

Adam, Eve and the Serpent (Genesis Chapters 2 – 3)

Where did Adam and Eve come from?

Does **Genesis chapters 2 and 3** explain where Satan came from?

Which passage identifies the serpent in Genesis 3 as the “Devil” and “Satan”?

- a.** Matt. 4:1-3 **b.** 2 Cor. 4:4 **c.** Rev. 9:11 **d.** Rev. 12:9-10

(Genesis 2:16,17) What was the man allowed to do?

What was the man forbidden to do?

What would be the punishment for disobedience?

How do we know that the man told God’s instructions to his wife?

In **Gen. 3:1**, the serpent drew Eve’s attention to what?

What did the serpent say was God’s motive for forbidding the one fruit?

What type of fruit was it? **a.** apple **b.** banana **c.** pear **d.** it doesn’t say

What three things did Eve notice about the fruit? Compare to **1 John 2:16**.

a.

b.

c.

What part of the truth did the serpent use in tempting Eve?

Could God have prevented Adam and Eve from being tempted?

(Speculate:) Why did God allow Adam and Eve to be tempted?

Explain the temptation that God allowed in light of **1 Corinthians 10:13**.

How does God try to control people’s behavior?

How does Satan try to control us?

Who was deceived, Adam or Eve or both? **(See 1 Timothy 2:14)**

Did that person (or people) admit to being deceived?

Who sinned, Adam or Eve or both?

What were two psychological or emotional consequences of their sin? (**Gen. 2:7-10**)

Whom did Adam blame for his sin?

Whom did Even blame for her sin?

List four curses laid on the serpent.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

List four curses laid on the woman.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

List four curses laid on the man.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

How else did God punish Adam and Eve? Why?

Which of the curses do we suffer in modern times?

Do we suffer the *guilt* of Adam and Eve's sin, or only the *consequences*, or *both*?

How did God help Adam and Eve in spite of their sin? (At least one answer from Gen. 3.)
(Also at least one from chapter 4.)

Who overcame all three types of temptation? (Find a passage that says so.)

Who is referred to in the curses on Satan? (Find a passage that says so.)

So, who brings us back to the tree of life? (Find a passage that says so.)

Adam, Eve and the Serpent

The Story of My Life: The Story of the Bible

The Temptation

<p>A part of life</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Permitted by God Many liberties Every need is supplied A helper suitable </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A way of death</p> <p> Exploited by Satan Focus on one “no-no” Desire for more Evil influence </p>
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The Fall

<p>From . . .</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Peace with God Closeness Blessedness Knowledge of God’s will In comfort At ease In paradise Gold, spices, precious stones Help from angels </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">To . . .</p> <p> Fear, due to guilt Man withdraws in shame Curses/Blessings removed Knowledge of “too much” In pain Hard work Cast out Thorns and thistles Opposition </p>
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The Contrast

<p>God</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Authority/Power Holiness/Goodness Truth Love Life </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Man</p> <p> Rebellion Sin Deception Selfishness Death </p>
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The Need

Someone to overcome temptation
Someone to overcome Satan
A way back to God and paradise

Noah and the Flood **(Genesis 6 – 9)**

Describe the moral condition of the world from Genesis 6:5.

Describe God's emotional reaction.

Was this before or after the tower of Babel?

What did God decide to do?

Why was Noah spared?

What did Noah have to do to be saved from the flood?

(Hebrews 11:7) Name two things that moved Noah to build the ark.

a.

b.

(Genesis 6) How big was the ark? (a cubit is about 18 inches)

List the people who entered the ark.

(Genesis 7) How many of each animal did Noah take into the ark?

For how long did it rain?

Where did all the water come from?

(Genesis 8) How long did water stay on the earth?

What birds were sent out by Noah, what did they do, and what did it mean?

a.

b.

c.

d.

What did Noah do with the clean animals after the flood?

When had God previously cursed the earth?

Who destroyed the earth with water?

(Genesis 9) What were Noah and his sons to do for the population of the world?

Find the verse that says the animals were to do a similar thing.

What were people allowed to eat for the first time?

What was the sign that there would be no more world-wide flood?

(Ezekiel 14:14) Name two other great men of faith who rank with Noah.

(Matthew 24:36-39) What point does Jesus make about God's judgment from the story of Noah?

(1 Peter 3:20) Tell a couple of points Peter makes about salvation from Noah.

a.

b.

(2 Peter 2:5, 9-10) What does Peter teach about God's dealings with the righteous and unrighteous from the story of Noah?

(2 Peter 3:6,7) What points does Peter make about the end of the world from the story of Noah?

a.

b.

The Tower of Babel (Genesis Chapter 11)

(Genesis 10:1-12)

Babel was the beginning of whose kingdom?

How does the Bible describe that man?

Who was that man's grandfather?

a. Shem

b. Ham

c. Japheth

d. Noah

What other cities did that man build in the land of Shinar?

(Genesis 11:1-4) What did the "whole earth" have in common?

Which direction were they traveling when they came to a plain in the land of Shinar?

List the two building materials they used.

a.

b.

What two things did the people decide to build?

a.

b.

Describe the "top" of the smaller structure.

Why did they want to make a name for themselves?

What had God told Noah and his sons to do after the flood? **(See Genesis 9:1)**

How would the people's plan run contrary to God's will?

(Genesis 11:5-9) What did the Lord go down to see?

Had the project been completed?

What did the Lord notice about the people?

. . . and what potential did they have as a result?

How did the Lord scatter the people?

What did they stop doing?

How far did they scatter?

What is another word for "Babel" and what does it mean?

(Is it the same as "babble"?)

God's Three Promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-9)

First Response to the Promises (Genesis 11:31 - 12:9 and Acts 7:1-7)

Where was Abram when God appeared to him and made the promises?

Where did Abram go next, and who died there?

How old was Abram when he left Haran?

Who went with Abram?

The Land Promise (Genesis 12:1, 7)

How did God describe the land that was Abram's destination?

What did Abram have to leave in order to go to the land?

a.

b.

c.

To what land did Abram come?

What town did he stop in first?

Underline the words from God's statement to Abram in Genesis 12:7 which gave Abram new information:

“To your descendants I will give this land.”

What did Abram do in response to this promise?

Where did Abram go next and what did he do there?

Toward what place did Abram journey next?

How much of the land did Abram ever own?

Select the appropriate passage(s) and describe when this promise was fulfilled.

a. Deut. 17:14-17

b. Joshua 21:43-45

c. Joshua 23:14-16

The Nation Promise (Genesis 12:2)

God said He would make Abram a _____ nation. God also said Abram's _____ would be great.

Select the appropriate passage(s) and describe when this promise was fulfilled.

a. Exodus 9:24

b. Exodus 19:6

c. Exodus 29:29-30

The Blessing Promise (Genesis 12:3)

What would happen to people who blessed or cursed Abram?

What family or families would be blessed through Abram?

Select the appropriate passage(s) and describe when this promise was fulfilled.

a. Galatians 2:16

b. Galatians 3:7-9

c. Galatians 3:16-19

Abraham Offers Isaac (Genesis Chapters 21 – 22)

(Genesis 21:1-13)

How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

Why did Abraham name him Isaac (which means “laughter”)?

How many other children did Abraham and Sarah have?

How many other *sons* did Abraham have?

Which passage(s) in Genesis tell(s) of God promising Isaac to Sarah?

12:1-3 17:15-21 18:9-14 20:1-7

Why was Isaac chosen over Ishmael?

