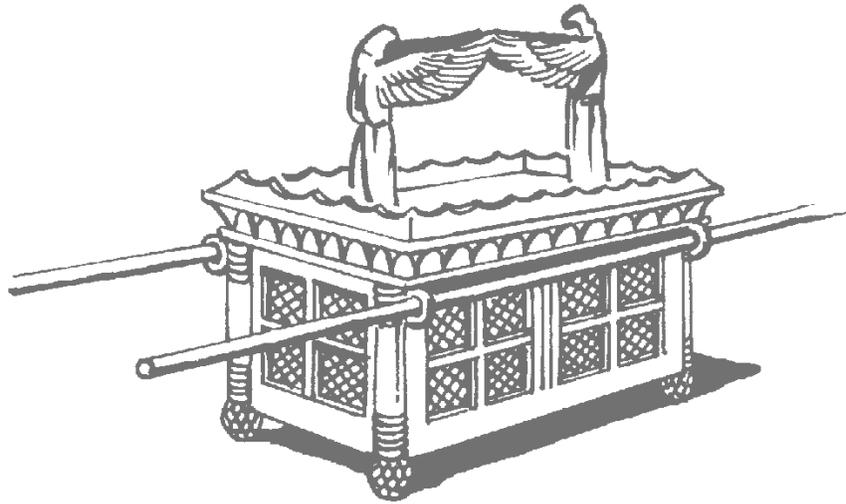


LEADERS IN ISRAEL



by

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LESSON 1

ABRAHAM - FATHER OF A NATION

INTRODUCTION. Before God created the heavens and earth, He purposed to send his Son into the world to save mankind from their sins. In order to accomplish his purpose, God chose Abram (later called Abraham) to be the father of a nation through whom his Son would come.

God first called Abraham when he resided in Ur of the Chaldees (Gen. 15:7; Neh. 9:7; Acts 7:2-3). Ur was an ancient and important city located on the Euphrates River in southern Mesopotamia. Abraham first migrated northwestward in Mesopotamia to Haran, also a flourishing city in the nineteenth and eighteenth centuries B. C. (Gen. 11:31). At Haran God again called Abraham, instructing him to go to a land He would show him (Gen. 12:1). God then made three promises to Abraham: the *nation* promise, the *land* promise, and the *spiritual* promise (Gen. 12:2-3, 7). After Abraham offered his son Isaac upon the altar at Mount Moriah, God repeated these promises to him (Gen. 22:15-18).

A. THE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

1. What was the nation promise? (Gen. 12:2)
2. What was the land promise? (Gen. 12:7)
3. What was the spiritual promise? (Gen. 12:3)

B. FULFILLMENT OF THE NATION PROMISE. The fulfillment (accomplishment) of the nation promise to Abraham began with Isaac, the son of promise. When Abraham and his wife Sarah were old, God told Abraham that Sarah would bear a son and he should call his name Isaac (Gen. 17:1-19). The covenant God made with Abraham was established with Isaac (Gen. 17:19), and after Abraham's death, God repeated the three promises to Isaac (Gen. 26:1-5).

Isaac and his wife Rebekah had twin sons, Esau and Jacob, but before their birth God said that Jacob, the younger, would be the stronger (Gen. 25:21-23). God repeated the three promises to Jacob one night as Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching from the earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending (Gen. 28:10-14).

Jacob had twelve sons (Gen. 29:31-30:13, 17-20, 22-24; 35:16-18). One of his sons, Joseph, was sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers. Years later Joseph became ruler of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, the king. When a great famine occurred throughout the region, Jacob sent his remaining sons to Egypt to buy grain. Eventually Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers. Then he brought his father, his brothers, and their families to Egypt to dwell in the land of Goshen—seventy-five people, but not yet a nation (Gen. 37-46; Acts 7:14).

Years passed, a new king arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph, and he oppressed the family of Jacob, the descendants of Abraham, who had multiplied greatly (Ex. 1). God sent Moses to deliver the children of Israel (Jacob's other name) out of Egypt and bondage (Ex. 2-4). When Moses led the people out of Egypt, they had become a great nation (Ex. 12:37-42; Num. 1).

1. The covenant God established with Abraham and his seed (descendants) was an _____ covenant. (Gen. 17:1, 7)
2. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? How old was Sarah? (Gen. 17:17)
3. The covenant God made with Abraham was also established with Isaac and his seed (descendants) and was an _____ covenant. (Gen. 17:19).
4. When God repeated his promises to Isaac, He said: (Gen. 26:4)
 - a. I will multiply thy seed as _____
 - b. I will give to thy seed _____
 - c. in thy seed shall all nations of the earth be _____
5. When God repeated the promises to Jacob, what was Jacob dreaming? (Gen. 28:12)
6. God told Jacob: (Gen. 28:13-14)
 - a. the land upon which you lie, I will give to your _____
 - b. your seed shall be as the _____
 - c. in thee and in thy seed shall all _____ of the earth be blessed

7. The family of Jacob numbered how many souls when they moved to Egypt? (Acts 7:14)

8. When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, those men twenty years and older able to go to war numbered how many? (Num. 1:45-46)

➔ The *nation* promise is fulfilled—the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob numbered a great multitude when they left Egypt, the land of their bondage.

C. FULFILLMENT OF THE LAND PROMISE. After the children of Israel left Egypt under the leadership of Moses, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years. When Moses died, Joshua succeeded him, and as captain of the army, he led the people across the Jordan River into the land of Canaan to conquer it.

1. To what land did God lead Abraham? (Gen. 12:1, 5)

2. God told Abraham his seed would live in a land not theirs, serve the people of that land and be afflicted for how long? (Gen. 15:13)

3. The land God promised to Abraham's seed extended from the river of _____ unto the great river _____. (Gen. 15:18)

4. How long did the children of Israel dwell in Egypt? (Ex. 12:40-41)

5. When Joshua led the people into the land of Canaan, what was the first city they conquered? (Josh. 6)

6. After the land of Canaan was conquered by Joshua and the army of Israel, the land was divided among the tribes of Israel (Josh. 13-22). What land did God give to Israel? What did they do in that land? (Josh. 21:43)

7. Centuries after the Israelites had conquered Canaan, Nehemiah stated that God, who had promised the land to Abram, had _____ his words. (Neh. 9:7-8)

➔ The *land* promise is fulfilled—the Israelites occupied the land of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua. Centuries later Nehemiah confirmed that God had performed his words.

D. FULFILLMENT OF THE SPIRITUAL PROMISE. God promised that in Abraham's seed all families (nations) of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3; 22:18). The promise was repeated to Isaac and Jacob (Gen. 26:1-5; 28:10-14). Shortly before Jacob died, he blessed his twelve sons. To his fourth son Judah, he gave the blessing of power—the tribe of Judah was selected to be the ruling tribe of Israel (Gen. 49:8-12). Many years later the royal family chosen by God from the tribe of Judah was the family of David (II Sam. 7:8, 12-13).

1. When Jacob blessed Judah, what did he say about the scepter? What does a scepter symbolize? (Gen. 49:10)

2. God told David (a descendant of Judah) that He would establish the throne of his kingdom for how long? (II Sam. 7:12-13)

3. Jesus Christ is the son of _____, the son of _____. (Matt. 1:1)

4. Who is the seed of Abraham through whom all families (nations) of the earth are blessed? (Gal. 3:16)

➔ The *spiritual* promise is fulfilled—Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the promised seed, is a descendant (through his earthly parents) of David who was of the tribe of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham (Matt. 1:1-16; Gal. 3:16).

E. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ABRAHAM

1. Why is Abraham called righteous? (Gen. 15:6)
2. When Abraham offered his son Isaac upon the altar, God repeated his promises to Abraham because of what? (Gen. 22:18)
3. God established his oath with Abraham because of what? (Gen. 26:5)
4. Because Abraham believed God's words and obeyed him, he is called the _____ of God. (James 2:23; cf. II Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41 :8)

THE THREE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

The Nation Promise

I will make of thee a great nation (Gen. 12:2)—the *nation* promise was fulfilled in the book of Exodus. The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob numbered a great multitude when Moses led them out of Egypt, the land of their bondage.

The Land Promise

Unto thy seed will I give this land (Gen. 12:7)—the *land* promise was fulfilled in the book of Joshua. Under the leadership of Joshua, the descendants of Abraham conquered and occupied the land of Canaan.

The Spiritual Promise

In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (Gen. 12:3)—the *spiritual* promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. All spiritual blessings are from God the Father in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, a descendant of Abraham (Matt. 1:1; Eph. 1:3).

LESSON 2

JOSEPH - A FAITHFUL SERVANT

INTRODUCTION. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob. He was the first son of his mother Rachel, Jacob's second and most beloved wife (Gen. 30:22-24).

Joseph was his father's favorite, for he was the son of Jacob's old age. Thus Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors, and as a result Joseph's older brothers were jealous. Their animosity increased when Joseph brought an evil report of them to their father, and even more when he related his dreams in which his family bowed down to him. Consequently, his brothers conspired against him, stripped him of his coat, and sold him to merchants traveling in a caravan to Egypt. The merchants in turn sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard. At that time Joseph was seventeen years old. Meanwhile Joseph's brothers took his coat, dipped it in the blood of an animal, then showed it to their father, claiming they had found the bloody garment. Jacob thus believed his son was dead and mourned for him many days (Gen. 37).

Although Joseph was a slave in Potiphar's household, he prospered for the Lord was with him. Eventually Potiphar elevated Joseph to the position of overseer, placing him in charge of his entire household. Potiphar's wife became infatuated with the handsome young man and tried to seduce him. When Joseph fled from her presence leaving his garment behind, Potiphar's wife lied to her husband. She claimed that Joseph had tried to violate her and produced Joseph's robe as evidence. In great rage Potiphar put Joseph in prison (Gen. 39:1-20).

Again the Lord was with Joseph, and after some time the keeper of the prison placed Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. When the king's butler and baker were thrown into prison, Joseph interpreted their dreams. Joseph's predictions for both men came to pass, but when the butler was restored to his position in Pharaoh's service, he forgot about Joseph (Gen. 39:21-23; 40).

After two years Pharaoh had two troubling dreams. When the wise men of Egypt could not interpret the dreams, the butler then remembered Joseph and informed the king about the young Hebrew prisoner. Pharaoh sent for Joseph who interpreted the king's dreams which foretold seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph outlined a plan to prepare for the famine and advised Pharaoh to select a man to oversee the work. Pharaoh, impressed with Joseph's wisdom, appointed him the ruler of Egypt, second only to himself. Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh—he had been a slave and prisoner in Egypt for thirteen years (Gen. 41:1-46).

Joseph prepared for the famine during the years of plenty by storing the surplus grain. When the famine commenced, Joseph opened his storehouses selling his grain not only to Egyptians, but to those of the surrounding countries. Eventually

Jacob sent his ten oldest sons to Egypt to buy grain. When the brothers came before Joseph to make their purchase, they bowed to him not recognizing him. After their grain was consumed, the brothers went to Egypt the second time to buy grain, this time taking Benjamin (Joseph's younger brother, also the son of Rachel) with them. When Joseph could no longer refrain himself, he revealed his identity to his brothers. Joseph then sent his brothers back to Canaan to bring their father and entire households to Egypt to live, for there remained five more years of famine (Gen. 41:47-46:7). Jacob's family who went into Egypt numbered seventy-five souls including Joseph's family (Acts 7:14).

JOSEPH'S CHARACTER. The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered no matter what his situation or how much affliction he endured. Why was the Lord with Joseph, and how was he able to prosper even as a slave and prisoner?

