

# Bible Question Class Books

## **Bible Study Questions on Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther** by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,  
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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***Bible Study Questions on Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther:  
A workbook suitable for Bible classes, family studies,  
or personal Bible study***

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**“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord”  
– 1 Corinthians 1:31**

**Front Page Photo**

Statue of two-headed bull from ancient Persia in the time of King Xerxes; Xerxes is believed to be the Ahasuerus who married Esther (housed in the Oriental Institute)

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|                                   |   |
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| <i>Genesis</i>                    | <i>Gospel of John</i>                     |
| <i>Joshua and Ruth</i>            | <i>Acts</i>                               |
| <i>Judges</i>                     | <i>Romans</i>                             |
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## Bible Study Questions on Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

### Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly." Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

**Bible study commentary and notes to accompany this and other of our workbooks are available at [www.gospelway.com/sales](http://www.gospelway.com/sales)**

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## Assignments on Ezra 1,2

Please read Ezra 1,2 and answer the following questions.

1. Skim the book of Ezra and summarize its theme.
2. 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 describes the historical background preceding events in Ezra. Read the verses and summarize what happened.
3. What prophets prophesied during the time of the book of Ezra (note Ezra 5:1,2)?
4. When did events in Ezra 1 occur – 1:1?
5. What decree did Cyrus make – 1:2? What prophecy did this fulfill?
6. What did he permit Jews to do in order to bring about his decree? How did the people respond – 1:3-6?
7. What had Nebuchadnezzar taken, and what did Cyrus decree about it – 1:7?
8. Summarize what was to be taken back – 1:8-11.
9. Summarize what chap. 2 describes. These people came with whom – 2:2?
10. What problem did some priests have – 2:61-63? What was done about them? (Think: Why would this be a problem?)
11. How many people returned – 2:64,65?
12. What did the people do to help the work – 2:68,69?

## Assignments on Ezra 3

Please read Ezra 3 and answer the following questions.

1. When did 3:1-6 occur? What special events occurred in that month (see Lev. 23:23-44)?
2. Who took the lead in these events? Where else do we read of them, and what do we know about them?
3. What did they build? For what purpose?
4. With what offerings did they begin – 3:3? Give **b/c/v** and describe these offerings.
5. What feast did they keep – 3:4? List other **b/c/v** regarding this feast.
6. Describe this feast and explain its purpose.
7. What other service did they offer – 3:5,6? Give other **passages** regarding the new moons and explain them.

8. **Application:** What lessons should we learn from the fact these returning exiles began by offering correct worship?

9. How did they obtain logs – 3:7? Find the places mentioned on a **map**.

10. Who else had obtained logs similarly, and for what purpose? Give **b/c/v**.

11. When did they begin work? Who oversaw it – 3:8,9? (Think: Why them?)

12. What did they build first? What did they do when it was done – 3:10? (Think: How are their instruments described? Are similar statements found regarding New Testament worship?)

13. Describe the different reactions of the people – 3:11-13.

14. **Application:** When we accomplish work for God, how should we react? Who deserves the glory? Why?

## Assignments on Ezra 4

Please read Ezra 4 and answer the following questions.

1. Who heard about the work on the temple? What did they offer to do – 4:1,2?
  2. Read 2 Kings 17:24-41. How had these people come to Samaria? Describe their worship.
  3. How did Zerubbabel and Jeshua respond to their request – 4:3? Explain why they responded this way, based on what we know about these people.
4. **Application:** What lessons should we learn? Today whom should we likewise refuse to allow to become part of God's work with us? See 2 John 9-11; Gal. 1:6-9; Matt. 15:1-14.
5. How did the people respond to this rejection of their request – 4:4,5? How do people today similarly respond, when we teach them their service to God is not acceptable?
  6. What did the people do next – 4:6-8? Who wrote the letter?



7. List some accusations they made against the Jews – 4:11-16. What proof did they offer? (Think: Did their evidence prove their accusations? What evidence was overlooked?)

8. List other Bible examples you can think of in which God's people were falsely accused or harassed to hinder their work for God.

9. **Application:** List some accusations people sometimes make against God's people today to discourage and discredit us.

