

God's Eternal Purpose in Christ

A Workbook Surveying the Theme of the Bible

by David E. Pratte

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



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**God's Eternal Purpose in Christ:
A Workbook Surveying the Theme of the Bible**

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

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“...now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known ... according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” - Ephesians 3:10,11

Introductory Study Notes

This workbook was designed for small group study, personal study, or family study. The class book is suitable for teens and up.

Benefiting from the material will require the student(s) to read for themselves each passage that the material calls on them to read. In group settings, please be sure that all students turn to the passage and follow in their own Bibles as each passage is read. Students will benefit only to the extent that they see for themselves what God's word actually says.

After each passage has been read, discussion leaders should let the students answer the questions. Then take the time to **discuss** the questions and the correct answers. Make sure the correct answer to each question is understood. Ask additional questions as needed to help students see the correct answers for themselves. Encourage student questions and input. Ask frequently if anyone has a question or comment.

For multiple-choice questions, the student should write the letter of the correct answer in the blank. For fill-in-the-blank or short answer questions, write the correct word or words in the blank, etc.

I have divided the material into 13 lessons, but the material can be presented at whatever pace is best for the students. This may require taking two or more study sessions per lesson.

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.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are from the New King James Version. Often - especially when I do not use quotations marks - I am not quoting any translation but simply paraphrasing the passage in my own words.

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.

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Lesson #1

Introduction

The purpose of this study

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written by inspired men over a period of about 1500 years. Every book and every story relate directly or indirectly to an overall theme.

This is an overview of the Bible story, including the contents of each book of the Bible, in chronological order.

An overview or survey

We will deal only with the main points taught: major characters, major events, major doctrines. This means many details must be omitted or skimmed.

Chronological order

The books of the Bible are not arranged in strictly chronological order. We will not study the books in the order in which they are placed in our Bibles, nor even necessarily in the order in which they were written. Rather, we will study the Bible story chronologically, fitting the books in as we discuss the events to which the **contents** of each book refer. Doctrinal events (prophecy, epistles, etc.) will be discussed in the story at the time the authors wrote them.

Summary of Bible history

In order to summarize the Bible story and relate events and characters to the story, we will divide Bible history into 15 major periods. We will study each period in order, emphasizing the following aspects of each period.

Books of the Bible

Each book of the Bible will be related to the time period to which its contents refer (or in which it was written, if that is more appropriate). We will identify the author and theme of each book, summarizing their contents as they relate to the theme of the Bible.

Major characters

We will identify major characters in each period and briefly discuss the role they played.

Major events/teaching

We will list major events from each period and discuss how they relate to the overall theme of the Bible. For prophetic and doctrinal books, we will summarize their content and unique features.

Benefits of such a study

This study should help each student in the following ways:

Understanding the overall theme of the Bible and the relationships between its parts

Detailed Bible study sometimes causes us to “lose sight of the forest for the trees.” We may examine specific stories, characters, and doctrines so closely that we fail to appreciate the main theme of the Bible. By identifying various people, events, and doctrines with the periods of Bible history, we also learn how they relate to one another,

Increased familiarity with some lesser known parts of Scripture

Some parts of the Bible are relatively well known by students, others are neglected. This study should at least introduce us to the lesser known books, characters, and events.

Understanding of how Bible events relate to salvation through Jesus.

Throughout our study we will emphasize verses that connect to the New Testament doctrine of salvation through Jesus.

The theme of the Bible

The theme of the Bible may be stated as follows:

The Bible describes God's relationship with people, emphasizing God's purpose for mankind and how we can be saved from our sins through Jesus Christ.

Watch for comments on Theme Passages throughout the study marked with double exclamation points (!!). These passages show how Bible events connect to salvation through Christ. The student is encouraged to make a list of such passages and how they relate to the theme.

Note: The word "Bible" simply means "book" (or books). So, the Holy Bible is simply the sacred or Divine book — the book given by God to reveal His will to mankind — i.e., "Scripture."

A summary of the 66 books in the order in which they are found in the Bible.

Bible Books: Summary

Old Testament

Law	History	Wisdom	Prophecy	
			Major	Minor
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1,2 Samuel 1,2 Kings 1,2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

New Testament

Life of Christ	History	Letters		Prophecy
		Paul	Others	
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1,2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1,2 Thessalonians 1,2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews (?)	James 1,2 Peter 1,2,3 John Jude	Revelation

A list of the periods of Bible history

Here are the fifteen periods of Bible history we will study. Each event, character, and book will be discussed as they relate to these periods. For each period we will list the event which marked the beginning of that period and the event which marked the end of it.

The student should memorize these periods and the events that mark their beginning and end.

Periods of Bible History

1. **Before the Flood** (from Creation to the flood)
2. **After the Flood** (from the flood to the call of Abraham)
3. **Patriarchs** — the Israelite “fathers” or heads of families (from the call of Abraham to the death of Joseph)
4. **Egyptian Bondage** (from the death of Joseph to the crossing of the Red Sea)
5. **Wilderness Wandering** (from the crossing of the Red Sea to the crossing of the Jordan)
6. **Conquest of Canaan** (from the crossing of the Jordan to the death of Joshua)
7. **Judges** (from the death of Joshua to the crowning of King Saul)
8. **United Kingdom** (from the crowning of King Saul to the death of King Solomon)
9. **Divided Kingdom** (from the death of Solomon to the fall of Israel)
10. **Judah Alone** (from the fall of Israel to the fall of Judah)
11. **Babylonian Captivity** (from the fall of Judah to the first return from captivity)
12. **Restoration of Israel** (from the first return to the completion of the Old Testament)
13. **Years of Silence** (from the completion of the Old Testament to the birth of Jesus)
14. **Life of Christ** (from the birth of Jesus to His ascension)
15. **Early Church** (from Jesus’ ascension to the completion of the New Testament)

A list of the books of the Bible and the main characters as they relate to the periods

By the end of the study, the student should have memorized all information in this chart:

Period	Characters	Events	Bible books
Before the Flood	Adam & Eve Cain & Abel	Creation; First sin	Genesis 1-5
After the Flood	Noah & his sons	The flood The tower of Babel	Genesis 6-11
Patriarchs	Abraham & Sarah Isaac & Rebekah Jacob & Rachel Jacob’s 12 sons Job	Call & promises to Abraham Birth of Isaac Jacob & Esau Jacob’s sons Life of Joseph	Genesis 12-50 Job
Egyptian Bondage	Moses & Aaron Pharaoh	Birth & call of Moses; Ten plagues Crossing red sea	Exodus 1-14
Wilderness Wandering	Moses & Aaron Joshua & Caleb	Giving of the law The tabernacle	Exodus 15-40, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Conquest of Canaan	Joshua	Crossing Jordan Defeat of Canaan	Joshua
Judges	Ehud, Deborah, Ruth, Gideon, Samson	Cycle: idolatry, oppression, repentance, deliverance	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-8
United Kingdom	Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon	Reigns of Saul, David, & Solomon	1&2 Sam, 1 Kings, 1&2 Chron., Psa., Prov., Ecc., Song of Solomon
Divided Kingdom	Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Ahab, Elijah	Division of kingdom Fall of Samaria	1&2 Kings, 2 Chron, Isa., Hos., Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah
Judah Alone	Hezekiah, Josiah	Work of Jeremiah Fall of Jerusalem	2 Kings, 2 Chron., Isa., Jer., Lam., Ezek., Nahum, Habakkuk, Zeph.
Babylonian Captivity	Ezekiel, Daniel, 3 Hebrews	Daniel’s rise 3 Hebrews	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

Return from Captivity	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	Rebuild Jerusalem; Haman's plot to kill the Jews	Ezra, Neh., Esth., Daniel, Haggai, Zech., Malachi
Years of Silence		Grecian empire, Maccabean rule, Roman Empire	(none)
Life of Christ	John the Baptist, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, apostles	John's work; Jesus' birth, ministry, death, bur., res.	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
Early Church	Peter, Paul, Cornelius, Barnabas	Jesus' ascension, Pentecost, Paul's preaching trips	Acts, Epistles, Revelation

Note: The student is encouraged to read each book of the Bible as we study it. For longer books, skim the book and read carefully the parts that are specifically assigned for reading.

Some assignments will require use of cross-references, concordance, Bible maps, and/or Bible dictionary. The concordance or dictionary found in most study Bibles may be inadequate. More complete reference works are recommended (such as Young's Concordance or Strong's Concordance or a good online Bible concordance program). Maps may be found in a good Bible or Bible dictionary.

Period #1: Before the Flood

This period covers from the creation to (but not including) the flood.

Book/Main Characters

Book of the Bible – Genesis 1-5

Genesis records the first three periods: Before the Flood, After the Flood, and the Patriarchs.

Author – Moses

Note: Genesis is the first book of the “Pentateuch” (“five volumes”) written by Moses — Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Theme – The Book of Beginnings

1 Look up “Genesis” in a dictionary. “Genesis” means: (a) ending or conclusion, (b) beginning or origin, (c) myths or legends, (d) ancient speculations. Answer: ____.

Genesis records the beginning of the universe, including man, the beginning of God's dealings with man, the beginning of sin, and the beginning of God's plan to save man from sin.

Main Characters

Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel

Summary of Main Events

Creation – Genesis 1,2

Introduction to the universe – chap. 1

>>> Please read Genesis chapter 1. <<<

2-*8* Here is a list of things created on various days of creation: Land animals and man; Sun, moon, and stars; Light; Birds and water animals; Firmament; God rested; Seas, dry land, and plants

For each group of created things listed above, write the group into the chart below according to the day on which it was created.

Summary of the days of creation

Day 1 — _____
Day 2 — _____
Day 3 — _____
Day 4 — _____
Day 5 — _____
Day 6 — _____
Day 7 — _____

>>> Please read Exodus 20:11. <<<

9 How many days did God take to make everything? Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Psalms 33:6-9. <<<

10 What method did God use to create everything? (a) evolution, (b) scientific experimentation, (c) trial and error, (d) He spoke/commanded and it occurred, (e) all of these. Answer: _____.

God created everything in nature in six days, then rested on the seventh day. The account of creation is confirmed by many passages elsewhere. We either reject the whole Bible or else we take the Bible account of creation as historical truth. [See also Psalm 102:25; 89:11; 90:2; 104:5-9,24-28; 19:1; 24:1,2; 95:5; 146:6; 136:5-9; 8:3,6-8; 148:5; Jeremiah 10:12; 27:5; John 1:1-3; Acts 14:15; 17:24; Isaiah 42:5; 45:18; 40:26; Hebrews 1:10; 11:3.]

This account cannot possibly be reconciled with evolution. The Bible account actually agrees with science better than does evolution. We accept the Bible record as the inspired word of God because of the evidence of fulfilled prophecy, miracles, the resurrection, etc.

To learn more about creation and evolution and about evidences for the Bible, we urge you to study our free articles on that subject on our Bible study web site at www.gospelway.com/instruct.

Introduction to God

The creation account immediately introduces us to God (1:1), the main character of the Bible. Please notice the following characteristics of God revealed in the creation account.

*** God is all-powerful.**

>>> Please read Matthew 19:26. <<<

11 How many things are possible with God? Answer: _____.

Creation demonstrates this characteristic of God because, whenever He commanded, "it was **so**" (1:7,9,11,15, etc.). Whenever God gave a command, the result occurred, no matter how humanly impossible. [Cf. Genesis 17:1; Mark 14:36; Job 42:2; 26:14; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 32:17,20-22.]

*** God is all-wise.**

>>> Please read Proverbs 3:19. <<<

12 By what characteristic did God establish or found the heavens and the earth? Answer: By _____.

Creation demonstrates this characteristic of God because, whatever He made, "it was **good**" (1:4,10,12,18,21,25, especially v31). God made no mistakes despite the incredible difficulty of the task. [Cf. Psalm 139:1-4,6-12; 147:4,5; John 16:30; Matthew 10:29-31; 6:8,32; 1 Kings 8:39; Romans 11:33,34; Isaiah 55:8,9.]

*** God is eternal**

>>> Please read Genesis 21:33. <<<

13 God is here called what kind of God? Answer: _____.

He existed before the worlds that He created. [Cf. Exodus 3:13,14; Deuteronomy 32:40; 33:27; Psalm 90:1-4; 93:2; Isaiah 44:6-8; Habakkuk 1:12; Romans 1:20; 1 Timothy 1:17.]

God rules over all creation by right of being the Maker. He has the right to control all that He made — Acts 17:24,25,28; 1 Chronicles 29:11,12.

*** One God but three Individuals**

>>> Please read Genesis 1:26,27,31. <<<

14 Several words in these verses indicate that God is **singular** in nature. Give **one** of these words. Answer: _____.

15 Now give one word in these verses that indicates God is **plural** in nature. Answer: _____.
The Father and Son and Holy Spirit were all present at creation — John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:2.

>>> Please read Matthew 16:16. <<< (See also John 6:27.)

16 “The living God” in this verse must refer to Whom? Answer: _____

>>> Please read John 20:28. <<<

17 In this verse Who is addressed as “my Lord and my God” (see the context)? Answer: _____

[See also John 1:1-3,14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:2,8,9; Philippians 2:5-8.]

>>> Please read Acts 5:3,4. <<<

18 When Ananias lied to “God” in this passage, to whom did He lie? Answer: _____.

So the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each called “God,” yet they are separate individuals. All three are listed separately in Luke 3:22; Matthew 28:19.

So the one God of the Bible consists of three separate individuals who are completely united in will, character, purpose, and nature — see John 17:20,21. [Cf. Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5,6; Matthew 4:10.]

The very beginning of the Bible account demonstrates basic, important truths about the nature of God.

To learn more about the number of individuals in the Godhead, we urge you to study our free articles on that subject on our Bible study web site at www.gospelway.com/instruct.

Introduction to man

The account of God’s creation also gives helpful information about the nature of man.

>>> Please read Genesis 1:26-28. <<<

19 How was man created? (a) in God’s image, (b) by evolution, (c) in the image of lower animals, (d) by a freak accident of nature, (e) all of these. Answer: _____.

20 What is man’s relationship to the animals, (a) man was made from the animals, (b) man is just an advanced animal, (c) man has dominion over the animals, (d) animals are more advanced than man. Answer: _____.

Other passages confirm that man was made in the image of God and above the animals. See 3:9,10; 1 Corinthians 11:7; Psalm 8:4-8.

Man is not just an advanced animal who evolved from lower animals. Man was created separately from animals, directly from the ground (2:7). Woman was created from man (2:18ff).

The Bible story is about the relationship between God and the people He created.

Man in the Garden — Genesis 2

God’s command to man

>>> Please read Genesis 2:7,8. <<<

21&22 Where did God place the first man? Answer: In a _____ named _____.
God placed man in perfect conditions and instructed him how he could continue to be happy (2:8-15).

>>> Please read Genesis 2:16,17. <<<

23&24 What command did God give man in the garden? Answer: Man was not to eat the fruit of the _____ of the knowledge of _____.

>>> Please read Joshua 24:15. <<<

25 What did Joshua command the people to do? Answer: They must _____ what god they would serve.

Note that God created man with the power to choose right from wrong. God did not create us as mere robots that must obey His will without choice. We are free moral agents, having the power to do good or evil. [See also 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 4:15; 11:25; 1 Kings 18:21; Psalm 119:30; James 1:13-15.]

God then has the right to punish men for sin and to reward us for obedience. He is the Creator. He has the right to expect obedience and to destroy His creatures that will not fulfill His will. [See chap. 3; Acts 17:24-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46; Ephesians 5:3-7; Galatians 6:7-9.]

Institution of marriage

>>> Please read Genesis 2:18,21-24. <<<

26&27 Why was woman created? Answer: It was not good for man to be _____, so woman was created to be a _____ meet for (suitable for) man.

>>> Please read Matthew 19:3-9. <<<

28&29 How does God's marriage law apply to divorce? Answer: Divorce is permitted only for the cause of _____, so remarriage following divorce for any other cause is _____.

Marriage is God's ordained institution for fulfilling the human need for love, for a secure and committed relationship, for the sexual union, and for the bearing and raising of children.

God's commands must rule in marriage because He ordained it. He requires one man for one woman with a lifetime commitment. The sexual union before or outside of marriage is a violation of God's marriage law. Likewise, unless divorce is obtained for the cause of fornication, it violates His law; so remarriage after such an unlawful divorce is adultery.

[Ephesians 5:22-31; 1 Timothy 2:11-14; Romans 7:2,3; 1 Corinthians 7:2-9; Hebrews 13:4]

The Fall of Man – Genesis 3

The first sin

>>> Please read Genesis 3:1-7. <<<

30 How did the serpent tempt Eve? Answer: He said that eating the forbidden fruit would not lead to death but would make her know good and evil like _____.

Satan tempted Eve through the serpent. Satan is a real tempter, a rebel, and deceiver. He lied to Eve and led her to violate God's law. He continues to do the same to people today. See also 2 Corinthians 11:3,13-15; Revelation 12:9; John 8:44; Matthew 7:15.

>>> Please read 1 John 3:4. <<<

31 Lawlessness - or transgression (violation) of God's law – is called what? Answer: _____.

Sin results when men are tempted and give in to temptation - James 1:13-15; 1 John 2:15-17 [Matthew 13:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12].

Yet temptation can be resisted. Man does not need to sin, so there is no excuse for it. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 15:33; Proverbs 4:23.

[Proverbs 6:27; 13:20; 22:3; Matthew 5:8; 6:13; 18:8,9; Romans 13:14; Genesis 39:7-12].

The consequences of sin

>>> Please read Genesis 3:16-19. <<<

32,33,34 List some consequences of sin. Answer: Women have _____ in childbirth; the _____ was cursed so men must toil and sweat to provide food; all humans return to the _____.

>>> Please read Isaiah 59:1,2. <<<

35 We are separated from God by our _____.

Pain, suffering, hardship, and death are the consequences of man's sin. In addition, man was cut off from fellowship with God. He died spiritually ("in the day that you eat" — 2:17). See also 3:22-24 [Ephesians 2].

God should not be blamed for the existence of suffering and death. He created man in a perfect environment with no problems and gave man the opportunity to avoid suffering. But the devil led man to sin and man gave in, thereby bringing the consequences of sin upon himself [1 Corinthians 15:21,22; Romans 5:12].

Note that woman's subjection to man is the result of creation and the fall — Genesis 2:18; 3:16 [Cf. Ephesians 5:22-31; 1 Timothy 2:11-14; 3:4,12; Colossians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 11:3; 14:34; Titus 2:4,5; 1 Peter 3:1-7.]

Introduction to God's plan for man's salvation

>>> Please read Genesis 3:15. <<<

36 What did God predict? Answer: He warned that _____ would exist between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed (offspring).

This may seem obscure (as some prophecies do at first), yet it predicts that a descendant of woman would crush Satan's head after Satan had bruised His heel. This was fulfilled by Jesus, who suffered at the hands of Satan, but ultimately defeated him.

!! Theme Passage: The theme of the Bible has been introduced! The problems of mankind are caused by sin. One who would be a descendant of woman will bring the solution. The rest of the Bible story records the history of God's plan to save man from the consequences of sin.

Cain and Abel

Introduction to worship

>>> Please read Genesis 4:1-5. <<<

37&38 How did these brothers worship God? Answer: Abel was a keeper of _____ and offered them, but Cain offered fruit of the _____.

Note: From the beginning God wanted man to worship Him, and He cares how men worship.

>>> Please read Hebrews 11:4. <<<

39 Who worshiped God acceptably, Cain or Abel? Answer: _____.

Since worship is intended to please and honor God, and since we cannot know what pleases Him unless He tells us, worship must harmonize with what He has ordained or authorized. We must worship according to His teaching, sincerely meaning what we do (John 4:23,24). Other worship is rejected. See Matthew 15:9,13; Galatians 1:8,9; 2 John 9-11; Colossians 3:17; Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12; 3:5,6; Revelation 22:18,19.

>>> Please read Hebrews 10:1-4,11-14,18. <<<

40 What was the problem with animal sacrifices? Answer: They could not permanently take away _____.

!! Theme Passage: Animal sacrifices were symbols of Jesus' sacrifice for sin. They could not completely remove sin, but postponed the consequences of sin and symbolized the perfect sacrifice of Jesus that would come later.

Introduction of hatred and murder

>>> Please read Genesis 4:6-12. <<<

41 What did Cain do when he realized God did not accept his sacrifice? Answer: He _____ Abel.

Here is the first recorded murder. Note that Abel was, in effect, a martyr for the truth. Cain killed Abel because he was upset that God would accept Abel instead of him. God condemned this act because it did not show proper concern for a brother. God requires love and condemns hatred. Hatred and murder must be punished - Romans 13:8-10.

[Matthew 22:37-40; Luke 6:27,28,31-33; 10:25-37; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13]

Period #2: After the Flood

Book/Main Characters

Book of the Bible – Genesis 6-11

(See above for specific notes)

Main Characters

Noah and his sons (Shem, Ham, Japheth)

Summary of Main Events

The Flood – Genesis 6-9

The record of the flood

>>> Please read Genesis 6:5-14,17; 7:23. <<<

42 What did God determine to do about the wickedness of men? Answer: He determined to destroy all men by a great _____.

43 How did Noah and his family escape? Answer: God commanded Noah to build an _____.

The Bible describes the flood as covering the whole earth (see 6:13,17; 7:3,4,11,12,19-24; 8:3-9,14,21; 9:1,11,15,18,19).

The fact that Noah really lived and the flood was a real event is confirmed by many other Bible passages. To deny the flood or to view it as merely a legend or myth is to deny the truthfulness of the whole Bible!

[Genesis 5:28-32; 10:1,32; 1 Chronicles 1:4; Luke 3:36; Ezekiel 14:14,20; Hebrews 11:7; Matthew 24:37-39; 2 Peter 3:3-7; 1 Peter 3:20,21]

Lessons learned from the flood

* Man often becomes very wicked (6:5,11-13).

* Yet even in times of great wickedness, those who truly seek to please God can still do right (6:8,9; 7:1).

* The righteous are always in the minority compared to the wicked (cf. Matt. 7:13,14).

* God can and will punish the wicked while providing for and rewarding the righteous (6:7,13,14; 7:23)

* Pleasing God requires obedient faith (6:22; 7:5; Heb. 11:7).

* God's salvation is often placed in a specific "place" (or relationship). Man must be in that place to be saved (7:23).

* The covenant of the rainbow shows God will not destroy earth again by a flood (9:8-17).

The flood as a symbol of the New Testament

>>> Please read 1 Peter 3:20,21. <<<

44 Noah's salvation from the flood pictures what New Testament practice? Answer: _____.

!! Theme Passage: The flood was a symbol that we are cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ in baptism.

The Tower of Babel – 11:1-9

The people refused to obey God's command to scatter and fill the whole earth - 9:1; 11:4. So God confused the languages so the people scattered - 11:6-9. This is the origin of languages (and perhaps of nations).

Conclusion

The first few chapters of the Bible describe the beginning of many aspects of God's plan for man: the beginning of the heaven and the earth and everything on them including man, the beginning of marriage and the family, the beginning of God's relationship with man including His commands for men to obey, the beginning and spread of sin, the beginning of God's punishment upon man for sin, the beginning of worship to God, and the beginning of God's plan to save man from sin.

Lesson #2

Period #3: The Patriarchs

Book/Main Characters

Main Book of the Bible – Genesis 12-50

(See above for specific notes on the book of Genesis.)