A. JOSEPH'S PROSPERITY

1. When Joseph was in Potiphar's house, what did Potiphar observe? (Gen. 39:2-3)
2. Therefore, Potiphar did what? (Gen. 39:4)
3. What did the Lord do for Potiphar? (Gen. 39:5)
4. When Joseph was in prison, the Lord showed kindness to him and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. What did the prison keeper do? (Gen. 39:21-22)
5. The prison keeper did not concern himself with anything under Joseph's hand (authority) because the Lord was with him, and whatever he did, the Lord made it to _____ . (Gen. 39:23)

B. JOSEPH'S INTEGRITY (UPRIGHTNESS, HONESTY, SINCERITY)

1. When Potiphar's wife lusted after Joseph, he told her his master had put all that he had into his hand and had kept back nothing except his wife. Joseph asked, "How then can I do this great _____, and sin against _____?" (Gen. 39:8-9)

2. What did Potiphar's wife do? What did Joseph do? (Gen. 39:11-12)
3. Paul told the Corinthians to _____ fornication. (I Cor. 6:18)

C. JOSEPH'S KINDNESS

1. When the king's butler and baker dreamed while they were in prison, how did Joseph who was in charge of them treat them? (Gen. 40:6-7)
2. Describe Joseph when he revealed his identity to his brothers who had sinned against him years earlier. (Gen. 45:1-5)

D. JOSEPH'S HUMILITY

1. When the butler and baker told Joseph they had dreamed and no one could interpret their dreams, to whom did Joseph give the credit for interpreting dreams? (Gen. 40:8)
2. When Pharaoh called for Joseph to interpret his dreams, what did Joseph tell him? (Gen. 41:15-16)
3. When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, who did he say had sent him to Egypt? (Gen. 45:8)
4. Who did Joseph say had made him ruler over Egypt? (Gen. 45:8)

E. JOSEPH'S WISDOM

1. When Joseph told Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams and the coming of the grievous famine, what did he advise Pharaoh? (Gen. 41:33)

2. The plan Joseph proposed to Pharaoh to provide for the famine was: (Gen. 41:34-36)
 - a. appoint _____
 - b. take up (collect) _____ of the produce of the land
 - c. gather all the _____ of the good years
 - d. lay up (store) _____ under the hand (authority) of Pharaoh in the cities

F. JOSEPH'S FAITH

1. Joseph named his firstborn son Manasseh which means: (Gen. 41:51)
2. He named his second son Ephraim which means: (Gen. 41:52)
3. Joseph did not blame his brothers for sending him to Egypt. He said God had sent him there for what purpose? (Gen. 45:7)
4. When Joseph was nearing death, he said the children of Israel would eventually return to the land of Canaan promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He commanded his family to carry his bones with them when they returned.

These words he spoke by _____. (Heb. 11:22; cf. Gen. 50:24-26)

G. JOSEPH'S TRIAL. Joseph's life is briefly described in Ps. 105:16-22. In this passage the role of God in the affairs of Joseph is emphasized.

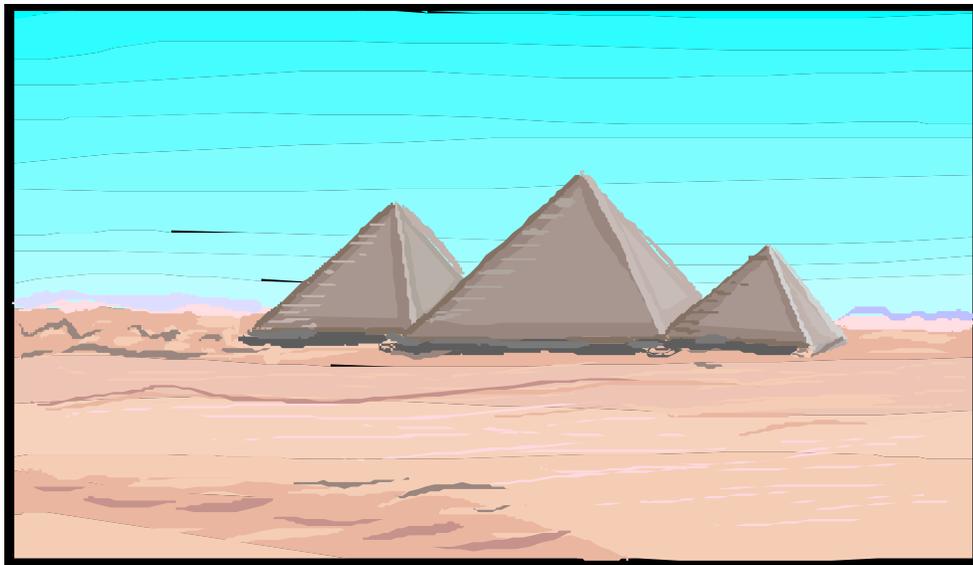
1. He (God) called for a _____ upon the land. (Ps. 105:16)
2. He (God) sent a _____ before them. (Ps. 105:17)
3. Joseph was sold for a _____. (Ps. 105:17)
4. His feet they hurt with _____: he was laid in _____. (Ps. 105:18)

5. Until the time his word came to pass, the word of the Lord _____ him. (Ps. 105:19)

Note. After Joseph interpreted the butler's dream, two more years passed before he was released from prison. During that time the Lord tested his faith and patience.

6. The king sent and _____ him, setting him free. (Ps. 105:20)
7. He made him _____ of his house, and _____ of his substance (possessions), to bind (command) his princes and teach his elders wisdom. (Ps. 105:21-22; cf. Gen. 41:39-44)

CONCLUSION. Joseph's faith in God carried him through his thirteen years of affliction. God used this time to test and try Joseph's faith and patience. In every situation Joseph found himself, he did his best. Joseph who was honored in his father's household was humbled, became a servant, and was ultimately exalted to become ruler over Egypt and save his family—the family through whom the promised seed would come. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance..." (Col. 3:23-24).



LESSON 3

MOSES - DELIVERER OF ISRAEL

INTRODUCTION. After Jacob's family moved to Egypt, they increased and multiplied until the land was filled with them. Joseph died, many years passed, and a new king came to power who did not know Joseph. Afraid of the strength and might of the Israelites, the king began to afflict them, enslaving them and forcing them to build cities for him. He decreed that all boy babies born to the Hebrew women should be cast into the river. One Levite family hid their infant son. When they could no longer hide him, his mother put him in a basket and placed him in the river where the daughter of Pharaoh bathed. The royal princess found the basket and child, named him Moses which means to draw out, and raised him as her son. For the first forty years of his life, Moses enjoyed the pleasures of the Egyptian royal household although he was aware of his Hebrew origin. One day while Moses observed the burdens of his Hebrew brethren, he saw an Egyptian smite one of the Israelites. Moses killed the Egyptian and was forced to flee Pharaoh and Egypt (Ex. 1-2:15).

Moses journeyed to Midian where he married and became a shepherd, keeping the flocks of his father-in-law. After forty years passed, the Lord spoke to Moses at Horeb, the mountain of God, from a bush that burned but was not consumed by the fire. God told Moses He had chosen him to deliver his people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt and bondage, into Canaan, the land He had promised to give to Abraham's seed (Ex. 2:16-4:31).

God performed wonders and signs in Egypt by the hand of Moses, and after ten plagues occurred, Pharaoh allowed the children of Israel to leave, only to pursue them later. When it appeared the Israelites were trapped between the army of Pharaoh and the Red Sea, God saved his people by instructing Moses to stretch his rod over the sea. The waters parted, the Israelites crossed on dry land, and then the waters closed over the pursuing army of Pharaoh (Ex. 5-14).

For the next forty years, Moses led the children of Israel through the wilderness in the Sinai Peninsula. During that time, the Lord delivered the Ten Commandments and other laws to the people. Moses had to deal with the multitude during hunger, thirst, strife, battles, murmurings, complaints, disobedience, and revolt (Ex. 15-Num. 19). Finally, while the people were camped at Kadesh and the time to enter Canaan was near, the people demanded water. God instructed Moses to speak to a rock, but Moses instead struck the rock. Although water flowed from the rock, Moses was forbidden to enter the land of Canaan because of his disobedience and disbelief in this incident (Num. 20:1-13; Ps. 106:32-33).

Before Moses died, God took him to Mount Nebo on the east side of the Jordan River and showed him the land of Canaan. Moses then died at one hundred twenty

years of age—his eye was not dim, nor his natural force (vigor) abated. God buried him in the valley of Moab, but no man knows where (Deut. 34).

THE CHARACTER OF MOSES. Moses is the most prominent character of the Old Testament. He was the deliverer of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, their leader through the wilderness wanderings, the lawgiver at Mount Sinai, and a prophet of God.

A. MOSES, THE DELIVERER AND LEADER. When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush and gave him the task of delivering the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, Moses had misgivings and asked God five questions.

1. Moses' first question was, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?" What did God reply? (Ex. 3:11-12)

2. Moses' next concern was what he would tell the Hebrews when they asked him the name of the God who had sent him. What was God's answer? (Ex. 3:13-15)

3. Third, Moses was fearful the Israelites would not believe him (Ex. 4:1). God then gave Moses three signs or miracles to perform.
 - a. When Moses cast his rod on the ground, it became what? How did it become his rod again? (Ex. 4:2-5)

 - b. When Moses put his hand into his bosom, what happened? When he put his hand into his bosom again, what happened? (Ex. 4:6-7)

 - c. If the people did not believe these signs, what other sign was Moses to perform? (Ex. 4:8-9)

4. Moses' fourth excuse was that he was not eloquent, but slow of speech and tongue. What was God's answer? (Ex. 4:10-12)

5. Last, Moses asked God to send someone else (Ex. 4:13). The Lord became angry and told Moses that He would send whom to help him (he was already on his way to meet Moses)? (Ex. 4:14)

6. What did Moses and Aaron do? (Ex. 7:6-7)

7. Moses led the people out of Egypt after what? (Acts 7:36)

8. Moses delivered the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, but Jesus Christ has delivered us from the bondage of sin. When Jesus died on the cross, his blood cleansed us from our sins (I John 1:7), and He delivered us from _____ . (I Thess. 1:10)

B. MOSES, THE LAWGIVER. After the Israelites left Egypt, they journeyed for three months and came to Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:1-2). God delivered the Ten Commandments to the people from the mountain. But when the people perceived the thunder, lightning, the voice of the trumpet, and the smoking of the mountain, they were frightened. They asked that God speak to them only through Moses lest they die (Ex. 20). Moses then went up into the mountain to receive the law from God. When Moses came down from the mountain after forty days and discovered the Israelites worshipping a golden calf, he broke the tables of stone upon which God had written the Ten Commandments. God's judgment came upon the Israelites and 3000 men were slain that day. Moses then returned to the Lord to intercede for the children of Israel (Ex. 24:12-32:35).

1. What did Moses say the people had done? (Ex. 32:31)

2. If God could not forgive the people's sin, Moses asked God to do what? (Ex. 32:32)

3. What was the Lord's answer? (Ex. 32:33)

4. What further instruction did the Lord give to Moses? Who would go before him? (Ex. 32:34)

5. When Moses sought the Lord in the tent outside the camp, the pillar of cloud stood at the door of the tent, and the Lord spoke with Moses (Ex. 33:7, 9). How did the Lord speak to Moses? (Ex. 33:11)

6. What did the Lord make known to Moses? (Ps. 103:7)

7. The Old Testament law was given to the Israelites as a national law to govern their religious, civil, and social lives. Although God was the author of the law, He delivered the law to Moses who in turn gave the law to the children of Israel. The law is therefore referred to as the Law of Moses throughout the Bible. John said the law was given through whom? What came through Jesus Christ? (John 1:17)

8. When Jesus died, He took the Old Testament law out of the way, nailing it to the cross (Col. 2:14). Jesus is the mediator of a _____, which has been enacted on better promises. (Heb. 8:6)

C. MOSES, THE PROPHET. As a prophet Moses held the place of highest honor through the ages until the coming of Jesus Christ (Deut. 18:15; 34:10).