10. What did the king command in response to the letter – 4:17-22?

11. How did the Jews' enemies respond to the letter? What happened as a result – 4:23,24?

12. **Application:** Did the Jews do right when they quit? What should they have done? What can we learn?

## Assignments on Ezra 5

Please read Ezra 5 and answer the following questions.

1. What prophets spoke to the Jews about their work on the temple – 5:1? When did this occur (Haggai 1:1)?

2. Read Haggai 1:1-11. According to Haggai, why had the work on the temple stopped? What had people been doing instead?

3. What did Haggai say the people should do? (Think: What does this show regarding the fact the people quit work in chap. 4?)

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| 4. <b>Application:</b> What lessons should we learn from the people's failure to work? How are people today sometimes similarly guilty? |
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5. Who led the people back to work (Ezra 5:2)? What lessons should church leaders learn?

6. Who questioned the Jews about their work – 5:3-5?

7. How did Tattenai summarize the Jews' work to the king – 5:6-10?

8. What had the Jews said about why the temple had been destroyed – 5:11,2?

9. What authority did the Jews give for their work – 5:13-16?

10. What did Tattenai request of the king – 5:17?

11. How did the Jews' response in this case differ from chap. 4, when their enemies then insisted they stop work?

## Assignments on Ezra 6

Please read Ezra 6 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Darius do when he received Tattenai's letter (cf. chap. 5)? Where did he find the answer he sought – 6:1,2?
2. How was the construction of the temple described – 6:3,4?
3. How was the work financed (what did Cyrus send to help) – 6:5?
4. What did Darius tell Tattenai and his companions to do regarding the work – 6:6,7?
5. What decree did he issue to help provide for the work – 6:8-10?
6. What did he hope the people would do in the temple (v10)? What can we learn?
7. What penalty would be incurred by any who opposed the work – 6:11,12?
8. How did Tattenai and his companions respond – 6:13?
9. What did the people do, and what was the result – 6:14,15? When was the work completed?
10. What did the people do when the temple was complete? How did they do this – 6:16-18?
11. What was the first feast celebrated at the temple? Describe the feast: What was done, and what was the purpose – 6:19-22? Give **b/c/v**.

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| <p>12. <b>Application:</b> How would the Jews know how to arrange the priests and keep the feasts? What lessons can we learn today?</p> |
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## Assignments on Ezra 7

Please read Ezra 7 and answer the following questions.

1. What important character is introduced in 7:1? When did this occur?

2. What do we learn from his genealogy – 7:2-6? What other job did he have? (Think: Study a dictionary and determine what work scribes did?)

3. **Case Study:** Some people claim the Law of Moses is different from the Law of God, and that the Law of Moses was removed at the cross but the Law of God continues in force. What can we learn about this from – 7:6,12?

4. What do 7:7-9 say Ezra and the people did? When did they leave, and when did they arrive? (Think: Who are Nethinim? Cf. 8:20.)

5. From 7:10 list 4 things Ezra did with the Law. For each one list another **passage** showing why it is important.

6. **Application:** What lessons can we learn regarding Bible study from Ezra?

7. What did the letter of the king authorize Ezra to do in 7:12-19?

8. What else did he promise Ezra in 7:20-23? What reason did he give in v23?

9. What benefit was given to religious leaders in 7:24,25? What authority was Ezra given?

10. How did Ezra respond to the king's commands – 7:27,28?

## Assignments on Ezra 8

Please read Ezra 8 and answer the following questions.

1. What is listed in Ezra 8:1-14? How do you know that Ezra was in the group? Note that these numbers total 1354. How does this compare to the size of the first group?
2. Where did they meet before leaving – 8:15? How long were they there?
3. Who was missing from them – 8:15? (Think: Why would this be a problem?)
4. What did Ezra do about this problem, and what was the result – 8:16-20?
5. What did Ezra and the people do before leaving – 8:21? Explain this practice.
6. What was the purpose of this act? Why had they not asked for soldiers to protect them – 8:21-23?

7. **Application:** What lessons can we learn about our own journeys today?

