What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard his message? Jonah 3:5a, 5b

4. What did God do when He saw their reaction to His message? Jonah 3:10

E. Basic Attitudes Revealed in This Story: Read Jonah 4:1-11

1. How did Jonah feel when he saw what God had done? Jonah 4:1

2. What do you think this shows about Jonah's heart attitude toward Nineveh?

3. By contract, what was God's heart attitude toward this heathen city? Jonah 4:10-11

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was God concerned only about His own special nation Israel? See Romans 3:29.

2. What is my heart attitude now toward heathen nations? Toward enemy nations?

THE BOOK OF NAHUM: THE DOOM OF NINEVEH

Nahum was of the town of Elkosh, which most scholars think was in Galilee. His prophecy came 120 - 150 years after Jonah's. During this time Assyria had destroyed Israel, and continued her brutality to other nations, including Judah (See II Kings 18-19). Read now Nahum's prophecy about Nineveh, given to the people of Judah:

A. A Description of Nineveh's Destroyer: Read Nahum 1

1. How is God described to Nineveh in Nahum 1:2, 3a?

2. What had proved to Nineveh in the past that God was slow to anger?

3. Notice the many areas of nature in which the Lord has His way: Nahum 1:3b-5

4. How is God described to Nineveh in Nahum 1:6?

5. Notice the contrasting pictures of God in Nahum 1:7-8. To whom is the first given? The second?

6. What did God promise He would do to Nineveh? Nahum 1:8-9, 10b, 12a, 14b

7. What was God's message to Judah in relation to the doom of Nineveh? Nahum 1:12b-13

8. What would the news of Nineveh's destruction be to Judah? Nahum 1:15

B. A Description of Nineveh's Destruction: Read Nahum 2

1. What would be the "overrunning flood" which would make an end of Nineveh? Nahum 1:8

2. Notice the description of Nineveh's chariots in the day of her destruction, Nahum 2:3b-4. Why do you think they would behave so?

3. Why would Nineveh's "worthies" or "gallants" stumble in their walk? Nahum 2:5 (See Nahum 1:10 for a clue.)

4. What place would the soldiers run to defend? Nahum 2:5b

5. Where would the enemy come through to the city? Nahum 2:6

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6. What would the soldiers then do? Nahum 2:8b

7. What would happen to the people of the city? Nahum 2:7

8. What was God's message to the enemies of Nineveh? Nahum 2:9

9. How is the city described after this? Nahum 2:10

10. To what did God compare Nineveh before her destruction? Nahum 2:11-12

11. What would happen to the city after she was conquered? Nahum 2:13, 3:13b, 3:15a

C. The Reasons for Nineveh's Destruction: Read Nahum 3

1. List some of the sins of the great city of Nineveh:
 - a. Nahum 3:1 _____
 - b. Nahum 3:3 _____
 - c. Nahum 3:4 _____
2. What did God say twice to her? Nahum 2:13a, 3:5a

3. How would all the nations feel when they heard of her destruction? Why? Nahum 3:19b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Will God always continue to warn people of their sins? What must He eventually send? See II Peter 3:9-10

2. What effect should these facts have on my life? II Peter 3:11b

THE BOOK OF OBADIAH: THE DOOM OF EDOM

A third prophet, Obadiah, whose date is uncertain, also addressed his prophecy to a heathen nation. He seems certainly to have been a native of Judah, and may have lived as early as the reign of Amaziah or as late as the capture of Jerusalem. However, if the Minor Prophets are arranged in Chronological order, as they seem generally to be, then he would have lived at about the time of Ahaz. His prophecy is studied here because of its similarity to those of Jonah and Nahum:

A. A Prediction of Edom's Punishment: Read Obadiah 1-9

1. What was God planning to do to Edom? Obadiah 1b

2. What position would Edom then have among the nations? Obadiah 2

3. Who were the Edomites? See Genesis 36:1, 43b

4. Where did they live? Obadiah 3b (From an encyclopedia or Bible handbook find out all you can about the home and habits of the Edomites.)

5. What attitude did this cause them to have in their hearts? Obadiah 3a

6. Therefore, what did they say to themselves? Obadiah 3c

7. By contract, what did God say of them? Obadiah 4

8. If only thieves and robbers came up against Edom, how much would they take? Obadiah 5

9. But how much would the lord destroy? Obadiah 9b, 10b

10. Who would be the ones to bring this to pass? Obadiah 7

11. What kinds of men for which Edom had been noted would now be destroyed? Obadiah 8, 9

B. The reason for Edom's Punishment: Read Obadiah 10-16

1. For what reason would all this come upon Edom? Obadiah 10a

2. What had strangers and foreigners done to Jerusalem before this time? Obadiah 11b, c

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3. What had Edom done then? Obadiah 11a, d

4. What specific things had Edom done? Obadiah 12, 13, 14 (See II Chronicles 28:17 for an account of Edom's doing this. Also, history tells us that Edom did this at the time of Judah's capture.)