1. Upon one occasion the Lord called Moses his servant and said he was faithful in all his house. How did the Lord speak with Moses? (Num. 12:7-8)

2. Describe the prophet Moses. (Deut. 34:10)

3. What had Moses done in the land of Egypt and in the sight of Israel? (Deut. 34:11-12)

4. Although Moses was greater than any of the other Old Testament prophets, he told the children of Israel, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall _____." (Deut. 18:15)

5. God speaks to us today by whom? (Heb. 1:1-2)
6. Moses was faithful in God's house as a _____, but Christ as a _____. (Heb. 3:5-6)

D. MOSES, A MAN OF FAITH. The writer of Hebrews pays tribute to the faith of Moses in the "faith chapter" (Heb. 11:23-29).

1. By faith, what did Moses refuse when he was grown? (Heb. 11:24)
2. He chose to be afflicted with the children of Israel rather than what? (Heb. 11:25)
3. He accounted suffering for the sake of Christ greater riches than what? (Heb. 11:26)
4. Because of his faith, Moses left Egypt not fearing what? (Heb. 11:27)
5. By his faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, believing that they (the Israelites) would not be touched or harmed by whom? (Heb. 11:28)
6. Moses and the Israelites passed through the Red Sea by what? What happened to the Egyptians? (Heb. 11:29)
7. When the Israelites were ready to go into the land of Canaan, Moses assured the people by telling them: (Deut. 9:1-3)
 - a. the Lord will go before thee as a _____
 - b. He will _____ them (the inhabitants of Canaan) and bring them down before thee
 - c. you shall _____ them out and destroy them quickly
8. Moses did what? (Ex. 40:16)

LESSON 4

JOSHUA - THE CAPTAIN OF ISRAEL

INTRODUCTION. The name Joshua (Heb.) is the Old Testament form of Jesus (Gr.) which means the Lord is salvation. Joshua is first introduced in the scriptures when the children of Israel came to a place called Rephidim on the way to Mount Sinai about two months after they left Egypt. Here the Israelites were attacked by the Amalekites, desert nomads who were descendants of Esau. Moses appointed Joshua to command the Israelites in the ensuing battle, which he did successfully (Ex. 17). Joshua then served as Moses' servant while Moses was receiving the law from God at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:13; 32:17; 33:11).

When the children of Israel left Mount Sinai in the second month of the second year, they journeyed northward, camping at the southern border of Canaan which was their destination. Moses sent twelve men to spy out the land, one man from each of the twelve tribes, and Joshua was the man chosen from the tribe of Ephraim. When the spies returned after forty days, only Joshua and Caleb, the man chosen from the tribe of Judah, reported that the Israelites were strong enough to conquer the land. When the congregation of people believed the evil report of the ten other spies rather than the good report of Joshua and Caleb, the Lord decreed that Israel should wander in the wilderness for forty years, one year for each of the days spent spying out the land. All the Israelites twenty years and older, except for Joshua and Caleb, would perish in the wilderness because of their unbelief—their children would be the ones allowed to enter the land of promise (Num. 13-14).

When the forty years had passed and the death of Moses was near, God chose Joshua to succeed Moses (Num. 27:18-23). Joshua's task, therefore, was to lead the children of Israel into the land of Canaan, conquer it, and occupy it—fulfilling God's land promise to Abraham.

THE CHARACTER OF JOSHUA. As the leader of the children of Israel and the captain of their army, Joshua needed courage, strength, and faith in God.

A. JOSHUA, A LEADER CHOSEN BY GOD

1. Who selected Joshua as Moses' successor? (Num. 27:18)

2. Joshua was given the charge (appointment) in the sight of whom? (Num. 27:19)

3. Joshua was filled with what? By what means? (Deut. 34:9)

4. After Moses died, the Lord spoke to Joshua and told him: (Josh. 1:1-9)
 - a. arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the _____ which I give them (Josh. 1:1-2)
 - b. no man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; I will not _____ thee, nor _____ thee (Josh. 1:5)
 - c. this book of the _____ shall not depart out of your mouth (Josh. 1:8)

B. JOSHUA, A HUMBLE SERVANT

1. Before Moses died he encouraged Joshua and told him: (Deut. 31:7-8)
 - a. be _____ and of good _____
 - b. you shall go with this people into the _____ which the Lord has sworn to give to them
 - c. the Lord will be with thee, He will not _____ thee, nor _____ thee; _____ not, neither be _____
2. Before the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River into the land of Canaan, God told Joshua, "This day will I begin to _____ thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee." (Josh. 3:7)
3. The people crossed the river Jordan miraculously on dry ground, and on that day the Lord _____ Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they _____ him as they feared Moses all the days of his life. (Josh. 4:14)

C. JOSHUA, A MAN OF FAITH. When the army of Israel crossed the Jordan River, they set up camp in Gilgal which was about five miles from Jericho. As Joshua scouted Jericho, a Man with a drawn sword appeared to him. He instructed Joshua how to capture the city.

1. When Joshua asked the Man with the sword if He was for the Israelites or their enemies, what did the Man say? (Josh. 5:13-14)

2. What did Joshua do and say? (Josh. 5:14)

3. What did the Man tell Joshua to do? (Josh. 5:15)

4. The Lord's instructions for the capture of Jericho were:
 - a. all the men of war shall compass the city once for _____ days (Josh. 6:3)
 - b. the seventh day ye shall compass the city _____ times (Josh. 6:4)
 - c. the priests shall blow the _____; the people shall _____ (Josh. 6:4-5)
 - d. then the walls of the city shall _____ (Josh. 6:5)

5. The city of Jericho was a strongly fortified city, and these instructions for its capture must have seemed strange to Joshua. Nevertheless, he submitted himself to the command of the Lord, and after the people compassed the city for the seventh time on the seventh day, what did the priests do and what did Joshua say to the people? (Josh. 6:16)

6. How did the walls of Jericho fall? (Heb. 11:30)

D. JOSHUA, THE KEEPER OF THE LAW

1. God told Joshua to meditate on the book of the law night and day, and _____ to do all that is written therein. (Josh. 1:8)
2. As the Lord commanded Moses his servant, so He commanded Joshua. Describe the obedience of Joshua. (Josh. 11:15)

E. JOSHUA, THE MILITARY CAPTAIN AND STRATEGIST. In order to conquer Canaan, it was necessary first to conquer the strategically located city of Jericho which lay in the Jordan River valley just west of the fords of the river. After accomplishing this victory, Joshua then conquered the cities of Ai and Bethel in the heart of the central hill country, thus dividing the land in two (Josh. 8:1-29; 12:7, 9, 16). He could then conduct separate military campaigns against the cities in the south and the cities in the north.

1. How successful was Joshua as captain of the Israelite army? (Josh. 11:23)
2. How many kings were conquered? (Josh. 12:1, 24)
3. Who is the captain (author) of our salvation? (Heb. 2:9-10)

F. JOSHUA, THE PEACE ADMINISTRATOR. When the people of Israel had occupied the land of Canaan and had peace, Joshua determined the boundaries, dividing the land among the tribes.

1. How did Joshua divide the land? (Josh. 11:23)

2. What method did Joshua, the priest Eleazar, and the heads of the tribes use to determine the inheritances for the tribes? (Josh. 14:1-2)

G. JOSHUA, HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS. When Joshua was old, he gathered together the elders of Israel, their judges, and officers and charged them to remain faithful to God.

1. Joshua told the people to put away the gods their fathers had served beyond the River (Euphrates) and Egypt and serve the Lord. He then said if it seemed evil to them to serve the Lord, then choose whom they would serve: the gods their fathers served beyond the River (Euphrates), or the gods of the Amorites in the land of Canaan. Joshua said he and his house would serve whom? (Josh. 24:15)
2. What would happen if the people forsook God and served idols? (Josh. 24:20)
3. What did the people tell Joshua? (Josh. 24:24)
4. How old was Joshua when he died? (Josh. 24:29)
5. How long did Israel serve the Lord? (Josh. 24:31)
6. What about the bones of Joseph? (Josh. 24:32)

LESSON 5

GIDEON - A JUDGE OF ISRAEL

INTRODUCTION. Although Joshua and the Israelites defeated many kings and captured many cities in Canaan, they did not drive all the inhabitants out of the land. Consequently, after Joshua and the elders who were contemporary with him died, the people of Israel forgot about God and began to serve the idols of the people that remained in the land. Then the Lord's anger was kindled against the children of Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of enemy invaders. After Israel had been oppressed for a number of years by these enemies, they remembered God and turned to him again, crying for help. God then raised up a judge who saved them and drove their enemies out of the land. But when the judge died, Israel turned again to their idols. After more oppressions by more enemies, God raised more judges to save his people (Judg. 2:6-23). One such judge was Gideon.

At one time when the Israelites had become idolatrous and evil, God delivered them into the hands of the Midianites who oppressed them for seven years. The Midianites together with the Amalekites, both desert nomad tribes, invaded the land, burning the crops of the Israelites, destroying their food, and forcing many of them to hide in caves and dens. One day as Gideon was threshing wheat in his winepress to hide the grain from enemies who might be roving about, the angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him to save Israel from the Midianites (Judg. 6:1-24).

A. GIDEON'S COMMISSION (Judg. 6:11-24)

1. What did the Lord tell Gideon? (Judg. 6:14)
2. When the Lord assured Gideon that he (Gideon) would smite the Midianites, what did Gideon request? (Judg. 6:16-17)
3. Gideon then prepared some food for the angel who instructed him to place it on a rock. When the angel touched the food with his staff, what occurred? (Judg. 6:19-21)
4. Gideon then believed he had seen whom? (Judg. 6:22)

B. GIDEON'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT (Judg. 6:25-32). That night the Lord told Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal set up by his father, build an altar to the Lord in the same place, and offer one of his father's bullocks as a sacrifice.

1. Who aided Gideon and when in this project? (Judg. 6:27)

2. The next morning when the men of the city discovered that their altar of Baal was broken down and Gideon was responsible, they went to Joash (Gideon's father) demanding Gideon's death. Joash told the men, "Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him?...if he (Baal) be a _____, let him plead for _____, because one hath cast down his altar." (Judg. 6:31)

3. Gideon was called Jerubbaal which means what? (Judg. 6:32)

C. GIDEON'S TEST (Judg. 6:33-40). The Midianites with their allies then crossed the Jordan River and camped in the valley of Jezreel. Jezreel is a wide, fertile valley which lay in the inheritance of Issachar. The valley is the only natural east-west pass through the rugged hills of Canaan and is the crossroads of two major routes: the east-west route from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, and the north-south route from Syria and Phoenicia in the north to Judah and Egypt in the south. Because of its strategic location, many battles have been fought in this valley throughout history.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet issuing the call to arms. Volunteers for his army came from the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. Gideon then asked God a second time for a sign as proof that God would save Israel by Gideon's hand.

The First Test (Judg. 6:36-38)

Gideon put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. The next morning if the fleece was wet with dew and the ground was dry, he would know God would save Israel by his hand.

Results of the Test

The fleece was _____

The ground was _____

The Second Test (Judg. 6:39-40)

Gideon put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. The next morning if the fleece was dry and the ground was wet with dew, he would know God would save Israel by his hand.

Results of the Test

The fleece was _____

The ground was _____

D. GIDEON'S ARMY (Judg. 7:1-8)

1. When the men of Israel answered Gideon's call and gathered to him, why did the Lord say there were too many? (Judg. 7:2)
2. When the Lord instructed Gideon to send the fearful and trembling home, how many men departed? How many were left? (Judg. 7:3)
3. The Lord said there were still too many, so He devised a test to further reduce the army. The men were brought to the water. Some lapped the water, putting their hand to their mouth, and the rest fell to their knees to drink. How many lapped the water, putting their hand to their mouth? Which group was sent home? (Judg. 7:5-7)

E. GIDEON'S FURTHER ASSURANCE (Judg. 7:9-15). The Lord told Gideon that night to go down to the camp of Midian and eavesdrop.