8. Describe what they took with them – 8:24-30. What does this show about why they were concerned about protection?
9. Who was put in charge of the treasure? Note that they prayed about this, then they put men in charge. What does this teach us about prayer?
10. **Define** stewardship. How did these men illustrate the concept of stewardship?

11. **Application:** What are some things that we today are stewards of? What are some things we can learn about stewardship from this Bible example?

12. When did they depart? What was the result of their journey – 8:31,32?
13. Describe some things they did after arriving – 8:33-36.

## Assignments on Ezra 9

Please read Ezra 9 and answer the following questions.

1. What problem was brought to Ezra in 9:1,2?
2. List other **passages** and explain the Old Testament teaching about this.

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| 3. <b>Application:</b> What problems can occur today when Christians marry people who are not Christians? |
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4. Who led in this sin – 9:2? What can we learn about the importance of example?
5. How did Ezra and others react to this news – 9:3,4?
6. How did Ezra feel – 9:6,7? How did he describe the people's guilt and the consequences?
7. What blessing had God given them anyway – 9:8,9?
8. **Define** "remnant." What remnant did Ezra refer to here?
9. What command did Ezra say they had broken – 9:10-12?
10. Why was Ezra especially upset by the sin in this case – 9:13-15?

## Assignments on Ezra 10

Please read Ezra 10 and answer the following questions.

1. What was Ezra doing – 10:1? Who joined him?

2. Who confessed Israel's sin – 10:2? What did he say they had done?

3. What did he recommend should be done to resolve the problem – 10:3,4?

4. **Define** repentance. How does the solution fit the meaning of repenting?

5. **Application:** What does the New Testament teach about people who divorce for a cause besides fornication then remarry? See Matt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2,3; 1 Cor. 7:10,11. How does this situation compare to Ezra 10?

6. What role did Ezra have in this – 10:4-6? Why would this be hard?

7. **Application:** What lessons can we learn about good leadership from Ezra?

8. What were the people required to do in 10:7,8? What was the penalty for refusal?

9. What did Ezra tell them? How did the people respond – 10:9-14?

10. Who opposed the solution – 10:15? What can we learn from this opposition?

11. Who was included among the transgressors – 10:18? What does this teach us?

12. What else did the people have to do to make correction – 10:19? What else would make the solution hard (v44)?

13. **Case Study:** Suppose someone argues that God would not require people in unscriptural remarriages today to separate, because it would be too hard. How would you respond?



## Assignments on Nehemiah 1

Please read Nehemiah 1 and answer the following questions.

Note: To learn the background of this book, please review the background of Ezra.

1. Skim the book of Nehemiah and summarize its theme.

2. When and where did events in this book begin – 1:1?

3. Who gave Nehemiah information about Jerusalem? What did he say – 1:2,3?

4. **Application:** List some distresses that God's people have faced in recent years.

5. How did Nehemiah react to this news – 1:4? (Think: Why react this way?)

6. How did he begin his prayer to God – 1:5? What can we learn about prayer?

7. How did he describe the conduct of the Israelites – 1:6,7? List **passages** showing that we too need to confess our sins to God.

8. What promise did Nehemiah recall in 1:8,9? Where else is this recorded?

10. **Special Assignment:** Had God kept these promises? How do you know? What can we learn about God's promises?

11. What occupation did Nehemiah have? What did he request in his prayer – 1:10,11?

12. **Special Ongoing Assignment:** As we study this book, list principles of useful service to God followed by Nehemiah. List two principles you can find in this chapter.

## Assignments on Nehemiah 2

Please read Nehemiah 2 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Nehemiah describe his work – 2:1,2? What did the king observe to him?
2. What concern did Nehemiah express in response? What did the king ask – 2:3,4?
3. What did Nehemiah do before answering? What response did he make to the king – 2:4,5? (Think: What do we learn about prayer?)
4. When the king asked for details, what further request did Nehemiah make – 2:6-8? How did the king respond?
5. What did Nehemiah do when he had arrived? Who was unhappy and why – 2:9,10? (Think: Why would such men be disturbed?)
6. What did Nehemiah do after three days? When did he do it – 2:11-15?
7. What did he learn about the wall? (Think: Why was this important?)
8. Whom did he tell regarding his purpose? What did he propose to do – 2:16,17?
9. What did he say to motivate the people? How did they respond – 2:18?