Main Characters

Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Esau and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, Jacob's 12 sons, especially Joseph; Job

Summary of Main Events

Note: "Patriarch" refers to the head of a family or tribe. During this period, God revealed His will by speaking directly to individuals, especially to the heads of families.

Abraham and Sarah

The call of Abraham

>>> Please read Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:8-10. <<<

1 What did God expect Abraham (Abram) to do? (a) leave his country, (b) go to a land he did not know, (c) live as a sojourner in a foreign land, (d) all of these. Answer: _____.

God called a man named Abram (later changed to Abraham – 17:5) to leave his country and go to an unknown country. The country turned out to be the land of Canaan (see a **map**). Abraham was 75 years old at the time.

The promise to Abraham

>>> Please read Genesis 12:2; 22:17,18; 26:3,4. <<<

2,3,4 List three specific promises God made to Abraham regarding his descendants (seed). Answers: They would become a great _____, they would receive the _____ of Canaan, and in his seed all nations of the earth would be _____.

>>> Please read Acts 3:25,26. <<< (cf. Gal. 3:16)

5 The blessing God promised to come on all nations referred to what? Answer: We can be saved (turned away) from our _____ through Jesus.

!! Theme passage: Because of Abraham's faithfulness, God made great promises to him regarding his descendants. Circumcision was a sign of this covenant promise (Gen. 17:9-12). ***The fulfillment of this promise becomes the focus of the rest of the Bible story.***

Since these promises concerned Abraham's descendants, they were repeated to later generations [Gen. 12:2,3,7; 15:5-8,18-21; 13:15,17; 18:18; 24:7; 28:3,4; 32:12].

The sacrifice of Isaac

At the time God made these promises about Abraham's descendants, he had no son to be his heir. But God finally gave him a son after his wife Sarah had passed the age of child bearing.

>>> Please read Genesis 21:1-5. <<<

6 How old was Abraham when the promised son was born? Answer: He was _____ years old.

7 What was the son named? Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Genesis 22:1-3,9-13; Hebrews 11:17-19. <<<

8 What did God command Abraham to do? Answer: Abraham was to take _____ and offer him as a sacrifice to God.

After Abraham had finally received the promised son, God commanded him to kill the son as a sacrifice! Abraham also passed this test of faith, so God repeated his promises to Him.

!! Theme passage: The command to Abraham to offer his son was a symbol or foreshadowing of the sacrifice God would later make by sending His Son to die as the sacrifice for the sins of all mankind (John 3:16).

Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's Sons

Isaac and Jacob

>>> Please read Genesis 25:21-26. <<<

9 What was the name of Isaac's wife? Answer: _____.

10&11 What were the names of their twin sons? Answer: The first was _____ and the second was _____.

The promises of God might normally be expected to find fulfillment through Esau. However, from the outset God had determined that the fulfillment would come through Jacob (25:21-23).

Jacob had two wives, Leah and Rachel, and two servant-wives (this was permitted under the Old Testament, but not under the New Testament). Eventually he had twelve sons (ch. 28-35). These twelve sons became the heads of the twelve tribes that made up the nation of Israel.

(Note: Through the Bible stories we often see people trying to "help" God's promises come true in the way they wanted them to come true. This sometimes involved sin, especially lying and deceit. It may appear at times that this sinful conduct produced the outcome the people desired. However, throughout the stories God simply did what He had determined to do despite the people's sins.)

The story of Joseph

>>> Please read Genesis 37:1-14,23-28. <<<

12 What did Joseph's dreams mean? Answer: He would _____ over his brothers and his family.

13 Because his brothers envied Joseph, what did they do to him? Answer: They sold him to men who took him to _____.

In Egypt Joseph was a slave and suffered severe mistreatment till finally God enabled him to interpret some dreams for the Pharaoh who ruled Egypt. As a result, Joseph became the governor of the whole land of Egypt (see a *map*).

>>> Please read Genesis 45:1-11. <<<

14 What reason did Joseph give why God wanted him to be in Egypt? Answer: He would care for his family there throughout a _____ that would last several years.

Because of Joseph's wisdom in response to Pharaoh's dreams, Egypt had food to survive a great famine. Jacob's other sons went from Canaan to Egypt to buy food, and there Joseph recognized them. After testing them to see if they had repented of their mistreatment of him, he was reconciled to them. He had the whole family move to Egypt to survive the famine. There he ruled over them all, just as God had predicted.

Remember that all these events relate to the theme of the Bible and the promise to Abraham. God is caring for Abraham's descendants so they can become a great nation, receive the land of Canaan, and through them Jesus could come into the world as our Savior. Even when the people became very sinful, God continued to use them, not because they were so good, but because of the promises He had made to Abraham and because we needed a Savior.

A Related Book of the Bible — Job

Basic Information/Main Characters

Author — unknown

Date of contents

Uncertain, but the customs described indicate it occurred during the period of the patriarchs.

Theme

The issue of suffering is used to demonstrate the authority of God in His universe.

Main characters

Job and his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu)

Other Bible references to Job: Ezek. 14:14,20; James 5:11.

Divisions of the book

- * Description of Job's trials (ch. 1,2)
- * False comfort from his friends — debates over why people suffer (ch. 3-31)
- * Speech of Elihu (ch. 32-37)
- * God's response to Job and his friends (ch. 38-42)

Lessons from the Story

The story of Job

>>> Please read Job 1:1-3. <<<

15 What kind of man was Job? (a) upright, (b) feared God, (c) wealthy, (d) all of the preceding.

Answer: _____

>>> Please read Job 1:8-12. <<<

16 Why did Job suffer? Answer: Satan believed that, if Job suffered, he would renounce _____.

Note that Job was an upright man. He suffered, not because he was guilty of sin, but because Satan was trying to get him to commit sin. Job's suffering included the loss of his children and all his wealth in a single day, then the loss of his health, and finally his wife and friends turned against him (1:13-19; 2:7-9).

>>> Please read Job 1:20-22; 2:10. <<<

17 How did Job react to his suffering? Answer: He did not _____ or charge God foolishly.

>>> Please read Job 4:7-9; 22:5-11. <<<

18 What did Job's friends believe was the reason he was suffering? Answer: They believed God was punishing him for his _____.

Like many people today, the friends believed that only the wicked should suffer (cf. 11:4-6; 18:5-10). So when Job suffered so grievously, they mistakenly concluded that he was guilty of grievous sins. In Job's responses throughout the book, he maintains that he does not know why he is suffering, but he knows he is not guilty as they were accusing him.

>>> Please read Job 38:4-7; 40:7-9; 42:1-6. <<<

19 What answer did God give Job about his suffering? (a) He agreed that Job's friends had spoken truth, (b) He said God is wiser than men so we often do not understand Him, (c) He apologized to Job for having mistreated him, (d) all of the preceding. Answer: _____.

20 What conclusion did Job reach? Answer: He realized that he had no right to criticize God, so he abhorred himself and _____.

In the end, Job's friends had to offer sacrifice for having spoken error about God and about Job, but God rewarded Job by giving him even more blessings than he had at the beginning (42:10-17).

Conclusions regarding suffering

- * Suffering is not always a punishment for evil we have personally done.
- * Suffering is sometimes a temptation from the devil to get us to sin.
- * Just as man cannot understand God's power in creation, so we do not (and sometimes cannot) understand His affairs in the world. Even when we do not know why certain people suffer, nevertheless we should trust God to do right, instead of criticizing or doubting Him.
- * We can endure suffering faithfully, just as Job did, even when we do not understand all God's affairs (James 5:10,11; 1 Cor. 10:13).

Period #4: Egyptian Bondage

Book/Main Characters

Book of the Bible — Exodus 1-14

Author

Moses

Theme

God delivers Israel from Egyptian Bondage and reveals to them His character and His law. "Exodus" means a departure.

Main Characters

Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh, the Israelites

Summary of Main Events

The Oppression of Israel in Egypt - 1:1-3:22

>>> Please read Exodus 1:7-12. <<<

21 What happened among the Israelites that caused concern to the Egyptians? Answer: The Israelites multiplied and became so mighty that the land was _____ with them.

22 What did the king (Pharaoh) decide to do about this? Answer: He put _____ over them and gave them burdens.

Despite the mistreatment of the Israelites, they continued to multiply. The Pharaoh resorted to killing the male babies to prevent their multiplying (1:15-22)

Note that the multiplying of the Israelites fulfilled the promise to Abraham that he would have many offspring. The first promise to Abraham had come true!

The Birth of Moses - 2:1-10

>>> Please read Exodus 2:1-10. <<<

23 What did Moses' mother do with him when she could no longer hide him at home? Answer: She made an _____ of bulrushes and placed him in it in the river.

24 Who found Moses and adopted him? Answer: The daughter of _____.

By God's providence, Moses was not killed as the king had commanded, but in fact was raised as though he were the grandson of the king. Then his own mother was hired to raise him!

Call of Moses and Aaron - 2:11-4:31

Moses' flight to Midian

>>> Please read Exodus 2:11-15. <<<

25 What did Moses do that led him to flee Egypt? Answer: In defending an Israelite he _____ an Egyptian taskmaster.

Hebrews 11:24-26 explains that Moses deliberately chose to side with the Israelites in their conflict with Egypt. He could have enjoyed the pleasures of being Pharaoh's grandson, but he chose instead to defend Israel. As a result he had to flee to Midian where he lived as a shepherd (2:16-21).

The call of Moses (3:1-4:31)

>>> Please read Exodus 3:1-10. <<<

26 How did God appear to Moses? Answer: He appeared to him in a _____ that burned but was not consumed.

27 What did God want Moses to do? Answer: He wanted Moses to lead Israel out of _____.

>>> Please read Exodus 4:1-9. <<<

28 What evidence did God give to convince people to believe God had sent Moses? (a) his rod turned into a serpent, (b) his hand became leprous, (c) he turned water to blood, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____.

This passage demonstrates that the primary purpose of miracles was to give people evidence that God exists or that a prophet or a teaching was from God. In this case, Moses' miracles were to convince people that God had sent Moses to lead Israel from slavery. We will see that the plagues on Egypt done through Moses served similar purposes.

Plagues on Egypt - 5:1-12:51

God brought plagues on the Egyptians to convince them to release Israel from slavery. Pharaoh resisted God's command till the final plague.

List of the plagues

First plague (Exodus 7:14-25)

>>> Please read Exodus 7:19-21

29 What curse came upon Egypt in the first plague? Answer: The water of Egypt was turned to _____.

Second plague: Frogs (8:1-15)

Third plague: Lice (8:16-19)

Fourth plague: Flies (8:20-32)

Fifth plague: Disease of livestock (9:1-7)

Sixth plague: Boils (9:8-12)

Seventh plague: Hail (9:13-33)

Eighth plague: Locusts (10:1-20)

Ninth plague: Darkness (10:21-29)

Tenth plague: (11:1-12:36; cf. 13:15; 22:29; Num. 3:41-43; 8:15-18)

>>> Please read Exodus 11:4-7. <<<

30 What curse came on Egypt in the last plague? Answer: All the _____ were slain.

Purposes of the plagues:

As discussed above, miracles occurred to confirm that God exists (and is the true God) or that a prophet or message came from Him. Specifically, for each verse below, list the purpose the plagues on Egypt are said to accomplish:

>>> Please read Exodus 6:1. <<<

31 The plagues would convince _____ to free Israel (cf. 6:1-13).

The miracles served to convince Pharaoh that he should heed God's message through Moses.

>>> Please read Exodus 7:5. <<<

32 The plagues would lead people to know who is _____ (cf. 7:1-5,17; 9:14-16; 12:12; 14:14-18,21-31)

>>> Please read Deuteronomy 4:32-40. <<<

33 The plagues would convince the Israelites to believe in God and obey the _____ He gave through Moses (cf. 4:1-9,31; Exodus 10:1,2; 11:3; 14:30,31).

Institution of the Passover - Exodus 12 & 13

>>> Please read Exodus 12:1-14,24-30. <<<

34 Why were the Israelites to place the blood of the lamb on their doorways? Answer: So God would “pass over” or spare their _____.

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians 5:7. <<<

35 Who is our Passover Lamb under the gospel? Answer: _____ is our Passover.

!! Theme passage: The Passover lamb had to shed its blood so that God would spare the firstborn sons of Israel. This was a symbol of the fact that Jesus likewise would have to shed His blood in order to save mankind from sin.

Just as the Passover feast was a memorial to the sacrifice whereby God spared the Israelites, so the Lord’s Supper is a memorial to the sacrifice of Jesus – Matthew 26:1,2,26-29.

Parting of the Red Sea - Exodus 14 & 15

>>> Please read Exodus 14:5-10,21-31. <<<

36&37 How did Israel cross the Red Sea? Answer: God parted the _____ so Israel walked through on _____.

This was the final miracle by which God freed Israel from Egypt. In doing so, He not only proved His great power, but He also destroyed the Egyptian army for their rebellion against His will.

At this point God had fulfilled His promise to make Israel a great nation. He had freed them from slavery and began them on their journey to receive the promised land of Canaan.

Lesson #3

Period #5: Wilderness Wandering

Books/Main Characters

Exodus 15-40

(See above)

Leviticus

“Leviticus” means “pertaining to the Levites”

Author

Moses

Theme

Laws of worship and personal conduct

Numbers

The title refers to the numbering of the people of Israel.

Author

Moses

Theme

Journey of Israel from Mt. Sinai to the Jordan

Deuteronomy

“Deuteronomy” means a second giving (i.e. a repetition) of the law.

Author

Moses

Theme

A review of the law and of Israel’s history with a prediction of their future

Main Characters

Moses and Aaron, Joshua and Caleb, the Israelites

Summary of Main Events

Journey from Egypt to Mt. Sinai - Exodus 15-19

(See a *map*.)

>>> Please read Exodus 16:13-15,31. <<<

1 How did God provide food for Israel as they traveled? Answer: He sent _____, which was food that formed on the ground so they could collect it each morning.

>>> Please read Exodus 17:3-6. <<<

2 How did God provide water for the people? Answer: Moses struck a _____ with his rod and water came out.

God also blessed and provided for the people in many other ways. Their clothing did not wear out, they defeated enemies who fought against them, etc.

Events at Mt. Sinai - Exodus 20-40 & Leviticus

Giving of the law

The ten commands

>>> Please read Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21. <<<

3-12 Complete the blanks for this brief summary of the Ten Commands:

- #1 – You shall have no other _____ before Me.
- #2 – Do not make or worship any carved or graven _____.
- #3 – Do not take the name of God in _____.
- #4 – Remember the _____ day.
- #5 – Honor your _____ and _____.
- #6 – You shall not commit _____.
- #7 – You shall not commit _____.
- #8 – You shall not _____.
- #9 – You shall not bear false _____.
- #10 – You shall not _____.

These commands are just a general summary of many basic laws. As with many other covenants in those days, they were written on stone as a reminder to future generations of the agreement God made with them.

The laws given through Moses also included instructions about the tabernacle, sacrifices, priesthood, ceremonial uncleanness, laws of moral conduct, and many other laws (Exodus 20-40; Leviticus 1-27)

Purpose of the old law

* To guide the nation of Israel – Exodus 24:3-8; Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

* To prepare the people for the New Testament and show them their need for forgiveness by the blood of Jesus – Rom. 3:10-18,20,23; Gal. 3:19-25; Hebrews 10:1-18

* To give examples about the nature of God and the nature of people – 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 13:8; chap. 11

* To give symbols, types, and prophecies of Jesus and the New Testament – John 5:39; Isaiah 53 with Acts 8:35; Heb. 7:11-18

* To give evidence that God exists and the Bible is His word – Isaiah 41:21,22; 42:8,9.

Our relationship to the old law

>>> Please read Galatians 3:24,25. <<<

13 Now that faith in Christ (the gospel) has come, what is our relationship to the law? Answer: We are no longer _____ the tutor or schoolmaster (the law).

>>> Please read Colossians 2:13-17. <<<

14 Since Jesus wiped out the handwriting of requirements and nailed it to His cross, what conclusion should we reach about that law? Answer: No one should judge us regarding its rules, such as food, drink, feasts, new moons, or _____.

The law was given to the nation of Israel to guide them till Jesus came in fulfillment to the promise to Abraham. Jesus then removed that law and replaced it with the gospel.

[Hebrews 10:1-10; 7:11-14; 8:6-13; 9:1-4; 2 Corinthians 3:6-11; Galatians 5:1-6; Romans 7:1-7.]

The golden calf

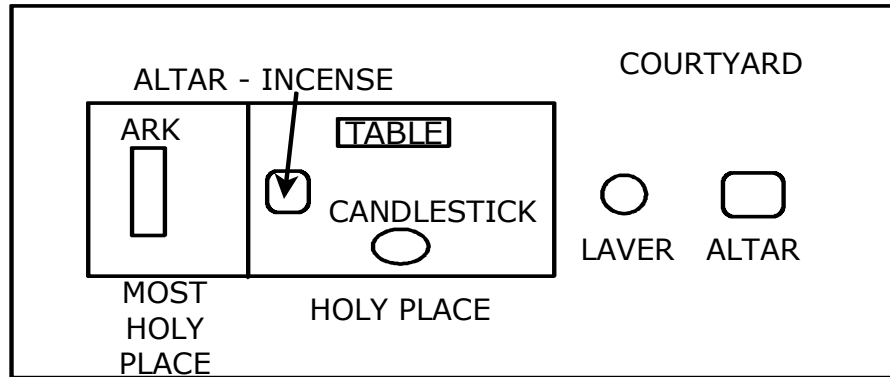
>>> Please read Exodus 32:1-8,15-20,25-28. <<<

15 What sin did Israel commit while Moses was on the mountain receiving the law? Answer: They made and worshiped a golden _____.

The people became unfaithful to their covenant with God almost immediately after they had entered into it!

Building of the tabernacle

Moses also led the people in building the tabernacle as a place to worship God, especially in the offering of their animal sacrifices (Exodus 40:17-33).



He also led them to establish priests who would offer the sacrifices on behalf of the people (Exodus 28:1; Leviticus 10:8-15; 16:2-17; Numbers 18:1-7).

!! Theme Passage: The tabernacle involved several symbols of the gospel, but the priesthood especially symbolized Jesus' high priesthood. See Hebrews 8:1-6.

Journey from Sinai to Canaan

Moses then organized the people and prepared them for the journey to Canaan (Numbers 1-12). (See a *map*.)

The twelve spies sent into Canaan

When Israel approached Canaan, they sent twelve men to spy out the land.

>>> Please read Numbers 13:27-33. <<<

16 What report did ten of the spies give regarding the land? (a) Israel could easily capture it, (b) Israel was not able to capture it, (c) the land was no good, (d) the people of the land were small and weak. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Numbers 14:1-11. <<<

17 How did the people react to the spies' report? Answer: They complained against Moses and Aaron and wanted to go back to _____.

>>> Please read Numbers 14:29-35. <<<

18 What punishment did God bring on the people? Answer: The older generation could not enter Canaan but wandered in the wilderness for _____ years till they died.

Only the two faithful spies (Joshua and Caleb) and the younger generation were allowed to enter Canaan. The New Testament uses the sin of Israel as a warning to us to obey God or we will not enter His eternal reward for us (Heb. 3:7-4:1).

Later, Moses himself sinned by striking a rock to bring water from it, instead of speaking to it as God had commanded. He took credit to himself, and God said he too could not enter the promised land (Numbers 20:1-13).

Capture of the land east of Jordan

As the end of the forty years of wandering drew to a close, Israel again approached Canaan. Under Moses' leadership they defeated the people who lived east of the Jordan River.

>>> Please read Numbers 32:33. <<<

19-21 The territory east of Jordan was given to what tribes? Answer: _____, _____, and half the tribe of _____.

Moses' final speeches to Israel (Book of Deuteronomy)

In the book of Deuteronomy Moses summarizes Israel's history under his leadership. He reviewed their journey from Sinai to Canaan (Deuteronomy 1:6-8,26; 2:1-3; 3:27,28). Then he restated the law he had delivered from God (Deuteronomy 4-26).

He also predicted future blessings and curses on the nation, depending on whether they would obey or disobey God. (See Deuteronomy 28:1-14; and 28:15ff.)

>>> Please read Deuteronomy 18:18,19. <<<

22 God promised to raise up what kind of person? Answer: A _____ like Moses.

!! Theme Passage: The prophet who fulfilled this prophecy was Jesus Christ (see Acts 3:20,22,23). God still intended to fulfill the promise of a coming Savior to bless all nations.

>>> Please read Deuteronomy 34:1-8. <<<

23 How old was Moses when he died? Answer: _____ years old.

Moses had led the people to the promised land and was allowed to view it from a mountaintop before he died.

Period #6: Conquest of Canaan

Book/Main Characters

Book of the Bible – Joshua

Author

Joshua

Theme

God enables Israel to inherit the promised land of Canaan.

Main Characters

Joshua and the Israelites

Background of Joshua's life:

- * Led Israel in battle against Amalek (Ex. 17:9-14)
- * Served as Moses' personal minister, accompanying him on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 24:13; 32:17; 33:11)
- * Jealous that others prophesied besides Moses (Num. 11:28)
- * Sent into Canaan as one of 12 spies. Only he and Caleb had assured Israel that they could conquer the land, so only those two were allowed to enter (Num. 13&14; 26:65; 32:12).

Summary of Main Events

Israel Enters Canaan - Joshua 1-5

(See a **map**.)

Joshua appointed to replace Moses

>>> Please read Joshua 1:1-9,16-18. <<<

24 What task did God assign to Joshua? Answer: He was to lead Israel into the land of Canaan and divide it to them as an _____.

25 What would he need to do to be successful? (a) be strong and courageous, (b) meditate on God's law, (c) observe to do the law, (d) all of these. Answer: _____.

[Num. 27:18-23; 34:17; Deut. 1:38; 3:21,28; 31:3,7,14,23; 34:9]

Two spies sent into Jericho

>>> Please read Joshua 2:1,8-22. <<<

26 Who protected the men that Joshua sent to spy out Jericho? Answer: _____ the harlot.

27 What promise did they make to her in return? Answer: When Jericho was captured, they would spare whoever was in her _____.

Israel miraculously crossed the Jordan River

>>> Please read Joshua 3:14-17; 4:1-9. <<<

28 How did Israel cross the Jordan River? Answer: The water of the river was miraculously blocked, so Israel walked across on _____.

29 What did Israel do to remind future generations of this event? Answer: They set up a memorial consisting of twelve _____ taken from the midst of the river.

All Bible miracles served to confirm the truth of something about God or His word. This miracle confirmed that Joshua was the one God had appointed to lead Israel into the land. It would also cause the people of the land to fear, knowing that God was with Israel. And, of course, it confirmed that the God Israel served was the true God.

Israel Conquers Canaan - Joshua 6-12

Conquest of Jericho

>>> Please read Joshua 6:1-5,20-23. <<<

30&31 What did Israel do so the walls of the city would fall? Answer: God told them to _____ around the city once each day for six days, then _____ times on the seventh day. After that they blew ram's horns and shouted.

Hebrews 11:30 refers to this event as an act of faith that illustrates our salvation (see 10:39). The people needed to believe that God would cause the walls to fall, despite the fact that their action clearly did not earn or merit that result. But they also needed to obey God in order to receive His blessing. Likewise, receiving salvation requires us to have faith enough in Jesus to obey His teachings (Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-26; Mark 16:15,16). Faith without obedience is not sufficient.