5. What did God promise would happen to Edom because of this? Obadiah 15-16

C. The Contrast With Israel's Future: Read Obadiah 17-21

1. By contrast, what would be the conditions in Mount Zion (Jerusalem)? Obadiah 17a

2. What would happen to the possessions of Edom? Obadiah 17b

3. What would the people of God's nation do to Edom (or Esau)? Obadiah 18

4. Who would come to Mount Zion, and what would they do? Obadiah 21a

5. Who would finally rule there? Obadiah 21b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How have I treated my brothers and sisters (and their descendants, if any)?

2. What would be God's message to me in this regard? Remember Matthew 7:2b, Galatians 6:7.

MESSAGES TO JUDAH ALONE

For about 135 years after the northern kingdom Israel was taken captive by Assyria, God continued to raise up prophets in the southern kingdom Judah in an effort to keep her from continuing on her downward course. Study now about these prophets:

THE BOOK OF JOEL: THE DAY OF THE LORD

The date of the book of Joel, like that of Obadiah, is uncertain. It seems that he lived in Judah at about the time of King Joash, Amos, and Hosea, and prophesied to his own people. His prophecy is studied here because of its similarity to those of Zephaniah and Habakkuk. Notice what these three prophets have in common.

A. God's Judgment on the Land: Read Joel 1:1 - 2:11

1. How bad would this particular judgment be? Who would not have heard of one so bad as it was? Joel 1:2-3

2. What was God going to send upon the land? Joel 1:4 (Note: These four words describe the locusts in their four stages of development: gnawing, swarming, licking, consuming.)

3. How much would be left after this judgment was past? Joel 1:4, 5b, 7

4. To what did God compare the locusts? Joel 1:6

5. What else would happen besides the destruction caused by locusts? Joel 1:10, 11, 12, 17

6. How bad would be the famine that resulted from these two things? Joel 1:9, 13

7. What did Joel tell the people to do as a result of these judgments? Joel 1:14, 19a

8. To what did Joel compare these judgments? Joel 1:19, 20b

9. Who besides the people was affected? Joel 1:18, 20

10. To what did Joel compare the invading locusts? Joel 2:7, 11

11. Of what were they foreshadowing? Joel 1:15, 2:1, 11, 31, 3:14

12. What other army could they have pictured to Judah? Read again Joel 2:1-11 and THINK.

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B. God's Call to the Land: Read Joel 2:12-27

1. What did God call on the people of the land to do after this judgment? Joel 2:12a

2. If the people really did this, what would be the outward signs of it? Joel 2:12b-13a

3. Of what qualities of His own did the Lord remind them? Joel 2:13b

4. What did He say He might do if they would repent? Joel 2:14a

5. On what groups of people did God call to repent? Joel 2:15-17

6. Notice the wonderful promises God made to the people if they would repent: Joel 2:18, 19b, 20, 21-24, 25-27

C. God's Promises Concerning the Future of the Land: Read Joel 2:28 - 3:21

1. What did God say He would do after this? Joel 2:28-29, 30-32

2. What would be one great event of the future? Joel 3:2, 9-10

3. What would happen after this? Joel 3:16, 17, 21b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Because of my sin, have the "locusts" eaten any of the years of my life?

2. What is God's message to me, if I will repent of this sin? Joel 2:25.

THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH: THE DAY OF THE LORD

Zephaniah was a great-great-grandson of good King Hezekiah of Judah, and prophesied during the reigns of Josiah and Amon, just a few years (perhaps 20) before Judah's capture. Israel had gone into captivity about 100 years before his time, but Assyria had not yet been destroyed. Notice the burden of this prophet's message:

A. God's Message to Judah: Read Zephaniah 1

1. List the various things God said He would consume or destroy: Zephaniah 1:2-3

2. Upon whom in particular would God stretch out His hand? Zephaniah 1:4a

3. List some things that the people of Judah were doing at this time:

- a. Zephaniah 1:4b _____

- b. Zephaniah 1:5a _____

- c. Zephaniah 1:5b _____

- d. Zephaniah 1:6a _____

- e. Zephaniah 1:6b _____

4. What did God say He would do about all these things? Zephaniah 1:4b

5. When would this take place? Zephaniah 1:7a

6. Against whom in particular would God's judgment come? Zephaniah 1:8,9

7. What were many of the people of Judah saying of God at this time? Zephaniah 1:12

8. What did God say would happen to them? Zephaniah 1:13, 17-18

B. God's Message to the Nations: Read Zephaniah 2:1 - 3:7

1. What did God call on all the nations to do? Zephaniah 2:3a

2. Why should they do this? Zephaniah 2:3b

3. Upon what nations in particular would God's anger be poured out? Zephaniah 2:5b, 8a, 12, 13a

4. How did Jerusalem react to all that God did to the nations? Zephaniah 3:2, 6-7

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C. God's Message to the Remnant of Israel: Read Zephaniah 3:8-20

1. What would God's people do after God's anger had been poured out on all the nations?
 - a. Zephaniah 3:9b _____
 - b. Zephaniah 3:10b _____
 - c. Zephaniah 3:13a _____
 - d. Zephaniah 3:13b _____
2. Therefore, how should God's people feel? Zephaniah 3:14