(Galatians 4:21-31) How are we Christians like Isaac?

a.

b.

c.

(Genesis 22:1-19)

What did God tell Abraham to do to Isaac?

What was the name of the land?

How far away was it?

What did God usually think of human sacrifice? (*Notice Leviticus 20:1-5*)

So, what was the purpose of God’s instructions to Abraham?

(Explain this in light of James 1:13)

At what point did Isaac become curious (or confused) about the events?

What detail from the flood tells us that God could have simply read Abraham’s mind? (Gen. 6)

So, what did God “learn” from having Abraham act it all out?

Which two promises from Genesis 12:1-3 are repeated at this time?

a.

b.

(Hebrews 11:17-19)

How does Abraham's offering remind us of God's offering? (*Think about Genesis 22:8.*)

How are the two sacrifices different?

God had promised to "call [Abraham's] seed" in Isaac, but asked Abraham to kill Isaac before Isaac had any children. How did Abraham think God might resolve this conflict?

(Genesis 22) How did God actually resolve the conflict?

In what sense did Abraham "receive Isaac from the dead" (*Hebrews 11:19*)?

(Hebrews 11:11-12) What did Sarah do by faith?

What was ironic (unexpected) about Abraham's family tree?

Tell a similar irony about Isaac's family tree.

Sodom and Gomorrah **(Genesis 19:1-29)**

Genesis 13:10-13

Describe the moral condition of Sodom.

Why had Lot chosen to live in that area?

Genesis 18:22-32

Whose prayers for Sodom failed to save the city?

Describe his prayers.

What else had that man done for the people of Sodom? (*See Genesis 14*)

Fewer than _____ righteous were found in the city.

Genesis 19:1-11

Who came to visit Sodom, and who met them?

How did the host treat the visitors?

Who came from the town and what did they want?

What did Lot offer instead?

How did the towns people respond?

What did the visitors do?

Genesis 19:12-29

What warning was given, and how did the sons-in-law react?

How many people were allowed to flee the city?

Was Lot reluctant to leave Sodom, or eager to leave? Support your answer.

How many actually made it to safety?

2 Peter 2:6-8

Did Lot maintain his integrity in that evil environment?

Tell one of Lot's actions which seems shocking.

Luke 17:32: "Remember _____"

What point was Jesus making?

Matthew 11:23-24 What point did Jesus make from the story of Sodom?

Luke 17:28-32 What point did Jesus make from the story of Sodom?

Sodom

- One of the 5 Cities of the Plain
Gen. 10:19, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboim, Bela (Zoar, Gen. 14:2)
- A beautiful, wicked place
Gen. 13:10-13
- Looted by Chedoloamer/Restored by Abraham
Gen. 14:11-12
- Prayed for by Abraham
Gen. 18:16-33
- Destroyed by God
Gen. 19:1-29

An Object Lesson for the Ages

Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them . . .
having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh,
are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
(Jude 1:7)

The Lord's anger and punishment (turning an "Eden" into a wasteland) (Deut. 19:23-29; 2 Pet. 2:6-8)

The Lord's ability to deliver the faithful (2 Pet. 2:6-8). Sometimes He has to take us by the hand and pull us out!

A symbol of "the vine" of God's enemies (Deut. 32:32)

A type of Judah's wicked rulers and people (Is. 1:9-10), "Rulers of Sodom" and "people of Gomorrah"

wicked prophets (Jer. 23:14),

their open, shameless sinning (Is. 3:9)

and their predicted doom (Ezekiel 16:44-59) [Note: pride, idleness, neglect of the needy]

A picture of the predicted overthrow of Babylon (Is. 13:10; Jer. 50:40), Edom (Jer. 49:17-18), Moab and Ammon (Zeph. 2:9), also.

Similarly sudden destruction came on Jerusalem in Jeremiah's time (Lam. 4:6 - God almost wiped out Judah as thoroughly (Is. 1:9; Rom. 9:29)), but they surprisingly did not repent (Amos 4:11).

Sudden destruction of Jerusalem would come again in Jesus' time, too! (Luke 17:28-32)

It's easy to sit in judgment against Sodom and wag our heads. But,

Judah *sinned* worse (Ezek. 16:44ff), and

1st century Jews who rejected Jesus' disciples would be *punished* worse (Matt. 10:15; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12), especially Capernaum because they didn't repent. (Matt. 11:23-24)

Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing (Genesis Chapters 25, 27)

Genesis 25:21-28

- 1) How much difference was there in the ages of Jacob and Esau?
- 2) Tell about the two brothers' personalities and ways of life.
 Jacob:
 Esau:
- 3) Describe how the parents took sides with their children.
- 4) What 2 things did the Lord predict about the boys at the time of their birth? (Compare **Romans 9:10-16**)
 - a.
 - b.

Genesis 25:29-34

- 5) What did Jacob have that Esau wanted?
- 6) What did Esau have that Jacob wanted?
- 7) What condition was Esau in at that moment?
- 8) How did Jacob treat his brother?
 - a. with mercy, love and kindness
 - OR,
 - b. kicked him when he was down
- 9) **In Hebrews 12:16**, how is Esau described?

From Genesis 27:1-40

- 10) What was Isaac's physical condition at this point?
- 11) What did Isaac want from Esau?
- 12) Whose idea was it for Jacob to steal the blessing? _____
Tell 3 things (s)he did to help Jacob steal it.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Tell what (s)he was willing to suffer in case the plot failed.

- 13) What objection did Jacob raise?

14) What lies did Jacob tell his father?

a. (Told it twice.)

b. (Told once.)

15) Tell at least three ways that Isaac showed his suspicion.

a.

b.

c.

d.

16) What two things had Jacob stolen from Esau?

a.

b.

17) Describe Esau's emotions and how badly he wanted a blessing. (Notice **Heb. 12:17**)

18) What did Isaac predict would happen to Esau in verse 40?

a.

b.

c.

19) **From 2 Kings 8:20-22**, when and how was the last part of the prediction fulfilled?

Be ready to discuss:

- How we treat our *spiritual* brethren
- Pleasures for which we sell our *spiritual* birthright
- Spiritually weak moments for Christians
- The effect of favoritism in families and the church
- Lasting consequences of our poor choices
- Bad influences in our families and how we should deal with them
- Lying to people and to God

Joseph Rises to Power (Genesis Chapters 39 – 41)

From Genesis 37, be able to describe Joseph's dream about his future, and be familiar with how he was sold into slavery.

(Genesis 39) "Mistreated by Men; Loved by the Lord"

What job in what country did Potiphar have?

What position did Joseph have under him?

Who lusted after Joseph?

What did she do to try to seduce Joseph? (**Choose all the true answers.**)

- a. Say, "Lie with me."
- b. Tempt him verbally on a daily basis.
- c. Send him gifts.
- d. Grab his clothes.

How did Joseph respond? (**Choose all the true answers.**)

- a. Refuse her verbally.
- b. Try to reason with her.
- c. Remind her who she was.
- d. Tell her he couldn't sin like that.
- e. Refuse even to be with her.
- f. Report her attempts to Potiphar.
- g. Flee from her.

How did this scorned woman respond?

How did Joseph show that he appreciated his position in Potiphar's house?

Find at least *four* verses in this chapter which plainly state that the Lord was with Joseph.

What special blessing did the Lord grant Potiphar for Joseph's sake?

What freedom did Joseph have under both Potiphar and the prison keeper?

(Genesis 40) "Two Very Different Dreams"

What had Joseph done to deserve being jailed (or for that matter, to deserve being sold into slavery in the first place!)?