1. The army of the Midianites and Amalekites numbered how many? (Judg. 7:12)
2. When Gideon came to the edge of the camp, he heard a man telling his dream to another: a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came unto the tent, smiting it so that it fell, turned upside down, and lay flat. What did the second man say the dream meant? (Judg. 7:13-14)

F. GIDEON'S BATTLE (Judg. 7:16-8:21)

1. How did Gideon divide his army? (Judg. 7:16)
2. How were the men armed? (Judg. 7:16)

3. Gideon surrounded the enemy camp with his three companies, and in the beginning of the middle watch (about midnight), what did the men do and say? (Judg. 7:19-20)
4. What did the enemy do? (Judg. 7:21-22)
5. The men of the other tribes joined in the pursuit of the fleeing Midianites. The two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, were slain, and two kings, Zebah and Zalmunna, were captured and killed (Judg. 7:23-8:12). How many of the enemy did the Israelites kill? (Judg. 8:10)
6. How long did the land have peace then in the days of Gideon? (Judg. 8:28)

GIDEON'S CHARACTER. Gideon became a leader, not because the people demanded it, not because he desired the task, not because he thought himself capable, but because God called him and he obeyed.

A. GIDEON'S HUMILITY

1. When the Lord told Gideon to save Israel from Midian, Gideon asked how he should save Israel. "...behold, my family is _____ in Manasseh, and I am the _____ in my father's house." (Judg. 6:15)
2. When the men of Israel wanted Gideon to rule over them after he had saved them from the Midianites, Gideon said, "I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the _____ shall rule over you." (Judg. 8:23)

B. GIDEON'S DOUBTS

1. When the angel first spoke to Gideon and told him the Lord was with him, Gideon replied, "...if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath _____ us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." (Judg. 6:13)

2. Gideon asked for signs:
 - a. the food consumed by _____ (Judg.6:17-21)
 - b. the _____, first wet with dew, then dry (Judg. 6:36-40)
3. The Lord gave a sign to reassure Gideon: the Midianite's _____ (Judg. 7:13-14)

C. GIDEON'S FAITH, OBEDIENCE, AND COURAGE. Gideon is named as one of the great men of faith in the "faith chapter" of Hebrews (Heb. 11:32). Although Gideon asked God for signs to reassure him that God had chosen him to save Israel, he obeyed God's instructions and acted courageously.

1. When the angel of the Lord first appeared to Gideon, He called him a mighty _____ (Judg. 6:12)
2. When the fire consumed the food, Gideon acknowledged he had seen the _____ face to face. (Judg. 6:22)
3. Gideon demonstrated both his faith and courage when he broke down the altar of _____ (Judg. 6:25-27), and when he reduced his army to _____ men. (Judg. 7:7-8).
4. After he had heard the Midianite's dream and the interpretation of it, Gideon told his army, "Arise; for the Lord hath _____ into your hand the host of Midian." (Judg. 7:15)

D. GIDEON'S DEVOTION. The scriptures specifically state that Gideon worshipped upon two occasions.

1. After the angel of the Lord appeared and fire consumed the food, Gideon built an _____ unto the Lord. (Judg. 6:24)
2. After hearing the Midianite's dream, Gideon _____. (Judg. 7:15)

LESSON 6

SAMUEL - PROPHET, PRIEST, JUDGE

INTRODUCTION. After the death of Joshua, the children of Israel did not have a national leader. "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 17:6). The twelve tribes, although related through their common ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, were not united, but were rather an unorganized and loose confederation. The judges raised by God to deliver the people from their enemies were generally tribal leaders, not national rulers. Fifteen judges (including Abimelech, the bramble king) ruled over a period of some 200-400 years. The last and by far the most outstanding judge was Samuel who also served as prophet and priest.

A. SAMUEL, CALLED BY GOD. One time while Elkanah, a Levite, and his wife Hannah, who was childless, were worshipping at the tabernacle in Shiloh, Hannah prayed earnestly for a son. She vowed that if the Lord granted her request, she would give the child to the Lord. In due time Hannah gave birth to a son whom she named Samuel. When the child was weaned, Hannah kept her vow and took Samuel to Shiloh, leaving him there with the priests to minister in the service of the Lord (I Sam. 1-2:11).

When Samuel was still a child, the Lord called him one night as he slept. Samuel thought that Eli, the priest, was calling him, but after the Lord called the third time, Eli told Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth" (I Sam. 3:9). When the Lord called again, Samuel spoke as Eli had advised. The Lord then revealed to Samuel that He would judge the house of Eli because of the sins of Eli's two sons (I Sam 3:1-18).

1. Describe the growth of Samuel. (I Sam. 2:26)
2. What other child is described in this manner? (Luke 2:52)
3. When the Lord called Samuel, his word was _____ in those days, for there was no _____ vision (revelation). (I Sam. 3:1)
4. At that time Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet _____ to him. (I Sam. 3:7)

B. SAMUEL, A PROPHET, PRIEST, AND JUDGE. As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him, and all Israel knew he was established to be a prophet of God. The Lord appeared again in Shiloh and revealed his word to Samuel (I Sam. 3:19-21).

At that time the Israelites' enemies were the Philistines, a warlike people. As early as the time of Abraham and Isaac, a group of Philistines lived in the southern area of Canaan (Gen. 20; 26). Another group of Philistines migrated from the regions of the Aegean Sea and settled along the Mediterranean coast in southern Canaan about 1200 B. C. during the days of the judges of Israel. The area where they settled was called Philistia from which came the Greek name *Palestine*, the later designation for all Canaan. During one battle the Philistines defeated the Israelites and captured the ark of the covenant. Eli's two sons were killed in the battle, and when Eli heard the news, he fell off his seat backward, broke his neck and died. When the Lord sent a plague upon the Philistines, they returned the ark of the covenant to Israel. The ark was taken to Kiriath-jearim where it remained for twenty years until David removed it to Jerusalem (I Sam. 4-7:2).

Samuel exhorted the people of Israel to put away their idols, and he gathered them to Mizpah to judge them. As he offered a sacrifice, the Philistines drew near to attack, but the Lord sent a thunderstorm which smote them. So Israel subdued the Philistines, and they did not come into Israel all the days of Samuel (I Sam. 7:3-17).

1. As Samuel grew the Lord was with him, and all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew he was established to be a _____ of the Lord. (I Sam. 3:19-20)
2. How did the Lord reveal himself to Samuel? (I Sam. 3:21)
3. After the Philistines returned the ark to Israel, Samuel told the people to _____ to the Lord with all their hearts, put away the foreign _____ from among them, and the Lord would deliver them from the Philistines. (I Sam. 7:3)
4. What did the people do? (I Sam. 7:4)
5. What did Samuel do for the people? (I Sam. 7:8-9)

6. The Lord answered with a great thunder, and the Philistines were defeated by Israel (I Sam. 7:10-12). The Philistines came no more into the territory of _____, and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of _____. (I Sam. 7:13)
7. How long did Samuel judge Israel? (I Sam. 7:15)
8. Samuel made a circuit each year judging in the cities of _____, _____, and _____, then he returned to his home in Ramah where he judged and built an _____ to the Lord. (I Sam. 7:16-17)

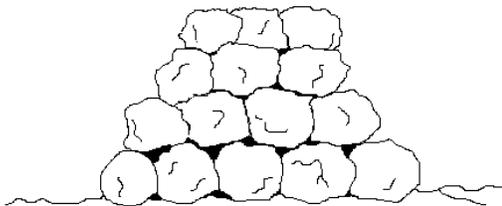
C. SAMUEL, ANOINTER OF KINGS. When Samuel was old, the people of Israel asked for a king. Although Samuel warned the people of the evils and responsibilities of a monarchy, they refused to listen. God assured Samuel that the people had not rejected Samuel as their leader, but they were rejecting him (the Lord) as their king. The Lord then directed Samuel to anoint Saul of the tribe of Benjamin as king. Saul was tall and handsome, and when he proved to be a capable military leader, the people enthusiastically accepted him as their king (I Sam. 8-11).

Eventually Saul and Samuel came into conflict. When Saul was preparing for a battle, Samuel delayed, so Saul offered a burnt offering. When Samuel arrived, he denounced Saul's action and stated that Saul's kingdom would not continue (I Sam. 13:1-15). Later when Saul went to battle against the Amalekites, Samuel told him to utterly destroy them and their animals. Instead Saul spared the king and the animals, telling Samuel the people took the animals to sacrifice them to the Lord. Samuel told Saul that because of his disobedience, God had given his kingdom to another. Samuel then left Saul and came to see him no more, mourning for him (I Sam. 15).

The Lord told Samuel to mourn no more for Saul but to go to Bethlehem. There He directed Samuel to anoint David, the son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah, as the next king of Israel (I Sam. 16:1-13). Some time later Samuel died, and all Israel mourned for him (I Sam. 25:1).

1. When the people of Israel demanded a king, they gave three reasons: (I Sam. 8:5)
 - a. Samuel was _____
 - b. his sons did not _____ in his ways
 - c. they wanted a king like other _____
2. By desiring a king, whom had the people rejected? (I Sam. 8:7)
3. When Samuel anointed Saul, he said the Lord had anointed him (Saul) to be what? (I Sam. 10:1)
4. When Saul offered a sacrifice, Samuel told him he had acted foolishly and had not kept the commandment of the Lord. Therefore, Saul's kingdom would not _____, for God would seek a man after his own _____ to be captain (prince, commander) over his people. (I Sam. 13:13-14)
5. When Saul disobeyed the Lord at the battle with Amalek and spared the king and the animals, what did he tell Samuel? (I Sam. 15:13)
6. What did Samuel reply? (I Sam. 15:14)
7. What excuse did Saul give? (I Sam. 15:15)
8. Samuel told Saul, "Behold, to _____ is better than _____, and to hearken (heed) than the _____." (I Sam. 15:22)

9. As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of his garment tearing it. Samuel said, "The Lord hath rent (torn) the _____ from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is _____ than thou." (I Sam. 15:27-28)
10. Samuel _____ for Saul, and the Lord _____ that He had made Saul king. (I Sam. 15:35)
11. The Lord sent Samuel to Bethlehem to Jesse to anoint a king from among his sons. After the seven oldest sons had been presented to Samuel, the youngest, who was tending the sheep, was called. Describe this youngest son of Jesse. (I Sam. 16:12)
12. What did the Lord tell Samuel? (I Sam. 16:12)
13. When Samuel did as commanded, what occurred? (I Sam. 16:13)
14. When Samuel died, what did Israel do? (I Sam. 25:1)



*Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life...
he went from year to year in circuit to
Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh,
and judged Israel in all those places...his
return was to Ramah...there he judged Israel;
and there he built an altar unto the Lord.
I Sam. 7:15-17*

LESSON 7

DAVID - KING OF ISRAEL

INTRODUCTION. When God rejected Saul as king, He instructed Samuel to anoint David, the youngest son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah, to be king of Israel. Although God "rent" the kingdom from Saul, David did not actually become king until after Saul's death.

A. DAVID, THE SHEPHERD AND MUSICIAN. As a young man David was a shepherd, keeping his father's sheep (I Sam. 16:11). At one time David killed a lion and a bear who were raiding his father's flocks (I Sam. 17:34-36).

David was a skilled musician. After God rejected Saul, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul and an evil spirit afflicted him. David was summoned from his father's house to play his harp before Saul and soothe his troubled spirit. Saul loved David greatly and made him his armor bearer (I Sam. 16:14-23).

1. Where was David when God sent Samuel to Jesse to anoint one of his sons as king? (I Sam. 16:1, 11)
2. Describe David when he was anointed by Samuel. (I Sam. 16:12)
3. When Saul was troubled by an evil spirit, a harpist was sought to soothe him. How was David described to Saul? (I Sam. 16:17-18)

B. DAVID, THE WARRIOR. David first gained his reputation as a warrior during his contest with Goliath, the Philistine giant. The Philistines gathered their armies to battle and sent their nine-foot champion to challenge the Israelites. David accepted the challenge, and with Saul's permission met the giant, slaying him with his sling and a single stone. He then took Goliath's sword and cut off the giant's head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled and the Israelites pursued them to the gates of the Philistine cities (I Sam. 17).