10. **Application:** What lessons can we learn about the church today?

11. How did opponents try to hinder the work? How did Nehemiah respond – 2:19,20?

12 **Special Assignment:** What can we learn from this chapter about service to God?

## Assignments on Nehemiah 3 & 4

Please read Nehemiah 3 and 4 and answer the following questions.

1. What information is recorded in chap. 3? What is said regarding nobles in 3:5?

2. **Application:** What is the value of information in this chapter? What can we learn?

3. How did Sanballat react to the work on the wall – 4:1?

4. What did the enemies attempt in order to discourage the work? What did Sanballat and Tobiah say – 4:2,3?

5. **Application:** What are some things people say to discourage God's people today?

6. How did Nehemiah respond to this ridicule? What did he say – 4:4,5?

7. What did the Jews do? What was the result? What can we learn – 4:6?

8. How did enemies react when the work continued? What did they plan next – 4:7,8?

9. **Special Assignment:** List other Bible examples in which enemies attempted physical harm against God's people.

10. How did Nehemiah respond to this problem – 4:9?

11. How did the Jews themselves express discouragement – 4:10?

12. What did the enemies say to increase the Jews' fears – 4:11,12?

13. What arrangements did Nehemiah make for the defense of the people – 4:13?

14. What did he say to urge the people to courage – 4:14?

15. **Application:** How would these principles apply to us today?

16. What happened when the enemies learned of Nehemiah's preparations – 4:15?

17. How did Nehemiah's servants work afterward – 4:16?

18. How did the workers protect themselves – 4:17,18?

19. How would the people be warned to come to the defense when the enemy attacked – 4:19,20?

20. Where did the people spend the nights? Why – 4:22?

21. How was the diligence of Nehemiah and his servants described – 4:23?

22. **Case Study:** Some people say we should always be positive, so they object if we oppose other people's religious views. What application would this context have to such thinking?

23. Summarize lessons we can learn from this chapter regarding opposing error.

## Assignments on Nehemiah 5

Please read Nehemiah 5 and answer the following questions.

1. What did some Jews claim other Jews had done? What problems resulted – 5:1-5?

2. How did Nehemiah react – 5:6? (Think: Is anger always wrong? Explain.)

3. List and explain Old Testament **Scriptures** that these Jews violated.

4. List 4 things in 5:7-9 that Nehemiah did to deal with them.

5. Explain why these Jews' conduct was especially bad at this point in the story.

6. **Special Assignment:** List and explain **passages** showing what the New Testament church should do when members sin.

7. What example did Nehemiah set, and what did he tell the erring Jews to do – 5:10,11?

8. **Special Assignment:** List and explain **passages** showing the need for repentance and restitution.

9. What did the people in sin agree to do? How did Nehemiah respond – 5:12,13?

10. What had Nehemiah done to help ease the people's burden – 5:14-17?

11. **Application:** Explain why a good example is important for God's people.

12. Describe the daily allowance Nehemiah needed for himself and his people.

## Assignments on Nehemiah 6

Please read Nehemiah 6 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the enemies propose next? What was their real intent – 6:1,2?

2. How did Nehemiah respond? What reasons did he give – 6:3? (Think: Were these men deserving of further discussion with Nehemiah? How do you know?)

3. **Special Assignment:** How can Nehemiah's conduct be harmonized with passages that say we should teach and save the lost? Under what circumstances may we refuse to discuss certain topics with certain people? Give **b/c/v**.

4. What accusation did Sanballat make the fifth time he wrote? What proof did he offer – 6:5-7? (Think: Did Sanballat really care about the king's well-being? What was his real goal?)

5. How did Nehemiah deal with this accusation – 6:8,9?

6. **Application:** What should we do when people falsely accuse us today?