3. What would be the chief reason for this? Zephaniah 3:15b, 17a

4. How would God treat them in that day? Zephaniah 3:17b

5. What would be their position among the nations? Zephaniah 3:19b-20

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is the Lord my God in the midst of me angry because of my sin? Or is He mighty to work in my behalf? See Zephaniah 3:17

2. Can God right now rejoice over with joy, and rest in His love for me?

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK: HIS DIALOGUE AND PRAYER-SONG

Habakkuk lived in Judah when the Chaldeans or Babylonians conquered the Assyrians and became the world power of that day. Probably Nebuchadnezzar had already taken some of the nobles of Jerusalem to Babylon at the time of his prophecy. Read now this somewhat autobiographical sketch to see what thoughts were occupying Habakkuk's mind at this time, and what he did as a result of these thoughts:

A. Habakkuk's First Question: Read Habakkuk 1:1-11

1. What was Habakkuk's first question to God? Habakkuk 1:2-3

2. In God's answer, who did He show was in control of all these things? Habakkuk 1:5-6

3. Read again Habakkuk 1:5-11. From your own knowledge of Judah's history, can you tell why God would allow the Chaldeans to conquer Judah? See Habakkuk 1:12

B. Habakkuk's Second Question: Read Habakkuk 1:12 - 2:20

1. What did Habakkuk feel about the relative wickedness of the Chaldeans and the people of Judah? Habakkuk 1:13c

2. Therefore, what was his second great question to God? Habakkuk 1:13b

3. To what did Habakkuk compare the people of Judah and other nations as they were captured by the Chaldeans? Habakkuk 1:14-17

4. To what vision do you think God was referring in Habakkuk 2:2-3? (THINK! What had been promised by other prophets, which Habakkuk longed to see?)

5. When did God say this vision would come to pass? Habakkuk 2:3

6. What did this prove about the suffering of the people of Judah? How long would it last?

7. In the meantime, what would the righteous or just people of Judah have to do? Habakkuk 2:4b

8. What would eventually happen to the Chaldeans? Habakkuk 2:8

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9. For what five things did God pronounce woe on the Chaldeans?

- a. Habakkuk 2:6b-8 _____
- b. Habakkuk 2:9-11 _____
- c. Habakkuk 2:12-14 _____
- d. Habakkuk 2:15-17 _____
- e. Habakkuk 2:18-20 _____

C. Habakkuk's Prayer-Song: Read Habakkuk 3

1. After God had answered Habakkuk's questions, what did Habakkuk do? Habakkuk 3:1

2. How had God's speech made Habakkuk feel? Habakkuk 3:2a

3. What did Habakkuk cry out to God to do? Habakkuk 3:2b

4. Of Whom did Habakkuk give a wonderful description? Habakkuk 3:3-15

5. Read through these verses again, trying to picture each scene in your mind. This third chapter is a prophetic poem of such beautiful literary style that it has been called one of the most glorious things of all literature. Notice especially the references to events in Israel's history.

6. After this experience, what did Habakkuk determine to do in the face of the coming trouble? Habakkuk 3:16b-19

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What do I do with the questions which arise in my mind? See Habakkuk 1:2

2. Have I learned to live by faith - trusting God, and even rejoicing in Him - no matter what the circumstances of my life may be? Habakkuk 3:17-18.

THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH: THE WEEPING PROPHET OF JUDAH

While Zephaniah and Habakkuk prophesied briefly to Judah after the fall of Israel, Jeremiah prophesied for a much longer time - about 40 years - from the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign until some time after Jerusalem was captured. His book is a combination of history, autobiography and prophecy with no clear outline, and is not in chronological order. Study now just the essentials of this book:

A. The Man Jeremiah:

1. When was Jeremiah chosen for his special work? Jeremiah 1:5

2. What unusual command did God give Jeremiah? Jeremiah 10:2-4

B. Jeremiah's Message:

1. What two great sins did God say the people of Judah had committed?

a. Jeremiah 2:13a _____

b. Jeremiah 2:13b _____

2. What did the people of Judah say concerning themselves? Jeremiah 2:23a, 35b

3. In spite of all this, what was God's message to them through Jeremiah? Jeremiah 2:9, 3:1b, 7, 12, 14, 22, 4:1, etc.

4. What did God say would happen to them if they did not repent? Jeremiah 4:6b, 27a, 25:11

5. How did Jeremiah feel as he gave this message? Jeremiah 4:19, 8:18, 9:1, 10:19

6. Many times, God told Jeremiah to use an object to make his message clear to the people.

Read the following and list the objects there were used:

a. Jeremiah 13:1-11 _____

b. Jeremiah 18:1-10 _____

c. Jeremiah 19:1-2, 10-11 _____

d. Jeremiah 27:1-11 _____

e. Jeremiah 32:6-15 _____

f. Jeremiah 43:8-12 _____

g. Jeremiah 51:63-64 _____

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C. Jeremiah's Reception:

1. What did the men of Jeremiah's home town threaten to do to Jeremiah because of his prophecy? Jeremiah 11:21

2. How did the people receive Jeremiah's words? Jeremiah 18:18b

3. What did the chief priest do to Jeremiah? Jeremiah 20:1, 2

4. Who saved Jeremiah from death at another time? Jeremiah 26:24

5. How did the king receive Jeremiah's prophecies? Jeremiah 36:22-24

6. Where was Jeremiah placed at two other times? Jeremiah 37:15-16, 38:6-13

7. Where was Jeremiah when the city of Jerusalem was captured? Jeremiah 38:28

8. What choice was given him then? Jeremiah 40:4-6

9. How was Jeremiah's message received even after Jerusalem was captured? Jeremiah 42:19, 43:5-7

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What did it cost Jeremiah to be faithful in giving out God's message?