Sin of Achan

When Israel attacked Ai, the next city, they were defeated. God told Israel this was because someone in the camp had sinned.

>>> Please read Joshua 7:19-26. <<<

32 What sin had Achan committed? Answer: He took some of the forbidden spoils of Jericho and hid them in the _____ in his tent.

33 How was Achan punished? (a) he was stoned and burned, (b) he was sent away as an outcast, (c) he was imprisoned for twenty years, (d) all of these. Answer: _____.

This story illustrates how seriously God views sin. Sin among God's people must not be excused or tolerated. We will see that the New Testament also provides for sin in a local church to be disciplined, but by a different method.

Southern and northern conquests

The people of the land then formed alliances consisting of armies from several cities. Israel first defeated an alliance from the south, then an alliance from the north.

>>> Please read Joshua 10:9-13. <<<

34&35 What miracle occurred during the war against the southern alliance? Answer: To give Israel time to thoroughly defeat the enemy, Joshua prayed for God to cause the _____ and _____ to stand still.

Israel Divides Canaan - Joshua 13-24

The division of the land

At this point, the people of the land had been defeated, so Joshua led Israel to assign territories to each of the tribes.

>>> Please read Joshua 21:43-45; 23:14. <<<

36 Some people claim that Israel has never received the promised land, so they will receive it at Jesus' second coming. According to Joshua, of the land God promised to give to Israel, how much did He give them? Answer: God gave to Israel _____ the land He had promised.

Note that the second part of God's great promises to Abraham had here been fulfilled. Not only had they become a great nation, but they had now received the land of Canaan. The rest of the Old Testament traces the history of Israel till the coming of Christ, the promised blessing on all nations.

Joshua's final discourses

The book of Joshua ends by recording Joshua's final discourses to Israel.

>>> Please read Joshua 24:15. <<<

37 What choice did Joshua challenge Israel to make? Answer: They must decide which _____ they would serve.

Joshua affirmed that he and his house would serve the Lord, and he urged the people to likewise serve God faithfully after his death.

>>> Please read Hebrews 4:1-11. <<<

38 What promise does God still have waiting for us? (a) 1000 years in Jesus' kingdom on earth, (b) reincarnation to a better life, (c) a rest for the people of God, (d) all of these. Answer: _____

!! Theme passage: Israel had refused to enter Israel the first time they approached the land. Their disobedience caused that generation to fail to enter the "rest" God had for them. Joshua later led the next generation in, but this symbolizes a greater rest that still waits for us if we are faithful.

Lesson #4

Period #7: The Judges

Book/Main Characters

Judges

Author

Samuel (??)

Theme

A history of Israel's repeated apostasies into idolatry and God's use of judges to deliver the people when they repented.

1 Samuel 1-8

Author

Unknown

Theme

History of God's dealings with Israel at the close of the period of the Judges and beginning of the United Kingdom.

Main Characters

Judges: Ehud, Deborah and Barak, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Eli, Samuel

Summary of Main Events

Note God's rebuke to Israel for failing to drive out the inhabitants of Canaan - Judges 1,2.

>>> Please read Judges 2:11-19 (cf. 3:7-11). <<<

1 What sin did Israel repeatedly commit during this period? Answer: They forsook the Lord and followed other _____.

2 What consequence did God bring on them for their sins? (a) they would prosper, (b) they would be delivered to their enemies, (c) they would face fire and flood, (d) there were no consequences. Answer: _____.

Note the cycle Israel repeatedly followed during this period:

Faithfulness → idolatry → oppression → repentance → deliverance → faithfulness, etc.

List of the Judges and Oppressors

Below is a list of the judges along with the oppressors that opposed Israel during their leadership (if known):

Judge	Oppressor
1. Othniel (3:7-11)	Mesopotamia (3:8)
2. Ehud (3:12-30)	Moab (3:14)
3. Shamgar (3:31)	Philistines (3:31)
4. Deborah (4:1-5:31)	Canaan (4:2)
5. Gideon (6:1-8:35)	Midian (6:1)
6. Abimelech (?) (9:1-57)	??
7. Tola (10:1,2)	??
8. Jair (10:3-5)	??
9. Jephthah (10:6-12:7)	Ammon (11:4-6)
10. Ibzan (12:8-10)	??
11. Elon (12:11,12)	??
12. Abdon (12:13-15)	??
13. Samson (13:1-16:31)	Philistines (13:1)
14. Eli (1 Sam. 4:18)	Philistines (1 Sam. 4:1)
15. Samuel (1 Sam. 7:15)	Philistines (1 Sam. 7:7)

Major Events in the Period of the Judges

Ehud (3:12-30)

Israel was oppressed by the Moabites led by their king Eglon. Ehud stabbed Eglon in the fat of his abdomen (3:15-26).

Deborah and Barak (4:1-5:31)

Israel was oppressed by the Canaanites led by King Jabin. At Mt. Tabor, Barak defeated Jabin's army led by Sisera. Jael killed Sisera with a tent pin while he was hiding and sleeping in her house (4:12-22).

Gideon (6:1-8:35)

Israel was oppressed by the Midianites, and God called Gideon to lead Israel against them.

>>> Please read Judges 6:36-40. <<<

3&4 What sign did Gideon ask, so he could know God wanted him to lead Israel? Answer: He put a _____ of wool on the threshing floor. The first night the fleece was wet with _____, but the ground was dry. The next night the fleece was dry, but the ground was wet.

>>> Please read Judges 7:1-23. <<<

5 From an original force of 32,000 men, God reduced Gideon's army to how many men? Answer: _____ men.

God did not want the whole army to attack the enemy, because they might claim the victory came by their own human strength (v2).

6&7 How did the 300 men attack the enemy? Answer: They surrounded the camp at night, blew _____, held up _____, and shouted.

As a result, the enemy fought among themselves and fled.

Note that God gave the victory to Israel (v7) on the basis of their faith (Heb. 11:32), but they were still required to actively obey God's commands to receive the victory. So God likewise insists that our salvation is a gift granted to us on the basis of faith, but we still must obey God to receive it (Eph. 2:8,9; Matthew 7:21-27; John 14:15,21-24; Romans 2:6-10; 6:17,18; Hebrews 5:9; Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:22,23).

Jephthah (10:6-12:7)

The Ammonites oppressed Israel. Jephthah promised God that, if he won the battle, he would sacrifice to God the first thing that came out from his house. It turned out to be his daughter (11:29-40).

Samson (13:1-16:31)

The Philistines oppressed Israel.

>>> Please read Judges 13:1-24. <<<

8 What special requirement did an angel reveal to Samson's parents before he was born? Answer: He was to be a _____ from his birth till he died (v5).

This special vow required, among other things, that Samson was never to cut his hair. In Samson's case the result was great physical strength.

>>> Please read Judges 14:5,6. <<<

9 What event here demonstrated Samson's strength? Answer: He killed a _____ with his bare hands.

Later he killed 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:11-16). His downfall, however, was his desire for women. A Philistine woman named Delilah enticed him to make known the secret of his strength. She cut his hair while he slept, so he was captured (16:4-21). But in prison his hair grew out again.

>>> Please read Judges 16:21-30. <<<

10 How did Samson die? Answer: He was granted strength to push down the pillars of a Philistine _____ so that all the people there died with him.

Samson did many wrong things during his lifetime. However, God is able to work for the good of His people despite the sins of men.

Eli (1 Samuel 1-4)

The Philistines oppressed Israel.

Eli was the priest and made his sons priests (1:3,9). But his sons were wicked, treating the sacrifices disrespectfully and committing fornication with women who came to the tabernacle (2:12-17,22).

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 3:11-14. <<<

11 Why did God reject Eli and his family? Answer: He was rejected because his sons were evil and he did not _____ them.

As a leader of God's people, Eli had the power and responsibility to discipline his sons. His failure affected the whole nation and led to his rejection. God expects parents to control their children and will judge us for our fulfillment of our duties as parents.

Eli's punishment was fulfilled when his sons died in battle and the Ark of the Covenant was taken captive. When Eli heard it, he fell and died (4:1-22). He had judged Israel forty years (4:18).

Samuel (1 Sam. 1-8)

Israel was still oppressed by the Philistines.

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 1:1-3,9-11,20. <<<

12 What promise did Hannah make to God? Answer: If God would give her a son, she would give him to _____ all his life.

Samuel was born in answer to this prayer. He became both a judge and a prophet (3:20,21; 7:15-17).

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 8:1-7. <<<

13 What did Israel demand to have? Answer: They wanted a _____ like other nations.

Note that God had provided judges when the people needed them. But Israel wanted a king like other nations had, so the king could fight their battles for them. God consented but warned the people that their way would not be as good for them as His way had been. The desire to be like people of the world around us has often been a downfall of God's people.

Samuel lived to anoint, not only the first king Saul, but also the second king David.

A Related Book: Ruth

Basic Information/Main Characters

Author

Unknown

Theme

The character and devotion of Ruth, great grandmother of David

Main Characters

Ruth, Naomi, Boaz

Summary of Contents

Naomi's sojourn in Moab (ch. 1)

Naomi was an Israelite who moved to Moab with her husband and two sons. There her sons married Moabite women. But when her husband and sons all died, Naomi determined to return to Israel (1:1-8).

>>> Please read Ruth 1:6-8,16-18. <<<

14 When Naomi urged Ruth to return to Moab, how did Ruth respond? (a) she went back to Moab, (b) she did like her sister-in-law, (c) she went with Naomi to Judah, (d) she said she would marry a Moabite man. Answer: _____.

Note that Ruth was devoted, not just to Naomi, but to the true God (v16).

Boaz' kindness to Ruth (ch. 2)

>>> Please read Ruth 2:1-12. <<<

15 How did Ruth obtain food for herself and Naomi? Answer: She went to _____ grain from the fields.

16 Into whose fields did she go? Answer: The fields of _____.

Boaz showed kindness to Ruth because he had heard of her faithfulness to Naomi.

God's blessing on Ruth and Naomi (ch. 3,4)

>>> Please read Ruth 4:9-12. <<<

17 What did Boaz choose to do regarding Ruth? Answer: He acquired her to be his _____.

Under the Old Testament, inheritance in the land of Canaan was especially important. So, if a man died without an heir, a near kinsman could marry the dead man's widow and raise up children to be the man's heirs. It turns out that Boaz was a near kinsman of Ruth's dead husband, so out of respect for her goodness, Boaz married Ruth.

>>> Please read Ruth 4:13,17. <<<

18 What place did Boaz and Ruth have in Israelite history? Answer: They were the great-grandparents of _____.

!! Theme passage: Note that, since Jesus was a descendant of David, this makes Boaz and Ruth ancestors of Jesus (Matt. 1:5). The blessing to all nations was yet to come.

Period #8: The United Kingdom

Historical Books/Main Characters

1 Samuel 9-31

(See notes on the period of Judges.)

2 Samuel

Author

Unknown

Theme

History of God's dealings with Israel during the reign of David

1 Kings 1-11

Author

Unknown (Jeremiah?)

Theme

History of God's dealings with Israel during the reign of Solomon and the early Divided Kingdom

1 Chronicles

Author

Unknown (Ezra?)

Theme

History of Israel during the reign of David

2 Chronicles 1-9

Author

Unknown (Ezra?)

Theme

History of Judah during the reign of Solomon, the Divided Kingdom, and Judah Alone

Main Characters

Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon, Jonathan

Summary of Main Events

Life of Saul — 1 Samuel 9-31

1 Samuel 8:1-9,19-22 — When Israel demanded a king, God commanded Samuel to comply yet warn the people of the consequences.

Saul's rise as king (till his rejection) — chap 9-15

Saul was chosen by God, anointed by Samuel, and declared king by the people (9:1-10:27).

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 9:21; 10:21-24,27. <<<

19 Describe Saul's character in his early years as king. (a) he was proud and egotistical, (b) he sought popularity and fame, (c) he was humble, (d) he was stubborn and rebellious. Answer: _____.

After a humble beginning (see also 11:12f), Saul quickly became popular because of military success (11:1-14). This led Saul to become proud and seek popularity among the people.

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 15:17-23. <<<

20&21 What sin led to Saul's ultimate rejection as king? Answer: God told him to completely destroy the _____, but he spared their _____ and the best of their animals.

Various sins and errors preceded Saul's ultimate rejection. He offered improper sacrifice (13:8-15) and made a foolish vow (14:23-46). But his final rejection resulted when he refused to destroy all the Amalekites and their property. God requires that our devotion to him take priority over all other loyalties. This must lead to complete obedience. Divided loyalties lead to sin and rejection.

Saul's declining years and conflict with David — chap 16-31

When Saul was rejected, David was designated as his successor. David's popularity led Saul to become insanely jealous and spend the rest of his life in pursuit of David. In his irrational jealousy, Saul opposed all who befriended David. This led him to attempt to slay his own son Jonathan (chap. 20) and to actually kill the priests (22:1-23).

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 28:3-19; 1 Chronicles 10:13. <<<

22&23 What final sin did Saul commit? Answer: Because God would not speak to him, Saul consulted a _____ to call up _____ from the dead.

24 What did God predict would happen as a result? Answer: Israel would be defeated by the _____, and Saul and his sons would die.

Life of David — 1 Samuel 16-31; 2 Samuel; 1 Chronicles

David's rise to power — 1 Samuel 16-31; 2 Samuel 1-10

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 17:4-11,32-51. <<<

25 Who defied the army of Israel? Answer: A giant named _____.

26 How did David defeat him? Answer: He struck the giant in the forehead with a _____ thrown by a sling.

>>> Please read 1 Samuel 18:5-16. <<<

27 Why did Saul become jealous of David? (a) because David was taller, (b) because people praised David for killing more people in battle, (c) because David was stronger, (d) all of these. Answer: _____.

David befriended Saul's son Jonathan (18:1-3), yet he spent the next several years fleeing from Saul's insane jealousy (chap. 18-31). Several times he showed great loyalty and respect for the king, refusing to take vengeance against him (24:1-22; 26:1-25).

After Saul's death, David was accepted as king and won many great military victories (2 Sam. 1-10; 1 Chron. 10-20). He also brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem (1 Chron. 13:6-14; 15:1-3,12-15).

>>> Please read 2 Samuel 7:12-16. <<<

28 What promise did God make regarding David's seed? Answer: God would establish his _____ forever.

!! Theme passage: This promise is quoted in Acts 2:30-32 where it is shown to be fulfilled in Jesus. Again, God was still working out His plans for our salvation.

David's sins and resulting troubles — 2 Samuel 11-24

David committed great sins twice during his lifetime:

>>> Please read 2 Samuel 11:1-5,14-17,26,27. <<<

29 What sins did David commit here? He committed adultery with _____ and had her husband killed.

>>> Please read 2 Samuel 12:1-14. <<<

30 What consequence would David suffer for his sins? (a) David's house would suffer war (the sword), (b) he would have adversity within his house, (c) Bathsheeba's child would die, (d) all of these. Answer: _____.

David later sinned in numbering the people (2 Samuel 24; 1 Chron. 21). David sincerely repented of his sins (Psalm 39 & 51). Nevertheless, he and the kingdom suffered as a result. He endured sin among his children, rebellion against his authority, and suffering among the people (2 Sam. 13-19).

In his later years, David prepared for the kingdom to be turned over to Solomon and for Solomon to build the temple (1 Chron. 28:1-10).

Life of Solomon — 1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9

Solomon's appointment as king — 1 Kings 1-4; 2 Chronicles 1

David prepared his son Solomon to succeed him as king (1 Kings 1,2; 1 Chron. 28,29).

>>> Please read 1 Kings 3:5-15. <<<

31 In response to God's offer, what did Solomon request? Answer: He asked for an _____ heart so he could judge between good and evil.

Because Solomon had made an unselfish request, God granted him, not just wisdom, but also riches and honor.

Building of the temple — 1 Kings 5-9; 2 Chronicles 2-7

Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem and dedicated it to God's service.

>>> Please read 2 Chronicles 6:3-11; 7:12-22. <<<

32&33 What did God promise Solomon that He would do when the people prayed to Him in the temple (v14)? Answer: He would _____ their sin and heal their _____.

Solomon's wisdom and folly — 1 Kings 10,11; 2 Chronicles 8-9

Solomon ruled the people wisely, enjoying great influence and wealth.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 10:1-10. <<<

34 How did the Queen of Sheba describe Solomon's wisdom (v7)? Answer: She said that the _____ had not been told her of his wisdom and prosperity.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 3:16-28. <<<

35 When two women both claimed the same baby, how did Solomon reveal who was the true mother? Answer: He said to bring a _____ and divide the child in half.

The reactions of the women showed Solomon who was the true mother.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 11:1-8. <<<

36-38 Describe Solomon's wives and tell how many he had. Answer: He married many _____ women (v1). He had _____ wives and _____ concubines.

In his own marriages, Solomon did not practice the wisdom with which he ruled the nation. God had forbidden intermarriage with women of other nations, because it would tempt His people to commit idolatry. This is exactly what happened to Solomon.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 11:9-13. <<<

39 What consequence would happen because of Solomon's idolatry? Answer: God said He would tear the _____ away and give most of it to a different ruler.

Because of Solomon's disobedience, God's kingdom was destined to be divided.

Lesson #5

(The United Kingdom continued)

Related Books Of The Bible

King David and King Solomon themselves were the primary authors of several Old Testament books. Since these were written during the United Kingdom, we will study them here.

Psalms

Author

David and others (such as Asaph, a leader among the musicians).

Theme

Old Testament songs of worship

Summary of types of psalms:

The Psalms can be classified according to three major types.

- * Pleas for rescue or help in troubles (ex: Psalm 6,13,17)
- * Thanksgiving for deliverance (ex: Psalm 30,32)
- * General praise and thanks (ex. Psalm 96,98,100,145)

>>> Please read Psalms 51, 116, and 148. <<<

1 Psalm 51 fits in which category? (a) a plea for rescue or help in trouble, (b) thanksgiving for deliverance, (c) general praise and thanks. Answer: _____

2 Psalm 116 fits in which category? (a) a plea for rescue or help in trouble, (b) thanksgiving for deliverance, (c) general praise and thanks. Answer: _____

3 Psalm 148 fits in which category? (a) a plea for rescue or help in trouble, (b) thanksgiving for deliverance, (c) general praise and thanks. Answer: _____

Messianic psalms

!! Theme passage: Many psalms included prophecies about Christ. These are not always obvious, since the author may appear to be speaking about himself. However, the New Testament often shows that the psalms are prophecies of Jesus or have a secondary application to Him.

>>> In the chart below, please read the passages necessary to fill in the blanks. <<<

4-7 Each New Testament passage below describes how Jesus fulfilled some Messianic Psalm. We have listed the subject of the prophecy and the New Testament fulfillment. In each **blank space**, please place the number (in digits) of the **chapter** in Psalms where the Old Testament prophecy is found (this may require use of cross-references).

Psalm	Fulfillment	Subject
2:1,2	Acts 4:24-28	Rulers of the earth opposed the Messiah
2:7	Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5	Christ begotten as Son of God
8:4-6	Heb. 2:5-8	Glory of the Son of Man
_____	Acts 2:24ff; 13:35ff	Holy One would not see corruption (resurrection)
22:1,6-8	Matt. 27:39-46	Jesus endures mockery; cry to God for forsaking Him
34:20	Matt. 27:35; John 19:23f	Hands & feet pierced, no bones broken; cast lots for clothing
22:22	Heb. 2:12	Praise God in the congregation
40:6-8	Heb. 10:5-8	Messiah came to do God's will
_____	Heb. 1:8,9	Deity; throne forever
41:9	John 13:18	Betrayed by a friend
68:18	Eph. 4:8-12	Ascending and giving gifts to men

69:4	John 15:25	Hated without a cause
69:9	John 2:17	Zeal for God's house
69:21	John 19:28-30	Vinegar to drink
69:25	Acts 1:16-20	Judas' habitation left desolate
102:25ff	Heb 1:10-12	Eternal God who created the universe
109:8	Acts 1:20	Judas to be replaced
_____	Acts 2:34f; Matt. 22:43f; 26:64; Heb. 5:6-10; 6:20; 7:24	David's lord, seated on God's right hand; Priest forever after order of Melchizedek
118:22f	Acts 4:11; Matt. 21:42	Stoned rejected by the builders
132:11f	Acts 2:30	David's descendant on the throne forever

Note: "selah" probably is an instruction to musicians (such as a musical interlude or change of pitch). "Set to" probably refers to the tune to be used.

Proverbs

Author

Solomon and others (1:1; 10:1; 25:1)

Theme

Brief inspired statements of practical wisdom (as a father to a son)

Notice the following specific types of proverbs:

* Commendations of wisdom

Some proverbs emphasize the **value** of wisdom.

>>> Please read Proverbs 2:1-12. <<<

8 How should we search for wisdom? (a) as for a wife, (b) as for silver or hidden treasure, (c) as for a lost sheep. Answer: _____.

For other examples see 1:20-33; 3:13-26; 4:4-9; 8:1-21; 16:16; 23:23.

Other proverbs emphasize the **source** of true wisdom.

>>> Please read Proverbs 1:7. <<<

9 What is the source of wisdom? Answer: The _____ of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

For other examples see 2:6; 3:5,6; 9:10.

* Contrasts and comparisons

These describe the differences or similarities between things. Examples: chap. 10-15

>>> Please read Proverbs 10:26. <<<

10 A sluggard (lazy man) is compared to what? Answer: Vinegar to the _____ and smoke to the eyes.

>>> Please read Proverbs 11:22. <<<

11 A woman without discretion is compared to what? Answer: A ring of gold in a pig's _____.

* Exhortations and warnings

These encourage people to do right or warn of the danger of doing wrong.

>>> Please read Proverbs 6:16-19. <<<

12 What kind of things are listed here? Answer: Seven things that are a(n) _____ to the Lord.

For other examples see 1:10,15; 3:11,12,27-35; 4:23; chap. 5; 6:20-35; chap. 7; 9:8-10 (see chap. 10-31).

* Observations and descriptions

These picture the character or work of certain people or aspects of creation.

>>> Please read Proverbs 31:10-31. <<<

13 What kind of person is here described? Answer: A virtuous or worthy _____.
For other examples see 6:6-8; chap. 7; 17:6; 30:18,19,24-31.

Ecclesiastes

Author

Solomon (?)

Theme

A study of the purpose and meaning of life, comparing physical interests to spiritual interests.

A summary by sections

- * The experiences of the preacher with physical pursuits (ch. 1,2)
- * The problems and foolishness of life (ch. 3-6)
- * Advice for facing life's problems (7:1-12:8)
- * Conclusion (12:9-14)

Sample passages

Some passages describe the problem the preacher wrestled with.

>>> Please read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. <<<

14 What did the writer want to understand (v3)? Answer: He wanted to know what it was good for people to do all the _____ of their lives.

15 After trying all kinds of physical pursuits, what did he conclude? Answer: All was _____ and vexation of spirit (striving after wind).

(See also 1:2,3; 6:12; 3:9; 5:16).

Other passages allude to the solution to the problem.

>>> Please read Ecclesiastes 12:13,14. <<<

16&17 What conclusion did He reach about the meaning of life? Answer: The whole duty of man is to fear _____ and keep His _____.