7. Who then tried to influence Nehemiah? What did he say – 6:10?

8. How did Nehemiah respond – 6:11?

9. Why did this man give this warning? What did enemies hope to achieve – 6:12,13?

10. What was the end result of the people's work – 6:15,16?

11. What relationships did some Jews have with Tobiah? What problems resulted? What can we learn – 6:17-18?

12. Summarize lessons we can learn from this chapter about how to deal with those who oppose God's work?

## **Assignments on Nehemiah 7**

Please read Nehemiah 7 and answer the following questions.

1. What work had been accomplished at this point – 7:1?
2. What specific men were named in 7:2? What positions were they given?
3. What characteristics qualified them for this work? Why would these qualities be important?
4. Describe the provisions made to guard the gates – 7:3.
5. Why were these precautions needed – 7:4?
6. What did Nehemiah decide to do, and what did he find when he did – 7:5?
7. What is recorded in 7:6-69? Where else was this information given?
8. Describe the contributions various people made to the work – 7:70-72.
9. How was the people's condition summarized in 7:73? What time of year was this?

## Assignments on Nehemiah 8

Please read Nehemiah 8 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did the people meet? What did Ezra bring – 8:1,2?

2. **Case Study:** Compare 8:1 to v8. What can we learn regarding those who say the “Law of Moses” is a different law from the “Law of God”? Explain.

3. What did Ezra do? What did the people do – 8:3-6? (Think: What should we do today when God’s law is read and studied?)

4. How long did this continue? What did the people say and do after hearing the law (v6)?

5. Besides reading the law, what did the teachers do – 8:7,8?

6. **Application:** Based on 8:1-8, list at least four important lessons we can learn about teaching and studying God’s word.

7. How did the message affect the people – 8:9? (Think: Why might they have done this?)



8. What day and month was this (v2)? Note Lev. 23:24 and tell why this day was special.
  
9. List other *passages* about this day and explain what was to be done on that day.
  
10. What did the leaders tell the people to do instead of grieving – 8:10-12?
  
11. What happened on the next day? What did they learn as they studied – 8:13-15?
  
12. List other *passages* about this feast, and explain its meaning.
  
13. What did the people do regarding this feast – 8:16-18?

14. **Special Assignment:** Compare Ezra 6:19-22. List again lessons we can learn from these events about restoring our service to God.

## Assignments on Nehemiah 9

Please read Nehemiah 9 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the people do on the 24<sup>th</sup> day? What were some specific things they did – 9:1? (Think: What is the significance of these acts?)

2. What else did they do – 9:2? Explain and give other Scriptures regarding separation from foreigners?

3. What else did they do – 9:3? How long did this take? (Think: What can we learn regarding willingness to worship God?)

4. Why is confession of sin important? Give other *passages*.

5. 9:5-15 describe the praise of God, then vv 16-38 describe the people's confession of sin and God's reaction. From vv 5-15 list below at least 7 characteristics of God and 7 works of God. Choose a total of at least 5 of these and list other *passages* about them:

| Characteristics of God | Other Passages |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1.                     |                |
| 2.                     |                |
| 3.                     |                |
| 4.                     |                |
| 5.                     |                |
| 6.                     |                |
| 7.                     |                |

| Works of God | Other Passages |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1.           |                |
| 2.           |                |
| 3.           |                |
| 4.           |                |
| 5.           |                |
| 6.           |                |
| 7.           |                |

6. After God blessed Israel – 9:8-15, how did Israel respond (v16)? What specific examples of this rebellion are mentioned (vv 17,18)? Give **b/c/v** about these.
7. How did God deal with them – 9:19? What specific blessings did He give – 9:20,21?
8. What did God do when they reached Canaan – 9:22-25? List some specific things they received.
9. Explain the connection between 9:22-25 and vv 7,8.
10. What did Israel do after God so blessed them – 9:26? Give **b/c/v**.
11. Describe the punishment God gave Israel for their disobedience – 9:27-29. (Think: When did this happen?)
12. Why did God not automatically destroy Israel – 9:31? What troubles of the people specifically are mentioned (v32)?
13. How did the people compare the conduct of Israel to God's conduct – 9:33-35?
14. How did the Jews summarize their current circumstances – 9:36,37?
15. What did they intend to do about this – 9:38?