2. Am I willing to suffer as Jeremiah did in order to give out God's message? See Revelation 2:10.

THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS: FUNERAL POEMS FOR JERUSALEM

Whereas all the other writings of the Divided Kingdom Period are prose - mostly orations with historical and biographical sidelights - the book of Lamentations, which closes this period, is poetry. Chapters 1 - 4 are an outstanding example of the acrostic poem, based on the letters of the alphabet. The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters. In chapters 1, 2, and 4, each verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet: in chapter 3, every third verse begins a new letter. (Note: Psalms 119, 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 145, and 112, and Proverbs 31:10-31 are also acrostic poems. This arrangement helped them in memorizing these poems.) In chapters 1-3 each stanza is a triplet; in chapters 4-5 each stanza is a couplet. The metre in Hebrew is also excellent. The Septuagint (Greek Bible) give this preface to the book, "And it came to pass, after Israel was taken captive and Jerusalem made desolate, that Jeremiah sat weeping, and lamented with this lamentation, and said "As you read these beautiful poems, seek to see in your mind what Jeremiah saw as he wrote them; and to feel all the he must have felt:"

A. The First Poem: Read Lamentations 1

1. To what did Jeremiah compare the city of Jerusalem now? Before? Lamentations 1:1

2. Who had left her? Lamentations 1:1a, 2b, 2c, 5c, 6b, 18b, 19b

3. Therefore, what did she do? Lamentations 1:2a, 3b, 8b, 17a

4. What was the cause of all this sorrow? Lamentations 1:5b, 8a, 9a, 14a, 18a, 20b, 22b

5. How did her sorrow affect all those who passed by her? Lamentations 1:12a, 2:15-16

6. Who is represented as speaking in Lamentations 1:12-16, 18-22?

B. The Second Poem: Read Lamentations 2

1. In this poem, Jeremiah compared Jerusalem to a veiled woman. What was her veil? Lamentations 2:1 _____
2. To what is God compared? Lamentations 2:4a, 5a

3. The destruction of what two things is especially lamented here? Lamentations 2:6-9 (See also 2 Kings 25:8-13)

4. Notice the description of conditions in the city now: Lamentations 2:10-12, 2-22. What had the city been called before this? Lamentations 2:15b

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C. The Third Poem: Read Lamentations 3

1. What was Jeremiah's main complaint in this poem? Lamentations 3:8, 44

2. Yet, what did he recognize that his country deserved? Lamentations 3:22a

3. What three qualities of the Lord gave Jeremiah hope even after this? Lamentations 3:22-23, 31-32

D. The Fourth Poem: Read Lamentations 4

1. What were two of the main problems during the siege of Jerusalem? Lamentations 4:4a, 4b-5, 8, 9

2. What two things did they eat because of this? Lamentations 4:5b, 10 (See also 2:20.)

E. The Fifth Poem: Read Lamentations 5

1. Notice the description of the condition of the captives after the siege, Lamentations 5:1-16. Why had this come to them? Vs. 16.

2. What was Jeremiah's prayer as he closed his lamentations? Lamentations 5:21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How could Jerusalem have avoided all this misery?

2. If I continue in my sin, what must surely come to me? (See Romans 6:23a)

THE CAPTIVITY: THE SUBJECTION OF THE NATION TO FOREIGNERS

2 Kings 17; 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36

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

A. The Capture of Israel:

1. To what country were the Israelites carried away in the year 722 B.C.? 2 Kings 17:6a

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

3. What do you suppose happened to the Israelites after this?

B. The Capture of Judah:

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

2. What things were carried away at the capture of Jerusalem in 606 B.C.?
 - a. Daniel 1:3-4 _____
 - b. Daniel 1:2 _____
3. After Jehoiakim rebelled (2 Kings 24:1), what happened to him in 597 B.C.?