18 What reason does he give why we should pursue this purpose in life? Answer: God will bring every work into _____.

(See also 2:11; 8:12,13; 3:14; 5:7; 7:18.)

Song of Solomon

Author

Solomon (?)

Theme

The love of Solomon for a Shulamite maiden.

Main characters

Solomon and the Shulamite maid

Summary by section

- Expressions of love between the lovers (ch. 1,2)
- Fetching of the bride and the marriage (ch. 3,4)
- Love scorned, then reconciled (ch. 5,6)
- Further expressions of love (ch. 7,8)

Consider a sample passage:

>>> Please read Song of Solomon 3:6-11. <<<

19 Whose coming is here described? Answer: The coming of _____.

(See also 1:5; 4:1-3; 5:10-16.)

Period #9: The Divided Kingdom

Books/Main Characters

1 Kings 12-22

Author

Unknown (Jeremiah?)

Theme

History of God's dealings with the Israelites during the reign of Solomon and early divided kingdom.

2 Kings 1-17

Author

Unknown (Jeremiah?)

Theme

History of God's dealings with the Israelites during the later divided kingdom and Judah alone.

2 Chronicles 10-28

Author

Unknown (Ezra?)

Theme

History of the nation of Judah during the reign of Solomon, the divided kingdom, and Judah alone.

Main Characters

Rehoboam and Jeroboam, Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah and Elisha, Hezekiah, Josiah, other kings and prophets

Summary of Major Kings

We will consider, not all the kings of the divided kingdom, but just some of the major ones.

Judah – The Southern Tribes

All southern kings were descendants of David, as God had promised. Some were righteous, but some were wicked. Worship continued in the temple but was often just an outward form and often mixed with idolatry. God often sent prophets to warn the people to repent.

A summary of specific important kings:

Rehoboam

Rehoboam was the son of Solomon who ruled in his place.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 12:1-24. <<<

20 When the people requested Rehoboam to lighten their burden of service, whose counsel did he follow? (a) his mother, (b) the older men, (c) the younger men, (d) the high priest. Answer: _____.

21 When the northern tribes rebelled, whom did they appoint as king? Answer: _____.

The result was a division in the kingdom with approximately ten northern tribes forming the separate nation of Israel. Rehoboam continued to rule the southern tribes (Judah and Benjamin), known as Judah. [2 Chron. 10]

Because the temple was in Jerusalem, located in Judah, Judah continued to control temple worship.

Asa

Asa was a righteous king.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 15:11-15. <<<

22 What evil did he remove from the land? (a) stealing, (b) idolatry, (c) murder, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____.

[1 Kings 16:8,29; 2 Chron. 14:2-16:14]

Jehoshaphat

Jehoshaphat was also a very good king (1 Kings 22:41-44; 2 Chron. 17:1-6). However, he was rebuked for making alliances with Israel's wicked kings Ahab and Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:3,4; 2 Chron. 18:1-3ff; 20:35-37).

Jehoram

Jehoram was a very wicked king, who killed his brothers.

>>> Please read 2 Chronicles 21:1-7. <<<

23 Whose daughter was Athaliah, the woman whom Jehoram married? Answer: She was daughter of _____, king of Israel.

[2 Kings 8:16-19]

Athaliah

Athaliah was the wife of Jehoram and the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. She usurped the throne after Jehu slew her son Ahaziah. A wicked woman like her parents, she led the land to worship Baal. She was slain when the people made Joash king.

>>> Please read 2 Kings 11:1-16. <<<

24 Who led the people in proclaiming Joash king? Answer: The people were led by _____ the priest.

[2 Chron. 22:10-23:21]

Uzziah

Uzziah was a very good king at first.

>>> Please read 2 Chronicles 26:1-5,16-21. <<<

25 What sin did he commit when he was older? Answer: He went into the temple intending to _____.

26 What punishment did he receive for his sin? (a) he was struck with leprosy, (b) he died immediately, (c) he went into exile in Babylon, (d) his sons murdered him. Answer: _____.

[2 Kings 15:1-7]

Hezekiah

Hezekiah was another very good king. He destroyed the idols, cleansed the temple, and led a spiritual restoration in Judah, including keeping the Passover.

During his reign, Assyria took the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity because of their sins against God.

>>> Please read 2 Kings 19:14-19,35-37. <<<

27 What did Hezekiah do to avoid being defeated by Assyria? (a) He fled to Egypt, (b) He raised an innumerable army, (c) He prayed to God, (d) all of the preceding. Answer: _____.

Because of Hezekiah's faith, God spared Jerusalem from Assyria. Later, when he was sick to the point of death, Hezekiah prayed and God spared his life 15 years (2 Kings 20:1-11).

[2 Kings 18:1-20:21; 2 Chron. 28:27-32:33; Isaiah. 36-39]

Israel – the Northern Tribes

All the northern kings were evil, in contrast to the kings of Judah (the southern tribes), some of whom some good and some bad. Whereas the kings of Judah were all descendants of David, in Israel several different dynasties prevailed consecutively.

Note some kings of special interest:

Jeroboam

As discussed earlier, Jeroboam became king of the Northern tribes (known as “Israel”) when Solomon’s son Rehoboam refused to grant the people’s request to lighten their burdens. (1 Kings 12:1-24; 2 Chron. 10)

>>> Read 1 Kings 12:25-33. <<<

28 Why did Jeroboam fear the people might return to following Rehoboam? Answer: The people would go to the temple in _____ to offer sacrifices.

29&30 What did he do to prevent this? Answer: He set up golden calves for the people to worship at _____ and _____.

Jeroboam’s sin began a long history of idolatry in the northern kingdom of Israel. We will see that God sent many prophets to warn them to repent, then finally sent them into captivity for their wickedness.

Ahab

>>> Please read 1 Kings 16:29-33. <<<

31 How is the wickedness of Ahab described? (a) he was more wicked than any king before him, (b) he married Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon, (c) he worshiped Baal, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____

As a result of Ahab’s evil, God brought a 3-year drought on Israel as predicted by Elijah (1 Kings 17:1; 18:1).

[1 Kings 16:28-22:40; 2 Chron. 18:1-34]

>>> Please read 1 Kings 21:1-16. <<<

32 What sin led to Ahab’s final downfall? Answer: He wanted a vineyard belonging to _____, so Jezebel had the man killed.

For this sin, God sent Elijah to predict Ahab’s downfall (1 Kings 21:17-29). You can read the fulfillment in 1 Kings 22.

Jehu

>>> Please read 2 Kings 9:1-13. <<<

33 How was Jehu named king of Israel? Answer: The prophet _____ sent a young man to anoint him.

As God had prophesied, Jehu overthrew Ahab’s descendants, killing Jezebel and all Ahab’s family. He also slew Ahaziah, king of Judah (2 Kings 9:14-10:36).

Hoshea

During the reign of Hoshea, Israel went into captivity for her sins.

>>> Please read 2 Kings 17:1-6. <<<

34 What nation took Israel into captivity? Answer: They were carried away by _____.

This occurred in 722-721 BC. Foreigners were moved into the territory of the northern tribes. The remaining Israelites intermarried with them, resulting in the Samaritans. (2 Kings 17; 18:9-12)

This was the end of the northern nation of Israel.

Reasons for the fall of Israel

>>> Please read 2 Kings 17:7-23. <<<

Israel went into captivity because of sins against God (17:7). For each verse listed below, state the specific sin that contributed to Israel’s downfall:

35 17:7,12 – Israel served _____. (See also vv 15-17,21-23)

36 17:8,11,15 – Israel imitated the _____ that God had cast out of the land before them.

37 17:13,14 – Israel refused to listen to the _____ God sent to warn them.

38,39,40 17:15 – Israel rejected God’s _____ and _____ and
_____ (in order as listed in the verse).

Lesson #6

(The Divided Kingdom continued)

Summary of Prophets and Related Books

The Southern Tribes

Prophets to the southern kingdom of Judah included the following:

Isaiah

Isaiah's prophecies were written in the book named after him.

* **Date** — Divided kingdom and Judah alone. It was written during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah — 1:1

* **Theme** — Salvation comes by the power of God.

>>> Please read Isaiah 12:2. <<<

1 Who does Isaiah say God is? Answer: God is my _____.

>>> Please read Isaiah 26:4. <<<

2 What blessing is available in God? Answer: In the Lord is everlasting _____.

>>> Please read Isaiah 43:10,11. <<<

3&4 What claim does God here make? Answer: Before/after Me there was no _____ formed, and besides Me there is no _____.

[See also 25:9; 33:22; 35:4,10; 37:20f; 41:14; 43:1,3,14; 44:6,22-24; 45:15,17,21-23; 48:17,20; 49:7,26; 51:5,6; 52:9; 54:5,8; 59:20; 60:16; 62:11; 63:8,9,16.]

* **Summary of contents** by sections:

Chap. 1-39 — Rebukes and warnings to Judah and other nations: rebuke of Judah's sins, warnings not to trust human deliverers, doom of nations.

Chap. 40-66 — Promises that God will deliver His people, physically through Cyrus and spiritually through the Messiah.

Consider some other Scriptures that refer to or quote from Isaiah:

5-7 Below are prophecies from Isaiah fulfilled by Jesus. We have listed the subject of the prophecy and the New Testament fulfillment. For each case, please fill in the chapter and verse where the prophecy is found in Isaiah (for example 19:28). This may require use of cross-references.

Prophecy in Isaiah	Fulfillment	Subject
_____	Matt. 3:3; Luke 3:4; John 1:23	Prophecy of John Baptist
_____	Matt. 4:14-16	Jesus as light to Gentiles
_____	Luke 4:17-21	Preaching good tidings to the poor

!! Theme passage: Isaiah 53.

8-10 Likewise, here are prophecies from Isaiah 53 that Jesus fulfilled. List the number of the **verse** in Isaiah 53 where the prophecy is found.

Prophecy in Isaiah 53	Fulfillment	Subject
_____	Matt. 8:17	Bear diseases
_____	John 12:38; Rom. 10:16	People would not believe Him
_____	Acts 8:32-35	Led as sheep to the slaughter

11-13 Finally, here are some general prophecies from Isaiah that are quoted in the New Testament. Again, please give the chapter and verse from Isaiah where the prophecy is found.

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Subject
	Acts 28:25-27; Matt. 13:14,15	People misunderstand because of hard hearts
	Matt. 15:7-9; Mark 7:6	Hypocrisy and following human doctrine
	Rom. 9:27	A remnant saved

Micah

Micah's prophecies were also written in the book named after him.

* **Date** — Divided kingdom. It was written during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah — 1:1. Hence, Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah.

* **Theme** — God puts Israel and Judah on trial for their sins

>>> Please read 1:1,2; 6:1,2. <<<

14 What did God say He would do against the people? Answer: He would _____ against them.

>>> Please read 1:6-9; 4:1,2; 5:2. <<<

15&16 Though the nation would be destroyed, what would happen later? Answer: The mountain of the Lord's _____ would be established; and out of _____ would come forth a ruler in Israel.

This was fulfilled by Jesus (Matt. 2:6) who came to establish the church.

* **Summary of contents** by section

Chap. 1,2 — Sins of the people and predictions of punishment

Chap. 3-5 — Punishment compared to the future Messianic hope

Chap. 6,7 — God's treatment of His people compared to their treatment of Him.

Obadiah

Obadiah's prophecies were also written in the book named after him.

* **Date** — Divided kingdom (?). Many believe Obadiah prophesied during the reign of Jehoram in Judah, but some say he wrote after the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar. The exact time is uncertain.

* **Theme** — Prophecy of the fall of Edom for rejoicing in Judah's affliction

Vv 1-16 — Edom's doom for rejoicing in and taking spoils in Judah's fall.

Vv 17-21 — Prediction of Judah's exaltation.

* **Lessons** to be learned:

>>> Please read Obadiah vv 11-13. <<<

17-19 For each of the following verses, tell what sin Edom committed.

V11 - When enemies took Israel (Jacob) captive, they were as _____. Lesson: We should not take sides with those who oppose God's people (cf. Rom. 1:32; Eph. 5:11; 2 Cor. 6:17-7:1).

V12 - They should not have _____ over Judah. Lesson: We should not rejoice in the misfortunes of even our enemies (cf. Matt. 5:43ff).

V13 - When God's people faced calamity, they laid hands on their _____. Lesson: We sin when we knowingly partake of the fruits of other's people's sins, even if we did not help them commit the sin.

The Northern Tribes

Prophets to the northern kingdom of Israel included the following:

Elijah

Consider some of the more important events in Elijah's life, as recorded in 1 and 2 Kings:

>>> Please read 1 Kings 17:2-7. <<<

20 How did God provide Elijah with food? Answer: Food was brought by _____.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 17:8-24. <<<

21 What happened when the son of the widow of Zarephath died? (a) his spirit appeared to Elijah in a vision, (b) he was buried in a prophet's tomb, (c) Elijah raised him from the dead, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____.

In addition, God miraculously fed the widow and her family as well as Elijah.

>>> Please read 1 Kings 18:17-40. <<<

22 What miracle did Elijah do that the prophets of Baal could not do? Answer: He called down _____ from the Lord to consume a sacrifice.

>>> Please read 2 Kings 2:7-12. <<<

23 How did Elijah leave the earth? Answer: He was carried to heaven by a whirlwind in a _____ of fire.

Some other important events in his Elijah's life were:

- He predicted a drought to Ahab — 1 Kings 17:1; 18:41-46

- He fled from Jezebel for his life, anointed Jehu in Ahab's place and Elisha in his own place — ch.

19.

- He rebuked Ahab for the death of Naboth, and he predicted the end of Ahab's dynasty and the death of both Ahab and Jezebel — ch. 21.

- He called fire from heaven on soldiers sent to capture him, and he predicted the death of Ahaziah — 2 Kings 1.

In the New Testament, Elijah was a symbol of John the Baptist (Luke 1:17; Matt. 17:9-13; 11:7-14), and he appeared at Jesus' transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-7).

Elisha

Here are a few works done through Elisha:

- Called by Elijah — 1 Kings 19:19-21

- Saw Elijah's ascension — 2 Kings 2:1-12

- Cursed lads who mocked him — 2 Kings 2:23-25

- Provided for the widow of a prophet — 2 Kings 4:1-7

>>> Please read 2 Kings 4:32-37. <<<

24 What did Elisha do for the son of the Shunammite woman? (a) raised him from the dead, (b) slew him, (c) struck him blind, (d) healed him of leprosy. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read 2 Kings 5:1,9-14. <<<

25 What did he tell Naaman to do to be cured of leprosy? Answer: He said to go and _____ in the Jordan seven times.

>>> Please read 2 Kings 6:11-20. <<<

26 What did Elisha do to the Syrians sent to capture him? Answer: He struck them with _____.

Amos

The prophecies of Amos are recorded in the book he wrote bearing his name.

* **Date** — Divided Kingdom. Amos was a prophet in Israel (Northern tribes) during the reign of Uzziah king of Judah and Jeroboam II king of Israel (Amos 1:1).

* **Theme** - Prediction that Israel would go into captivity because of sins like those of the surrounding nations.

* **Summary of contents** by section:

- Condemnation of Israel and surrounding nations (ch. 1,2)

- Description of Israel's sins (ch. 3-6)

- Visions of impending doom (7-9:10)

- Promise of future hope (9:11-15)

*** Conditions in Israel that led to its downfall:**

>>> Please read Amos 5:10-13. <<<

27 What sins did Amos accuse Israel of committing? (a) hatred of those who preach truth, (b) perverting justice, (c) oppressing the poor, (d) taking bribes, (e) all the preceding. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Amos 6:3-6. <<<

28 Although Israel lived in wasteful luxury and leisure, what did they avoid? Answer: They put far off (did not care about) the day of _____.

>>> Please read Amos 8:4-6. <<<

29 In oppressing the poor, what dishonest business practices were common? Answer: They falsified the _____ (i.e., they used deceitful measurements to cheat customers).

Note the force and directness of Amos' preaching. He plainly rebuked sin and warned of doom. He did not compromise, apologize, waver, keep quiet, or preach a positive message. His message needs to be considered by people in our "modern" society.

Jonah

* **Date** – Divided Kingdom. Jonah prophesied near the time of Amos.

* **Theme** – God teaches Jonah about His concern for the salvation of all people.

* **Summary of the story**

>>> Please read Jonah 1:1-3,17. <<<

30 What sin did Jonah commit that led to his being swallowed by the great fish? Answer: God told him to preach to the people of _____ (the city oppressing Israel), but instead he fled. In the belly of the great fish, he prayed, so God delivered him. (2:1,10)

>>> Please read Jonah 3:1-10. <<<

31 What happened when he did preach to Nineveh? Answer: The people believed the message, proclaimed a _____, and repented.

>>> Please read Jonah 4:1-11. <<<

32 How did God teach Jonah that he should want the Ninevites to repent? Answer: God caused a _____ to grow to shade Jonah, then He killed it.

The lesson to be learned is that, like God, we should desire all people to be saved.

Joel

* **Date** - Divided Kingdom (though some place him after the exile).

* **Theme** - Devastation of the land by a locust plague brings a call to repentance and a promise of restoration.

* **Summary of contents**

>>> Please read Joel 1:4; 2:12-14. <<<

33 Joel used the attack of the locusts to urge the people to do what? Answer: They should turn to the Lord with weeping and mourning and should rend their _____.

>>> Please read Joel 2:28-32. <<<

34 Joel then prophesied a spiritual restoration in which God would do what? Answer: He would pour out His _____ on all flesh.

Note that this highly figurative promise was fulfilled beginning in Acts 2:16-21.

Hosea

* **Date** – Divided Kingdom. Hosea prophesied to Israel in the time of Jeroboam II, but also lived into the period of Judah alone (1:1).

* **Theme** - Despite God's love, Israel would be punished for sin like an unfaithful wife.

* **Summary of contents**

>>> **Please read Hosea 1:2-9.** <<<

35 How did God illustrate Israel's unfaithfulness? Answer: Their unfaithfulness to God is compared to that of Hosea's wife (named _____) who had been a harlot.

>>> **Please read Hosea 4:1-6.** <<<

36 God described Israel's sins and said they would be destroyed because they lacked what? Answer: They lacked and rejected _____.

Nevertheless, despite their sins, God promised forgiveness if they would repent (chap. 14). Note 4:1-19; 5:3,7; 6:4,7-10; 7:1-5,13-16; 8:1-4,11-14; 9:1; 10:1,4; 11:2,12; 12:1,7-14; 13:1,2,6,10.

The people had become so wicked that God determined to send the Northern tribes into captivity. Yet God patiently waited for the time when He would send the prophesied Messiah to save the people from their sins.

Period #10: Judah Alone

After the Northern nation of Israel went into captivity, only the southern nation of Judah remained. As they too gradually became more wicked, their punishment also became inevitable.

Historic Books/Main Characters

Books

2 Kings 18-25

2 Chronicles 29-36

(See on the Divided Kingdom for specifics)

Main Characters

Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah, Jeremiah

Summary of Kings

Again, we will study just some of the major kings of this period.

Hezekiah

(See on the Divided Kingdom.)

Manasseh

Manasseh was originally extremely wicked.

>>> **Please read 2 Kings 21:1-9.** <<<

37 Which of the following was **not** true of Manasseh? (a) made altars to Baal, (b) practiced witchcraft, (c) set an idolatrous image in the temple of God, (d) was less evil than the nations Israel had driven out. Answer: _____.

>>> **Please read 2 Kings 21:10-18.** <<<

38 Because Manasseh was so evil, what did God do? Answer: He determined to deliver Judah also into the hands of _____.

Note that Manasseh later was captured by Assyria, repented, and was allowed to return. He then changed and tried to undo the wrong he had done (see 2 Chron. 33:10-17). This demonstrates God's mercy on the greatest sinner who truly repents.

Josiah

Josiah, by contrast, was one of the best kings of Judah (2 Kings 22:1,2). He destroyed the idols and repaired the temple (2 Kings 22:3-23:30).

>>> Please read 2 Chronicles 34:15-21. <<<

39 What was found in the temple as it was being repaired? Answer: They found a copy of the _____.

>>> Please read 2 Chronicles 34:29-33. <<<

40 What did Josiah do when he learned what the law said? Answer: He made a _____ to keep God's commands.

As a result of reading the law of God, Josiah was able to restore proper worship to God, including keeping the Passover (2 Chron. 34:33-35:19). This demonstrates the restoration principle: Anyone, anytime, anywhere – even if he has never met anyone who has been serving God faithfully - can restore proper and faithful service to God simply by studying and truly obeying the written record of God's will in the Scriptures (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16,17).

Zedekiah

When Israel returned to idolatry, God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to defeat them. He took captives from Judah three separate times: 606 BC, 597 BC, and 586 BC. Zedekiah was king during the final attack, which resulted in the total destruction of the city (2 Kings 24:17-20; Jer. 52:28-30).

>>> Please read 2 Chron. 36:11-21. <<<

41 What reasons did God give for punishing Judah? They: (a) defiled the house of the Lord, (b) rejected the prophets, (c) followed the evils of other nations (idolatry), (d) despised God's words, (e) all of these. Answer: _____

Summary of Prophets and Related Books

Consider now some of the prophets who prophesied to Judah during this period.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah prophesied from the time of Josiah to the fall of Jerusalem (1:1-3).

Theme

Predictions that Jerusalem and other nations would fall to Babylon.

Summary of contents by section:

Chap. 1-33 — Sins of the people described and destruction predicted

Chap. 34-45 — Prophecies relating to historical events preceding and following the destruction of Jerusalem

Chap. 46-51 — Prophecies about other nations

Chap. 52 — Historical appendix

Examples of Jeremiah's prophecies

>>> Please read Jeremiah 18:3-11. <<<

42 God's control over nations is compared to what? Answer: Just as a _____ does what he chooses with the clay, so God had power to destroy or build a nation.

>>> Please read Jeremiah 24:1-10. <<<

43 What did Jeremiah see in this vision? Answer: He saw two baskets of _____.

Just as some figs were good, so some Jews would repent and return from captivity. But just as some figs were bad, some Jews would be consumed in captivity.

>>> Please read Jeremiah 28:10-17. <<<

44 What did the false prophet Hananiah predict? Answer: He said the yoke of Babylon upon the people would be broken within _____ years.

Jeremiah predicted a longer period of captivity and proved it by predicting the death of the false prophet.

>>> Please read Jeremiah 22:28-30. <<<

45 What did Jeremiah prophesy about the descendants of Coniah (or Jeconiah)? Answer: He predicted that none of his descendants would rule in _____.

!! Theme passage: God had promised David's descendants would always rule if they were obedient. But the later kings of Judah were so evil that God said no descendant of Coniah (also called Jeconiah or Jehoiachin – see footnotes on vv 24,28) would ever again rule in Judah. But Jesus is a descendant of Jeconiah (Matt. 1:11,12,16), and He was destined to become king over God's people and rule on the throne of David (Acts 2:29-36). It follows that Jesus cannot rule **from Judah**. Instead, He rules from God's right hand in heaven over a spiritual kingdom, the church (John 18:36; Col. 1:12,13). This contradicts the premillennial view that Jesus will reign from Jerusalem over an earthly kingdom.

Book of Lamentations

Author

Jeremiah

Theme

An expression of Jeremiah's grief for the fall of Jerusalem. For a typical section note 3:1-18.