Saul then made David a captain over a thousand men. Saul's son Jonathan formed a deep friendship with David, and Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife. However, as David's fame and popularity grew with the people, Saul became jealous and attempted to kill David. David then became a fugitive, running from Saul the remainder of Saul's life (I Sam. 18-31).

1. When David came to Saul at the time Goliath was threatening Israel, to whom did David give credit for delivering him from the lion and bear? Who would deliver him from the Philistine? (I Sam. 17:37)

2. Goliath came against David with a sword, a spear, and a javelin. How did David come to Goliath? (I Sam. 17:45)

3. Why did God deliver the Philistine giant into David's hand? (I Sam. 17:46-47)

4. When David returned from his victory over Goliath, the women danced and sang: (I Sam. 18:7)
 - a. Saul has slain his _____
 - b. and David his _____

5. Why was the Lord with David? (I Sam. 18:14)

C. DAVID, THE KING. Saul, Jonathan, and two other sons of Saul were eventually killed in a battle with the Philistines (I Sam. 31). The Lord then instructed David to go to Hebron. There the tribe of Judah anointed David as their king, and he reigned over Judah for seven years in Hebron (II Sam. 1-2). During this time there was civil war between those loyal to David and the remaining descendants of Saul who attempted to claim for themselves the throne of Israel. When the house of Saul was finally vanquished, the elders of all Israel came to David and anointed him king over all Israel. The tribes of Israel for the first time were truly united, and David reigned for another thirty-three years over a united Israel and Judah (II Sam. 3-5:5).

1. After Saul's death, who directed David to go to Hebron? What occurred there? (II Sam. 2:1, 4)

2. After seven years when the elders of all the tribes came to Hebron to anoint David their king, what did they say the Lord had told David? (II Sam. 5:1-2)

3. What did the elders of Israel do then? (II Sam. 5:3)

4. David was _____ years old when he began to reign, and he reigned _____ years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah for _____, and in Jerusalem he reigned _____ over all Israel and Judah. (II Sam. 5:4-5)

D. DAVID, THE CONQUEROR. David's first military victory after becoming king over the united tribes was the capture of Jerusalem. Since the time of Joshua's conquest of Canaan, Jerusalem had remained a Jebusite stronghold within the territory of Judah. David took the city and made it his capital and home (II Sam. 5:6-10). He then made Jerusalem the religious center of Israel as well by bringing to the city the ark of the covenant which had been at Kiriath-jearim since its capture and return by the Philistines in Samuel's day (II Sam. 6).

David continued his military campaigns, subduing the Philistines, Moabites, Syrians, Ammonites, Amalekites, and Edomites (II Sam. 5:17-25; 8). He expanded and extended the borders of his kingdom, until all the territory promised to Abraham was under his dominion.

1. Why was David successful in capturing Jerusalem and becoming great? (II Sam. 5:7, 10)

2. When David brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, he placed it in the tabernacle (tent) and offered _____ and _____ before the Lord and blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. (II Sam. 6:17-18)

Note. This tabernacle was not the tabernacle that was constructed while the children of Israel were in the wilderness. The original tabernacle was in Gibeon at this time (I Chron. 16:1, 37-40; 21:28-30).

E. THE HOUSE OF DAVID. David desired to build a place of worship for the Lord at Jerusalem. However, the Lord did not permit David to build a house of worship, but instead He promised to make David a house. Through the prophet Nathan, the Lord said He would raise up David's seed who would build a house in

the Lord's name, and the Lord would establish the throne of his kingdom forever (II Sam. 7:1-17). Thus Abraham's seed (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:16) was to come from the house of David, and the kingdom and throne of this seed would be established forever. Although this prophecy had its immediate fulfillment in David's son Solomon who built the temple, the prophet was speaking of Christ, the seed of David and Abraham, and his throne and kingdom (Matt. 1:1; Acts 2:22-36).

1. The Lord (through the prophet Nathan) promised He would set up David's seed after him and establish his _____ . (II Sam. 7:12)
2. David's seed would build a _____ for the Lord's name. (II Sam. 7:13)
3. The Lord would establish the _____ of his kingdom forever. (II Sam. 7:13)

F. THE FAMILY OF DAVID. David had several wives and children. Although David was a man after God's own heart (I Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22), David had family problems as a result of his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. God told David through the prophet Nathan that the sword would never depart from his house (II Sam. 11-12).

Through the years David's sons caused him much anguish and heartache. His son Absalom killed his half-brother Amnon who had assaulted Absalom's sister Tamar in an immoral way (II Sam. 13). Later when David neared the end of his reign, Absalom, who was handsome and popular with the people, attempted to usurp the throne. David and his followers were forced to flee Jerusalem for a period of time as Absalom gained control of the kingdom. Eventually Absalom was slain and David was restored to power, but he grieved and mourned greatly for his dead son (II Sam. 15-18).

When David was near death, another one of his sons, Adonijah, attempted to proclaim himself king. His plot failed and David ordered that Solomon be anointed as his successor (I Kings 1). Before David died he gave Solomon the plans for the temple he had received from the Lord and instructed him to build the house for the Lord, the God of Israel (I Chron. 22; 28-29:1-9). He charged Solomon to keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses that he might prosper (I Kings 2:1-4).

1. When David gave Solomon the plans for the temple, he said the Lord did not allow him to build the house. Why? (I Chron. 22:8)

2. Who would build the house? (I Chron. 22:9-10)

Note. This was the immediate fulfillment of Nathan's prophecy to David (II Sam. 7:1-17). The prophecy was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

3. David charged Solomon to walk in the ways of the Lord God, to keep his statutes, commandments, judgments, and testimonies written in the law of Moses that he might what? (I Kings 2:1-3)

G. DAVID, THE PSALMIST. Many of the Psalms were written by David. What is David called? (II Sam. 23:1)

CONCLUSION. David, the son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah, was the ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1-17). God promised to establish the throne of David's kingdom forever, a prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ. David was handsome and prudent in speech. He was a skillful musician and poet, writing many psalms. He was a man of valor with great courage as a military leader and warrior. As king, David was without equal—all subsequent kings were compared to him. He was a religious leader, planning and preparing for the building of the temple, and organizing the worship. Although he sinned, he repented humbly before God. What did the Lord call David? (Acts 13:22)

A Psalm of David

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Psalm 23

LESSON 8

ELIJAH - RELIGIOUS REFORMER

INTRODUCTION. David's successor to the throne of Israel was his son Solomon. Early in his reign Solomon humbly asked God for wisdom. God granted him the wisdom and also gave him wealth and honor so that he exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom (I Kings 3:4-15; 10:23; II Chron. 9:22).

Solomon reigned in peace and prosperity over all the territory promised by God to Abraham (I Kings 4:20-21, 24-25). He built a magnificent temple in Jerusalem, and the priests brought the tabernacle and ark of the covenant to the temple, placing the ark in its permanent home, the Most Holy Place. Solomon then presided over an elaborate dedication ceremony before the assembly of Israel which lasted seven days followed by the seven day feast of tabernacles (I Kings 6-8; II Chron. 3-7).

Solomon had many wives from foreign nations, and when he was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods. Because Solomon turned from God to idols, God rent the kingdom from him. The ten tribes of Israel in the north became a separate kingdom called the northern kingdom or the kingdom of Israel. However, God preserved for the house of David the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin known as the southern kingdom or kingdom of Judah (I Kings 11). Through the years the kingdom of Judah was ruled by the descendants of David—some kings were righteous and some were wicked. However, the northern kingdom of Israel was ruled by several dynasties and soon became idolatrous, first worshipping God improperly and later worshipping Baal and other idols. The division of the kingdom occurred about 931/930 B. C.

A. ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL. Ahab was one of the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel. His wife was Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon. Jezebel was a worshipper of Baal, and Ahab introduced Baal worship into Israel. Ahab "did evil in the sight of the Lord" and "did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him" (I Kings 16:30, 33).

Elijah, an inhabitant of Gilead, the area east of the Jordan River, appears suddenly in the narrative making a dramatic appearance before King Ahab. After predicting a devastating drought and famine to Ahab, Elijah fled to a brook east of the Jordan River. During the ensuing drought, the Lord sustained Elijah by ravens that brought him food in the mornings and evenings. When the brook dried up, the Lord directed Elijah to go to Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. There he was sustained by a widow whose oil and meal miraculously increased during the drought. When the widow's son died, Elijah restored him to life (II Kings 17).

After three years, the Lord instructed Elijah to go back to Israel to Ahab, and He would send rain. When Ahab met Elijah, he called him the troubler of Israel, but

Elijah told Ahab it was he (Ahab) who troubled Israel because he had forsaken the Lord and followed Baal. Elijah then challenged Ahab to gather all the 450 prophets of Baal and Jezebel's 400 prophets of the Asherah to Mount Carmel. There Elijah and the prophets of Baal had a contest before the people of Israel. The prophets of Baal built an altar, prepared a bullock for sacrifice without fire, and Elijah did the same. The prophets of Baal called upon their god for fire to consume their sacrifice from morning to evening, leaping about and cutting themselves with knives, but they received no answer. Elijah then poured water on his sacrifice and called on the name of the Lord God of Israel. Fire from the Lord fell which consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the altar, and the water, causing the people of Israel to acknowledge the true God. Elijah then slew the prophets of Baal, and the Lord sent rain, ending the drought (I Kings 18).

1. What message did Elijah give to King Ahab? (I Kings 17:1)

2. When Elijah returned to Israel and met Ahab, what did Ahab call him? (I Kings 18:17)

3. What was Elijah's response? (I Kings 18:18)

4. Elijah asked the people of Israel how long they would halt (limp, falter) between two opinions—if the Lord is God _____, but if Baal is God _____ him. (I Kings 18:21)

5. When Elijah called upon God to send down fire, he called the Lord, the God of _____, _____, and _____. (I Kings 18:36)

6. He asked God to hear him that the people would know what? (I Kings 18:37)

7. Describe the fire. (I Kings 18:38)

8. What did the people say? (I Kings 18:39)

9. Shortly afterward the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was heavy rain (I Kings 18:45). How long had the drought lasted? (Jas. 5:17-18)

B. ELIJAH IN THE WILDERNESS AT MOUNT HOREB. When Jezebel learned that Elijah had killed her prophets, she vowed revenge. Elijah fled to the wilderness south of Judah, lay down under a tree, and asked God to allow him to die. An angel ministered unto him, providing food and encouraging him to continue his journey. For forty days and nights on the strength of that food, Elijah journeyed through the wilderness to Mount Horeb where he sought shelter in a cave. At this point Elijah believed he was the only one left in Israel who served the Lord, but God spoke to him and assured him there were seven thousand in Israel who had not bowed to Baal. He instructed Elijah to anoint Hazael to be king of Syria, Jehu to be king of Israel, and Elisha to be a prophet and his successor. These three would bring about reformation in Israel (I Kings 19).

1. When Elijah fled from Jezebel and went to Mount Horeb, he told the Lord that Israel had done what? (I Kings 19:10)

2. What did the people want to do to Elijah? (I Kings 19:10)

3. The Lord then told Elijah to stand before him on the mount. The Lord passed by, and his presence came to Elijah in: (I Kings 19:11-13)
 - a. a great and strong wind which rent (tore) the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks
 - b. an earthquake
 - c. fire
 - d. a still small voice

4. What assurance did the Lord give to Elijah? (I Kings 19:18)

C. ELIJAH, AHAB AND NABOTH'S VINEYARD. When Ahab desired the vineyard belonging to Naboth, Jezebel plotted the execution of Naboth. Elijah met Ahab for the last time when Ahab went to the vineyard to take possession of it. Elijah prophesied the violent deaths of Ahab and Jezebel and the extermination of their house (family). When Ahab repented at Elijah's word, the Lord had compassion on Ahab and said the prophecy would not come to pass during Ahab's lifetime but in the days of his son (I Kings 21).