4. Three months later (2 Kings 24:8), what else was carried away?
 - a. 2 Kings 24:12, 15 _____
 - b. 2 Kings 24:13 _____
 - c. 2 Kings 24:14 _____
5. Eleven years later, in 586 B.C., what happened?
 - a. 2 Kings 25:2 _____
 - b. 2 Kings 25:6-7 _____
 - c. 2 Kings 25:9 _____
 - d. 2 Kings 25:10 _____
 - e. 2 Kings 25:11, Jeremiah 52:29 _____
 - f. 2 Chronicles 36:18 _____
6. Five years later, in 581 B.C., how many people were carried to Babylon? Jeremiah 52:30

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C. Events in Judea During Judah's Captivity:

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Events in Babylon During Judah's Captivity:

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

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

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

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

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

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

MAP 8: THE CAPTIVITIES, ILLUSTRATING 2 KINGS 10 - NEHEMIAH

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL: AMONG THE CAPTIVES IN BABYLON

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

A. The Call of Ezekiel: Ezekiel 1 - 3

1. What did Ezekiel see at the very beginning of his ministry? Ezekiel 1:1b, 2-28

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

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

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

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

B. Messages of Warning Before the Destruction of Jerusalem: Ezekiel 4 - 32

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Because of this, where did the glory-cloud symbolizing God's presence go?
 - a. Ezekiel 9:3a _____
 - b. Ezekiel 10:18 _____

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

10. From whom did Ezekiel learn of the siege of Jerusalem? Ezekiel 24:1-2 When?
Compare with II Kings 25:1

C. Messages of Comfort After the Destruction of Jerusalem: Ezekiel 33 - 48

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

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

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

THE BOOK OF DANIEL: IN THE PALACE IN BABYLON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

 - d. Compared to the magicians and astrologers of the kingdom? Daniel 1:20

5. What positions were given to Daniel and his friends? Daniel 1:19b

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

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

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2. In spite of these testings, what happened to Daniel?
 - a. Daniel 2:49b _____
 - b. Daniel 6:1-3 _____
 - c. Daniel 6:20 _____
3. How were Daniel's friends later tested? Daniel 3

4. What happened to them?
 - a. Daniel 2:49a _____
 - b. Daniel 3:30 _____

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

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

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

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

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

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

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

THE RESTORATION, THE RETURN OF THE NATION'S REMENT TO ITS LAND

Ezra, Nehemiah

Even though the people of God's chosen nation had sinned so greatly, God still had a purpose for them to fulfill. Read the following to see how God worked in them and for them to make it possible for them to fulfill that purpose:

A. The End of Judah's Captivity:

1. How long had God said Judah's captivity would last? Jeremiah 25:11

2. What was God going to do with His people at the end of this time? Jeremiah 29:10

3. What had God said the people would have to do before this? Deuteronomy 30:1-5

4. What had been the main sin for which Israel and Judah were punished? 2 Kings 21:11-14

5. What other sins had this led to? 2 Kings 21:6, 16

B. The First Return Under Zerubbabel and Jeshua, 536 B.C.: Ezra 1 - 6

1. What happened to the kingdom of Babylon in 536 B.C.? Daniel 5:28

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

3. How did God begin to fulfill His promise made to the Jews through Jeremiah? Ezra 1:1

4. What two things did the new king want the people of Judah to do? Ezra 1:2, 3

5. How many of the people went back? Ezra 2:1, 64-45

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

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

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

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C. The Second Return Under Ezra, 457 B.C.: Ezra 7 - 10

1. Who was Ezra? Ezra 7:6

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

3. What did Ezra want to do in Judah? Ezra 7:10

4. Who returned to Jerusalem with Ezra? Ezra 7:7, 13, 28

5. When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, what great sin did he discover that the people had committed? Ezra 9:1-2

6. What did Ezra say they should do to correct this? Ezra 10:3

D. The Third Return Under Nehemiah, 444 B.C.: Nehemiah 1 - 15

1. Why did Nehemiah ask the king to let him go to Judah? Nehemiah 2:5

2. What special part of the city did Nehemiah want to rebuild? Nehemiah 2:17

3. Describe the city after Nehemiah had finished his task. Nehemiah 7:4

4. What did all the people in Judah pledge themselves to do? Nehemiah 10:29

5. This is the end of the Old Testament story. Does it seem to you that it is finished, or should something else be added?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God work so greatly in behalf of His people?

2. Why does God bless me, even after I have sinned greatly against Him?

THE BOOK OF ESTHER: GOD'S WATCH-CARE OVER THE EXILES

The events recorded in the book of Esther took place in the land of the Jews' captivity, but actually some time after their enforced bondage in that land had ended. Nearly fifty thousand of them had already returned to their land under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 2). However, many of the Jews remained still in the land of their captivity, not a few of them having risen to high positions there. It is about this latter group that the story of Esther tells us:

THE PLOT AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE

Esther 1 - 3

A. The King's Problem: Read Esther 1:1-18

1. What had happened to the kingdom of Babylon about 70 years after it had conquered Jerusalem? Daniel 5:28

2. Who was now king over this area? Esther 1:1-2

3. What did his queen do when he commanded her to appear at his feast? Esther 1:10-12

4. What were the princes afraid would happen because of this? Esther 1:16-18

B. The King's Solution: Read Esther 1:19 - 2:20

1. What was to be the queen's punishment for this deed? Esther 1:19

2. What qualifications must one have to compete for the honor of becoming the new queen? Esther 2:2

1. How many were competing for this honor? Esther 2:8a

4. Who was among them? Esther 2:5-8

5. What was her attitude all during the contest? Esther 2:9, 13, 15

6. What was the outcome of the contest? Esther 2:17

C. The Plot Against the King: Read Esther 2:21-22

1. Who made a plot against the king? Esther 2:21

2. Who discovered this plot? Esther 2:22a

3. How did the king learn of the plot? Esther 2:22b

4. What was done with the men who had made the plot? Esther 2:23a

5. Where was this incident recorded? Esther 2:23b

D. The Plot Against the Jews: Read Esther 3

1. After this, who was promoted above all the princes of the kingdom? Esther 3:1

2. How did most of the king's servants treat this man? Esther 3:2

3. Why do you suppose Mordecai refused to do this? See Exodus 20:1, 5

4. What did Haman seek to do because of Mordecai's actions? Esther 3:5-6

5. What did Haman tell the king about the Jews in order to accomplish his purpose? Esther 3:8

6. What did he offer to give the king in return for granting his request? Esther 3:9

7. What was the reaction in the city of Shushun when this request was granted? Esther 3:25b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the secret of Esther's sweet unselfishness, and of Mordecai's rock-like stand for what he thought was right? See Genesis 39:23b.

2. Could I act as commendably as they did under similar circumstances?

THE PLAN FOR SAVING GOD'S PEOPLE

Esther 4:1 - 5:8

After Haman's wicked suggestion had become law, there was almost nothing that could be done to save the Jews from destruction. Only one small ray of hope was left to them. Read about this in the following passages:

A. The Jews' Reaction to the Plot: Read Esther 4:1-5

1. What did Mordecai do when he learned of all that had been done?
 - a. Esther 4:1a _____
 - b. Esther 4:1b _____
 - c. Esther 4:1c _____
 - d. Esther 4:d _____
 - e. Esther 4:2 _____
2. What did the other Jews throughout the kingdom do? Esther 4:3

3. When Esther heard of this, how did she feel? Esther 4:4a

4. What did she tell her servant to find out from Mordecai? Esther 4:5

B. Mordecai's Message to Esther: Read Esther 4:6-9

1. What did Mordecai give the servant to show to Esther? Esther 4:8a

2. What did he say she should do? Esther 4:8b

C. Esther's Two Great Problems: Read Esther 4:10-14

1. What was the law concerning those who went to see the king without being called? Esther 4:11a

2. Why was Esther afraid to go to see the king? Esther 4:11b

3. What did Mordecai say would happen if Esther did not go to see the king?
 - a. To the Jews: Esther 4:14a _____
 - b. To Esther: Esther 4:14b _____
4. What was Mordecai's concluding argument? Esther 4:14c

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D. Esther's Decision: Read Esther 4:15-17

1. What did Esther ask all the Jews to do in her behalf? Esther 4:16a

2. What would Esther then do? Esther 4:16b

3. What might be the result of her decision? Esther 4:16c

E. Esther's Decision Carried Out: Read Esther 5:1-8

1. How did Esther dress for her interview with the king? Esther 5:1

2. What was the King's reaction when he saw her? Esther 5:2

3. What did Esther ask him to do? Esther 5:4

4. How would this cause the king to be more open to her real request?
 - a. (THINK! Banquet....) _____
 - b. Esther 5:5, 3:1 _____
 - c. Esther 2:17, 4:11b _____
5. When did Esther say she would present her real request to the king? Esther 5:8

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What people today face certain destruction unless something is done in their behalf?

2. Am I willing to risk my life in order that such people might be saved?

THE PLAN APPROVED

Esther 5:9 - 8:2

As the story of Esther progresses, great changes take place in the personal lives of many people. Notice particularly the changes in the lives of Haman and of Mordecai as today's lesson progresses:

A. Haman's Problem and the Proposed Solution: Read Esther 5:9-14

1. How did Haman feel after attending the queen's banquet? Esther 5:9a

2. What happened right after that to completely reverse his feelings? Esther 5:9b

3. Whom did Haman tell about his problem? Esther 5:10-12

4. What did they suggest that he do? Esther 5:14

B. The King's Problems and Their Solution: Read Esther 6:1-14

1. What problem did the king have that night? Esther 6:1a

2. What did he do to help solve that problem? Esther 6:1b

3. Of what deed was he reminded in this way? Esther 6:2

4. What second problem did this bring to his attention? Esther 6:3, 6a

5. Who came in while he was considering what should be done about this problem? Esther 6:4-5

6. Whom did he think the king desired to honor? Esther 6:6b

7. What did he say should be brought for the man the king wanted to honor?

a. Esther 6:8a

b. Esther 6:8b

c. Esther 6:8c

8. Who should take charge of bestowing the honor on this man? Esther 6:9a

9. Where should he be taken? Esther 6:9b

10. What should be proclaimed before him? Esther 6:9c

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11. What was Haman told to do? Esther 6:10