Find an example of Joseph's bitterness or hatred or bad attitude toward *anyone* who had mistreated him.

From verse 8, how did Joseph approach the task of interpreting dreams?

Verses 9-11 tell the _____'s dream. Summarize it.
How was it fulfilled, on what special day?

What did Joseph ask of him when he interpreted his dream?

Verses 16-17 tell the _____'s dream. Summarize it.

How was it fulfilled (on that same special day)?

(Genesis 41) “Two Dreams Are One”

For how long had Joseph been in jail?

How old was he now?

***Bonus question:** What *other* Bible character was left in jail, basically forgotten, for that long?

Verses 1-4 tell _____'s first dream. Summarize it.

Verses 5-7 tell his second dream. Summarize it.

Who could *not* interpret the dream?

Who finally remembered Joseph?

Who *could* interpret the dream? (Be careful!)

Why had the dream been repeated?

- a.
- b.

What would be the dreams' fulfillment?

What plan did Joseph suggest?

Who liked the plan?

Whom did Pharaoh credit for the interpretation?

Did this seem to match how Joseph would have given credit?

What did Pharaoh do for Joseph in terms of . . . ?

- a. (Rank)
- b. (Ring)
- c. (Clothes)

- d. (Other jewelry)
- e. (Chariot)
- f. (Honor)
- g. (New name)
- h. (Wife)

Exactly how much grain did Joseph accumulate in the seven good years?

Tell the name of Joseph's firstborn son: _____

What did it mean?

Why had Joseph picked that name?

Tell the name of Joseph's second son: _____

What did it mean?

Why had Joseph picked that name?

What countries experienced famine?

Where (and to whom) did they go to buy grain?

The 10 Plagues **(Exodus Chapters 7 - 12)**

From Exodus 1:8-10, what political change had taken place?

Describe the suffering of the Israelites from . . .

Ex. 1:11-14

Ex. 1:15-22

Ex. 5:6-19

From **Exodus 7:2**, what did God want Pharaoh to do?

Describe some of the likely consequences to the nation of Egypt if he had done that.

What miracle was performed before the plagues started?

How did Pharaoh react, and why?

From **Exodus 7:14 - 10:29** and **12:29**, number the plagues in order from 1st to 10th:

___ Lice ___ Darkness ___ Water to blood ___ Flies ___ Hail
___ Death of the firstborn ___ Boils ___ Locusts
___ Pestilence to animals ___ Frogs

Which plagues are described as being the most extreme of their kind, *ever*?

Which plagues spared the Israelites while harming the Egyptians?

Describe how God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

From Exodus 12

What purpose did the Passover ritual serve on the night it was instituted?

Describe . . .

the animal used -

actions with the blood -

food eaten -

condition of those eating (v. 11) -

what a foreigner would have to do to be allowed to eat it -

What other feast was established at this time?

Tell the dates that it spanned.

What special event took place on the first and last days?

From **Exodus 12:35-36**, what did the Israelites take with them when they left Egypt?

List some major losses to the nation of Egypt as a result of the plagues.

What were the Egyptians supposed to learn from the plagues? (Notice that the Israelites were supposed to learn a similar lesson! **Ex. 6:2-8**)

Match the ritual to the lesson being taught to later generations:

a. Passover

___ "The Lord brought us out of Egypt."

b. Feast of Unleavened Bread

___ "The Lord killed the Egyptians' firstborn."

c. Redeeming (or sacrificing) the firstborn males

___ "The Lord spared our lives."

The Timing of the Plagues

If we knew how long of a time the plagues covered, we could picture the events a little better. If we even just knew how long some of them lasted. . . (Just a few days of those frogs would seem like a very long time!) Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary said all the plagues occurred "within one year." Let me explain where they come up with that estimate. But let me put this in the context of a discussion about problems associated with using any reference book.

First, reference books are written by men, many of whom are not faithful. For example, Zondervan's (which is a basically conservative publishing house) Pictorial Bible Dictionary has 67 contributing authors (which is more than the number of authors for the Bible!). Skimming through the list of authors in the front of the book, we find a Presbyterian, various shades of Baptists, numerous denominational "pastors", a Nazarene, a Mennonite, etc. One of the men, Dwight H. Small, has written books called "Design for Christian Marriage" and "The Biblical Basis for Infant Baptism." Zondervan's used his article on Marriage but, thankfully, someone else did the article on Baptism. Still, it makes you wary.

Second, men make assumptions. For example, the author of the article on Plagues assumes that God sent the plagues in the season when similar (but less severe) events naturally occur. He mentions that the Nile naturally changes color: "When the Nile is at flood in June, its water turns red from soil brought down from Ethiopia, but is still fit to drink, nor do fish die. But when the river is at its lowest, in May, the water is sometimes red, not fit to drink, and fish die. . . . God directed Moses to lift up his rod at the right time. Once the time was disclosed, the Egyptian magicians could do likewise." So he's assuming that the water-to-blood plague happened in May. Then he takes a definite time reference mentioned in Scripture: "The season [for the hail] must have been January or February, for the flax was in the ear and the barley in bud (RSV) or bloom (ASV: Ex. 9:31, 32)." Figuring from May to February we get 9 months for the first 7 plagues. And we know from Scripture when the Passover was observed because of dates given throughout the Bible. The first month of the sacred Jewish calendar, when the Passover happened and was celebrated every year, was Abib (Ex. 12:2, 3, 6; 13:4), later called Nisan (Esther 3:7). This is basically our April. (Actually, the month began after the full moon at the end of March, so you'll sometimes see that "Nisan = March-April". The Jews had a civil calendar and a sacred calendar, kind of like we have a calendar year and a fiscal year. The whole study of calendars, with lunar and solar years gets really tedious.) So back to the plagues. Again, assuming that the plagues started in May, we know that #7 (hail) happened around Jan. or Feb., and that #10 happened in April, so they lasted about a year. It all makes good sense, but we just need to be very aware of the assumptions involved so we don't become too dogmatic.

Concerning the frogs, the author describes how they naturally spawn in the marshes, then invade dry land after flood waters recede. "God directed Moses to lift up his rod at such a time." And on an on he goes, with flies coming to eat the bodies of the dead frogs, and darkness being caused by "a sandstorm, accentuated by the dust-bowl condition of the land [because of the hail and locusts] and borne on the west wind which drove off the locusts." So maybe the plagues WERE basically naturally events, intensified by God with special protection given to the Israelites, but maybe NOT! I personally think it would have added an obvious element of the supernatural (and thus God's finger could be seen even more clearly) if God sent the plagues (which were probably similar to natural events) at UNnatural times. Besides, natural events, no matter how severe, can't explain some of the details (like water in wooden and stone vessels becoming blood, or handfuls of ashes spreading "throughout the land of Egypt" and causing

boils). To the author's credit, he explains why the death of the first-born CANNOT be simply accounted for by the Bubonic plague which he says "many" people use as an explanation.

A third problem with reference works is that men don't always quote their sources. For example, how does the guy writing for Zondervan's know that the Nile changes like he described? And how do they know certain cities were in the places they claim? etc. Then we come to commentaries. If a commentator who doesn't quote his source took his information from a dictionary that doesn't quote its source, and the dictionary author got his info from a journal article by a guy who was just flat wrong. . . Well, you get the picture. Many topics don't have eternal consequence, but, again, just be wary.

Moses and the Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus Chapters 12 – 14)

What important events take place in **Exodus chapter 12**?

How many Israelite *men* made the exodus from Egypt?