## Assignments on Nehemiah 10

Please read Nehemiah 10 and answer the following questions.

1. What was done by the people named in 10:1-27? What is the significance of this act?

2. Who joined in this commitment – 10:28,29? What did they commit themselves to do?

3. **Application:** In what ways is this similar to our own commitment to serve God under the New Testament? Who should make this commitment?

4. What did they promise to do in 10:30? Where else have we studied this?

5. What promises did they make in 10:31? List other **passages** regarding the Sabbath day and explain what it involved.

6. Where else have we read about rules for debts? Explain the laws regarding the seventh year and exacting debts.

7. What assessment did the people agree to pay in 10:32,33? What would it be used for?

8. What arrangements were provided for in 10:34?

9. What ordinances were agreed upon in 10:35-37? Explain the law regarding the firstborn and explain its origin.

10. What were the tithes and why were they given – 10:37,38?

11. Where were the gifts of 10:39 to be stored? (Note: this will become important later.)

## **Assignments on Nehemiah 11,12**

Please read Nehemiah 11,12 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did the leaders of the people live? Where did the other people live – 11:1?
2. How did they decide where people would live? Explain casting lots. Give examples.
3. What information is given in 11:3-36?
4. What information is given in 12:1-11?
5. What information is given in 12:12-16?
6. For what purpose did people gather at Jerusalem in 12:27-29?
7. How many groups of celebrants were appointed – 12:31? Where did the first one go?
8. What did the people do as they marched?
9. Which way did the second group go? Who went with them – 12:38?
10. Where did the two groups meet? What did they do when they met – 12:40-43?
11. What arrangements were made in 12:44?
12. Who was provided for in 12:45-47?

## Assignments on Nehemiah 13

Please read Nehemiah 13 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the Jews learn from Moses' law? Why was this law given – 13:1-3?

2. Tell the story of Balaam. Give **b/c/v** where it is found.

3. Who was Eliashib? Who was Tobiah – 13:4? Give other **b/c/v** about them.

4. What had Eliashib done for Tobiah – 13:5? Explain why this was a perversion.

5. **Application:** What lesson can we learn about the danger that enemies may influence God's people, even leaders?

6. Where was Nehemiah at this time? What did he do when he returned – 13:6-9?

7. What act of Jesus does this remind you of? Give **b/c/v**.

8. **Application:** What lessons can we learn about the church today from Nehemiah's act and Jesus' act?

9. What other work had been neglected – 13:10,11? How did this relate to Tobiah's use of the storerooms?

10. Where had the people promised to do this work? What did Nehemiah do about it?

11. What else did the people do – 13:12? What did Nehemiah do to facilitate this work?

12. What sin did people commit in 13:15? Where else have we read about this day?

13. Who else joined in this sin – 13:16? What did they do?

14. What did Nehemiah say and do regarding this sin – 13:16-18?

15. **Application:** How might emphasis on material prosperity hinder worship today?

16. What other measures did Nehemiah take to insure that the traders did not lead the people to violate the Sabbath – 13:19-22?

17. What other sins did people commit – 13:23? Where else have we read of this?

18. Describe the consequence this sin had – 13:24. What danger of intermarriage does this demonstrate?

19. What king had committed this sin – 13:26? What was the consequence? Give **b/c/v**.

20. Who is named in 13:28 as being guilty of this sin? What sin did we earlier learn that Eliashib had committed?

21. What did Nehemiah do regarding this grandson of Eliashib?

22. **Application:** What should be done today when a member of the church is involved in an unscriptural marriage and will not repent?

23. What other good deeds did Nehemiah do to restore God's service – 13:29-31?

## Assignments on Esther 1

Please read Esther 1 and answer the following questions.