1. When Elijah met Ahab in Naboth's vineyard, what did Ahab say? (I Kings 21:20)
2. What was Elijah's response? (I Kings 21:20)
3. What did Elijah prophesy regarding the house of Ahab? (I Kings 21:21)
4. The Lord brought judgment upon Ahab because he had made Israel _____. (I Kings 21:22)
5. When Ahab heard Elijah's words, what did he do? (I Kings 21:27)
6. Describe the longsuffering and mercy of God toward Ahab. (I Kings 21:28-29)

D. ELIJAH AND AHAZIAH. After reigning over Israel for twenty-two years, Ahab was killed in a battle with the Syrians at Ramoth-Gilead. His son Ahaziah reigned for two years then fell from an upper room in his palace. When Ahaziah sent messengers to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to inquire about his health, Elijah intercepted the messengers and prophesied his death. Twice the king sent fifty soldiers to arrest Elijah, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them. The captain of the third group of soldiers pleaded for mercy before Elijah. The Lord then directed Elijah to go to Ahaziah and personally deliver the message of death. Ahaziah died soon afterward (II Kings 1). How did Ahaziah's messengers describe Elijah to him? (II Kings 1:8)

E. ELIJAH AND ELISHA. One day as Elijah and Elisha journeyed to the Jordan River, they crossed on dry land after Elijah smote the waters with his mantle (coat). As they walked and talked, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Suddenly a chariot and horses of fire appeared, and Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle, and returning to the river he used the mantle to part the waters, calling upon the God of Elijah. Sons of the prophets nearby witnessed Elisha's action and acknowledged him as Elijah's successor (II Kings 2:1-15). Describe Elijah's ascension to heaven and Elisha's reaction. (II Kings 2:11-12)

F. ELIJAH AND JOHN THE BAPTIST. Many years after Elijah was taken to heaven in the whirlwind, the prophet Malachi prophesied that the Lord would send Elijah before the coming of the day of the Lord. His mission was to turn the hearts of the people back to the Lord (Mal. 4:5-6). It was not Elijah in person who came again, but his spirit in another. Elijah preached repentance to the people, attempting to turn them from Baal back to God. In the same manner the one who came in Elijah's spirit taught repentance and attempted to turn the people back to God.

1. Who came in the power and spirit of Elijah? (Luke 1:13, 16-17; Matt. 3:1-2)

2. Describe his appearance. (Matt. 3:4)

And he [Elijah] said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away...And the Lord said...I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

I Kings 19:14, 18

LESSON 9

JOSIAH - THE YOUNG KING WHO SOUGHT GOD

INTRODUCTION. Elijah's religious reformation was continued by Elisha. After some years at the direction of Elisha, Jehu, the one God instructed Elijah to anoint as king of Israel, seized the throne in Israel. Jehu first slew the kings of Israel and Judah, and next he killed Jezebel. Then Jehu proceeded to slay all that remained of the house of Ahab, fulfilling Elijah's prophecy to Ahab. Next Jehu tore down the house of Baal and killed all the Baal worshippers, thus destroying Baal from Israel (II Kings 9-10:28). Therefore, for a time the Lord was gracious to Israel and had compassion on them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and would not destroy them or cast them from his presence (II Kings 13:23). Nevertheless, Israel soon fell into idolatry again, and eventually the Lord sent Assyria, a ruthless and cruel nation, against them. The Assyrians completely crushed the northern kingdom of Israel and carried the people away into captivity in 723 B. C. (II Kings 17). The northern kingdom had lasted slightly more than two hundred years.

The southern kingdom, Judah, continued for another one hundred and thirty-some years. Although all the kings of Israel were evil, Judah, who was ruled by the descendants of David, had some righteous kings. One of the last kings of Judah was Josiah.

A. JOSIAH'S FIRST AND SECOND REFORMS. Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign. His grandfather and father who had reigned before him were extremely wicked, leading the people of Judah into idolatry. However, in the eighth year of Josiah's reign while he was still young (16 years old), he began to seek after the God of David, his father (II Kings 22:1; II Chron. 34:1-3). In the twelfth year of his reign (at the age of 20), he began to purge (cleanse) Judah and Jerusalem of the idolatrous places of worship. He even went north into the ruins of Israel and broke down the idolatrous altars and images that remained there (II Chron. 34:3-7).

1. How is Josiah described, and to whom is he compared? (II Chron. 34:2)
2. What did Josiah do in the eighth year of his reign? (II Chron. 34:3)
3. When did Josiah begin to purge (cleanse) Judah and Jerusalem from the idols and idolatrous places of worship? (II Chron. 34:3-5)
4. In what other cities did he carry out this reform? (II Chron. 34:6-7)

B. JOSIAH'S THIRD REFORM AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW. In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign (when he was 26 years old), his third reformation took place. Josiah ordered the repair of the temple, and in the process the high priest Hilkiah found the Book of the Law. When the book was read before Josiah, he tore his clothes for the people of Judah had strayed far from the commandments of the Lord. Josiah commanded Hilkiah to inquire of the Lord concerning the words of the book. Hilkiah consulted the prophetess Huldah who revealed that the Lord would bring evil upon Judah because they had forsaken him and worshipped idols. But concerning King Josiah, because his heart was tender and he humbled himself before the Lord, the evil would not occur until after his death (II Kings 22:3-20; II Chron. 34:8-28).

1. In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, he ordered the repair of the temple. What did Hilkiah, the high priest, find in the temple? (II Kings 22:8)
2. What did Shaphan, the scribe, do? (II Kings 22:10)
3. What did Josiah do when he heard the words of the Book of the Law? (II Kings 22:11)
4. What did Josiah command Hilkiah and others do to? (II Kings 22:12-13)
5. Huldah, the prophetess, predicted that evil would come upon Judah and its inhabitants because of what? (II Kings 22:15-17)
6. Why would Josiah be spared from these calamities? (II Kings 22:18-20)

C. JOSIAH'S COVENANT. Josiah gathered all the people of Judah together at the temple and read to them all the words of the Book of the Law that had been found. Before the assembly he made a covenant with the Lord to keep all the statutes and commandments contained within the book (II Kings 23:1-3; II Chron. 34:29-33).

1. What covenant (agreement) did Josiah make before the Lord? (II Chron. 34:31)
2. What did Josiah make the people do? For how long did they do it? (II Chron. 34:32-33)

D. JOSIAH'S REFORMS. Josiah continued with his reforms, destroying the remnants of Baal worship, idolatrous altars, houses of sin, and cult objects of worship to the sun, moon, and stars. He slew the idolatrous priests and burned men's bones on the pagan shrines, thus defiling them (II Kings 23:4-20, 24). Josiah

took away all the _____ out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve

the _____. All his days they departed not from following the Lord, the God of their fathers. (II Chron. 34:33)

E. JOSIAH'S PASSOVER CELEBRATION. When he completed his purge, Josiah commanded the people to observe the Passover Feast in Jerusalem at the newly repaired temple. It was the greatest Passover celebration since the days of the judges (II Kings 23:21-23; II Chron. 35:1-19). Describe the Passover held in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign. (II Kings 23:22)

F. JOSIAH'S DEATH. In 609 B. C. when Josiah had reigned for thirty-one years, he went to battle against Pharaoh-Necho, king of Egypt, and was killed in the battle at Megiddo. His body was brought back to Jerusalem for burial, and all the people mourned for him (II Kings 23:29-30; II Chron. 35:20-24).

1. When Josiah died, who mourned for him? (II Chron. 35:24)

2. What prophet lamented for Josiah? (II Chron. 35:25)

CONCLUSION. As a young man Josiah sought the Lord to serve him and was dedicated to restoring the true worship of God. Because of his humility and tender heart, the Lord granted him peace and prosperity during his thirty-one year reign. What tribute is paid to King Josiah? (II Kings 23:25)

LESSON 10

JEREMIAH - THE PROPHET WHO SAW JERUSALEM DESTROYED

INTRODUCTION. The Lord appointed Jeremiah to be a prophet to Judah and the nations during the reign of Josiah, the righteous king. After the death of Josiah the people of Judah became idolatrous again, and the nation fell into rapid decline. Three of Josiah's sons and a grandson reigned after him, but all of them were evil. During this tumultuous time Jeremiah continued to deliver God's word to the unrepentant people who did not heed his message, but rather ridiculed, maligned, and persecuted him.

When Josiah was killed in 609 B. C., his son Jehoahaz became king in Judah. After three months, however, Pharaoh-Necho of Egypt took him captive and carried him to Egypt. Pharaoh placed Jehoiakim, another son of Josiah, on the throne and demanded heavy tribute from Judah (II Kings 23:31-35; II Chron. 36:1-4). In 605 B. C. the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish, a city on the Euphrates River in northern Syria (Jer. 46:2). Nebuchadnezzar then marched throughout Syria and Judah, besieging Jerusalem and carrying captives including Daniel back to Babylon (Dan. 1:1).

Jehoiakim served Nebuchadnezzar for three years then rebelled against the Babylonian king (II Kings 24:1). Jeremiah predicted a violent death for Jehoiakim (Jer. 22:18-19; 36:30), and Josephus, the Jewish historian, states that Jehoiakim was killed by Nebuchadnezzar who ordered him cast before the walls of the city and left unburied. Jehoiakim was succeeded on the throne of Judah by his son Jehoiachin, but Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem for the second time, and after three months, in 597 B. C., he again took captives to Babylon. Among the captives were the king Jehoiachin, the prophet Ezekiel, princes, mighty men of valor, craftsmen—10,000 captives (II Kings 24:8-16; II Chron. 36:9-10; Ezek. 1:1-3).

Nebuchadnezzar then placed Zedekiah, son of Josiah and uncle of Jehoiachin, on the throne of Judah. Some years later Judah rebelled against the Babylonians, and Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem for the third time. After a siege of more than two years, Nebuchadnezzar captured the city in 586 B. C. He burned the temple and houses, broke down the walls of the city, and carried the treasures of the temple and city to Babylon. Those people who escaped the Babylonian sword, Nebuchadnezzar took captive back to Babylon, leaving only the poorest of the people in Judah to be vinedressers and farmers (II Kings 24:18-25:21; II Chron. 36:11-20).

Some of the people that were left in Judah rebelled against the governor that had been appointed by Nebuchadnezzar. They fled to Egypt and forced Jeremiah to accompany them, although warned by him that the Babylonians would invade Egypt and there was no safety there (II Kings 25:22-26; Jer. 40-44).

Although Jeremiah began his work during the peaceful reign of Josiah, he lived through and witnessed the chaotic period that followed the death of Josiah. He was an old man when he went to Egypt, and his fate is uncertain.

A. THE CALL OF JEREMIAH. Jeremiah, the son of a priest, was from the village of Anathoth which was about three miles northeast of Jerusalem. When he was a young man, the Lord called him to be a prophet.

1. When had the Lord determined to appoint Jeremiah a prophet? (Jer. 1:4-5)
2. How did Jeremiah answer the Lord? (Jer. 1:6)
3. The Lord told Jeremiah that he should go wherever the Lord sent him, and he should speak whatever the Lord commanded. Why was Jeremiah not to be afraid? (Jer. 1:7-8)
4. How did Jeremiah receive the words of the Lord? (Jer. 1:9)

B. JEREMIAH AND JOSIAH. Jeremiah received his call from the Lord in the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign (about 627 B. C.). Although Josiah was righteous and the people served the Lord during Josiah's reign, the Lord told Jeremiah that

Judah had not returned to the Lord with her _____, but _____ . (Jer. 3:6, 10)

C. JEREMIAH AND JEHOIAKIM. In the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign when Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem the first time, Jeremiah prophesied the Babylonian captivity of Judah.