From what city did they leave?

(Exodus 13:17-22)

Why did God not have the Israelites take the shortest route to Canaan?

What went before the Israelites continually as a guide . . .

by day?

by night?

(Exodus 14:1-9)

Why did God turn the Israelites southward, by the sea?

Did it have God's desired effect?

How did Pharaoh travel from his city?

How many like him went along?

What percentage of the Egyptian army did this represent?

a. 25% **b.** half **c.** 75% **d.** all

(Exodus 14:10-18)

What was the Israelites' feeling when they saw the Egyptians?

What did they say to Moses? (Compare this to Ex. 13:17.)

What did Moses tell the Israelites to do in order to see God's salvation?

What did the LORD tell Moses to do to see the Egyptians defeated?

What happened to the hearts of the Egyptians?

(Exodus 14:19-29)

Where did the Angel of God go, and what did that move accomplish?

What did God use to part the waters and how long did it take?

What problems did God add to the Egyptians' chariots?

What time of day was the "battle" over?

How many Egyptians pursuers survived?

(Exodus 14:30-31)

What was the reaction of the Israelites?

(Exodus 15:1-21)

What two groups sang songs of praise?

Joshua, Caleb, and the Ten Spies **(Numbers Chapters 13 – 14)**

(Numbers 13:1-16)

Whose idea was it to spy out the land of Canaan?

How many spies went, and how were they chosen?

From where did they leave?

(Numbers 13:17-25)

What was the purpose of the spying?

How long did the spies stay in Canaan?

Tell one of the wonderful things they found. (Hint: It had a city named for it.)

(Numbers 13:26-33)

What was the unanimous finding about the land's produce?

What was the majority opinion about the people?

Who disagreed?

(Numbers 14:1-4)

What was the people's emotional reaction?

What did "all the children of Israel" say?

(Numbers 14:5-10)

Who tore their own clothes in response to the people's reaction?

List some things the faithful spies said to encourage the people.

- a.
- b.
- c.

What did the congregation want to do to the faithful spies?

(Numbers 14:10-19)

Where did the Lord appear?

What did the Lord think about doing?

What reason did Moses give to oppose the Lord's suggestion?

What did Moses ask the Lord to do?

Did the Lord grant Moses' request?

(Numbers 14:20-38)

How did the Lord curse the people?

Why "40 years"?

In what way(s) did the children suffer because of the parents' sins?

How did the Lord curse the ten unfaithful spies?

According to verse 24, why was Caleb spared?

According to verse 34, what was the Lord teaching the people?

(Numbers 14:39-45)

What had changed from verse 9 to verse 42?

The Fall of Jericho **(Joshua Chapters 1 – 6)**

(Joshua chapter 1)

List some instructions and statements that are repeated several times each about . . .

- a. (. . . the Lord's presence)
- b. (. . . keeping the Law of the Lord)
- c. (. . . God's help in conquering the land of Canaan)
- d. (. . . Joshua's mind-set)

(Joshua chapter 2)

Jericho was a (choose one)

- a. region
- b. city
- c. castle
- d. island

How did Joshua find out about Jericho?

What did Joshua learn about Jericho that encouraged him?

Was the attack on Jericho going to be the first military battle for the Israelites?

(Joshua 5:13-15)

Who appeared to Joshua?

How did Joshua naturally react?

What was Joshua told to do, besides his natural reaction?

(Joshua 6:1-7)

What condition was Jericho in when the Israelites approached?

In verse 2, what did God say He had already done for Joshua?

What instructions were given to Joshua?

- a. (verse 3)
- b. (verse 4)
- c. (verse 4, again)
- d. (verse 5)

(Joshua 6:8-14)

What did the people NOT do while marching?

For how long did the marching continue?

(Joshua 6:15-25)

When did the walls come down, and how?

What were the Israelites told to avoid, and why?

What were the Israelites to keep, and where was the loot stored?

What was done to Jericho?

Who was spared, and why?

(Joshua 6:26-27)

What curse did Joshua put on Jericho?

Name the man whose two sons died by this curse, and cite the Bible passage that refers to it.
(Hint: Use cross references. It's in 1 Kings.)

Be prepared to discuss how God's grace, Joshua's faith and the people's obedience worked together in this story.

Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz **(Book of Ruth)**

(Ruth chapter 1)

Ruth lived during the time of (choose one)

- a.** the patriarchs **b.** Moses **c.** the judges **d.** the kings

What tribe was Naomi from?

What nation was Ruth from?

Why had Naomi gone to Ruth's country?

What relation was Ruth to Naomi?

What did Naomi say to try to keep Ruth from "tagging along"?

Describe Ruth's response of loyalty.

Why did they return to Bethlehem?

(Ruth chapter 2)

What type of job did Ruth take?

In whose field did she spend her time?

What relation was this man to Naomi?

Why did he like Ruth?

Tell several ways that he provided for her.

List some examples that show how polite Ruth was.

(Ruth chapter 3)

What did Ruth do?

Whose instructions was she following?

Her actions constituted

- a.** a marriage proposal **b.** an insult **c.** seduction **d.** a warning

How did the man interpret her actions, and what did he think of her as a result?

What did the man promise, and what had to be done first?

What special gift did he give Ruth?

(Ruth chapter 4)

What item did Boaz first offer the other man?

What went as a “package deal” with the first item?

How did the man respond?

Were they following Deuteronomy 25:5-10?

What detail from Deuteronomy is not mentioned in Ruth?

How is Ruth’s service to Naomi praised in this chapter?

Ruth and Boaz had a baby _____. (boy or girl?)

What role did Naomi take with the baby?

Who was the most important descendant of Ruth?

(Hint: See verse 22, but you won’t find the name in the book of Ruth.)

The book of Ruth is basically a book of

- a.** laws **b.** adventure **c.** prophecy **d.** romance

Be prepared to discuss relationships between Jews and Gentiles and between men and women.

Be prepared to discuss Naomi’s attitudes toward God during all her trials.

Be prepared to discuss how Ruth contrasts with the majority of Israelites during the time of the judges, and why this book is so fitly placed, and how this message is consistent with Jesus’ teachings about the relative faith of Jews versus Gentiles.

Gideon and His 300 Men **(Judges Chapters 6 – 8)**

(Judges 6:1-10) An Evil Situation

When the Israelites again did evil, the Lord let the country of _____ persecute them for _____ years.

How did the persecution affect the Israelites' economy?

Where were the Israelites living?

According to the prophet, what had God done for the Israelites?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. | c. |
| b. | d. |

What had God asked in return?

The Israelites had not obeyed God's _____. Did God still listen to the Israelites?

(Judges 6:11-24) Gideon Meets the Angel of the Lord

In verse 12, Gideon is called a “_____ of _____”, and v. 14 refers to his _____.

Tell Gideon's actions and statements that show he was NOT what the Angel was describing:

- a.** (fear of the Midianites) _____
- b.** (lack of understanding of God's punishment) _____
- c.** (walking by sight, not faith) _____
- d.** (reliance on his own strength) _____

How was Gideon able to do everything he did? (It's mentioned in verses 12, 14, and 16.)

What sign was Gideon shown to prove that the Lord would be with him?

Tell two things Gideon did to show his respect and appreciation for the meeting and the sign.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. | b. |
|-----------|-----------|

(Judges 6:25-32) Gideon's New Name

What two things was Gideon told to tear down that same night?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. | b. |
|-----------|-----------|

Who owned them?

Besides the Midianites, of whom was Gideon afraid?