12. How did Haman feel after this? Esther 6:12

13. Of what did this friends say this event was a sign? Esther 6:13

C. Esther's Problem and Its Solution: Read Esther 7:1 - 8:2

1. At Esther's second feast, for what two things did she make request? Esther 7:3

2. Why did she say this was necessary? Esther 7:4a

3. Who did she say was the cause of this? Esther 7:5-6

4. What did the king say should be done with this person? Esther 7:7-9

5. Who was given the position that had belong to him? Esther 8:1-2

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why could Haman never have prospered in his attitude toward God's chosen people?
See Genesis 12:3, Job 42:2

2. What is my attitude toward God's chosen people today?

THE PLAN CARRIED OUT

Esther 8:8 - 10:3

Even though the Jews' chief enemy had been destroyed, much still remained to be done before they could be saved from the fate Haman had designed for them. Read the following to see why this was true, and what was done to help them:

A. The New Law: Read Esther 8:3-17

1. What was the law that Haman had written? Esther 3:18

2. What was true of all the laws of Media and Persia? Daniel 6:8b, 12, 15b

3. Although Haman's law must still be obeyed, what did the king tell Esther she might do? Esther 8:8

4. What two things did the new law give the Jews permission to do? Esther 8:11b
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. How were copies of the law made? Esther 8:9

6. How were they sent out to all parts of the kingdom? Esther 8:10b, 14

7. How did the Jews feel after the new law was passed? Esther 8:15b, 16, 17a

8. What did many of the other people do because of this incident? Esther 8:17b

B. The Laws Carried Out: Read Esther 9:1-19

1. How long after Haman's law was Mordecai's law sent out? Compare Esther 3:12a with Esther 8:9a

2. How long after Mordecai's law was passed were both laws to be carried out? Compare Esther 3:9a with Esther 3:13b and 8:12

3. As the time drew near, how did all the people feel about the Jews? Esther 9:2b, 3b

4. Whose side did the rulers, lieutenants, deputies, and officers take? Esther 9:3a

5. When the fateful day arrived, which people did the Jews kill? Esther 9:2a

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6. How many were killed in the city of Shushan?
 - a. On the first day: Esther 9:12 _____
 - b. On the second day: Esther 9:15a _____
7. How many were killed in the rest of the kingdom? Esther 9:16a

7. What did the Jews have permission to do that they did not do? Esther 9:10b

C. The End of the Story of Esther: Read Esther 9:20 - 10:3

1. What did the Jews do the day after they had won the victory over their enemies? Esther 9:17, 18

2. How long did they decide to observe this special day? Esther 9:38

3. What two things were they to do on this day? Esther 9:22b
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. How is Esther pictured as the story closes? Esther 9:29, 32

5. How is Mordecai pictured? Esther 10:2-3

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Although the name of God is not mentioned in the story of Esther, in what specific parts is His hand seen guiding those in the story toward the accomplishment of His purpose, and toward a happy ending?

2. What would God like to do concerning the events of my life? Romans 8:28

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI: RE-BUILDING THE TEMPLE

When the first group of exiles returned to the land of Judah, their first great task was to re-build the temple. Study now about the difficulties they encountered, and what Haggai had to say about them:

A. The Problem Among the Workers: Read Haggai 1:1-2

1. When had the exiles begun to re-build the temple? Ezra 3:8

2. What had caused the work to stop? Ezra 4:1, 4, 8, 17, 21, 24

3. After 15 years, in Haggai's time, what were the people saying? Haggai 1:2b

B. God's Appeal Through Haggai: Read Haggai 1:3-15

1. What question did God ask of the Jews in response to what they were saying? Haggai 1:4

2. What did God call on them to do? Haggai 1:5

3. What had happened to them since they stopped work on the temple? Haggai 1:6

a. when they sowed: _____

b. when they ate and drank: _____

c. when they put on clothes: _____

d. when they earned wages: _____

4. Why had all these things happened to them? Haggai 1:9-11, especially 9b

5. Therefore, what did God call on them to do? Haggai 1:8a

6. what did God say He would do if they would obey Him? Haggai, 1:8b

7. What did the people do as a result of Haggai's first message? Haggai 1:12-15

8. What promise did God give them as a result? Haggai 1:13b

C. God's Encouragement Through Haggai: Read Haggai 2:1-9

1. What did many of the older people do when they saw this temple being built? Ezra 3:12a

2. Why did they do this? Haggai 2:3

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3. Yet, what was God's message to them through Haggai? Haggai 2:4

4. What did God promise to do to this house? Haggai 2:7b, 9

D. God's Rebuke, and Promise Through Haggai: Read Haggai 2:10-19

1. For what did God rebuke the people through Haggai? Haggai 2:14

2. What did He call on the people to do? Haggai 2:15a, 18a

3. What did He promise to do for them in the future? Haggai 2:19b

E. God's Promise of Blessing Through Haggai: Read Haggai 2:20-23

1. To whom was this promise especially directed? Haggai 2:21a

2. What did God promise to do? Haggai 2:22a, 23b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Can I expect God to prosper me, if I care more about my own house and work than I do about His house and His work?