1. Jeremiah told the people he had spoken the Lord's word to them for how long? (Jer. 25:3)
2. What was their reaction? (Jer. 25:3)

3. Jeremiah said the Lord would send Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, against Judah (Jer. 25:9). Describe the land after this invasion of Babylon. (Jer. 25:11)

4. How long would Judah serve Babylon (remain in captivity in Babylon)? (Jer. 25:11)

5. What would the Lord then do to Babylon? (Jer. 25:12)

D. JEREMIAH AND THE ROLL. In that same year the Lord told Jeremiah to write all the words in a book that He had spoken to Jeremiah.

1. When the words of the book (roll) were read before Jehoiakim, the king, what did he do? (Jer. 36:21-23)

2. What was the reaction of those who heard the words of the Lord and witnessed Jehoiakim's actions? (Jer. 36:24)

3. The Lord told Jeremiah to take another roll and write the words again, adding a prophecy against Jehoiakim: (Jer. 36:30)
 - a. he shall have none to sit upon the _____
 - b. his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the _____ and in the night to the _____

4. How would Jehoiakim be buried? (Jer. 22:18-19)

E. JEREMIAH AND JEHOIACHIN. Jehoiachin, the son of Jehoiakim, was taken captive to Babylon in the second deportation. Jeremiah predicted Jehoiachin would be cast out into another country where he was not born and where he would die (Jer. 22:25).

1. The prophecy also stated that Jehoiachin's seed would not sit where? (Jer. 22:30)

Note. This prophecy is a reference to the earthly kingdom of Judah.

2. Jehoiachin was the last rightful descendant of David to rule on the throne in Judah. Although Jeremiah's prophecy regarding Jehoiachin states that none of his seed shall sit upon David's (earthly) throne, the Lord shall raise another to sit on David's throne. "I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth...this is his name whereby he shall be called, _____." (Jer. 23:5-6)

Note. Jesus Christ, a descendant of David and Jehoiachin (Matt. 1:1-17), would sit on the spiritual throne of David and reign over a spiritual kingdom.

F. JEREMIAH AND ZEDEKIAH. Zedekiah, son of Josiah, was placed on the throne of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar after he took Jehoiachin captive. One of the many persecutions against Jeremiah took place during the third and last siege of Jerusalem.

1. What was the condition of Zedekiah and the people of Judah when he began to reign? (Jer. 37:1-2)
2. When Jeremiah prophesied that the king of Babylon would capture the city of Jerusalem (Jer. 38:2-3), the princes of Judah put Jeremiah into a dungeon. Describe the dungeon. (Jer. 38:4-6)
3. An Ethiopian servant in the king's house, pleaded with Zedekiah to release Jeremiah. The king told him to take thirty men with him and take Jeremiah out of the dungeon. How did the men do this? (Jer. 38:11-13)
4. When Jeremiah was rescued from the dungeon, Zedekiah consulted with him. Jeremiah told Zedekiah that if he surrendered to the Babylonians, he would live and the city would not be burned. If Zedekiah did not surrender, what would happen? (Jer. 38:18)

Note. Zedekiah did not surrender. The temple and city were destroyed and the people taken captive. Zedekiah was captured near Jericho trying to escape and taken to Riblah. Here the Babylonians killed his sons before him, then put out his eyes and carried him to Babylon in fetters (II Kings 25:1-7).

G. JEREMIAH'S CHARACTER. Jeremiah was perhaps the most tenderhearted of the Old Testament prophets. Although reviled and opposed by the people of Judah, he loved them and prayed for them. Before God he was obedient and humble.

1. Jeremiah is sometimes called the weeping prophet. Why did he wish his head were waters and his eyes a fountain of tears? (Jer. 9:1)

2. How did the people treat Jeremiah? (Jer. 20:7)

3. Although the people did not listen to the words of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, he could not refrain from speaking. God's words were like what in Jeremiah's heart? (Jer. 20:9)

4. In spite of the dark days and calamitous times during Jeremiah's life, he prophesied of a new covenant and hope for the future. The Lord promised He would make a new covenant with the house of Israel and house of Judah (Jer. 31:31).
 - a. Where would the Lord put his laws in those days? (Jer. 31:33)

 - b. What about the sins of the people? (Jer. 31:34)

Note. This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus Christ and his church.

LESSON 11

DANIEL - A LEADER IN CAPTIVITY

INTRODUCTION. In 605 B. C. during the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came against Jerusalem for the first time and besieged the city. Nebuchadnezzar took young princes and nobles captive, carrying them back to Babylon along with temple treasures. One of the young Jewish men taken captive was Daniel. As a result, Daniel, a prophet of God, lived his entire adult life as a captive in a foreign country. He was courageous, deeply devoted to God, and a man of conviction and faith (Heb. 11:32-33).

The book of Daniel contains two sections. The first relates episodes in the lives of Daniel and his friends as captives in the king's court in Babylon (Dan. 1-6). The second section consists of various dreams, visions, and prophecies of Daniel concerning the future of Israel, world kingdoms, and the kingdom of Jesus Christ (Dan. 7-12).

A. DANIEL AND THE KING'S FOOD (Dan. 1). Daniel's first test of courage occurred early in his captivity when he was very young, probably in his teens. The young captives were taken to Babylon for instruction in the Chaldean (another name for Babylonian) language and customs. They were trained for three years in preparation for service in the king's court. Daniel and three of his Jewish friends courageously, but courteously, refused to drink the king's wine or eat his meats (delicacies) which possibly were foods offered to Babylonian idols or those which were a violation of God's dietary laws of clean and unclean (Lev. 11; Deut. 14:3-21). The servant in charge of the young men was fearful his own life would be in danger if the Jewish boys' health suffered as a result of their refusal to partake of the king's food. Daniel suggested a ten-day trial, and the servant agreed to serve them vegetables and water during that period. At the end of the ten days, the countenance (features) of Daniel and his three friends surpassed those who had eaten the king's food.

1. What did God do for the four, young Jewish men? (Dan. 1:17)
2. What special skills did Daniel have? (Dan. 1:17)
3. When the four youths came before Nebuchadnezzar at the end of the three years, what did the king observe? (Dan. 1:18-20)

B. DANIEL AND NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM (Dan. 2). Some time later Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream. He wanted his dream interpreted but claimed he could not remember the dream. When the Babylonian wise men could not reveal or interpret the dream, the king became angry and commanded that the wise men be slain—a decree that included Daniel and his friends. Daniel asked the king for some time, then he and his friends prayed to God for mercy. God revealed the secret to Daniel in a vision during the night. Daniel requested that the lives of the wise men be spared, then went to the king, told him the dream and its interpretation. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was of a great image, bright, and terrible (awesome).

The Dream (Dan. 2:31-35)

The Interpretation (Dan. 2:36-45)

The image:

1. head of fine gold (Dan. 2:32)

_____ art the head of gold
(Dan. 2:37-38)

2. arms and breast of silver
(Dan. 2:32)

after thee another _____
inferior to thee (Dan. 2:39)

3. belly and thighs of brass
(Dan. 2:32)

another _____ kingdom of
brass (Dan. 2:39)

4. legs of iron (Dan. 2:33)

a fourth kingdom, strong as _____
(Dan. 2:40)

and feet part iron and clay
(Dan. 2:33)

but a divided kingdom, partly _____

and partly _____ (Dan. 2:41-42)

A stone:

5. cut out without hands, smote the image on its feet and broke it; then became a great mountain and filled the earth (Dan. 2:34-35)

in the days of these kings, the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it

shall stand _____ (Dan. 2:44)

Note. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was a vision of four world kingdoms that would arise, one after the other. The first, the head of gold, was the Babylonian kingdom. The stone cut out without hands was prepared by God and broke in pieces the four world kingdoms. The kingdom of God would then fill the earth and stand forever.

6. To whom did Daniel give credit for revealing the dream and its meaning? (Dan. 2:26-28)

7. What did Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge after Daniel interpreted his dream? (Dan. 2:47)

8. What did Nebuchadnezzar do for Daniel? (Dan. 2:48)

C. DANIEL AND BELSHAZZAR (Dan. 5). After Daniel had been in Babylonian captivity for nearly seventy years, Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, hosted a drunken feast for a thousand lords. The king and his guests drank from the gold and silver vessels brought to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar from the temple in Jerusalem. Suddenly, a hand wrote the words

Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin

on the wall of the palace. When no one could understand the message, the queen (queen mother) remembered Daniel, and he was brought to Belshazzar to interpret.

1. What was Daniel's interpretation of the writing on the wall? (Dan. 5:26-28)
 - a. *Mene, Mene*
 - b. *Tekel*
 - c. *Peres*

Note. Upharsin is the word in verse 25, rather than Peres. U means and; Pharsin is the plural form of Peres.

2. What happened to Belshazzar that night? (Dan. 5:30)

3. Belshazzar, who was weighed in the balances and found wanting, had not _____ his heart, but had lifted himself up against the _____. (Dan. 5:22-23)

4. Who received the kingdom? (Dan. 5:31)

Note. On October 12, 539 B. C., the city of Babylon fell to the Medo-Persians, the second kingdom in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represented by the breast and arms of silver. Belshazzar who was engaged in a riotous banquet was slain the same night.

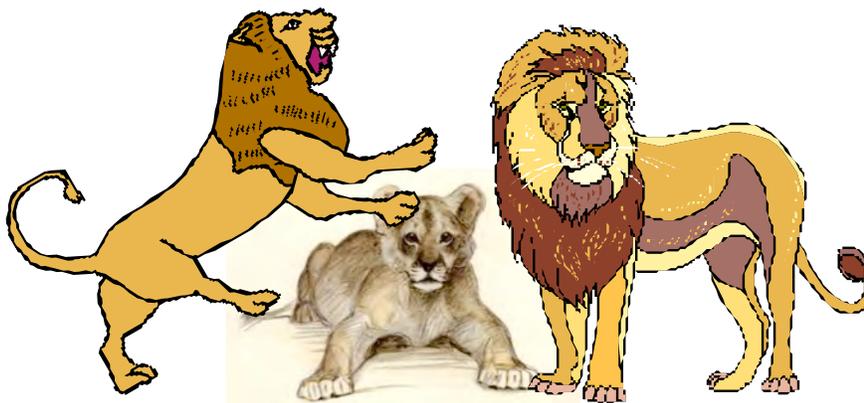
D. DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN (Dan. 6). Darius the Mede was appointed governor of Babylon by Cyrus, king of the Medes and Persians, who was the conqueror of Babylon in 539 B. C. Darius appointed 120 princes or satraps over the kingdom, and placed three presidents or governors over the satraps of whom Daniel was one.

Because Darius favored Daniel for his excellence, the other two presidents (governors) were jealous and attempted to discredit Daniel. When they could find no fault in Daniel, they tricked Darius into making a royal law that no one could make a petition of any god or man for thirty days except of the king (Darius). Anyone disobeying this law would be cast into a lions' den.

In spite of this law, Daniel continued to pray to God three times daily at his window which was opened toward Jerusalem. The jealous men reported this to Darius, who was greatly displeased by the trickery and tried to find a way to deliver Daniel. However, since the law of the Medes and Persians could not be changed, Daniel was cast into the den of lions. Darius spent the night fasting, and very early in the morning went to the den of lions to determine Daniel's fate. When Daniel emerged unharmed, the king commanded that the men who had accused Daniel be cast into the den of lions. Before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions broke them in pieces.

1. Daniel distinguished himself because he had an _____
spirit, and he was _____ without any error or fault.
(Dan. 6:3-4)
2. What did Darius say when he went to the lions' den in the morning? (Dan. 6:19-20)
3. How was Daniel saved from the lions? (Dan. 6:21-22)

4. Darius then made a decree that in all his kingdom men should _____
and _____ before the God of Daniel. (Dan. 6:26)
5. Darius described Daniel's God: (Dan. 6:26-27)
 - a. He is the living God
 - b. He is steadfast forever
 - c. His kingdom shall not be destroyed
 - d. His dominion shall be to the end
 - e. He delivers and rescues
 - f. He works signs and wonders in heaven and earth
 - g. He delivered Daniel from the power of lions
6. How did Daniel fare in the reign of Darius and Cyrus? (Dan. 6:28)



LESSON 12

ESTHER - THE QUEEN WHO SAVED HER PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION. Jeremiah prophesied that the people of Judah would be in Babylonian captivity for seventy years (Jer. 25:8-11; 29:10). In 539 B. C. the army of Cyrus, king of the Medes and Persians, entered the city of Babylon. Belshazzar who was engaged in a riotous feast was slain the same night. Thus the great Babylonian kingdom, represented by the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, ended and was succeeded by the Medo-Persian Empire, the silver breast and arms.