What did those very men want to do to Gideon?

Who (surprisingly) supported Gideon's actions?

What was Gideon's new name?

What did it mean?

(Judges 6:33 - 7:18) Preparing for Battle - Three More Signs

When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, he was brave enough to do what?

For what two signs did Gideon ask?

a.

b.

From how many tribes did Gideon call for help? _____

How many soldiers were there at first? _____

[KEY POINT] Why did God want there to be *fewer* soldiers?

What two methods did God use for thinning their ranks?

a.

b.

Why did God keep the men who had lapped? (Answer very carefully!)

What third sign did God give Gideon to encourage him?

(Judges 7:19-25) The Battle

What time was it when the battle started?

What three things did Gideon and his men do to start the battle?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Who did all the killing of Midianites in the camp?

Who beheaded Oreb and Zeeb?

(Judges 8:1-21) Mopping Up

What complaint did the men of Ephraim have?

How did Gideon respond?

Who was with Gideon at this point, and what were they doing?

What did the men of Succoth and Penuel refuse to do?

Were these men Israelites?

What did Gideon do to the elders of Succoth?

What did he do to the men of Penuel?

What command did Gideon's oldest son not obey? _____ Why?

How did Gideon respond?

(Judges 8:22-28) Gideon's Influence

What did the people want Gideon to do?

Whom did Gideon say should have that high position?

What did Gideon do with jewelry from the plunder?

What happened with that item?

For how long did that area enjoy peace?

What became of the Midianites?

(Judges 8:29-35) Gideon's Legacy

By whom did Gideon have children?

What happened as soon as Gideon was dead?

Whom had the Israelites forgotten?

The only other reference to Gideon in the Bible is in **Hebrews 11:32**. With what group of people is he mentioned?

For discussion:

- Think of other faithful men who were little in their own eyes when God called them.
- Find New Testament passages that fit with the last half of Judges 7:2.
- Identify parts of Gideon's story that remind you of Moses' objections to God's calling, Abraham's intercession for Sodom, Joshua's conquest of Jericho, the people asking Samuel for a king, and the golden calf at Sinai.

Samson and Delilah **(Judges Chapters 13 – 16)**

(Judges 13:1-5)

For how long had the Philistines been troubling Israel?

What was special about the conception of Samson?

What was special about the pregnancy of Samson's mother?

What special mission was given to Samson before he was even born?

(Judges 14:1-4)

Whom did Samson demand for a wife?

Why did his parents not like the idea?

Why had Samson fallen in love with someone from that nation?

(Judges 16:1)

Who did Samson visit in Gaza?

(NOTE: This is after Samson was widowed.)

(Judges 16:4-9)

Who did Samson fall in love with *this* time?

What did she love more than Samson?

Who persuaded her to betray Samson?

What did she want to know from him?

What answer did Samson give?

Did the Philistines dare make a move toward him as long as he was free? . . . even while he was *asleep*?

(Judges 16:10-12)

What did she accuse Samson of doing?

Was her accusation right?

When she asked her question again, how did he respond?

(Judges 16:13-14)

What was Samson's answer this third time?

(Judges 16:15-20)

What did she accuse Samson of *this* time?

What is so ironic about her accusation?

How often did she bring up this same topic?

What effect did that have on Samson?

What did Samson know about how trustworthy this woman was?

Where did Samson sleep?

Who shaved his seven locks of hair?

What did Samson not realize?

(Judges 16:21-22)

What did the Philistines do to Samson?

What did they allow to happen without thinking about the consequences?

(Judges 16:23-27)

Who was praised for Samson's capture?

How many people joined in this praise (and in mocking Samson)?

(Judges 16:28-31)

Even though Samson had hair again, what did he now remember was the real source of his strength?

So, explain why shaving his hair had weakened him. (**Hint:** 16:17, 20)

What was Samson now allowed to do?

Why was this a great climax to his "career" as a judge?

Based on Samson's role in this story, think of other ways to describe the judges.

Samson and Delilah: Some Important Lessons

Samson's Battles

He killed a lion. (Judges 14:6)

He killed 30 of Ashkelon. (14:19)

Samson's father-in-law gave away his wife. (15:1, 2)

So, Samson torched their fields with 300 foxes. (15:4, 5)

So, the Timnites killed Samson's wife and father-in-law. (15:6)

So, Samson slaughtered the Timnites. (15:8)

So, the Timnites had him arrested. (15:10)

So, Samson killed 1,000 of them. (15:15)

So, they put out his eyes and enslaved him. (16:21)

So, Samson brought down the temple on 3,000 Philistine lords. (16:30)

Samson's Choices in Women

He insisted on a Philistine wife (Judges 14)

He caved in to her tactics (14:15-18)

He went in to a harlot. (16:1)

He loved a woman from the Valley of Sorek. (probably Philistine - 16:4)

She used the same tactics as his wife had used, and he caved in *again!* (16:16, 17)

Daily Strife

Samson's two main women pestered him daily. He was strong at first, but eventually gave in.

(Compare Moses in Num. 20:10)

Comparison to a Christian's life

Samson was chosen (predestined) by God for a special work.

Samson was given great blessings by God.

Samson developed an irreverent, playful, "take them for granted" attitude toward his blessings.

God left Samson after having helped him so much.

Because of his folly, Samson gave God's enemies reason to praise their false god.

Samson repented and God again blessed him.

Samson was listed with the faithful, in spite of his shortcomings. (Heb. 11:32)

Comparison to Christ

They were both born after a miraculous conception and special pregnancy. (Judges 13:1-4)

They both had a special mission from God. (13:5)

Their work was not appreciated by the ones being delivered out of trouble. (15:11)

They were both betrayed by someone close to them. (14:17; 16:18-19)

They were both tortured and taunted. (16:23-27)

They both accomplished a greater victory in death than in life. (16:30)

Contrast to Christ

Samson killed 3,000 in his death.

Christ accomplished *salvation* for 3,000 on Pentecost (Acts 2) and thousands more since then.

Food for thought: Did the Israelites act more like “the armies of the living God” (as David described them), or “servants of Saul” (as Goliath described them)?

How did Eliab react when David started asking around about rewards for Goliath’s killer?

(1 Samuel 17:31-39)

What fighting experience did David have?

Whom did David credit for all his victories?

What did Saul say to David when David first offered to fight Goliath?

What help did Saul finally try to lend David, which was really no help at all?

(1 Samuel 17:40-47)

What intangible (not physical) “weapons” did David have besides his staff, stones and sling? (**Hint:** verse 45)

- a.
- b.

David was the only one to speak against Goliath’s boasting. Compare the role of the elders in the church.

What two lessons did David want “all the earth” and “all this assembly” to learn from Goliath’s death?

- a.
- b.

(1 Samuel 17:48-58)

How many shots did David take?

With what did David deliver the death blow?

What happened in verses 51 and 52 (in your own words)?

What man is introduced in verse 55 who should have been out there fighting Goliath?

Which passages (more than one) say David was “a man after God’s own heart”?