2. What would be God's message to me today concerning His work? See I Corinthians 15:58.

THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH: RE-BUILDING THE TEMPLE

A little over a month after the people through Haggai's ministry had resumed the work of rebuilding the temple, just as they were becoming discouraged by its insignificance, Zechariah the priest, began his ministry as prophet among them> Notice the unusual way in which God encouraged the people through his ministry:

A. Zechariah's Opening Message: Read Zechariah 1:1-6

1. In this opening message, what did God call on the people to do? Zechariah 1:3

2. Against what did He warn them? Zechariah 1:2, 4

B. Zechariah's Visions of Encouragement: Zechariah 1:7 - 6:15

1. In Zechariah's first vision, he saw a man on a red horse, standing among the myrtle trees. Who was He? Zechariah 1:11a

2. What did the lowly myrtle trees represent? (THINK!)

3. What was the encouraging message in connection with this vision? Zechariah 1:16-17

4. In Zechariah's second vision, what did he see? What did each stand for?

a. Zechariah 1:18, 19

b. Zechariah 1:20, 21

5. In Zechariah's third vision, he saw a man with a measuring line, going out to measure the city of Jerusalem. What was God's encouraging message this time? Zechariah 2:4b-5

6. In Zechariah's fourth vision, Joshua the high priest (probably representing the whole nation) was given clean clothes to replace his filthy ones. What did this represent? Zechariah 3:4b, 9b

7. In connection with the fifth vision, what did God promise that Zerubbabel would do? Zechariah 4:9, 7

8. How would this be accomplished? Zechariah 4:6b

9. Against what people did the flying scroll of Zechariah's sixth vision go forth? Zechariah 5:3-4

10. Where was "wickedness" carried in Zechariah's seventh vision? Zechariah 5:11

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11. The eight vision encouraged the people with God's presence among them.

C. Zechariah's Messages of Instruction: Zechariah 7 and 8

1. When the people asked if they should continue to mourn in the fifth month (when the temple was destroyed), what did Zechariah say God would rather the exiles had done than mourn? Zechariah 7:7

2. What did God say the people of Zechariah's time should do? Zechariah 8:9

3. What did God promise to do for them if they would do this? Zechariah 8:15, 11-13

4. What did God say their fasts should now be? Zechariah 8:19

5. What did God promise about Jerusalem in the future? Zechariah 8:20-23

D. Zechariah's Burdens and Prophecies: Zechariah 9 - 14

1. Whose punishment did Zechariah predict? Zechariah 9:1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 11:1

2. Whose coming did he predict? Zechariah 9:9, 11:12-13, 12:10b, 13::6

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I ever tempted to give up before I complete my God-given tasks?

2. To Whom should I turn for encouragement at such times? See Jeremiah 32:27

THE BOOK OF MALACHI: GOD'S FINAL OLD TESTAMENT MESSAGE TO ISRAEL

Nearly 100 years after the time of Haggai and Zechariah, during the time of Nehemiah, the prophet Malachi lived. His prophecy concluded the literature of the Restoration Period, and of the Old Testament. Read the following to see what was the condition of God's chosen people at the end of about 1600 years of training by God:

A. God's Message to Israel As a Whole: Read Malachi 1:1-5

1. What was God's opening message through Malachi? Malachi 1:2a

2. Did the people seem to believe this message? See Malachi 1:2b

3. With whose condition did He contrast theirs? Malachi 1:2c-4

4. What did He say of these people? Malachi 1:3a, 4b

B. God's Message to the Priests: Read Malachi 1:6 - 2:9

1. Of what sins did God accuse the priests?
 - a. Malachi 1:6b _____
 - b. Malachi 1:7a _____
 - c. Malachi 1:8, 13b, 14a _____
 - d. Malachi 2:1, 8b, 9b _____
2. Did the priests seem to realize they were sinning? See Malachi 1:6b, 7b

3. What did God challenge them to do with such animals as they sacrificed to Him?
Malachi 1:8b

4. What did God say to the Priests? Malachi 1:10b, 14a, 2:2, 9a

C. God's Message to the People: Read Malachi 2:10 - 3:15

1. What were some of the sins of which God accused the people?
 - a. Malachi 2:10b _____
 - b. Malachi 2:14-16a _____
 - c. Malachi 2:17, 3:13-14 _____
 - d. Malachi 3:8-9 _____
2. Were the people aware of these sins? See Malachi 2:17, 3:7b, 8b, 13__
3. What did God call on the people to do concerning each of these sins? Malachi 2:16b, 15b, 3:7b, 10a

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4. What did God say He would do to them if they did not do this? Malachi 3:5

5. What did God promise if they would do as He asked? Malachi 3:10b-12

D. The People's Reaction to God's Message: Read Malachi 3:16 - 4:6

1. What three things did some of the people do after they heard this message? Malachi 3:16

2. What two things did God do as a result? Malachi 3:16

3. What wonderful promise did God make to these people? Malachi 3:17

4. What would God do to others in that day? Malachi 4:1

5. Who would appear to those who feared God's name? Malachi 4:2

6. Who would come before that time, and what would he do? Malachi 4:5-6 (See also 3:1-3.)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. After all my training from God during my Bible courses, what is the condition of my heart today as God sees it?

2. What would Christ's coming bring to me, if it should occur today - a blessing, or a curse?