1. Skim the book of Esther and state the theme.
2. Who was the king? Where did he reign – 1:1,2?
3. For whom did the king make a feast? What was the purpose? How long did it last – 1:3-5?
4. Describe how the palace was furnished for the feast in 1:5-7.
5. Who was Vashti? What request did the king make of her? Why – 1:9-11?
6. How did Vashti respond? How did the king react – 1:12? (Think: Do you believe Vashti's action was justified? Explain.)
7. Whom did the king consult regarding the matter? What did he ask them – 1:13-15?
8. Who answered? What concern did he express – 1:16-18?
9. What did he advise the king to decree? What purpose would this serve – 1:19,20?
10. What was special about royal decrees among the Persians and Medes (v19)? What did the king decide to do – 1:21,22?



## Assignments on Esther 2

Please read Esther 2 and answer the following questions.

1. What plan did the king's servants suggest for replacing Vashti – 2:2-4?

2. Who was Mordecai? How had his family come to be in Persia – 2:5,6?

3. What was Esther's other name? What was her connection to Mordecai – 2:7?

4. **Application:** Who has the primary responsibility to care for needy people (such as widows and orphans)? Give **b/c/v**. What can we learn from Mordecai's example?

5. Describe how Esther came to be chosen as a candidate to replace Vashti. What was done for her then – 2:8,9?

6. Who knew Esther's ancestry? Why – 2:10?

7. Describe how each young woman would visit the king – 2:12-14.

8. What happened when Esther's turn came? What was the end result – 2:15-18?

9. **Special Assignment:** Compare Old Testament teaching about divorce and remarriage to New Testament teaching. Why was Esther allowed to marry a divorced man who had other wives? In light of Ezra 9,10, etc., why was she allowed to marry one who was not a Jew?

10. Who were Bigthan and Teresh? What did they try to do – 2:21?

11. How was their plot uncovered? What was the result – 2:22,23?

## Assignments on Esther 3

Please read Esther 3 and answer the following questions.

1. Who was Haman? What position was he given – 3:1?
2. How was he honored? Who refused to do this – 3:2?
3. Describe how firm Mordecai was in his stand. What reason is given for this – 3:3,4? (Think: Was bowing to a ruler always wrong? For what reason might Mordecai have refused?)

4. **Application:** List some lessons we can learn from Mordecai's conduct?

5. How did Haman feel regarding Mordecai's conduct? What did he decide to do – 3:5,6? (Think: What does this tell you about Haman's character?)

6. How did Haman decide the time for executing his plot – 3:7? **Define** "Pur."

7. What reason did Haman give for wanting to destroy "a certain people" – 3:8?

8. What did he offer to pay if the king would agree – 3:9?

9. How was the decree written and circulated to the people – 3:12-15?

10. What did the decree say?

11. **Special Assignment:** Why would such a decree be important in Bible history?

## Assignments on Esther 4

Please read Esther 4 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Mordecai act when he learned about the decree – 4:1? Why be so upset?
2. How did other Jews react – 4:3? Explain the purpose of sackcloth, ashes, and fasting.
3. What did Esther do about Mordecai's distress? How did he respond – 4:4?
4. Whom did Esther then send to Mordecai, and for what purpose – 4:5,6?
5. What information did Mordecai send to Esther? What did he ask her to do – 4:7-9?
6. What reason did Esther give for not going before the king? How long had it been since the king had called for her – 4:10-12?
7. What did Mordecai warn Esther about in 4:13? In what sense is this also true of us if we fail to serve God?
8. What did Mordecai say would happen if Esther did not speak up – 4:14? On what basis could he know this to be true?
9. Explain Mordecai's statement: "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Think: Do we always know what purpose God may have for putting us in a certain position? Explain.)
10. **Special Assignment: Define** providence. List and explain several lessons we can learn about providence from v14.
11. What decision did Esther make? What did she want people to do for her – 4:15-17?

## Assignments on Esther 5

Please read Esther 5 and answer the following questions.

1. Why would it have been hard for Esther to seek an audience with the king?

2. **Application:** List some admirable qualities we can observe in Esther.

3. What did the king do when Esther stood before him? What promise did he make her – 5:1-3? (Think: Do all the bad things we anticipate really come to pass?)

4. What was Esther's first request – 5:4? (Think: Why might she have done this instead of just making her ultimate request?)

5. **Special Assignment:** What harmful methods did Esther avoid that some wives sometimes use to get their way with their husbands?