- a. 1 Sam. 13:14
- b. Psalm 89:20
- c. Acts 7:46
- d. Acts 13:42

David and Goliath: Some Important Lessons

The Comparison Between David and Saul

- Handsome (Saul, 1 Sam. 9:2/David, 16:12, 18; 17:42)
- Tending animals at first (Saul, 9:3/David, 16:11)
- Anointed by Samuel (Saul, 10:1/David, 16:13)
- Did not expect to be put forward as leaders (Saul, 10:22/David, 16:11)
- Popular (Saul 11:15/David was liked by Saul in 16:22 and 18:5, by all the people in 18:5 and 16, by Saul's son in 18:1, and by Saul's daughter in 18:20)

The Contrast Between David and Saul

- Fear versus faith. (Fear paralyzes and prevents us from meeting our responsibilities. Faith lends courage.)
- Men's ideas about strength versus God's ideas.
 - 1) "God and me make a majority." (Remember Joshua, Caleb and the 10 spies.)
 - 2) "Right makes might," not the other way around. (Notice, especially, Goliath's, Saul's and David's physical size, all the mention of armor and the apparent weakness of David's tools.)
- The story of David and Goliath magnifies the contrast between David and Saul. Saul's unfaithfulness and ungodliness stand in stark contrast to David's pure faith and godliness.

A Turning Point in Saul's Attitude Toward David

Saul's attitude *toward God* was already poor. It had started good (11:12-15), but in his second year he presumed to take the role of priest, offering a sacrifice unlawfully (13:8-14), and he had disobeyed God by sparing some Amalekites (15:1-9), insisting that he had, in fact, obeyed! (15:13, 20) Samuel carried out the instructions which had been given to Saul, killing Agag.

So Saul's attitude toward people had already soured, as well. Notice his irrational willingness to kill his own son (14:44-45), and Samuel's fear of Saul, knowing his jealousy and potential violence. (16:2)

Saul had already been rejected as king, David ("a man after God's own heart") had already been anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord had already left Saul and had come upon David. (16:13, 14)

But Saul's attitude toward David changed because of David and Goliath. Saul *loved* David in 16:21 (*before* Goliath), but became jealous in 18:8 (*after* Goliath), hated him and no longer responded well to David's music in 18:10, tried to kill him twice in 18:11, was afraid of him in 18:12, demoted him in 18:13, "used" him in 18:17, and tried to make trouble for him in 18:21.

The events in this story accelerated Saul's bad attitude. So, in a sense, Saul fell harder before David that day than Goliath did!

Overcoming Obstacles by Faith (Hebrews 11:32-34)

- **David was busy** with other responsibilities. He could have excused himself from this challenge.
- **David's willingness and zeal made his brother jealous.**
- **David was despised** by Eliab for his job as a shepherd, and by Saul and Goliath for his youth and inexperience. (David's youth is mentioned six times in 1 Sam. 17. See 1 Tim. 4:12)
- **David was told, "You are not able . . ."**
- **David's task seemed intimidating and even impossible** from a human perspective.
- **David had to act when others failed** to live up to their responsibilities. The job should have fallen to Saul, or any of David's older brothers, or any Israelite soldier, but no one would set the right example for David.

God's Promises to David **(2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17)**

(2 Samuel 6:17) Background

What had just been returned to Jerusalem?

Where had it been put?

(2 Samuel 7:1-3) David's plan

What was the current military condition in Israel?

What plan did David have?

Who encouraged David in this plan?

(2 Samuel 7:4-17) God's plan

(Choose all true answers.) David's plan was something that . . .

- a.** had been tried before **b.** God needed **c.** would last forever **d.** God had not commanded

What thing would David's plan replace?

From verse 6, what event had marked the beginning of the nation of Israel?

From verse 10, God said, "I will appoint a _____ for My people Israel and will _____ them."

From verse 10, tell two benefits to Israel that would result.

- a.**
b.

What had God already done for David?

- a.** (promotion)
b. (God's presence)
c. (enemies)
d. (name)

From verses 11-14, tell God's promises to David:

- a.** What would God make?
b. What would become of David's seed (descendant)?
c. What would that seed do?
d. For how long would that seed reign?

- e. What would be the relationship between that seed and God?
- f. What would God never take from that seed?

From verse 16, what would be established forever?

What part of verse 14 does NOT apply to Christ? (*Notice that this is not mentioned in the account in 1 Chronicles.*)

(2 Samuel 7:18-29) David's Response

What did David say . . .

- . . . about himself?
- . . . about God?
- . . . about God's word?
- . . . about God's people?

Tell at least four requests that David made of God.

- a.**
- b.**
- c.**
- d.**

Solomon Dedicates the Temple **(1 Kings 8:1 – 9:9)**

(1 Kings 8:1-13) God's Appearance in the Temple

What was being sacrificed and by whom?

What was moved first into the temple?

Tell where it was put.

What happened when the priests came out of the holy place?

(1 Kings 8:14-21) Solomon's Speech

God had not chosen a city, but he had, indeed, chosen _____. (verse 16)

Solomon mentions one promise which God had now fulfilled. Name it.

What two things now had a place to stay?

a. (From verses 17, 18, 19, 20)

b. (From verse 21)

What was the *same* in Solomon's time as at the time of the Exodus?

a. the covenant

b. the borders

c. the government

(1 Kings 8:22-53) Solomon's Prayer: "Hear in Heaven, Your Dwelling Place, and Forgive, and Act."

Tell three ideas from verse 15 that are repeated in verses 23-24.

a.

b.

c.

What promise did Solomon want to come true for himself?

Tell how, to Solomon's thinking, the temple was limited.

Describe the situations that Solomon anticipated that people would pray about:

- a. (verses 31-32)
- b. (verses 33-34)
- c. (verses 35-36)
- d. (verses 37-40)
- e. (verses 41-43)
- f. (verses 44-45)
- g. (verses 46-50)

(1 Kings 8:54-61) Solomon's Blessing

(Notice how verse 56 brings up the ideas from verses 15 and 23-24.)

Summarize the ideas of verses 57-61.

(1 Kings 8:62-66) Sacrifice and Celebration

Peace offerings of _____ bulls and _____ sheep were offered. What special arrangements had to be made for the other offerings?

What was everyone so happy about when the 2-week feast was over?

(1 Kings 9:1-9) God's Appearance to Solomon

Which of Solomon's concerns (from verses 22-30) were directly answered by God?

What (perhaps surprising) consequences would unfaithfulness have?

- a.
- b.

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal **(1 Kings 18)**

(1 Kings 18:1-16)

What condition was the land in? *(See also 1 Kings 17:1, 7.)*

Describe Obadiah's great act of faith.

What had Ahab done to try to find Elijah?

What was Obadiah doing when he happened to meet up with Elijah?

What did Obadiah think would happen if he reported to Ahab that Elijah was nearby?

(1 Kings 18:17-19)

What did Ahab call Elijah?

In what limited sense was the accusation true?

Ahab and his father's house worshiped what false gods?

How many false prophets were connected with that god?

Jezebel provided for the prophets of what other false goddess?

How many false prophets were connected with that goddess?

(1 Kings 18:20-24)

Where did everyone gather? (Find it on a map.)

For how long had the Israelites actually been "faltering between two opinions"? *(Hint: See Joshua 24:14-15; Ex. 32.)*

What did Elijah say that simply wasn't accurate? *(See 1 Kings 19:18.)*

In fact, what had Obadiah already told him that should've made him think otherwise?

So, what do you think made Elijah feel that way?

(1 Kings 18:25-29)

For how long did the false prophets try to persuade their god?

How did Elijah mock them?

To what extreme did the false prophets go to persuade their god?

Why did their god not answer?

(1 Kings 18:30-40)

What did Elijah repair?

In what two ways did Elijah honor the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

a.

b.

What did Elijah build around his altar?

What level of difficulty did Elijah add to his part of the test?

What did Elijah pray would be proved by the test?

What did the fire of the Lord consume?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

How did the people immediately respond?