Nahum

Author

Nahum

Theme

Prophecy of the fall of Nineveh. Most prophets directed their prophecy primarily to Israel or Judah, but Nahum's entire prophecy is directed to Nineveh, capital of Assyria (1:1; 2:8; 3:18).

Nahum's prophecy

>>> Please read Nahum 1:14; 3:7. <<<

46 What did God predict would happen to Nineveh? (a) they would defeat all enemies, (b) they would be laid waste, (c) they would continue to enjoy prosperity, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____.

Habakkuk

Author

Habakkuk

Theme

Habakkuk questions God's punishments and learns the value of faith.

Habakkuk's prophecy

Habakkuk asked why God allowed wickedness to continue in Judah, and God responded that He would punish Judah by allowing the Chaldeans (Babylon) to defeat them (1:2-11). Habakkuk then asked why God would punish Judah by means of a nation even more evil than Judah (1:13).

>>> Please read Habakkuk 2:8. <<<

47 What would happen to the nation that plundered other nations? Answer: Others would in turn _____ them.

So God used Babylon to punish Judah for their sins. But because Babylon was also wicked, God eventually brought destruction on them. As a result, Habakkuk learned to trust God's control in the affairs of men (2:4; 3:16-19).

Zephaniah

Author

Zephaniah

Theme

A day of God's wrath is coming against Jerusalem and surrounding nations, but a remnant will be spared.

>>> Please read Zephaniah 1:14-18. <<<

48 For what reason would God bring wrath and distress on the nation? Answer: Because they had _____ against God.

God predicted that Judah would be punished for her sins (1:1-3:8), but He also promised a remnant would be spared (3:9-20). Note: There is really nothing unique about this book.

Lesson #7

Period #11: Babylonian Captivity

Note: Judah was taken to Babylon in three groups of captives: 606 BC, 597 BC, and 586 BC (when Jerusalem was destroyed). The period of captivity continued for 70 years as Jeremiah had prophesied. Main characters of this period were Ezekiel, Daniel, and Nebuchadnezzar. The Bible record is found in only two books:

Book of Ezekiel

Author/Theme/Summary

Author

Ezekiel was taken into exile with the second group of captives in 597 BC. He wrote to other Babylonian captives before and after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC (1:1-3; 33:21).

Theme

Ezekiel used many vivid symbols to predict that Babylon would destroy Jerusalem and other nations, but the remnant of God's people would return.

Summary of Contents by Section

- Chap 1-24 — Prophecies of the fall of Jerusalem
- Chap 25-32 — Prophecies against other nations
- Chap 33-48 — Prophecies of restoration from captivity

List of Symbolic Lessons

Here are some examples of Ezekiel's symbols:

>>> Please read Ezekiel 4:1-3. <<<

1 What did Ezekiel portray on a clay tablet? Answer: The siege of _____.

>>> Please read Ezekiel 5:1-5,12,13. <<<

2 After cutting off his hair, what did Ezekiel do with it? (a) burned some in fire, (b) struck some with a sword, (c) scattered some to the wind, (d) all of these. Answer: _____.

This portrayed God's vengeance on Jerusalem.

>>> Please read Ezekiel 33:1-11. <<<

3 Ezekiel's responsibility is compared to what? Answer: The responsibility of a _____.

>>> Please read Ezekiel 34:1-10. <<<

4 Leaders of Judah are compared to shepherds who did what? Answer: Instead of caring for the flock, they cared for _____.

>>> Please read Ezekiel 37:1-14. <<<

5 What is illustrated by the valley of dry bones that came to life again? Answer: They represent the restoration of the house of _____.

Other symbolic lessons in Ezekiel

- * Vision of the throne chariot — 1,10
- * Eating the roll of the book — 2:8-3:3
- * Vision of the temple: idolatry and other sins of Jerusalem; resulting destruction — 8-11
- * Ezekiel carried off his possessions like Jerusalem would — 12:1-16

- * False prophets likened to a man building a wall that cannot stand a storm — 13:1-19
- * Jerusalem likened to a vine tree to be burned — 15:1-8
- * God's relationship to Jerusalem likened to that of a man caring for an abandoned baby, he marries her when she is grown, but she becomes a harlot — 16
- * Parable of two eagles and the vine — 17
- * Answer to the proverb about a father who eats grapes and his son's teeth are set on edge — 18
- * Parables of a lioness and whelps, and a vine plucked up by the roots — 19
- * Fire in the green tree — 20:45ff
- * Ezekiel to smite with the sword — 21
- * Punishment like purifying silver — 22:17-22
- * Samaria and Jerusalem like two sisters married to one man, but both become harlots — 23
- * Destruction as a boiling caldron — 24:1-14
- * Ezekiel not to mourn at his wife's death, so the captives were not to mourn at Jerusalem's fall — 24:15-27
- * Egypt like Assyria, a cedar in Lebanon — 31
- * Two sticks — 37

Book of Daniel

Author/Theme/Summary

Author

Daniel (with perhaps help from someone else). Daniel was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in the first group of captives in 606 BC (1:1)

Theme

Life and prophecies of Daniel during the Babylonian empire and Persian kingdom

Summary of Contents by Section

Chap 1-6 — History of Daniel's life

Chap 7-12 — Daniel's prophecies

Events of Daniel's Life

>>> Please read Daniel 2:31-45. <<<

6 In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw an image that represented what? Answer: The parts of the image represented four future worldwide _____.

!! Theme passage: The kingdoms in the dream were Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. God would establish His kingdom during the fourth or Roman Empire. This was fulfilled when the church began (see Matthew 16:18,19; Mark 9:1; John 18:36; Acts 1:3-8; 2:1-17,33; 1 Corinthians 15:22-28; Colossians 1:13,14; Revelation 1:9).

>>> Please read Daniel 3:12-27. <<<

7 What happened to Daniel's friends who refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's image? Answer: They were thrown into a _____.

>>> Please read Daniel 6:10-24. <<<

8 What did Daniel do that led to his being thrown into a den of lions? Answer: He _____ to God.

Daniel was a man of faith and courage. He lived in captivity throughout the seventy years Jeremiah had predicted, and rose to high position under several kings. The Jews were waiting to return to the promised land; the promised blessing was still to come to all nations through the descendants of Abraham.

Period #12: Restoration

After the Persians defeated the Babylonians, three groups of captives returned to Judah beginning in 536 BC. Jerusalem was still nearly in shambles. The faithful remnant who returned needed to rebuild the temple and the walls of the city.

Historical Books/Main Characters

Ezra

Author

Ezra (?)

Theme

The return of the Jews from Babylonian Captivity and the rebuilding of the temple.

Main character

Ezra

Summary of book by sections:

Chap. 1-6 — Rebuilding of the temple

Chap. 7-10 — Return of Ezra and purifying the people from foreign wives

Summary of events:

>>> Please read Ezra 1:1-4. <<<

9 What did Cyrus, king of Persia, decree? Answer: He said the Jews could return to Jerusalem to rebuild the _____.

>>> Please read Ezra 3:8-11. <<<

10 What had the builders accomplished? Answer: They had laid the _____ of the temple.

Long struggles followed, however, because the people who had continued to live in Judah opposed the work. After much admonition and encouragement by the prophets, the Jews resumed their work (see chap. 4,5). Finally, the work was finished and the temple was dedicated (6:14-16).

Nehemiah

Author

Ezra (?)

Theme

Return from captivity and rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem

Main character

Nehemiah

Summary of contents by section:

Chap. 1-7 — Rebuilding of the walls

Chap. 8-13 — Spiritual restoration of the people

Problems faced by the Jews in restoring the city and their service to God:

Nehemiah led another group of people to return from captivity to Judah. He wanted to rebuild the walls of the city (2:2-8). Once again, however, the Jews had to overcome serious obstacles.

>>> Please read Nehemiah 4:7-9,16-20. <<<

11 What did the people who had stayed in the land do? Answer: They threatened to _____ Jerusalem and create confusion.

The Jews responded by trusting in God and continuing to work.

>>> Please read Nehemiah 5:1-13. <<<

12 When certain Jews took unfair advantage of others, what did Nehemiah require them to do?
Answer: They had to stop charging _____ and restore what they had taken from others.

>>> Please read Nehemiah 6:10-14. <<<

13 What did a false prophet try to get Nehemiah to do? Answer: He wanted Nehemiah to barricade himself in the _____ because someone had threatened to kill him.

Nehemiah refused because this would have been a sin, then it turned out that the people just sought an occasion to reproach him.

Despite the hindrances, Nehemiah maintained his commitment to God, and the walls were completed (6:15).

Esther

Author

unknown

Theme

God's providence spares His people in exile

Main characters

Esther, Mordecai, Ahasuerus, Haman

Summary of contents by section:

Chap. 1,2 — Esther becomes queen in place of Vashti

Chap. 3-5 — Haman plots the death of Mordecai and the Jews

Chap. 6-10 — At Esther's request, the Jews are delivered.

Summary of the plot

During the reign of King Ahasuerus, Esther was chosen to be queen of the Persian Empire. Unknown to the king, she was a Jewess who had been raised by her cousin Mordecai. But a man named Haman, the second-most-powerful man in the nation, was angry because Mordecai would not bow down to him.

>>> Please read Esther 3:5-9,13. <<<

14 What plot was determined by Haman? Answer: On a certain day the people were to kill all the _____.

>>> Please read Esther 4:8-16. <<<

15 Why did Esther hesitate to make request of the king on behalf of her people? Answer: Because anyone who came unbidden before the king could be _____.

Nevertheless, Esther courageously appeared before the king. He not only spared her life but also offered to give her whatever she wanted. Meanwhile Haman was plotting to have Mordecai hung, while coincidentally the king was learning of Mordecai's previous faithfulness in revealing a plot against the king.

>>> Please read Esther 7:1-10. <<<

16 When Esther requested the king to spare the Jews, what happened to Haman? Answer: He was _____.

The Jews were then allowed to take vengeance on their enemies, and Mordecai was exalted to the position Haman had held. This was commemorated in the annual feast of Purim.

Prophets and Related Books

As in other periods, God sent prophets to instruct and warn the people during the period of restoration from Babylonian captivity.

Haggai

Author

Haggai, a prophet during the return from captivity — Haggai 1:1; Ezra 5:1,2; 6:14,15.

Theme

Exhortation to the Jews to rebuild the temple

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1 — Rebuke to the people for not building the temple

Chap. 2:1-9 — Comparison to the former temple

Chap. 2:10-23 — Miscellaneous explanations

Lessons taught by the book

>>> Please read Haggai 1:2-9. <<<

17 Why were the people not prospering? Answer: They built nice homes for themselves while the _____ lay in ruins.

God will not bless people who neglect His work in order to please themselves. The Old Testament had a greater physical emphasis than does the New Testament, but this principle still applies spiritually. We too need to “consider our ways” to be sure we are putting God’s work first in our lives (Matt. 6:33).

>>> Please read Haggai 1:12-15. <<<

18 How did the people respond? Answer: They _____ the voice of the Lord.

When the people had responded, God then promised that He would be with them and prosper their work for Him.

Zechariah

Author

Zechariah, a prophet during the return from captivity — Zechariah 1:1; Ezra 5:1,2; 6:14,15 (called two months after Haggai)

Theme

The future glory of God’s people (includes many visions and Messianic prophecies)

Summary of contents by section

Chap 1-6:8 — Visions of Judah’s glory

Chap 6:9- chap. 8 — Crowning of Joshua and questions regarding fast days

Chap 9-14 — Prophecies of Judah’s future

Visions

Like Ezekiel, Zechariah used many visions and illustrations in his teaching. Here are some examples.

>>> Please read Zechariah 2:1-8. <<<

19 What was the man with the measuring line going to do? Answer: He was going to measure the city of _____.

God here instructs His people in Babylon to return to Jerusalem, because His favor would return to the city and He would protect them from their enemies.

>>> Please read Zechariah 3:1-5. <<<

20,21 What was done to Joshua the high priest? Answer: His filthy _____ were removed, and he was clothed with _____.

This symbolized the cleansing and rededication of the priesthood to God's service in the temple.

>>> Please read Zechariah 5:5-11. <<<

22 What was represented by the woman in the basket (v8)? Answer: _____

The woman was sent away to symbolize the cleansing of the curse of sin.

Other examples of Zechariah's visions are:

1:7-17 — The man among the myrtle trees: teaches God's favor will return to Zion (v17).

1:18-21 — 4 horns and 4 craftsmen: predicts punishment to the nations that scattered Judah.

Chap. 4 — The candlestick and the olive trees: teaches that power (to complete the temple) would come from God.

Prophecies from Zechariah quoted in New Testament (chap. 9-13)

!! Theme passage: Like Isaiah, many of Zechariah's prophecies pertained to Jesus and His gospel, so they are fulfilled in the New Testament. Here are some examples:

>>> Please read Zechariah 9:9. <<<

23 The king would come riding on a donkey. Where is this quoted in the New Testament? Answer: _____ 21:5.

This was fulfilled in Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (see also John 12:15).

>>> Please read Zechariah 11:12,13. <<<

24 How many pieces of silver were thrown into the house of the Lord for the potter? Answer: _____ pieces.

This was the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. He later gave it back, and it was used to purchase the potter's field (Matt. 27:3-10; Acts 1:18,19).

>>> Please read Zechariah 12:10. <<<

25 They will look on the one they pierced. Where is this quoted as fulfilled in the New Testament (give book, chapter, and verse)? Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Zechariah 13:7. <<<

26 Smite the shepherd and scatter the sheep. Where is this quoted in the New Testament? Answer: _____. (See also Mark 14:27.)

These last two quotations, of course, were fulfilled when Jesus was crucified.

Malachi

Author

Malachi

Theme

A call for spiritual restoration among the returned Jews.

Nehemiah had closed his book discussing the sins of the people and their need for spiritual restoration. It is likely that Malachi prophesied around this time, warning the people of the sins they needed to correct.

Summary of contents by section

1:1-2:9 — Condemnation of the sacrifices and priests

2:10-16 — Condemnation of divorce and mixed marriages

2:17-4:6 — Condemnation of immorality and questions against God's justice; promise of the Messiah and His forerunner

List of the sins of the people

>>> Please read Malachi 1:7-14. <<<

27 What sin did the people commit here? Answer: They gave _____ that were defiled, sick, or otherwise worthless.

>>> Please read Malachi 2:13-16. <<<

28 What marital sin did the people commit that God hated? Answer: God hates _____.

>>> Please read Malachi 3:5. <<<

29 Which of the following is **not** listed as something God would judge: (a) sorcery, (b) adultery, (c) criticizing people's religious beliefs, (d) lying (perjury), (e) exploiting widows and orphans. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Malachi 3:13-15. <<<

30 What did the people say about serving God? Answer: They said it was _____ to serve Him.

See other sins in 2:7-9; 3:7-12.

The Old Testament record ends with the Jews restored to the land of promise still waiting for the coming of the Messiah. God had promised this One would be a descendant of Abraham through David, of the tribe of Judah. Many details of His life and teaching had been predicted. God had spared the nation of Israel for many centuries in order to fulfill these promises and prophecies. Yet the Old Testament ends with the people still waiting.

Period #13: Years of Silence

This period is called the "Years of Silence" because no books of the Bible were actually written during this period. What we know about the period must be learned from books written in other periods or from historical sources outside the Bible. The information below is summarized from *Survey of the Bible*, by Hendriksen (pp. 123-129), and *History and Geography of the Bible Story*, by Bob and Sandra Waldron (pp. 149-169).

A History of the Powers Who Ruled Palestine

>>> Please review Daniel 2:31-45. <<<

31-34 List in order the four world kingdoms Daniel predicted (see previous study notes). Answers: _____, _____, _____, _____.

We have already studied the influence of Babylon and Persia on Palestine. During the period of silence, Palestine was ruled by the other two empires and some lesser powers.

Grecian Rule (333-300 BC)

Alexander the Great (son of Philip of Macedon) led a Greek army that defeated the Medo-Persian Empire. This led to the spread of Greek culture and language throughout the empire.

Egyptian and Syrian Rule (300-167 BC)

When Alexander died, his generals fought for the empire and divided it. Egypt under the Ptolemies first controlled Palestine.

Later, Syria under the Seleucids dominated Palestine. Antiochus Epiphanes was a cruel king, who hated the Jewish religion and desecrated the temple. This led to revolt.

Maccabean Rebellion and Rule (167-63BC)

Mattathias Hasmonaeas, along with his sons John, Simon, Judas, Eleazar, and Jonathan, formed a rebellion that led to the Hasmonean dynasty. Judas (known as Maccabee or "hammer") captured Jerusalem and purified the temple. This is memorialized by the Jewish Feast of Dedication or Hanukkah.

Simon (along with Jonathan) eventually achieved political independence. Simon's son, John Hyrcanus, succeeded Simon, but was influenced by Greek philosophy. Later leaders left Old Testament teachings and the movement deteriorated.

Roman Empire (63 BC on)

This was the fourth major empire, as predicted by Daniel in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2). The first notable Roman ruler was Julius Caesar, followed by Octavian or Augustus Caesar.

The Romans deposed the Maccabees and appointed as governor of Palestine a man named Antipater. His son was Herod the Great, and future leaders were called “Herods.”

>>> Please read Luke 2:1. <<<

35 What Caesar ruled when Jesus was born? Answer: _____.

Developments among the Jews

The following groups or institutions developed during (or before) the Period of Silence and were influential in Jesus’ day.

Miscellaneous Facts

- * The Old Testament was translated into Greek — the Septuagint.
- * Synagogues began to be built in many cities where Jews met to worship on the Sabbath.
- * The Talmud was developed, including commentaries on the law and a record of traditions regulating various details of the law.

Jewish Sects and Groups

Pharisees

>>> Please read Matthew 15:1-9. <<<

36,37 For what two errors did Jesus rebuke the Pharisees? Answers: They drew near to God with their mouth but their _____ was far from Him, and they taught as doctrine the commands of _____.

The Pharisees professed strict observance of the law, but they hypocritically emphasized outward ceremony without proper inward attitudes. They also came to view man-made tradition as required. See also Matthew 23.

Sadducees

>>> Please read Acts 23:8. <<<

38 What did the Sadducees believe? Answer: They claimed there is no _____ and also no angels or spirits.

They rejected traditions held by the Pharisees, but they also rejected the whole concept of life after death, spirits, resurrection, etc. They often compromised the law for personal advantage.

Scribes

Originally the scribes were professional public writers who made hand-written copies of the law and other official and legal documents. This practice led them by Jesus’ day to become lawyers and professional students of the law. Whereas the Pharisees were a religious sect, the Scribes actually held an office or occupation. Nevertheless, many scribes were members of the sect of the Pharisees and so were often associated with them.

Other sects or important groups

Essenes — Stricter even than the Pharisees, the Essenes withdrew to form the Qumran community at the Dead Sea. They may have written the Dead Sea scrolls.

Zealots — Fought for Jewish independence and an earthly Messianic kingdom. (Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13)

The Herod Family

The Herods were actually local rulers in Palestine subject to Rome. Like “Caesar,” the name “Herod” came to be used as a title to refer to a whole succession of rulers.

Antipater

First head of the family, he received authority because of his friendship with Julius Caesar.

Herod the Great

Son of Antipater, he ruled all Judea, Galilee, and some surroundings. Very cruel, he killed many family members simply to protect his power. He built Caesarea and rebuilt the temple. Practical authority over internal affairs, however, rested in the Sanhedrin council of 70 Jewish leaders.

>>> Please read Matthew 2:1-18. <<<

39 What did Herod do to eliminate the Christ? Answer: He killed all males two years old and under who were in _____.

After the death of Herod the Great, his territory was divided among three sons:

- 1) Philip ruled northeast of Galilee.
- 2) Archelaus ruled Judea and Samaria. After his death, Judea was ruled by governors, of whom Pilate was the fifth.
- 3) Antipas ruled Galilee.

>>> Please read Matthew 14:1-12. <<<

40 What did this Herod do to John the Baptist? Answer: He arrested him and then had him _____.

John had rebuked this Herod for having taken Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (a different Philip from the one above). Pilate later sent Jesus to this Herod for trial (Luke 23:6-12).

Agrippa I

Grandson of Herod the Great, he ruled most of the same territory.

>>> Please read Acts 12:1-4,20-24. <<<

41 What did this Herod do? Answer: He persecuted the church, which included killing the apostle _____ and imprisoning Peter.

God slew him for allowing the people to call him a god.

Agrippa II

Son of Agrippa I, he ruled Northeast of Galilee like Philip had. He heard Paul's defense before Festus and "almost" became a Christian (Acts 25:13-26:32).

Lesson #8

Period #14: Life Of Christ

Books/Main Characters

Books of the Bible

The four accounts of the life of Christ are named after their inspired authors: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Theme

The theme of all four books is a record of the life of Christ.

Some have pointed out that each of the books has a special emphasis as follows:

* Matthew: Special emphasis is on Jesus as prophet, written especially for Jewish readers.

* Mark: Emphasis is on Jesus as King, written especially for Roman readers.

* Luke: Emphasis is on Jesus as High Priest, written especially for Greek readers.

* John: Emphasis is on evidences of Jesus' Deity. Essentially everything John records refers to Jesus' Deity.

Main characters

Jesus, His apostles, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph

Summary of contents by section

With few exceptions, all four books follow the general pattern of Jesus' life as follows:

* Jesus' early life

* Jesus' public ministry

* Jesus' last days on earth (trials, death, and resurrection)

The Authors

The New Testament provides interesting facts about each of the four inspired writers.

* Matthew: An apostle and former tax collector. See Matthew 9:9-13; 10:2-4.

* Mark: Nephew of Barnabas, preaching companion of Paul and Barnabas and Peter. See Acts 12:25; 13:5,13; 15:37-39; 2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13

* Luke: Physician and preaching companion of Paul. See Col. 4:14; Philemon 24; 2 Tim. 4:11.

* John: An apostle, brother of James, son of Zebedee, author of 1, 2, & 3 John and Revelation.

Claims for Jesus (found in John)

Note some of the claims made regarding Jesus in John's record, as he seeks to prove Jesus' Deity.

>>> Please read John 1:1-3,14. <<<

1 What claims are here made for Jesus ("the Word")? (a) He was with God in the beginning, (b) He was God, (c) all things were made through Him, (d) He became flesh, (e) all of the preceding. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read John 11:23-27. <<<

2,3 Who did Martha say Jesus is? Answer: She said He is the _____, the Son of _____.

Note that Jesus also claimed to be the resurrection and the life, and through Him people need not die.

>>> Please read John 14:1-6. <<<

4,5 Who did Jesus claim to be? Answer: He said He is the way, the _____, and the _____.

Specifically, He said that no one can come to the Father except by Him. He has gone to prepare a dwelling place for His disciples in the Father's mansion.

>>> Please read John 20:28-31. <<<

6,7 Who did Thomas confess Him to be (v28)? Answer: He called Jesus "my _____ and my _____."

Note also that He is called the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing in Him we can have life.

Clearly these are claims that Jesus is a superhuman Being, God in the flesh. He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament shadows and symbols of the One God sent to be the Savior of the world.

[Cf. 4:25f; 8:31-36,46; 10:17f; 12:47-50.]

Summary of Jesus' Life

The life and death of Jesus are the focus of all Bible history. All prior teaching prepared the way for His coming. All subsequent teaching instructed people how to properly benefit from His life and death. He proved by His miracles and resurrection and by fulfilling Old Testament prophecy that He truly was the Christ, the Son of God.