6. How did the king respond to Esther's request? What did he say at her banquet – 5:5,6?

7. What request did she make then – 5:7,8? (Think: Would you have been as patient as Esther was in getting to the point?)

8. How did Haman feel as he left the banquet? What upset him as he went home – 5:9? (Think: Why might Esther have invited Haman to the banquets?)

9. What did Haman brag about when he got home. What still upset him – 5:10-13?

10. What did his inner circle advise him to do? How did he respond – 5:14?

11. **Application:** Describe several characteristics of Haman that we should avoid.

## **Assignments on Esther 6**

Please read Esther 6 and answer the following questions.

1. What problem did the king have that night? What did he do as a result – 6:1?
  
2. What did he learn about – 6:2? How would this relate to Haman's claim that the Jews were of no profit to the king?
  
3. What question did the king ask, and what was the answer – 6:3?
  
4. Who had come during the meantime? What did the king ask him – 6:4-6?
  
5. Whom did Haman think the king would honor? What does this show about him?
  
6. Describe the honor Haman suggested be given – 6:7-9.
  
7. What command did the king then give? Who led the horse – 6:10,11?
  
8. Explain how this outcome differed from Haman's plans that day.
  
9. How did Haman return home? What did he tell his wife and friends – 6:12,13?
  
10. What did his friends conclude? (Think: What does this show about the friends?)
  
11. What summons did Haman then receive – 6:14?

## Assignments on Esther 7

Please read Esther 7 and answer the following questions.

1. At the second banquet what did the king ask? What did he promise – 7:1,2?

2. What was Esther's request, and why did she make it – 7:3,4?

3. What problem did she say she could have borne without speaking? In that case, how did she describe the king's loss?

4. What questions did the king ask, and what answer did she give – 7:5,6?

5. **Application:** What can we learn from the facts: (1) Esther directly named the man who was guilty, and (2) she invited him to the meeting and accused him to his face?

6. How did Haman feel at hearing Esther's accusation? What lessons can we learn?

7. What did the king do after hearing Esther's request? What did Haman do then – 7:7?

8. When the king returned, what did he see? What did he think – 7:8?

9. What information was given to the king? What decision did he make – 7:9,10?

10. **Special Assignment:** List things about this outcome that are ironic.

11. **Application:** What lessons can we learn from the story at this point?

## Assignments on Esther 8

Please read Esther 8 and answer the following questions.

1. What position did the king give Esther? What did she tell the king about – 8:1?

2. What did the king do for Mordecai? What did Esther do for him – 8:2?

3. Nevertheless, what problem remained? What did Esther do about it – 8:3-6?

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| 4. <b>Application:</b> List other examples in which the evils people do may outlive them. |
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5. Why was Haman's decree not simply reversed? What did the king authorize Esther and Mordecai to do – 8:7,8?

6. How was Mordecai's decree made known to the people – 8:9,10?

7. What did the decree state? How did this differ from the original decree – 8:11,12?

8. Describe the honors that were given Mordecai – 8:15.

9. How did Jews feel about the new decree? How were other people affected – 8:16,17?

10. Although the new decree did not directly revoke the old decree, how would Mordecai's position and favor help counteract the first decree?

## Assignments on Esther 9,10

Please read Esther 9,10 and answer the following questions.

1. What day arrived? What had the Jews' enemies hoped to achieve then – 9:1?
2. Where did the Jews meet? Why could no one withstand them – 9:2?
3. Who helped the Jews? Why – 9:3,4?
4. Describe the respect shown to Mordecai.
5. What did Jews do to their enemies? What happened in Shushan – 9:5-10?
6. What did the king ask Esther, and how did she respond – 9:11-13?
7. What happened to Haman's sons, and what happened in Shushan on the second day – 9:14,15?
8. What did the Jews in the rest of the provinces do? How many died – 9:16,17?
9. What days were involved for conflict and rest in the empire? How did this differ from the days for the Jews in Shushan – 9:18,19?
10. What proclamation did Mordecai make? What did Jews do on those days – 9:20-25?
11. What was the feast called, and what did it commemorate – 9:26-31?



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