What did the people then do at Elijah's command?

(1 Kings 18:41-45)

What event immediately preceded the return of rain?

For how long had it not rained? (*See James 5:17-18.*)

What comparison did Jesus make between Elijah and Himself in Luke 4:22-26?

Be prepared to discuss a) numbers in religion, b) following your rulers' religion, c) showy religion, d) the god who answers by fire (Compare Lev. 9:24 - 10:3; Judges 6:19-24), e) Elijah's attitude toward his service to God, and f) Elijah's emotional ups and downs.

Jonah and the Fish **(The Book of Jonah)**

Find Nineveh on a map. Which direction is it from Israel?

Find Tarshish. Which direction is it from Israel?

As you read all 4 chapters, find 5 “tools” (things, animals, or people) which “God prepared” or sent.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| a. | b. | c. |
| d. | e. | |

Attitude Changes

In what sense did the sailors fear God in 1:10?

In what sense did they fear Him in 1:16?

Tell how the Ninevites’ attitude changed.

Tell how Jonah’s attitude started out bad (disobedient).

Tell why it became good (obedient),
then bad again (displeased and angry),
then happy,
then worse (sorry for himself and angry).

Prayer

From chapters 1-3, tell three people (or groups) who prayed to God. In each case, tell if the prayers were answered.

- a.
- b.
- c.

Find a prayer that God did *not* answer with a “Yes” in the book of Jonah.

Mercy

Tell how God showed mercy to the sailors.

Tell how God showed mercy to the Ninevites.

Tell how God showed mercy to Jonah (at least two events)

a.

b.

Missing Mercy

Tell the only thing Jonah felt pity for (besides himself).

What reason did Jonah give for fleeing to Tarshish?

What part of Jonah's preaching did he apparently hope would come true? (*Note: Proverbs 24:17-18*)

Applications

Think how Jonah chapter 2 fits with Solomon's dedication of the temple. (*1 Kings 8*)

What lessons does Jesus draw from this story in Matthew 12:38-41?

Think of lessons from the following passages that Jonah needed to learn:

2 Peter 3:9

Matthew 5:7

Philippians 1:15-18

Psalm 139:7-15

Think how God can use us for good in spite of our bad attitudes.

Think how God is patient with us and tries to teach us and make us grow. Sometimes He's merciful; sometimes He adds to our misery/chastises us.

Think of lessons to learn from Jonah when we face parts of God's will that we may not like doing.

Ezekiel Preaches Doom (Ezekiel Chapters 4 – 5)

(Ezekiel 4) The Siege

What did Ezekiel portray on the clay tablet (or, “brick”)?

Name some things that Ezekiel built against it.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

For how long did Ezekiel lay siege to the city?

____ days for the iniquity of the house of Israel while lying on his _____ side,
plus ____ days for the iniquity of Judah while lying on his _____ side,
totals _____ days.

During this time, Ezekiel’s arm was uncovered, and he was doing what?

Tell how Ezekiel’s food and water were rationed.

How did God first say Ezekiel was to cook his bread?

What objection did Ezekiel raise?

How did God change His instructions?

Tell some lessons the Israelites were supposed to learn from Ezekiel’s signs.

(Ezekiel 5) The Punishment - Scattering and Death

Tell what Ezekiel did with each 1/3 of his hair, then from verse 12, tell the punishment that each action represented:

- a.
- b.
- c.

From verse 10, what would be a specific consequence of famine?

What had God done for Israel, according to verse 5?

What had Israel done to deserve God’s punishment? (See verses 6, 11, etc.)

How did Israel's behavior compare to the neighboring nations?

Describe God's emotions and attitudes that the punishment would satisfy.

[*Note:* The northern kingdom of Israel had been taken captive to Assyria around 722 B.C., and the Babylonians had started taking captives (like Daniel and Ezekiel) from the southern kingdom around 600 B.C.. From Babylon, Ezekiel predicted the final destruction of Jerusalem which would occur around 586 B.C.. This punishment had been predicted as far back as 1400 B.C. (Deut. 28:15ff) and 1000 B.C. (1 Kings 9:6-9), and is described in 2 Kings 25 and 2 Chron. 36.]

(Ezekiel 5:3-4) The Remnant

What did Ezekiel do to a small number of his hairs?

What did he do with some of that small number?

Think ahead: What did the remnant of Israelites who returned to Jerusalem eventually do? (See Isaiah 10:20-23; Ezra 6:14-15; Nehemiah 2:17-18)

We, the church, represent the remnant of God's faithful people (Romans 9:23-28).

Think how to apply Ezekiel's lessons to . . .

- 1) our numbers compared to other religions (1 Chron. 16:14-22; Matt. 7:13-14),
- 2) difficulties through which we pass (1 Cor. 3:12-13; 1 Peter 1:6-7),
- 3) God's mercy in separating and sparing us (Rom. 11:1-6), and
- 4) God's readiness to judge us and punish some of us (1 Peter 4:16-19).

Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel Chapters 5 – 6)

(Daniel 5:30 - 6:9)

Describe the political change.

What was Daniel's position in the new government?

Why did Daniel excel?

Describe Daniel's reputation.

What did the king consider doing for Daniel?

What was the attitude of the other political leaders toward Daniel?

What did they want to do to Daniel?

What was the one vulnerable area in Daniel's life?

What new law did Daniel's enemies pass?

What lie did they tell when asking the king to sign the new law?

(Daniel 6:10-17)

Did Daniel know about the new law?

Describe Daniel's prayer life in terms of what he did daily . . .

. . . and for how long he had been doing it.

What sentence was imposed on Daniel?

Why was the king unable to pardon Daniel from the sentence?

(Daniel 6:18-23)

Describe the king's emotional state.

How did the king describe Daniel's faithfulness to God (now for the second time in this chapter)?

Whose servant was Daniel?

Describe Daniel's attitude toward the king.

a.

b.

What injury had Daniel suffered?

Why?

(Daniel 6:24-28)

Tell what happened to the children of Daniel's enemies.

Based on verses 17 and 24, the lions' den sounds most like (Choose one.)

a. a pit with a hole up above, covered by a rock

b. a cave on ground level with a stone blocking the entrance

c. a cage with iron bars and a strong lock

Which God did the king exalt?

What did the king say about God's . . .

a. kingdom

b. deliverance

c. miracles

What example did the king cite to support his praise of God?

What became of Daniel?

Find (in earlier chapters of Daniel) another instance of Daniel disobeying a king's command.

Be prepared to discuss Daniel's "weakness" which was also his strength, how politics tend to operate, the difficulties of having enemies for co-workers, the importance of a righteous life both before God and before men, the need to obey God rather than men, the extreme contrast between salvation and destruction, and how God's help in our lives can influence others for Him.

Haggai Says to Rebuild the Temple (The Book of Haggai)

(Chapter 1) First Things First

Name the 2 men to whom Haggai preached and their jobs. (*Note: They are the heroes of Zechariah chapters 3, 4 and 6.*)

a.

b.

What were the people putting off doing till later?

What had the people made for themselves in the meantime?

From verse 6, tell five ways that God had withheld His blessings from the people.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

What was the key for the people to receive God's blessings?

(Choose one.) "This people" is called

a. the armies of the Lord

b. all the remnant of the people

c. the faithful of all the people

From verse 12, tell how Haggai's message was received.

a. They _____ the voice of the Lord

b. They _____ the presence of the Lord (or, _____ before the Lord, KJV)

What was the Lord's immediate response?

a. "I am with you."

b. "Consider your ways."

c. "The time has not come."