The gospel accounts were not intended primarily to give a chronological account of the life of Jesus. Rather the intent is to show why people should accept Him as the Messiah and Savior. As with other histories, the accounts contain many flashbacks. With that understanding, here is a basic outline of Jesus' life.

Jesus' Early Life

This includes from His birth to the beginning of His public ministry. See Matt. 1:1-4:11; Mark 1:1-13; Luke 1:1-4:13; John 1:1-2:12.

* Birth of John the Baptist

>>> Please read Luke 1:5-13,18-25. <<<

8 What were the names of John's parents? Answer: _____.

9 What sign was given to confirm the promise of John's birth? Answer: His father would be _____ till John was born.

In Luke 1:57-66 the promise was fulfilled, John was born, and his father was immediately enabled to speak.

(See Luke 1:1-25,39-80.)

* Birth of Jesus

>>> Please read Matthew 1:18-25. <<<

10 What is said about Mary's conception? (a) she conceived of the Holy Spirit, (b) she was a virgin, (c) she conceived before she and Joseph came together, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____.

11 Why was the child named Jesus? Answer: Because He would save His people from _____.

From the moment of His conception, Jesus' life was special. He was conceived miraculously in the womb of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit without the involvement of a man. Cf. Luke 1:26-38.

>>> Please read Luke 2:1-20. <<<

12 Where was Jesus born? Answer: In _____ of Judea.

13 Who did the angels say that He was? Answer: He was a Savior, _____.

Jesus was born in the very town where the Old Testament predicted He would be born, even though His family did not live there. From the outset, miraculous signs told the shepherds and the wise men that this was the Christ, the King of God's people. To spare His life from Herod, however,

God warned Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt. Later they returned and lived in Nazareth in Galilee (see a **map**). Cf. Matt. 2:1-23.

Note that Jesus' family were descendants of David, fulfilling God's promise that the Christ would be heir to David's throne (Luke 2:4; Matt. 1:6; etc.).

*** Jesus' visit to the temple at age 12**

>>> Please read Luke 2:41-52. <<<

14 What did Jesus' parents find Him doing in the temple? Answer: He was sitting in the midst of the _____ asking and answering questions.

Jesus had come to earth to live a sinless life and die as the sacrifice for our sins. He demonstrated from an early age His commitment to accomplishing the will of His heavenly Father.

*** Ministry of John in preparation for Jesus' work**

>>> Please read Matthew 3:1-6. <<<

15 What was John's basic message? Answer: _____, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

16 Where did he baptize people? Answer: In the _____.

John's primary work was to prepare the people to accept Jesus, in fulfillment of prophecy (v3).

>>> Please read John 1:29-34. <<<

17,18 Who did John say Jesus is? Answer: V29 – He was the _____ who takes away the sin of the world. And v34, He was the _____.

(See Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-20; John 1:6-8,19-34.)

*** Baptism of Jesus**

>>> Please read Matthew 3:13-17. <<<

19,20 When Jesus was baptized, who expressed their approval of Him? Answer: The Holy Spirit descended in a form like a _____, and the Father spoke from heaven to say Jesus was His _____.

(See also Luke 3:21,22; Mark 1:9-11.)

*** Temptation of Jesus**

>>> Please read Matthew 4:1-11. <<<

21,22,23 In what three ways did Satan tempt Jesus? Answer: He tempted Jesus to turn stones into _____, to cast Himself down from a pinnacle of the _____, and to fall down and _____ Satan.

Jesus' baptism and temptation ended His early life and began His public work. His baptism showed His commitment to fulfill God's will (Matt. 3:15), and His temptation proved His determination and ability to overcome Satan.

Jesus' Public Ministry

A summary of His public ministry:

Early Judean Ministry

(John 2:13-4:42)

* Cleansing of the temple

* Study with Nicodemus

* Study with the woman of Samaria

Galilean Ministry

(Matt. 4:12-18:35; Mark 1:14-9:50; Luke 4:14-9:50; John 4:43-6:71)

* Miracles

* Acceptance by common people but opposition from leaders

* Sermon on the mount

- * Selection of apostles
- * Parables
- * Transfiguration

Later Judean and Perea Ministries

(Matt. 19:1-20:34; Mark 10:1-52; Luke 9:51-19:28; John 7:1-12:11)

- * Many parables
- * Fewer miracles
- * Much opposition and debate with Jewish leaders

Examples of Jesus' parables

Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prediction of a prophet like Moses (Deut. 18:20ff). Among the more interesting aspects of His teaching were His parables.

>>> Please read Matthew 13:1-9,18-23. <<<

24 What is the proof that a person is "good ground"? Answer: He must hear the word of God, understand it, and _____.

>>> Please read Matthew 25:14-30. <<<

25 Why was the one-talent servant rejected? (a) because he lacked ability, (b) because he did not use what the master gave him, (c) because the master was a hard man, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____

Examples of Jesus' miracles

Consider some examples of miracles recorded in John's gospel.

>>> Please read John 6:1-14. <<<

26 With five loaves and two fish Jesus fed how many men? Answer: _____.
Note that far more food was left over than what Jesus started with!

>>> Please read John 6:16-21. <<<

27 How did Jesus here amaze the disciples? Answer: They saw Him _____ on the sea.

>>> Please read John 9:1-11,28-33. <<<

28 What kind of ailment did Jesus heal? Answer: He healed a man that had been born _____.

>>> Please read John 11:38-44. <<<

29 What miracle is described here? Answer: Jesus raised a man named _____ from the dead.

The purpose of these miracles was to confirm that the claims made for Jesus in the Bible are true. He was the Savior sent from God, just as the Bible writers claimed He was (10:24,25; 20:30,31).

[Cf. 2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-9; 5:36f; 10:36-38]

Jesus' Last Days

In many ways the most important part of Jesus' life was the period from the final week before His death until His ascension. See Matt 21-28; Mark 11-16; Luke 19:28-24:53; John 12:12-21:25; cf. Acts 1:1-11.

*** Triumphal entry**

>>> Please read Matthew 21:1-11. <<<

30 As Jesus entered Jerusalem what did the multitudes say in praising Him? Answer: They said, "Hosanna to the _____."

Such praise indicated they recognized Him as the Christ, the descendant of David to rule as King. However, just a few days later they were calling for His death! This event fulfilled the prophecy studied earlier in Zech. 9:9.

*** Last Passover and institution of the Lord's Supper**

>>> Please read Matthew 26:26-29. <<<

31,32 What was the purpose of the Lord's Supper? Answer: Jesus said to eat the bread in memory of His _____ and drink the cup in memory of His _____.

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper at the feast of the Passover, which had foreshadowed it.

*** Garden of Gethsemane and betrayal**

>>> Please read Matthew 26:36-56. <<<

33 What did Jesus pray for in the garden? Answer: He asked for the _____ to pass from Him.

34 What did the disciples do after Judas betrayed Him and He was arrested? Answer: They all _____.

*** Trials and crucifixion**

>>> Please read Matthew 27:11-54. <<<

35,36 Whom did Pilate release to the people instead of Jesus, and what did the people say to do to Jesus? Answer: He released _____, and the people urged that Jesus be _____.

37 What happened in the temple when Jesus died? Answer: The _____ was torn in two.

Note that Pilate and many others repeatedly acknowledged that Jesus was innocent, yet He was crucified anyway. He died for our sins, not for His (1 Peter 1:18f; 2:24; Hebrews 2:9; Revelation 1:5; 5:9; Isaiah 53:5-9; Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:9-13; 13:20f; Romans 5:6-11).

After His death Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb, a cave sealed by a rock and protected by soldiers to make sure the disciples did not steal the body (Matt. 26:57-66).

*** Resurrection and appearances**

>>> Please read Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. <<<

38 What did the angel say to the women at the tomb? Answer: He said, "He is not here, for He is _____."

39 In his list of appearances of Jesus, Paul said that on one occasion He appeared to a large crowd of how many people at once? Answer: Over _____.

40 Who was the last one to whom He appeared? Answer: Last of all He was seen by _____.

*** Ascension**

>>> Please read Acts 1:9-11. <<<

41 When Jesus ascended, who explained to the apostles what had happened? Answer: Two _____ in white apparel.

42 What promise did they make regarding Jesus? Answer: They said He would _____ in a manner similar to His leaving.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies and symbols we have studied. He truly was the Son of God, the Savior of the world, God in the flesh, even as the Bible claims. You and I must believe those claims and obey Him as our Master if we wish to receive the blessings God has for us through Him.

Lesson #9

Period #15: The Early Church

Book of Acts

Basic Facts

Author: Luke

- * The author had written a “former treatise” about Jesus’ life (1:1,2).
- * Both Acts and Luke are addressed to Theophilus (Acts 1:1; Luke 1:3).
- * Medical terms are used (Luke was a physician - cf. Col. 4:14).
- * The writer was personal companion on some of Paul’s preaching trips (see the “we” passages).

Theme

A history of the early years of the spread of the gospel from the time the church began.

Main characters

Peter and Paul (also Barnabas and Silas)

Summary of contents by section

>>> Please read Acts 1:8. <<<

1-4 Where did Jesus say the apostles would bear witness? Answers (in order): In _____, in all _____ and _____, and in _____.

This verse summarizes the main sections of the book:

Spread of the gospel in Jerusalem (ch. 1-7)

Spread of the gospel in Judea and Samaria (ch. 8-12)

Spread of the gospel in the uttermost parts of the earth (ch. 13-28)

We will use this outline as our summary of the main events of the book.

The Gospel in Jerusalem - Chap. 1-7

We will list the main events of each chapter, pausing to look at some especially important events in detail.

Chap. 1. Jesus’ ascension; choosing of Matthias

Chap. 2. Coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter’s sermon, 3000 converted, beginning of the church

>>> Please read Galatians 3:24,25. <<<

5 What is our relationship to the (Old Testament) law? (a) It was uninspired, (b) God made a mistake when He gave it, (c) we are no longer under it, (d) all the preceding. Answer: _____.

Jesus’ death fulfilled the Old Testament law and removed it. We are now under the gospel or the New Testament. Beginning here in Acts 2 people first had the opportunity to hear and obey the New Testament. See also Hebrews 10:1-10; 7:11-14; 8:6-13; 9:1-4; Galatians 5:1-6; Romans 7:1-7; Colossians 2:13-17.

>>> Please read Acts 2:22-42. <<<

6,7 What did Peter preach that the people should believe about Jesus (v36)? Answer: He is _____ and _____.

8 What did he tell them to do to be forgiven? Answer: He said to repent and be _____ for remission of sins.

3000 obeyed the message. Those who obeyed were the first members of the church of Christ. From that time on all saved people have been added to that church (v47).

Note the Old Testament prophecies cited here as having been fulfilled. Peter quoted the prophecies of David that Christ would not see corruption (cf. vv 25-28 to Psalms 16:8-11) but would sit at God's right hand (cf. v34 to Psalms 110:1). Also fulfilled were the promises that the Holy Spirit would come (cf. vv 17-21 to Joel 2:28-32) and that David's descendant would sit on his throne (cf. v30 to 2 Sam. 7:12-16).

The conclusion must be that Christ's kingdom had begun in fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy in Dan. 2 32-45. That kingdom is the church to which Jesus was adding people from that time on (cf. Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9).

Chap. 3. Peter and John heal a lame man and Peter preaches

>>> Please read Acts 3:1-10. <<<

9 What ailment did the man have whom Peter healed? Answer: He was _____ from his mother's womb.

This miracle led to the beginning of persecution against the church in the following chapters.

Chap. 4. Peter and John imprisoned and warned not to preach

Chap. 5. Sin of Ananias and Sapphira; apostles arrested again

Chap. 6. Appointment of the seven to care for widows; arrest of Stephen

>>> Please read Acts 6:1-7. <<<

10 What did the Jerusalem church do to be sure their needy were properly cared for? Answer: They appointed seven _____ within the congregation to be over the work.

Chap. 7. Stephen's defense and martyrdom

>>> Please read Acts 7:51-60. <<<

11 What did the Jews do to Stephen when he convicted them of having killed Jesus? Answer: They cast him out of the city and _____ him.

The Gospel in Judea and Samaria - Chap. 8-12

Chap. 8. Philip's preaching in Samaria; conversion and sin of Simon; conversion of Ethiopian treasurer

>>> Please read Acts 8:5-13. <<<

12 What did the people of Samaria do when they believed the message Philip preached about Jesus? Answer: They were _____, both men and women.

>>> Please read Acts 8:27-39. <<<

13 What did Philip do that led to the conversion of the Ethiopian treasurer? Answer: He preached _____ to him.

Chap. 9. Conversion of Saul; healing of palsied man and raising of Dorcas

>>> Please read Acts 9:1-6. <<<

14 Why was Saul going to Damascus? Answer: To capture Jesus' disciples and bring them bound to _____.

As Saul traveled, Jesus appeared to him and convinced him that He had been raised from the dead. The Lord then sent Saul into the city where he would be told what he must do.

>>> Please read Acts 22:16. <<<

15 What was Saul then told to do? Answer: He was to be _____ and wash away his sins.

Chap. 10. Conversion of Cornelius

Chap. 11. Peter's defense of Cornelius' conversion; church established in Antioch; famine in Judea

>>> Please read Acts 11:1-18. <<<

This is the first recorded Gentile conversion. Several miraculous events convinced Peter to preach to Cornelius and his household. When other Christians confronted him, he explained the events.

16 What did the people conclude (v18)? Answer: They realized that God had granted to the _____ repentance to life.

>>> Please read Acts 11:20-26. <<<

17 In what city where people were first called Christians? Answer: _____.
We will see that this church sent Paul on his missionary journeys.

Chap. 12. Death of James; imprisonment and release of Peter; death of Herod

>>> Please read Acts 12:1-3. <<<

18 Who killed the apostle James and imprisoned Peter? Answer: _____.

The Gospel in the Uttermost Parts of the Earth - Chap. 13-28

Paul's first journey (chap. 13,14) [note map]

In a brief survey like this, we will not be able to discuss all the places and events on Paul's journeys. Instead, we will mention just some main events and places.

>>> In Antioch of Syria: Please read Acts 13:1-3. <<<

19 What two men were chosen to be sent on a preaching trip? Answer: _____.

>>> In Paphos (on Cyprus): Please read Acts 13:6-12. <<<

20 How was Elymas punished for opposing the teaching to Sergius Paulus? Answer: He was made _____.

In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul and Barnabas then preached beginning in the synagogue. Persecution resulted against the gospel.

>>> In Lystra: Please read Acts 14:8-11,18-20. <<<

21 After Paul and Barnabas healed a crippled man, who did the people think they were? Answer: They said they were _____ in the form of men.

22 Yet what did some Jews persuade the people to do? Answer: They _____ Paul and dragged him out of the city.

This is just one of numerous examples of the persecution and opposition Paul faced in preaching the gospel.

Paul and Barnabas ended this preaching trip by revisiting the cities where they had established churches, then returning to Antioch of Syria.

The Jerusalem meeting regarding circumcision (chap. 15)

>>> Please read Acts 15:1,2,23,24. <<<

23 Why were Paul and Barnabas sent to Jerusalem? Because men from Judea had taught that: (a) that people had to be circumcised, (b) that Jesus had been married to Mary Magdalene, (c) that Peter was the first Pope. Answer: _____.

24 What conclusion did the apostles and elders reach about the matter? Answer: They had given those teachers no such _____.

This was just the first of many conflicts the early church faced about the issue of keeping Old Testament laws (see also Heb. 10:1-10; 7:11-14; 8:6-13; 9:1-4; Gal. 3:24,25; 5:1-6; Rom. 7:1-7; Col. 2:13-17).

Note: This decision was not reached by majority rule or human decree. It was revealed to these men by the Holy Spirit (v28).

Paul's second journey (15:41-18:22) [note map]

In Derbe and Lystra Paul chose Timothy to accompany them (16:1-3).

In Troas he had a vision of man of Macedonia calling them for help (16:8-10).

>>> In Philippi: Please read Acts 16:11-15. <<<

25 Where did Paul find women to teach? Answer: By the side of _____.

26 Who was converted as a result? Answer: _____ and her household.

Later Paul and Silas were imprisoned for healing a young woman of a demon (vv 16-24).

>>> Please read Acts 16:25-34. <<<

27 How were Paul and Silas set free from their chains? Answer: As they were singing and praying, the prison was struck by: (a) a hurricane, (b) an earthquake, (c) a suicide bomber. Answer: _____.

28 How did the jailer respond? Answer: He and his family listened to the gospel, and the same hour of the night they were _____.

In Thessalonica Paul again faced persecution.

>>> In Berea: Please read Acts 17:11,12. <<<

29 What attitude did the people of Berea have toward the gospel? Answer: They received the word readily and searched the _____ daily.

>>> In Athens: Please read Acts 17:22-34. <<<

30 How can we know God deserves to be the true Lord of heaven and earth (v24)? Answer: Because He made _____.

31 As Lord, what does He command all people to do (v30)? Answer: All are commanded to _____.

In Corinth Paul labored with Aquila and Priscilla making tents.

Paul's third journey (18:23-chap. 21)

>>> In Ephesus: Please read Acts 18:24-28. <<<

32 Who taught Apollos more accurately? Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Acts 19:1-5. <<<

33 What did John the Baptist preach about Jesus? Answer: He said the people should believe on the One (Christ Jesus) who would come _____ John.

34 What did these men have to do as a result? Answer: They had to be _____ according to Jesus' teaching.

This shows that the baptism taught by John is not valid today, because it could be practiced only before Jesus died. Today we must be baptized into Jesus' death as an accomplished fact (Romans 6:3,4). When people have been baptized improperly, they need to do it Scripturally.

Later, some silversmiths, who made their living by making silver idols of the goddess Diana, became angry because Paul preached that people should not worship gods made with hands. A riot resulted, and Paul was compelled to leave Ephesus.

>>> In Troas: Please read Acts 20:6-12. <<<

35 When did disciples meet to break bread? Answer: They came together on the _____.

From this example we understand the day on which Christians should partake of the Lord's Supper.

36 What miracle did Paul do? Answer: He raised a young man named _____ from the dead.

>>> At Miletus: Please read Acts 20:22-38. <<<

37 What warning did Paul give the Ephesian elders? Answer: He said men would come speaking _____ to draw away disciples.

Paul had previously worked several years with the church in Ephesus; but this was his parting message to them, as he was convinced he would not see them again.

>>> At Jerusalem: Please read Acts 22:22-29. <<<

When Paul traveled to Jerusalem, he was captured in the temple and nearly killed by Jewish enemies. A Roman army commander rescued him and intended to beat Paul to obtain a confession of guilt.

38 Paul escaped suffering by informing the commander that he was a: (a) Christian, (b) Jew, (c) Hindu, (d) Roman. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Acts 23:11-17,23,24. <<<

A band of forty men then took an oath to kill Paul.

39 When the plot was discovered, what did the commander do? Answer: He sent Paul away by night to the Roman _____ in Caesarea.

>>> At Caesarea: Please read Acts 24:25. <<<

40 When Paul taught Felix the governor, how did he respond? Answer: He sent Paul away saying he would call for him when he had a _____.

>>> Please read Acts 25:10-12. <<<

41 When Paul became convinced he would not receive justice from the Roman governor, he appealed to: (a) the governor, (b) Caesar, (c) Pilate, (d) the Supreme Court. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Acts 26:24-29. <<<

42 How did King Agrippa respond when Paul had the opportunity to teach him the gospel? Answer: He said that Paul was trying to persuade him to be a _____.

Journey to Rome (chap. 27,28)

Since Paul had appealed to Caesar, the Romans had to send him to Rome by ship. On the sea the ship endured a severe tempest, which resulted in a shipwreck.

>>> On Melita (Malta): Please read Acts 27:39-44. <<<

43 What happened to the men on the ship with Paul? (a) they all died, (b) they were all converted, (c) they all survived, (d) none of the preceding. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Acts 28:1-9. <<<

44 What threat to his life did Paul overcome on the island? Answer: He was bitten by a _____.

Afterward Paul healed the father of the chief man of the island and did many other miraculous healings.

>>> In Rome: Please read Acts 28:30,31. <<<

45 Where did Paul stay when he arrived in Rome? Answer: He lived in a rented _____.

The book of Acts ends with Paul still a prisoner in Rome. The primary record of the history of the early church is found in the book of Acts. In a period of just a few years, the gospel had been spread throughout the known world (Col. 1:6,23), and many local churches had begun. The example of these early Christians should show us the zeal we also should have to serve the Lord and spread the gospel.

Lesson #10

Overview of Epistles

We list the epistles in the approximate order in which they were written.

James

Basic information

Author

James, the brother of Jesus (1:1; cf. Gal. 1:19; John 7:5; 1 Cor. 15:7; 9:5; Acts 1:14). (Some say a different inspired man named James wrote the book.)

Date written

About or before 50AD

Theme

Admonition to faithfulness in spite of hardships

>>> Please read James 1:2-4. <<<

1 What can enduring trials lead to? Answer: It produces patience, which in turn leads us to be perfect and complete, lacking _____.

>>> Please read James 1:12,13. <<<

2 When a person faithfully endures temptation, what results? Answer: He receives the _____.

People addressed

12 tribes of the dispersion (1:1) — this could be literal Jews (presumably Jewish Christians), or it could be spiritual Israel (the church). In any case, this is a general epistle.

Let us summarize the contents by section:

Faithfulness in DEED (1:21-2:26).

>>> Please read James 1:21-27. <<<

3 To be blessed by the Lord, what must we do? Answer: Not only must we hear the word, but we must also be _____ of the word.

>>> Please read James 2:14-26. <<<

4 How is faith without works described? Answer: Faith without works is _____.

5 So we are justified by works and not by what? Answer: Not by _____ only (alone).

Note that the question being discussed here is whether or not we can be saved by a faith that does not work (v14). Important as faith is, it must be accompanied by obedience for us to be saved.

Faithfulness in WORD (3:2-12)

>>> Please read James 3:2-12. <<<

6 What illustrations are used to describe the tongue? (a) a bit that turns a horse, (b) a rudder to control a ship, (c) fire that consumes a forest, (d) all of these. Answer: _____

7 How many people can tame or control their tongues? Answer: The tongue can be tamed by _____.

Our obedience to God requires also guarding our speech.

Faithfulness in ATTITUDE (3:13-4:17)

>>> Please read James 3:13-18. <<<

8,9 Instead of envy and self-seeking, what are we taught by the wisdom from above? Answer: Wisdom from above is first _____, then _____.

>>> Please read James 4:13-17. <<<

10 Life is so brief it is compared to what? Answer: Life is like a _____ that appears briefly and then vanishes.

So James teaches that, to be saved, we must obey God in deed, in word, and in thought.

Galatians

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1,2)

Date written

Somewhere between 50 and 58 AD.

People addressed

Churches of Galatia (1:2), a region in northern Asia Minor (see a *map*).

Theme

Justification is by faith according to the gospel, not by keeping Old Testament laws.

Let us summarize the contents by section

Chap. 1,2 - Source and history of Paul's teaching

>>> Please read Galatians 1:8-12. <<<

11 Where did Paul receive the gospel he preached? Answer: It was not from man but came by revelation from _____.

12 What is said of those who teach a different gospel? Answer: They are _____.

In 2:1-14, Paul records again the meeting in Jerusalem in which he defended his teaching that circumcision is not necessary to salvation (see Acts 15).