How many days passed between the preaching and the start of the work?

(Haggai 2:1-9) Perspective

How long between the start of the work and Haggai's message in 2:1?

What was the people's perception of the work they were doing?

What did the people need to be reminded of, that had been said in chapter 1?

How would the people's new temple compare to Solomon's *in God's eyes*?

a. same

b. more glorious

c. shaken up

(Haggai 2:10-23) A New Beginning

How long had it been since the message in 2:1?

Which part of the temple was finished on this day?

What major change would there be “from this day” forward?

According to the Law of Moses, which influence spreads easier?

- a.** purity/holiness **b.** uncleanness

The promise about shaking heaven and earth is made twice in Haggai (2:6-9 and 2:21-22). In that time . . .

- a.** Where would all nations come?
b. What would happen to the throne and strength of the Gentile nations?

Whom had the Lord chosen to be as a signet ring?

Read **Zechariah chapter 3 and Zechariah 6:9-15**. Who was to be crowned?

What would his crown symbolize about his office?

. . . and about what would be done in Jerusalem?

Read **Zechariah 1:1 and 1:7** and tell *when* Zechariah prophesied.

Zechariah 1:1

- a.** before Haggai **b.** between Haggai 1:1 and 2:1 **c.** between Haggai 2:1 and 2:10 **d.** after Haggai

Zechariah 1:7

- a.** before Haggai **b.** between Haggai 1:1 and 2:1 **c.** between Haggai 2:1 and 2:10 **d.** after Haggai

Think of elements in the book of Haggai that remind you of David’s plan to build the temple, and events at the dedication of Solomon’s temple.

Esther Saves Her People

(Book of Esther)

(Chapter 1) The Queen Is Dethroned

Who was the Persian king (over 127 provinces!) at this time?

Who was demoted, and why?

(Chapter 2) Esther Becomes Queen

What relation was Mordecai to Esther (a.k.a., Hadassah)?

What kind of relationship did Esther and Mordecai have, from 2:11 and 2:20?

What impression did Esther make on all those who saw her, including the king?

Find 3 verses that say so.

How high was Esther promoted?

Who was hanged, and why?

(Chapter 3) Haman's Plot Against the Jews

How high was Haman promoted?

Why did Haman hate Mordecai?

What law did Haman ask the king to write?

On what date was the decree signed (v. 12)

. . . and when would it be carried out (v. 13)?

(Chapter 4) Esther's Plan to Save the Jews

What did Mordecai command Esther?

Why did Esther hesitate to do as Mordecai told her?

What did Mordecai say to persuade her?

Describe her attitude at that point.

(Chapters 5 – 7) Haman’s Downfall

How did Esther go about asking the king her favor?

What did Haman assume about his invitation from Esther?

Describe Haman’s obsession with Mordecai.

Describe Haman’s pride.

What did the king discover about Mordecai on the night before Esther’s request was made?

How was Haman humiliated?

What did Esther tell the king at the banquet that same night?

What made the king angry?

What made him even *more* angry?

What was ironic about Haman’s fate?

(Chapters 8 – 10) The Counter Plot

What did the king do for Mordecai?

What solution did Esther propose to the king in order to save the Jews?

How many enemies of the Jews (total) were killed in two days?

From 8:17, 9:2 and 9:3, what three great things happened because of fear of God’s people?

a.

b.

c.

BONUS: Which word(s) do(es) *not* appear in the book of Esther?

a. God

b. Lord

c. Israel

d. Judah

e. Jerusalem

f. Providence

Be prepared to discuss a) Esther’s (and Mordecai’s) life (including lengthy preparation to appear before the king, various trials, etc.) in light of 4:14; **b)** why Mordecai quickly mentioned his nationality in chapter 3 but had forbidden Esther from doing the same in chapter 2; **and c)** people who were brought low or exalted in the story.

Nehemiah Rebuilds Jerusalem's Walls **(Nehemiah Chapters 1 – 6)**

(Nehemiah 1) Bad News

What job did Nehemiah have?

What news caused him to weep and mourn with fasting and prayer for days?

What had God promised for His people, even though they were scattered, if they would repent?

(Nehemiah 2) A Good Plan

Nehemiah asked for permission to do what?

From verses 7 and 8, Nehemiah took letters that gained him what two advantages?

a.

b.

Who went with Nehemiah?

Who were Nehemiah's two main enemies?

a.

b.

Of what did they accuse Nehemiah?

(Nehemiah 3) Hard Work

How many gates were repaired?

Most important leaders helped work. Name at least one.

Whose nobles did not?

(Nehemiah 4) Problems from the Enemies

What taunt did Tobiah throw?

What plot was uncovered and spoiled?

From verses 16-18, describe how the people made a military defense during on-going construction.

There are at least four references in this chapter to Nehemiah's dependence upon God. Find them.

- a. (Prayer after being mocked.)
- b. (Prayer at the time they set a watch on the wall.)
- c. (When the people were positioned for battle: "Remember the Lord!")
- d. (When the trumpet signal was explained: "Our God will fight for us.")

Describe the intensity of their work schedule.

What progress was made on the wall?

(Nehemiah 5) Problems Among the Brethren

How were some Jews taking advantage of Jerusalem's poverty?

When Nehemiah became very angry, he rebuked the nobles and rulers. But what did he do *first*?

What promise did Nehemiah demand from the rulers?

How did Nehemiah set an excellent example to help them keep this promise?

(Nehemiah 6) Treachery and Fear

How many times did Sanballat try to get Nehemiah to stop working and come talk?

What accusation was made about Nehemiah's personal plans?

Who paid the "double-agent", Shemaiah, and why?

What did Shemaiah try to persuade Nehemiah to do?

How long did the wall's reconstruction take?

Who had *really* done the work (verse 16)?

What connection did Tobiah have with the Jews?

Ezra Reads the Law (Nehemiah 8)

(Nehemiah 8:1-8)

Where did the people gather?

Who was in the assembly?

What two occupations did Ezra have?

a.

b.

What did Ezra bring?

On which day of which month did this happen?

For how long did he read?

Who fell asleep?

On what did Ezra stand?

How many people stood there, including Ezra?

What did the people do when Ezra opened the book?

What did Ezra do then?

... and how did the people answer?

In what position were the people's hands? ... heads? ... faces?

Are the people listed in verse 7 the same people from verse 4?

What did the Levites do?

(Nehemiah 8:13-18)

What emotion did the reading bring out in the people?

Who all helped comfort the people?

a.

b.

c.

How was the day special?

From verse 10, what was the people's strength?

From verse 12, what did the people go do?

. . . and why did they rejoice?

(Nehemiah 8:13-18)

Who gathered on the second day?

What was found written?

How long had it been since that command had been carried out?

BONUS: How long was this in years? (*Hint: Use the time line at www.MyPreachingPen.com.)*

So, name some great men of faith who had failed to keep this commandment.

Who all participated in the ceremony?

From **Leviticus 23:33-43**, on which day of the month did the ceremony start?

And what were the people supposed to remember because of the ceremony?

(Nehemiah 9:1-4)

How many days had passed since the end of the Feast of Tabernacles?

How was the people's mood different from the mood in verse 17?

What was the people's posture? **a.** sitting **b.** standing **c.** bowing their heads

What was confessed?

For how long did the reading last?

What lasted equally long?

[Notice that this day's events continue through chapter 10.]

(Nehemiah 9:38 and 10:29)

What was done to end the 24th day of the 7th month?

Who participated in this?