Chap. 3-4 - Evidence that the Old Testament has been replaced by the New Testament

>>> Please read Galatians 3:10,11. <<<

13 What is the condition of those under the works of the law? Answer: They are under a _____.

Note that the “works of the law” here refers to the Old Testament law – i.e., the things “written in the book of the law.”

>>> Please read 3:22-29. <<<

14 When justification by faith came, what is our relationship to the law? Answer: The law was a tutor (schoolmaster) to bring us to Christ, so now we are no longer under the _____.

Justification by faith here refers to the gospel of Christ (as discussed in 1:8-12 above). The old law was removed (we are no longer under it), so we can be justified by the gospel.

15 When faith leads us to be baptized, what is the result? Answer: We come into and put on _____.

Though we are not subject to the Old Testament law, faith must lead us to obey the gospel to be justified.

Chap. 5,6 - Applications

>>> Please read Galatians 5:2-6. <<<

16 Those who observe circumcision and the old law: (a) are truly obedient to God, (b) have fallen from grace, (c) have earned salvation, (d) can never be lost. Answer: _____.

Note that the Old Testament law is no longer in effect, yet it is still possible for children of God under the gospel to fall from grace.

>>> Please read Galatians 5:19-24. <<<

17,18 What kind of works should we avoid and what kind of fruit should we bear? Answer: The works of the _____ will keep us from the kingdom of God, but we need the fruit of the _____.

>>> Please read Galatians 6:7-10. <<<

19 What must we do to reap everlasting life? Answer: We must sow to the _____.

Note that reaping eternal life requires us to not grow weary in doing good. So Galatians teaches that we cannot be saved by following the Old Testament law, yet we must follow the teachings of the gospel to have eternal life. This requires “faith working through love” (5:6).

1 Thessalonians

Basic information

Author

Paul (with Silas and Timothy - 1:1)

Date written

About 50-55 AD (from Corinth on the second missionary journey)

Theme

The promise of Jesus’ return

People Addressed

Church at Thessalonica (1:1), a city in Macedonia, just southwest from Philippi (see *map*).

>>> Please read Acts 17:1-10. <<<

20,21 What did Paul do in the synagogue in Thessalonica? Answer: He reasoned with them from the _____ to persuade them that Jesus is the _____.

The church in Thessalonica was begun as a result of Paul’s preaching in which He gave the Scriptural evidence that men should believe in Jesus. After a brief stay, he left the city because of Jewish persecution.

Let us summarize the contents by section:

Chap. 1-3 - A description of the church and Paul’s relationship to it

>>> Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:3-8. <<<

22 When they had received the gospel, what work did the Thessalonian church do? Answer: The sounded forth the _____ in Macedonia, Achaia, and beyond.

>>> Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13. <<<

23 As a result of Paul’s preaching, what did the people conclude about the gospel? (a) it is a good book but not inspired, (b) it is the word of men, (c) it is the word of God, (d) all of the preceding. Answer: _____.

Chap. 4,5 - The future coming of Jesus and related topics

>>> Please read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. <<<

24 What do we know about the time when Jesus will return? Answer: He will come as a _____ in the night.

25 Where will the righteous be after Jesus' return? Answer: They will live together with _____.

2 Thessalonians

Basic information

Author

Paul (with Silas and Timothy - 1:1)

Date written

About 50-55 AD (from Corinth on the second missionary journey)

Theme

Further instructions regarding the time of Jesus' coming

People addressed

Church at Thessalonica (1:1). (See on 1 Thessalonians.)

Let us summarize the contents by section:

Chap. 1,2 - Punishment and reward at Jesus' return

>>> Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10. <<<

26 When the Lord is revealed from heaven, what will happen to those who don't know God and those who don't obey the gospel? Answer: They will be punished with _____.

Chap. 3 - Discipline of the disorderly

>>> Please read 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14,15. <<<

27 What must the church do when a brother walks disorderly, not according to the inspired message received? Answer: We should _____ from him.

This form of discipline is intended to make him ashamed, not to treat him as an enemy.

The gospel clearly teaches that Jesus will return to judge and reward all mankind. We do not know when this will be, so we must always be ready, living faithful lives, and rejecting sin in every form (1 Thess. 5:21,22).

1 Corinthians

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

54 or 55 AD from Ephesus on 3rd missionary journey (16:8,9)

Theme

Rebuke and instruction regarding divisions and questions troubling the church

People addressed

Church at Corinth (1:2). Corinth was a seaport known for immorality (see **map**). Most people were heathen idol worshippers. This environment caused problems for the church.

>>> Please read Acts 18:1-8. <<<

28 How did many Corinthians respond to Paul's preaching? Answer: They heard, believed, and were _____.

After Paul left, he wrote to the church because he had heard reports of problems (1:11) and had received a letter from them asking questions (7:1).

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1-4 — Division over preachers

Chap. 5-7 — Questions over morality and marriage

Chap. 8-10 — Matters of liberty
Chap. 11-14 — Confusion and division in assemblies
Chap. 15,16 — Resurrection of the dead and collection for the saints

Discussion

The church was confused and divided in a number of ways. Paul's instructions pointed them to God's will to guide them and lead them out of division.

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. <<<

29 What problem did Paul say Corinth had? Answer: There were _____ among them about different preachers.

To solve this problem, Paul taught them to glory in the Lord, not men. Preachers are simply servants who deliver God's message (1:31; 2:1-5; 3:5-7; 4:1).

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians chap. 5. <<<

30,31 What did Paul teach the church to do about the fornicator in the congregation? Answer: They should not keep company with such members, not even to _____ with them (v11). In this way they put away that _____ from among themselves (v13).

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. <<<

32 How did Paul help them overcome their divisions in the Lord's Supper? Answer: He taught them what the _____ said to do when He taught the apostles how to partake.

Paul emphasized the spiritual meaning of the feast (11:23-26), taught them to eat common meals at home (11:34), and said to organize their assemblies to encourage all to partake (11:33).

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. <<<

33 What illustration did Paul use to help overcome division over spiritual gifts? Answer: He compared Christians to the different parts of the human _____.

He taught that different people had different gifts, yet all are needed (12:14-26).

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians 13:8-10,13. <<<

34 What did he say would happen to spiritual gifts (that which is "in part")? Answer: They would be _____ when that which is perfect came.

The gifts were temporary because they served a temporary purpose: they ceased when the perfect revelation of God's word was completed (James 1:25; Jude 3). Love is greater than spiritual gifts, because love never fails (i.e., love would continue on after the gifts ceased). Paul also taught that church worship assemblies should be arranged in an orderly fashion, so people can learn and be edified (14:26,31,33,40).

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. <<<

35 What did Paul teach in contrast to those who denied the resurrection of the dead (v12)? Answer: He said that all will be made alive at Christ's _____ (vv 22,23).

>>> Please read 1 Corinthians 16:1,2. <<<

36 How was the church to obtain the funds they needed to finance their work? (a) They took up a collection on the first day of the week, (b) they took up a collection every time they got a chance, (c) they conducted rummages and bake sales, (d) they had raffles, bingo, and casino nights. Answer: _____.

2 Corinthians

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

56 or 57AD, from Macedonia on 3rd missionary journey (7:6-16)

Theme

Paul's joy at their repentance, and his defense of his apostleship

People addressed

Church at Corinth (1:1). (See on 1 Corinthians.)

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1-7 — Description of Paul's ministry

Chap. 8,9 — Caring for the needy in Jerusalem

Chap. 10-13 — Reply to those who questioned Paul's apostleship

Discussion

The teaching of 2 Corinthians follows up on the previous letter. Paul also defends his preaching of the gospel by showing its advantages over the Old Testament (Chap. 3), and its future hope (Chap. 4-6). Then he responds to some who doubted that he truly possessed the authority to preach as an apostle.

>>> Please read 2 Corinthians 7:8-11. <<<

37,38 Why was Paul glad he had written his previous letter, even though it had made them sad? Answer: Their godly sorrow led to _____, which in turn leads to _____.

>>> Please read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 (cf. 7:11,12). <<<

39 Since the man who had caused grief (the fornicator of 1 Cor. 5) had been sufficiently punished, what did Paul say should be done now? Answer: They should _____ him.

Paul praised the church for their diligence in disciplining the fornicator (1 Cor. 5), saying it had been a test of their own obedience. But the man had evidently repented, so Paul instructed them to forgive him.

>>> Please read 2 Corinthians 9:1-8. <<<

40 What further information did Paul give about proper attitudes in giving? Answer: They were to give: (a) grudgingly, (b) out of necessity, (c) cheerfully, (d) stingily. Answer: _____.

The Corinthians were gathering funds for the needy saints, as Paul had instructed in 1 Cor. 16:1,2. But they needed to complete the work, so the money would be ready when Paul and others came to take it to the needy saints in Jerusalem (cf. 8:1-7).

>>> Please read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. <<<

41,42 How did Paul describe the power of the spiritual weapons he used? Answer: The weapons were not _____ but _____ to overcome spiritual opposition.

>>> Please read 2 Corinthians 12:7-12. <<<

43 Why had God allowed Paul's thorn in the flesh to continue? Answer: To keep him from being overly exalted because of the abundant _____ he had received (v7).

44 What was proved by the signs, wonders, and mighty deeds Paul did? Answer: They were the signs of an _____.

So Paul claimed that he was in no way inferior to other apostles (cf. 11:5). The fact that his revelations were truly from God was confirmed by the miracles God did through him.

Lesson #11

Romans

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

57 or 58 AD, from Corinth on the third preaching trip (15:25-27)

Theme

Justification for all men is through the gospel, rather than through works of the Old Testament law.

People addressed

Church at Rome (1:7). (See *map*.) The origin of the church in Rome is unknown. It may have been begun by Jews who came to Rome after being converted at Pentecost (Acts 2:10) or after the dispersion from Jerusalem (Acts 8:1ff). The church was composed of Gentiles (1:13; 11:13) and Jews (7:1; 2:17-29). This would lead to questions about the Old Testament law.

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1-11 — Explanation of justification by faith

Chap. 12-16 — Applications to personal lives

We will define and summarize the teaching of the book regarding terms that are key to understanding it.

The term “Gospel”

The gospel is the message of the good news of salvation through Jesus.

>>> Please read Romans 1:16. <<<

1 What power does the gospel have? Answer: It is the power of God unto _____ to all who truly believe.

>>> Please read Romans 10:14-17. <<<

2 Faith in the gospel comes by: (a) direct action of the Holy Spirit, (b) hearing the word of God, (c) a “leap of faith” without evidence, (d) just accepting family religion. Answer: _____.

The term “Law”

In Romans “law” refers primarily to the Old Testament system of commands or rules. Note how Romans confirms what we learned about the old law in Galatians.

>>> Please read Romans 2:17-20,25; 10:5. <<<

3 What was necessary in order for one to be considered righteous under the law? Answer: (a) just believe it, (b) just know it, (c) observe or keep it, (d) just teach it to others. Answer: _____.

Note that the “law” here refers to the law that the Jews relied upon, including circumcision (2:17,25; cf. 7:7). That law itself had a blessing only for those who did everything it required without ever sinning (cf. Gal. 3:10).

>>> Please read Romans 3:19-23,28. <<<

4 What could the law not do? Answer: It could not _____ sinners.

5 What did it do instead? Answer: It gave the knowledge that all people are guilty of _____ (vv 19,20,23).

When people violated “the law,” it had no provision to permanently forgive (Heb. 10:4). So all the law really did was prove to men that we are sinners, but it could not justify them from those sins (cf. Gal. 3:11,16,22). This showed how much we need the sacrifice of Jesus, that can forgive our sins.

>>> Please read Romans 7:1-7. <<<

6 So what is our relationship now to this “law”? Answer: We are dead to it (v4) and have been _____ from it (v6).

Now that the gospel has come so we can be justified from sin through Jesus, we are no longer under the Old Testament (6:14f; Hebrews 10:1-10; 7:11-14; 8:6-13; 9:1-4; 2 Corinthians 3:6-11; Galatians 3:24,25; 5:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-16; Colossians 2:13-17).

Note that, when Romans says we are not saved by “law” or “works,” it is talking about the works of the old law, which required sinless perfection in order to have hope. We will see that it is not denying that we must obey the gospel in order to be forgiven by Jesus.

The term “Grace”

Grace is undeserved favor by which God offers forgiveness to those who have violated His commands and therefore do not deserve His reward.

>>> Please read Romans 5:1,2,20,21. <<<

7 What does grace now give us? (a) rejoicing in hope, (b) eternal life, (c) righteousness, (d) all of these. Answer: _____.

Since the old law could never justify from sins, everybody who violated it would stand condemned. One had to live a sinless life to have hope under “the law.” But the gospel provides the sacrifice of Jesus that can forgive sins. So we now have grace – favor with God that we do not deserve. This is the basic difference between “works of the law” and “grace through faith.” (Cf. 3:23f; 4:4f; 6:14f; 11:6.)

The term “Faith”

Faith is belief and trust in Jesus and His gospel message.

>>> Please read Romans 5:1. <<<

8 What can faith do? Answer: When we are justified by faith we have _____ with God through Christ.

Faith is essential to salvation (1:16; 3:22,25; 4:5,16,19-25; 10:13-17) because, after man has sinned, he cannot earn salvation by a life of sinless law keeping. So we need God’s unmerited favor to forgive us through Jesus’ death. This requires us to trust Him since, by our own efforts, we do not deserve eternal life.

The term “Obedience”

Obedience means keeping God’s commands or instructions. Some claim Romans proves that, since people are saved by faith and grace, obedience is not necessary. But note:

>>> Please read Romans 2:5-11. <<<

9 Who will receive eternal life? Answer: Those who continue patiently _____.

>>> Please read Romans 6:3,4,16-18. <<<

10 What must we do to be set free from sin? Answer: We must _____ from the heart the doctrine delivered to us.

Romans teaches, as do many other Scriptures, that obedience to the gospel is essential to salvation (see also 1:5; 16:26; 15:18). The difference between the gospel and “the law” is that the law required a lifetime of sinless perfection, which would **earn** God’s favor. But the gospel offers forgiveness to those who have sinned and therefore can never earn God’s favor. Yet to receive the forgiveness offered by God’s grace, the gospel requires as a necessary condition that each person recommit himself to serving God obediently. Those who truly trust God and appreciate His grace must willingly submit to His conditions, so they can be saved. Note that these conditions include confession and baptism (10:9,10; 6:3,4).

[See also Matthew 7:21-27; 22:36-39; John 14:15,21-24; Acts 10:34,35; 2:38; 22:16; Hebrews 5:9; 10:39; 11:8,30; Galatians 5:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:22,23; 1 John 5:3; 2:3-6.]

Philemon

Basic information

Author

Paul (v1)

Date written

60-61 AD (from Rome during Paul's first imprisonment)

Theme

Return of Philemon's slave Onesimus

People addressed

Philemon (v1) with Apphia and Archippus (v2). Philemon was a faithful Christian (vv 1,4-7), converted by Paul (v19). He was presumably somewhat wealthy, since he owned a slave.

Discussion

Onesimus was a slave who belonged to Philemon, but he left (apparently escaped) and went to Paul.

>>> Please read Philemon 10-16. <<<

11 What had changed while Onesimus was with Paul (vv 10,16)? Answer: He had been a slave but was now also a _____.

Paul had taught Onesimus the gospel, leading to his conversion.

12 What did Paul then require Onesimus and Philemon to do (v12)? Answer: Though he wished to keep Onesimus with him, Paul sent him back and urged Philemon to _____ him.

The gospel did not absolutely forbid slavery, but instead regulated it. It required that, if one possessed slaves, they must be obtained and treated benevolently and kindly, respecting them as human beings. And above all, it commanded slaves and masters both to become Christians and be equal in Christ (vv 15,16).

The book also illustrates the concept of restitution (vv 12-14,18,19). When one repents of sin, he must correct (to the extent possible) the harmful effects done by his past conduct on others. (See Ezekiel 33:14,15; Leviticus 6:1-5; Ezra 10:3,11,17,19,44; Matthew 21:28-31; Luke 19:8.)

Ephesians

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

61-64 AD, written from Rome during Paul's first imprisonment

Theme

God's plan for redeeming man, with emphasis on the church.

People addressed

Church at Ephesus (1:1). Consider a brief history of the church in Ephesus:

The church in Ephesus was established by Paul on his second journey (Acts 18:18-21). (See *map*.)

>>> Please read Acts 18:24-28. <<<

13 Who instructed Apollos in Ephesus? Answer: _____.

After Paul left to complete his second journey, Apollos was instructed by Aquila and Priscilla.

>>> Please read Acts 20:31. <<<

14 How long did Paul preach there on his third trip? Answer: _____ years.

On his third journey, Paul returned and taught in Ephesus for three years. He was forced to leave because silversmiths, who profited from selling shrines to the goddess Diana, caused a riot saying Paul was hurting their business (Acts 19). Later Paul met with the elders of the church and addressed them (20:17ff).

>>> Please read Revelation 2:1-7. <<<

15 What problem did the church in Ephesus later have? Answer: Though it maintained doctrinal purity, yet it had left its _____.

The church in Ephesus was one of the seven churches in Asia to whom the Lord addressed the book of Revelation.

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1-3 — An explanation of redemption and the church's role

Chap. 4-6 — Applications to personal lives

Doctrines about the church taught in the book:

(Note that this book is quite similar to Colossians, and many similar ideas are taught in both.)

>>> Please read Ephesians 1:15-23. <<<

16,17 What is Christ's relationship to the church (vv 22,23)? Answer: Christ is _____ over all things to the church, which is His _____. (Cf. Col. 1:18.)

>>> Please read Ephesians 2:8-18. <<<

18 Why is it important for both Jews and Gentiles to be in that body, the church (v16)? Answer: Both are reconciled to God in one body through _____. (Cf. Col. 1:13.)

Note that accomplishing this required the removal of the Old Testament law (vv 14,15).

>>> Please read Ephesians 3:8-12. <<<

19 How does the church relate to God's plan for man (v11)? (a) The church was a last-minute change in the plan, (b) it was part of God's eternal purpose, (c) the church is not essential to God's plan, (d) no one knows. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Ephesians 4:1-6. <<<

20 In God's plan for unity among His people, how many true bodies (churches) are there? Answer: _____.

There is just one true church in God's plan, just as there is only one true God and Father and one true faith. All members should work to build up His church (4:11-16).

>>> Please read Ephesians 5:22-33. <<<

21 What did Christ do to save the church (vv 23,25)? Answer: He gave _____ for it that He might be the Savior of it.

Christ loves the church like a man should love his wife, and He cares for it like a man should care for his own body. The church should respond by complete submission to the will of Christ.

Whenever anyone claims that membership in Jesus' church is not essential to salvation, they need to spend some time in the book of Ephesians.

Colossians

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1; 4:18)

Date written

61-64 AD, written from Rome during Paul's first imprisonment (cf. 4:3,10,18)

Theme

God's plan for redeeming man, with emphasis on the pre-eminence and sufficiency of Christ.

People addressed

Church at Colosse (1:2). Colosse was a city in Phrygia, a region in west-central Asia Minor (see **map**). Paul passed through this region on his second and third journeys (Acts 16:6; 18:23), but it is not clear whether or not he ever visited the church there.

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1,2 — The adequacy of Christ and the inadequacy of both human doctrines and the Old Testament

Chap. 3,4 — Applications to our lives and relations to others.

Doctrine of Christ taught in the book

Colossians is much like Ephesians, but whereas Ephesians emphasizes the church, Colossians emphasizes the preeminence of Christ.

>>> Please read Colossians 1:13,14,19-23. <<<

22 What have God and Christ done for us? (a) delivered us from darkness, (b) put us in His kingdom, (c) redeemed us, (d) reconciled us to God, (e) all of these. Answer: _____. (See also 2:11-13; Eph. 1:3-14; 2:11-12.)

>>> Please read Colossians 1:15-17. <<<

23 What is Jesus' relationship to creation? Answer: By Him all things were _____. He therefore has power over all things and all things continue to exist through Him.

>>> Please read Colossians 1:18. <<<

24 As Head of the church, what power does Christ have? Answer: In all things he has the _____. (Cf. 2:10; Eph. 1:15-23; 5:22-25.)

>>> Please read Colossians 2:9,10. <<<

25 What should we therefore believe about the nature of Jesus? Answer: In Him dwells all the fullness of _____ bodily.

Because He possesses this preeminence, He is able to fully meet all our needs (2:10).

Anyone who doubts the Deity of Jesus needs to study the book of Colossians.

Philippians

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

62 AD, from Rome during Paul's first imprisonment

Theme

Joy in Christ and thankfulness for the Philippians' support.

People addressed

The church at Philippi (1:1). Philippi was a city and Roman colony in Macedonia, near the Aegean Sea (see **map**). It was a center of trade and commerce. Paul began the church there on his second journey after he received a vision to go to Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10).

>>> Please read Acts 16:11-15. <<<

26 Who obeyed the gospel with her household? Answer: _____.

Later, Paul was imprisoned for healing a demon-possessed maiden. After an earthquake, the jailer was converted (16:16-34). The church frequently sent financial support to Paul (Phil. 4:14-18).

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1 — Appreciation for their gift and for the preaching of the gospel.

Chap. 2,3 — Encouragement to continue in humble obedience like Christ

Chap. 4 — Concluding thanks and exhortation to trust God.

Teaching of the letter about joy

For each passage listed below, tell what it says was cause for joy:

>>> Please read Philippians 1:18. <<<

27 Answer: Rejoice that Christ is _____.

>>> Please read Philippians 2:2. <<<

28 Answer: Rejoice when brethren are _____-minded (cf. vv 3-11).

>>> Please read Philippians 4:4. <<<

29 Answer: Rejoice in the _____. (Cf. 4:6,7.)

Paul also rejoiced in their support of him in his preaching (4:10; 1:4 – see the next point).

[See also 1:25; 2:17,18,28; 4:1]

Teaching of the book about supporting preachers

Note that Philippi frequently sent to Paul (1:5).

>>> Please read Philippians 4:10,14-18. <<<

30 Where was Paul when Philippi sent to him? Answer: They sent to him in _____.

>>> Please read Philippians 2:25. <<<

31 Who carried Philippi's gift to Paul? Answer: Their messenger was _____.

Note that, in supporting preachers, never did a plurality of New Testament churches ever pool their funds under the control of a centralized organization or church. Rather, each church sent funds directly to the preacher(s) they supported (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:8,9).

[2:16; 1:26; 3:3]

Titus

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

64 or 65 AD (between first and second imprisonment)

People addressed

Titus (1:4)

Some facts about Titus:

* A Gentile, used as a test case regarding circumcision in Galatians 2:1-4

* An evangelist who often worked with Paul

* Left by Paul on Crete to appoint elders and strengthen the churches in purity and good works -

1:5

Theme

Encouragement to sound doctrine and good works (2:11-14; 3:1,2,8-11), especially for specific groups of members.

>>> Please read Titus 2:11-14. <<<

32 Why did Jesus give Himself for us (v14)? Answer: He gave Himself to redeem and purify His people, zealous of _____.

>>> Please read Titus 3:1,2,8. <<<

33 How many good works are important? Answer: We should be ready for _____ good work(s).

Jesus died, not just so we could go to heaven and not just so we could avoid evil, but also so we would be committed to actively practicing good. If we fail to live godly lives and practice good works, we defeat the purpose for which Jesus died!

Note the following specific groups of people Titus was instructed to teach:

Elders

>>> Please read Titus 1:5-9. <<<

34 Titus was to appoint men to fill what work (office) in the church? (a) youth ministers, (b) choir directors, (c) elders (bishops), (d) Pope. Answer: _____.

Note that elders (vv 5,6) are the same as bishops (v7); these are just different names for the same work or office. To be appointed to do this work, men must meet the qualifications described. Their work includes overseeing the local church (this is the meaning of “bishop”), rebuking false teachers, and exhorting members to be sound in doctrine (vv 9-14).

Older men and older women

In 2:2, older men should be taught to be temperate, grave, sober-minded, sound in faith, love, and patience. Older women should be taught to be reverent in conduct, not slanderers, not enslaved to much wine, but teaching what is good, especially teaching young women (vv 3,4).

Young women

>>> Please read Titus 2:4,5. <<<

35 Which of the following should young women do? (a) love their husbands and children, (b) be chaste (c) work at home (homemakers), (d) obey their husbands, (e) all of these. Answer: _____.

Many other passages confirm that the role of wives and mothers requires them to work at home (cf. 1 Timothy 5:9,10,14; Psalm 113:9; Proverbs 31:10-31; 7:11,12) and be subject to their husbands (Genesis 2:18; 3:16; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

Young men

2:6-8 says young men should be taught to be sober, examples of good work, pure doctrine, grave, sound speech.

Servants

Servants (2:9,10) should submit to their masters, not steal, but be faithful.

Lesson #12

1 Timothy

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

64 or 65 AD (between imprisonments)

People addressed

Timothy: (1:2). Consider some facts about Timothy:

* He was originally from Lystra.

>>> Please read Acts 16:1-3. <<<

1,2 What were his parents' nationalities? Answer: His mother was a _____, but his father was a _____.

Note also that his mother was a believer (a Christian).

* He was taught the Scriptures and learned the faith from his grandmother and mother (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15).

* Paul took him with him on his second journey (Acts 16:1-3).

* He was still a young man preaching the gospel at Ephesus, when Paul wrote to him (1:3; 4:12)

Theme

Instructions to a young preacher regarding gospel preaching and personal conduct (3:14,15).

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1 — Charge to teach pure doctrine and oppose error.

Chap. 2,3 — Instructions regarding men in prayer, women's modesty and subjection, and officer's qualifications.

Chap. 4 — Charge to diligence, study, and good example.

Chap. 5,6 — Instructions regarding widows and riches.

Discussion

(We will discuss the contents of this epistle in connection with 2 Timothy later.)

1 Peter

Basic information

Author

Peter (1:1). Consider some information about Peter

* An apostle (Matt. 10:12)

* Also called Simon (2 Peter 1:1; Acts 15:7,14) and Cephas (John 1:42).

* Hometown: Bethsaida (John 1:44) but worked in Capernaum (Matt. 8:5-14).

* Father: Jonas (Matt. 26:17; John 1:42); brother — Andrew (John 1:40f).

>>> Please read Matthew 4:18. <<<

3 What was Peter's occupation before becoming an apostle? Answer: He was a _____.

>>> Please read John 1:40-42. <<<

4 Who brought Peter to Jesus? Answer: He was brought by _____.

* He was married (Matt. 8:14; 1 Corinthians 9:5)

* Impetuous and outspoken

- * Often involved in important events (Matt. 16:18; 17:1-5; 26:36-46).
- * Denied Jesus 3 times (Matt. 26:36-46)
- * Preached at Pentecost (Acts 2) and to Cornelius (Acts 10)

Date written

64 or 65 AD

People addressed

Christians (“elect”) dispersed in Asia Minor (1:1,2)

Theme

Hope and encouragement in time of suffering.

Summary of contents by section

- 1:1-2:10 — Hope for the future based on redemption and blessings in Christ.
- 2:11-3:7 — Instructions for specific groups in time of suffering
- 3:8-5:14 — General encouragement to sufferers and admonition to faithfulness

Teachings of 1 Peter about suffering:

>>> Please read 1 Peter 1:3-7. <<<

5 What hope can we look forward to after we face trials? Answer: We have an incorruptible inheritance reserved in _____.

>>> Please read 1 Peter 2:19-25. <<<

6 Who gave us an example of suffering? Answer: We should follow the example of _____.

>>> Please read 1 Peter 3:13-17. <<<

7 How should we live in time of suffering? Answer: We should live so that people who revile our good conduct should be _____.

>>> Please read 1 Peter 4:12-16. <<<

8 We should be willing to suffer, not for doing evil, but for what (vv 15,16)? Answer: We should not be ashamed if we suffer as a _____.

Since Satan is the source of temptation, we should be on guard and resist him (5:8,9).

2 Peter

Basic information

Author

Peter (1:1)

For information about Peter, see on 1 Peter (above).

Date written

65 or 66 AD

People addressed

Christians who share the common faith (1:1,2)

Theme

Qualities needed by Christians, especially in a time of false teaching about Jesus’ second coming.

Summary of contents by section

- Chap. 1 — Importance of growing in the qualities of a Christian
- Chap. 2 — Warnings against false prophets
- Chap. 3 — Second coming of Jesus

Qualities Christians need

>>> Please read 2 Peter 1:5-7. <<<

9-15 List (in order listed) the qualities Christians should add to their faith. Answer:

_____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____.

False teachers and the second coming

>>> Please read 2 Peter 2:1-3. <<<

16 What do false teachers bring on themselves (and on others)? Answer: They bring on swift

_____.

>>> Please read 2 Peter 3:3-9. <<<

17 What promise of God do scoffers doubt? Answer: They ask where is the promise of His

_____.

>>> Please read 2 Peter 3:10-12. <<<

18 What will happen to the earth at Jesus' coming (v10)? Answer: The earth and the works in it will be _____.

Hebrews

Basic information

Author

(uncertain)

Date written

66 or 67 AD

People addressed

Hebrew Christians

Theme

Christians should remain faithful because the New Testament is superior to the Old Testament.

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1-4 — Be faithful because Jesus is greater than angels or Moses.

Chap. 5-10 — Be faithful because the New Testament has a better High Priest and better sacrifice than the Old Testament.

Chap. 11-13 — Be faithful because of the example of Old Testament characters and of Jesus.

Ways the New Testament is better than the Old Testament:

God now speaks to us through His Son, in contrast to the Old Testament, which was given through prophets guided by angels (1:1,2; 2:2). For each of the passages below, list the way in which the New (second) Testament is better than the Old (first) Testament:

>>> Hebrews 1:3,4. <<<

19 Answer: Jesus is better than _____.

>>> Hebrews 3:1-6. <<<

20 Answer: Jesus has more glory than _____.

>>> Hebrews 7:22-8:6 <<<

21 Answer: As High Priest Jesus has obtained a more excellent _____ (8:6).

>>> Hebrews 9:23; 10:1-4,9,10 <<<

22 Answer: Jesus offered a better _____ (9:23; 12:24) in that sins are now remembered no more (9:12-10:18).

For all these reasons, the New Testament is a better covenant (7:22; 8:6; cf. 7:18,19) and offers a better hope (7:19; 10:34; 11:35) and better promises (8:6). Because of these advantages, the New Testament has replaced the Old Testament (10:9,10; 8:7-12; 12:18-29). Therefore, no one should leave the New Testament to return to the Old Testament (2:1-3; 3:1-4:14; 6:1-8; 10:19-39; 12:1-29; 13:9).

Jude

Basic information

Author

Jude, the brother of James (1:1). (The New Testament refers to more than one man named Jude - Matt. 13:55; Gal. 1:19; Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:13ff; John 14:21-23.)

Date written

66 or 67 AD

People addressed

All Christians (those who are called, sanctified, and preserved — 1:1)

Theme

The danger of false teaching

Discussion regarding false teachers

>>> Please read v3. <<<

23 For what should we earnestly contend? (a) the faith once delivered, (b) peace at any price, (c) unity by compromise, (d) denominational creeds. Answer: _____.

Note that the faith was delivered “**once**” (like Jesus died once). We should now contend for that faith; this requires opposing error and false teaching.

>>> Please read v4. <<<

24 What do some evil men do? Answer: They turn God’s grace into _____ and deny the Lord.

One common practice of false teachers is to claim that the grace of God will overlook the fact that people live in licentiousness (sexual suggestiveness and immorality).

>>> Please read v16. <<<

25 What else do they sometimes do? Answer: They not only follow their own lusts, but they _____ people to gain advantage.

False teachers do not gain followers by speaking the truth, so they may try to put on a false front to please people for their own personal gain. Such men are destined for punishment (vv 4,7,15).

>>> Please read v24. <<<

26 Despite the existence of such false teachers, what is God able to do? Answer: He is able to keep us from _____ and present us faultless.

Note that this requires effort on our part not only to oppose the error (v3) but also to guard ourselves against it (v21).

2 Timothy

Basic information

Author

Paul (1:1)

Date written

67 or 68 AD, during Paul’s second imprisonment

People addressed

(See notes on 1 Timothy regarding Timothy.)

Theme

Farewell message to Timothy, encouraging him to preach, suffer, and obey the truth.

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1,2 — Do not be ashamed to stand for truth.

Chap. 3,4 — Preach the truth because men will be wicked and turn aside after error.

Advice to preachers from 1 and 2 Timothy:

For each passage below, list the inspired guidance Paul gave to the young preacher Timothy.

>>> Please read 2 Timothy 1:13. <<<

27 Instead of being unfaithful, what should Timothy do? Answer: He should hold fast the _____ of sound words.

So gospel preachers should have strong faith and not give up the truth (1 Tim. 1:18,19; 6:11-14,20f; 2 Tim. 3:14-17).

>>> Please read 1 Timothy 1:3-11; 2 Timothy 4:2-4. <<<

28 What was Timothy to charge others to do (1 Timothy 1:3,4)? Answer: They should not teach any other _____ and should not give heed to fables.

29 Knowing that some will turn away from truth and turn to fables, what should preachers do (2 Timothy 4:2-4)? Answer: They should _____ the word, including rebuking and exhorting.

So gospel preachers must teach truth and oppose error (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 4:1-5,6,11,16; 2 Tim. 2:14,16-18,23-26; 3:1-9,15-17).

>>> Please read 1 Timothy 4:12-16. <<<

30 Although he was young, how should Timothy encourage others to do right (v12)? Answer: Besides his teaching he should be an _____ to the believers. (See also 1 Tim. 6:11-14; 2 Tim. 2:22.)

31 In order to be sure he taught the truth, what should he do (v13)? Answer: He should give attention to _____. (See also 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17.)

So preachers must be diligent students of God's word and set a good example to others.

>>> Please read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. <<<

32 What should a preacher's attitude be toward material possessions? Answer: He should be content and realize that the _____ is a root of all kinds of evil.

>>> Please read 2 Timothy 2:2. <<<

33 What should faithful men be able to do with the message Timothy taught them? Answer: They should be able to _____ others.

So preachers should train other people to be teachers.

>>> Please read 2 Timothy 4:5-8. <<<

34 What else would the work of an evangelist require of Timothy (v5)? (a) a seminary education, (b) church ordination, (c) a wealthy congregation, (d) enduring affliction. (See also 2 Tim. 2:3-13; 3:10-12.) Answer: _____

35 What reward awaits those, like Paul, who keep the faith and fight the good fight? Answer: A _____ is laid up for such people.

Preaching the gospel requires sacrifice and hardship, but the reward is eternal life.

Lesson #13

1 John

Basic information

Author

John the apostle (see notes on gospel of John)

Date written

About 85 AD (?)

People addressed

(general)

Theme

The nature of Jesus and the importance of obedient love in our salvation

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1,2 — Assurance in the light (1:5, etc.)

Chap. 3-5 — Assurance in love (4:8, etc.)

The nature of Jesus

>>> Please read 1 John 2:22; 4:15. <<<

1 Who must we believe and confess Jesus to be? Answer: We must not deny He is the Christ but must confess that He is _____.

Salvation requires a true faith in Jesus. That faith must recognize Him to be the Son of God who came to earth in the flesh to die for our sins.

See also 1:1-3; 2:18-26; 4:1-6; 5:1.

The importance of obedient love in our salvation

>>> Please read 1 John 2:3-6. <<<

2 How do we know that we know God? Answer: We know Him if we _____.

3 The love of God is perfected in those who: (a) just have faith, (b) just speak lovingly, (c) keep His word, (d) never tell people they are wrong. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read 1 John 3:7-10. <<<

4 What must we do in order to be righteous (v7)? Answer: We must practice _____.

>>> Please read 1 John 3:16-18. <<<

5 How should we love our brethren? Answer: We should not love in word or in tongue, but in _____ and in truth.

>>> Please read 1 John 4:7-11. <<<

6 How did God prove His love for us? Answer: He showed His love by sending His Son to be the _____ for our sins.

>>> Please read 1 John 5:2,3. <<<

7 What does love for God require of us? Answer: This is the love of God that we _____ His commands.

John emphasizes that God's love for us should motivate us to love Him and love other Christians. His love for us showed itself by the good He does for us, especially by sending His Son to die for us.

Likewise, our love for our brother and for God must show itself by doing for them what God commands us to do.

We are not assured of salvation simply because we have a faith or a love without obedience. Rather, obedience is essential in order to be saved by faith and love.

(See also 2:15-17,29; 3:11-24; 4:7-5:3,18.)

2 John

Basic information

Author

John the apostle (see notes on the gospel of John)

Date written

85-90 AD (?)

People addressed

The elect lady and her children (?)

Theme

Stand for truth and do not encourage false teachers

Theme passages

>>> Please read 2 John 4-6. <<<

8 John rejoiced when he learned of people who: (a) confess to the priest, (b) tithe their income, (c) attend church every Easter, (d) walk in truth. Answer: _____.

9 What are we commanded to do? Answer: We must _____ one another.

10 What does love require of us? Answer: This is love, that we walk according to _____.

As in 1 John, we are taught in 2 John that salvation requires us to believe in Jesus and love God enough to love our brethren and obey God's commands.

>>> Please read 2 John 9-11. <<<

11 What must we do in order to have the Father and the Son? Answer: We must abide in _____.

12 In whose deeds should we not share? Answer: We should not share with one who does not bring this _____.

The New Testament is a record of the teaching that Jesus presented and revealed through His inspired apostles and prophets. To have fellowship with God, we must follow that teaching without changing it or practicing things that differ from what it teaches. (See also Matthew 15:9,13; Galatians 1:8,9; Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12; 3:5,6.)

We will see in 3 John that Christians should encourage faithful teachers by receiving them into our homes and providing for their needs as they travel in preaching. 2 John warns us, on the other hand, that we should not fellowship or encourage those who do not teach the true doctrine of Christ. To encourage them is to share in their evil.

3 John

Basic information

Author

Apostle John (see notes on the gospel of John)

Date written

85-90 AD (?)

People addressed

Gaius (v1) (no other information)

Theme

Stand for truth and encourage faithful teachers.

Discussion

>>> Please read vv 5-8. <<<

13 What should we do for those who go forth for God's name's sake (i.e., faithful preachers) – v8? We ought to _____ such.

14 If we receive such people, what have we accomplished? Answer: We become fellow workers for the _____.

Note that “receiving” these faithful brethren involves encouraging them in their work for the Lord by sending them forth in their journey (v6), etc. This is exactly what 2 John said we should **not** do for those who teach a different doctrine.

>>> Please read vv 9-11. <<<

15 In contrast, who refused to receive John and other faithful brethren? Answer: _____.

16 Instead of receiving them, what did he do? Answer: He spoke against them with _____ words.

So we must learn to distinguish true teachers from false teachers. The false teachers we must not fellowship or encourage in their work, but the true teachers we must encourage and not refuse to fellowship.

Revelation

Basic information

Author

John the apostle (1:1,4,9; 22:8) (For information regarding John, see our notes on his gospel.)

Date written

A matter of controversy. Some say 96 AD, others 69 AD.

People addressed

Seven churches of Asia (1:4; chap. 2,3; see *map*)

Theme

The victory of Christ and His church over Satan and his followers.

Summary of contents by section

Chap. 1-3 — Message to the seven churches

Chap. 4-11 — 7 seals and 7 trumpets

Chap. 12-22 — Conflict between the Lamb and the dragon, beast, false prophet, and harlot.

Summary of alternative views of the book

(1) Some believe essentially all symbols and prophecies relate to Jesus' second coming and events shortly before it. So, the book has almost no reference to the first century or centuries between the first and Jesus' second coming.

(2) Some believe the message is a chronological summary of historical events from the first century till Jesus' second coming.

(3) Some believe essentially all prophecies were fulfilled by events in the history of the early church.

(4) Some believe the message has no reference to **historical** events of any specific age, but gives a general symbolic description of conflict between Christ and Satan that would apply to such conflict in any age.

(5) Some combine the above two views: The book has an immediate reference to the first-century conflict between the church and its enemies, but the principles it teaches apply to similar conflicts in any age.

Note: For reasons listed in the next point below, the author must completely reject the first two views listed above. The most likely view is the last one.

Suggestions for study

* Remember that there is general agreement on the theme of the book and the main principles taught. When people begin to insist on specifics, disagreement may arise. But many of the main applications to us apply for most of the general views.

* Recognize that the book is mainly symbolic (note 1:1 and consider the many instances throughout the book of words such as “sign,” “like,” “as,” etc.). Literal interpretation of the signs and symbols will often lead to perversions (example: chap. 20).

* Old Testament symbols and prophecy give useful background information.

* Use teachings in **literal** passages in other books to help understand the symbols here. Never interpret the symbols in a way that contradicts other literal teaching.

* Many symbols may not be clear in specific detail yet are clear in general significance.

* Avoid unfounded speculation. Many theories have been invented and pressed to strife, when other views would fit the evidence just as well. Honestly evaluate the strength or weakness of evidence for a view.

Note: Because of the above principles, the author must completely reject the premillennial view that Jesus will return to earth and reign for a literal 1000 years over an earthly kingdom. Such an approach violates many of the rules above, but especially it contradicts many other passages which plainly teach that Jesus' kingdom already exists (it is a spiritual kingdom, the church – Col. 1:13), and Jesus is now our king and high priest. (For specifics about these points, see articles on these subjects at www.gospelway.com/instruct/.)

Conditions in the seven churches

>>> Please read Revelation 2:2-5. <<<

17 What did Jesus have against the church in Ephesus? Answer: Although they were doctrinally sound, they had left their _____.

>>> Please read Revelation 2:8-11.

18 Jesus told the church in Smyrna that, if they would be faithful despite persecution, they would receive: (a) the crown of life, (b) an earthly kingdom, (c) power to rule a planet, (d) all of the preceding. Answer: _____

>>> Please read Revelation 2:12-16. <<<

19 Although they had endured persecution, what problem did the church at Pergamum have? Answer: They had in their midst people who held the false doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the _____.

>>> Please read Revelation 2:18-23. <<<

20 The church in Thyatira was growing in good works, but what error did they tolerate? Answer: They had a woman who taught members to commit _____ and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

>>> Please read Revelation 3:1-6. <<<

21 What did Jesus know about conditions in the church in Sardis? Answer: They had a name (reputation) that they were alive, but Jesus knew they were really _____.

>>> Please read Revelation 3:7-11. <<<

22 How did Jesus commend the church in Philadelphia? Answer: He said they had a little strength, had kept His word, and had not denied His _____.

>>> Please read Revelation 3:14-20. <<<

23 What conclusion did Jesus reach about the church in Laodicea? Answer: He would spew them out of His mouth because they were _____.

Christians today must learn from these descriptions. Remember, this was written in the first century. Many churches have departed from God's way and had their candlestick removed by the Lord. To remain faithful, we must heed the Lord's warnings.

Passages that emphasize the book's theme: ultimate victory despite persecution.

The letters to the seven churches of Asia showed that many of them already had been suffering persecution or soon would be (2:10,13; 3:10). However, the Lord promised them that they would eventually overcome and be rewarded, if they remained faithful (2:7,11,17,26f; 3:5,12,21). Note other passages in Revelation that describe the problem of suffering for the cause of Christ or that promise the ultimate victory of Christ and His people over Satan and evil.

>>> Please read Revelation 6:9-11. <<<

24 Why did these people call for God to bring vengeance? Answer: Because they had been _____ for God's word and testimony.

>>> Please read Revelation 13:7. <<<

25 What did the beast from the sea do to the saints? Answer: He made _____ against them and overcame them.

(Cf. 7:14; 17:6; 18:24; etc.)

>>> Please read Revelation 12:10-12. <<<

26 How did God's people overcome the dragon? (a) by military superiority, (b) by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, (c) by possessing wealth and influence, (d) by superior numbers. Answer: _____.

>>> Please read Revelation 18:20. <<<

27 What reason did God's faithful servants have for rejoicing? Answer: God had _____ them on their enemy Babylon (the harlot).

(Cf. 14:13; 16:5f; 18:20; 19:1-5; 19:11-22:5; etc.)

Conclusions of the book

>>> Please read Revelation 20:11-15. <<<

28 What will be the destiny of those not found in the Lamb's book of life? Answer: They would be cast into the _____.

>>> Please read Revelation 21:1-7. <<<

29 What will be the destiny of those who overcome? Answer: There will be no death, sorrow, crying, or pain, because the former things have _____.

>>> Please read Revelation 22:18,19. <<<

30 What happens to those who add to the things written in this book? Answer: God will add to him the _____ written in the book.

Conclusion

Though written in 66 books over a period of 1400 years or more, the Bible actually tells one complete story. Each book and each event or story relates in some way to the overall theme. It is the message of God's plan to redeem man from sin.

We have learned how God created man without sin and placed him in a sinless environment, yet man chose to sin. The entire subsequent Bible story is the account of God's arrangements to solve the sin problem on behalf of mankind. It traces the lineage of Abraham, to whom God gave three great promises regarding his offspring. This included the promise to bring a great blessing on all nations; that blessing turned out to be salvation through the death of His only-begotten Son Jesus Christ.

The Bible story then traces the history of Abraham's offspring, the nation of Israel. Through Moses God gave a law to guide them till Jesus came into the world. By their continual refusal to obey God, Israel demonstrated that men will never be saved by living without sin. This proved that all people need forgiveness if they are to have any hope of eternal life; yet the Old Testament itself could not ultimately solve the sin problem.

Finally, God sent His own Son into the world to live a sinless life and then give His life as the sacrifice to offer salvation to all people. The New Testament tells the story of His birth, life, teachings, and miracles, and finally the story of His death, burial, and resurrection. These events are the focal point of the Bible, since the sin problem is solved ultimately only through Jesus.

However, the rest of the New Testament is essential to reveal the history of the early church and specifically how each individual may personally be forgiven. Each one must personally choose to believe in Jesus, repent of sins, confess Him, and be baptized to receive remission of sins by His blood. The epistles and other New Testament teachings then instruct us how we should live as Christians to remain faithful and finally receive the crown of eternal life when Jesus comes again.

This story is without doubt the greatest story ever told, because it reveals God's plan to meet man's greatest need and tells how we can have true fellowship with God and the reward of eternal life. Have you made a proper application of the Bible message to your own life? Have you studied the Bible message, believed it, and obeyed your Lord? Have you turned from your sins, confessed Him, and been baptized for remission of sins? If so, are you continuing to live a faithful life of obedient service? Only then can you truly benefit from the Bible story.

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