In his first year as ruler of the Medo-Persian Empire, Cyrus issued a proclamation throughout all his kingdom permitting the deported peoples to return to their homelands and encouraging them to restore their religious worship (II Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4). Accordingly, many of the Jews returned to Palestine to once again live in their "promised land" and rebuild their temple and cities, fulfilling the prophecy of Jeremiah (Jer. 25:8-12). Not all Jews returned to Palestine, however; some remained in the lands to which they had been carried as captives. Throughout the years they had established new homes and businesses, becoming prosperous.

The book of Esther takes place in Shushan, the Persian capital, during the reign of Ahasuerus, probably the Persian king known in history as Xerxes, who ruled Persia from 485 to 465 B. C. During his reign the empire was at its zenith and encompassed the known world. Esther was a brave and courageous young Jewish girl who became queen of Persia and saved her people from disaster.

ESTHER 1. The book of Esther opens in the third year of the reign of Ahasuerus while he was engaged in a seven-day, royal, drunken feast. On the seventh day of the feast Ahasuerus commanded his beautiful wife, Vashti, to come to the feast in order to display her beauty in an immoral way before his drunken guests.

1. Vashti _____ the king's commandment, and therefore the king was very angry. (Esth. 1:12).
2. A royal commandment then written in the laws authorized the king to give Vashti's royal estate unto _____. (Esth. 1:19)

ESTHER 2. Ahasuerus then ordered that all the "fair young virgins" of the kingdom be brought to the palace in Shushan in order for him to choose a replacement for Vashti. One of the young women taken to the palace was Esther, a Jewish girl, who was "fair and beautiful." Esther was adopted when her parents died by her cousin Mordecai who was from the tribe of Benjamin and an official at the court. Mordecai instructed Esther not to reveal her Jewish ancestry to the king or his servants.

Esther found favor in the sight of King Ahasuerus, and he loved her more than all the young maidens. In the seventh year of his reign, Ahasuerus made Esther his queen and "set the royal crown upon her head." Meanwhile Mordecai overheard two men plotting to murder Ahasuerus. He passed the information on to Esther who warned the king. The conspirators were executed, and Mordecai's service was recorded in the official book of the court.

1. Mordecai treated Esther as his own _____ . (Esth. 2:7)
2. Describe Esther's regard for Mordecai. (Esth. 2:20)

ESTHER 3. Some time later Ahasuerus appointed Haman as his chief advisor. The king commanded his servants to bow to Haman, but Mordecai refused, thus incurring the wrath of Haman. Haman determined to vent his anger on the whole Jewish population, not just on Mordecai. With the permission of Ahasuerus, Haman sent orders throughout the kingdom in the twelfth year of Ahasuerus that on a certain day all Jews were to be killed and their properties confiscated. The day selected for the

slaughter was determined by casting lots or _____. (Esth. 3:7)

ESTHER 4. The decree devised by Haman and sealed with the king's ring caused great mourning throughout the empire by the Jews who fasted, wept, and clothed themselves in sackcloth. Esther was informed that her cousin Mordecai was at the king's gate dressed in sackcloth with ashes. First she sent clothing to him, but he did not accept it. Esther then sent a messenger to Mordecai to inquire about his distress. Mordecai told the servant to inform Esther of Haman's scheme and to charge her to intercede with the king on behalf of her people the Jews. Esther then sent word to Mordecai that anyone approaching the king in his inner court who was not summoned could be put to death unless the king held out his golden sceptre.

1. Mordecai's answer to Esther was:
 - a. Don't think you will _____ in the king's house anymore than all the Jews. (Esth. 4:13)
 - b. If you hold your peace at this time, then deliverance will arise to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will _____. (Esth. 4:14)
 - c. Who knows whether you are come to the _____ for such a time as this? (Esth. 4:14)

2. Esther sent word to Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Shushan together to fast for her for _____ days, and she and her servants would do the same. (Esth. 4:15-16)

3. Esther said she would then go in unto the king, which was not according to the law, and if "I _____, I _____." (Esth. 4:16)

ESTHER 5. On the third day Esther put on her royal apparel and went to the inner court where the king was sitting on his throne. When the king saw her, he held out his golden sceptre to her, thus indicating his pleasure at her presence. He asked what she desired and said it would be granted her unto the half of the kingdom. Esther invited the king and Haman to a banquet. At the banquet the king again asked Esther the nature of her petition. She invited the king and Haman to another banquet the following day. Haman went home full of pride for the honor bestowed on him, but his joy was marred by the sight of Mordecai at the king's gate. At his

wife's suggestion, he built a _____ fifty cubits (about seventy-five feet) high on which to hang Mordecai. (Esth. 5:14)

ESTHER 6. Meanwhile the king was unable to sleep that night and called for the court records to be read in his presence. Mordecai's part in revealing the assassination plot against Ahasuerus was read, and the king learned that Mordecai had not been rewarded for his service. At that moment Haman came to the king to ask permission to hang Mordecai. When the king saw Haman, he asked, "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?" Believing that the king was referring to him, Haman advised that the man be clothed in royal apparel and led by one of the nobles through the city on the king's own horse. Ahasuerus then ordered

Haman to make haste and do so for _____ the Jew, and let nothing fail of all that he had spoken. (Esth. 6:10)

ESTHER 7. At the second banquet, Esther told the king about the plot to destroy the Jews and pleaded with him to spare her life and the lives of her people. Then she named Haman as the one who had planned the mass murder of the Jews. The king arose from the banquet in his wrath and went into the palace garden. Haman, who was terrified, fell upon the couch where Esther was reclining to beg for his life. At that moment Ahasuerus returned to the banquet, and seeing Haman upon Esther's couch, he believed Haman was assaulting her. What did the king command? (Esth. 7:8-10)

ESTHER 8. Esther then told the king of her relationship to Mordecai. Ahasuerus gave Mordecai his official ring which he had taken from Haman, and Esther placed Mordecai over the household of Haman.

Again Esther approached the king, and again he held out the golden sceptre to her. This time she pleaded that the edict to kill her people might be reversed. Since the law of the Medes and Persians could not be changed, the king authorized Mordecai to issue another decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves on the day appointed for their massacre. The decrees were sealed with the king's ring and dispatched throughout the provinces by couriers riding on the king's swift horses.

1. When Esther asked the king to reverse the order for the Jewish slaughter, what did she tell him? (Esth. 8:6)

2. Describe Mordecai as he went from the king's presence. (Esth. 8:15)

3. Describe the Jews as they received the good news. (Esth. 8:16-17)

ESTHER 9. Upon the appointed day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the Jews gathered together in their cities throughout the empire to defend themselves. No one could withstand them, for the princes of the provinces, the governors, and all those that served the king helped the Jews because they feared Mordecai whose fame and power had become greater and greater. The Jews in the provinces smote all their enemies that day—75,000—and in Shushan the palace the Jews killed 500 men and the ten sons of Haman. When the king asked Esther if she had a further request, she asked that the Jews in Shushan be allowed to attack their enemies the next day also, and that Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows. The king commanded that it be done, and the following day the Jews killed another 300 in Shushan. Thus the Jews in the provinces rested the fourteenth day of the month, and those in Shushan rested the fifteenth day.

1. Mordecai and Esther then sent letters to all the Jews in the empire to celebrate yearly the 14th and 15th days of the twelfth month (Adar) as: (Esth. 9:20-22)
 - a. the days the Jews had _____ from their enemies
 - b. the month which was turned from sorrow to _____ and
from mourning into a _____

- c. days of _____ and _____
 - d. days of sending _____ to one another and _____ to the poor
2. These feast days were called what? (Esth. 9:26)

Note. The Jews still celebrate this yearly feast.

ESTHER 10. The acts of Ahasuerus, his power and might, were written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia.

- 1. What position did Mordecai have? (Esth. 10:3)
- 2. What did he do for his people the Jews? (Esth. 10:3)

FOOTNOTE TO THE BOOK OF ESTHER. Haman is called an Agagite (Esth. 3:1), and thus was possibly a descendant of Agag, the king of the Amalekites (I Sam. 15:8). Mordecai was a descendant of the family of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin (Esth. 2:5).

Saul, the first king of Israel, was the son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin (I Sam. 9:1-2). Saul was told to destroy the Amalekites who threatened Israel, but he failed to obey the Lord's instructions, sparing the animals and Agag, the king. In the book of Esther, the Amalekites by the hand of Haman again threatened God's people, but this time the Lord used Mordecai of the tribe of Benjamin to frustrate the plan. (NKJV, *The Word in Life Study Bible*, p. 847)

LESSON 13

NEHEMIAH - REBUILDER OF THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

INTRODUCTION. When Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian Empire, conquered Babylon in 539 B. C., he issued a decree allowing the deported peoples throughout his empire to return to their homelands. The first group of Jews to return to Palestine was led by Zerubbabel, a descendant of David. The main purpose of this return, besides resettling the land, was to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Cyrus gave to these returning exiles 5400 vessels of gold and silver that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple and put in the house of his gods in Babylon. The new (second) temple was completed and dedicated to God in 515 B. C. (Ezra 1; 6:15).

A second group of Jews returned to Palestine in 458 B. C. which was the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes I, son and successor of Xerxes, the Ahasuerus of the book of Esther. The leader of this second return was Ezra, a scribe and descendant of Aaron. Ezra had set his heart to seek the Lord, and his mission was to teach the laws and statutes to the Jews who had returned to Palestine (Ezra 7:1-10).

In 445 B. C., the twentieth year of Artaxerxes' reign, Nehemiah, a Jew and high official in the king's court, learned that conditions back in Jerusalem were deplorable—the people were in great affliction and the walls of the city broken down. The king appointed Nehemiah as governor of Judah and gave him permission to lead a third group of Jews back to Jerusalem with the authority to rebuild the walls of the city (Neh. 1-2:8; 5:14).

Although Nehemiah had spent his life in a foreign land, he was fully devoted to God and a true worshipper. He was a planner and organizer, a man of wisdom, determination, persistence, and courage—a role model for every Christian today.

A. NEHEMIAH'S SORROW

1. What message did Nehemiah receive regarding Judah and Jerusalem? (Neh. 1:1-3)

2. What was Nehemiah's reaction? (Neh. 1:4)

3. Nehemiah's prayer: (Neh. 1:5-11)
 - a. First, how did he praise God? (Neh. 1:5)
 - b. How often did Nehemiah pray? (Neh. 1:6)
 - c. Next, he confessed sin. Who had sinned against God? (Neh. 1:6)
 - d. What was their sin? (Neh. 1:7)
 - e. According to the word of God spoken to Moses, what would happen if the people sinned? (Neh. 1:8)
 - f. What would happen if the people returned to God? (Neh. 1:9)
 - g. How had God redeemed the people? (Neh. 1:10)
 - h. Nehemiah pleaded with God to hear his prayer and grant him _____ in the sight of this man (the king). (Neh. 1:11)
4. Nehemiah was the king's _____. (Neh. 1:11)

Note. The position of cupbearer was one of great honor. Tasting the king's wine to make certain it was not poisoned was one of the chief duties of the cupbearer.

B. NEHEMIAH'S COMMISSION TO REBUILD THE CITY. When Nehemiah took wine to the king after learning of the conditions in Jerusalem, the king questioned Nehemiah regarding his sad countenance. Nehemiah prayed again, then asked permission of the king to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. The king granted Nehemiah's request, provided an armed escort, and gave him letters authorizing his passage through the empire. The documents also authorized the keeper of the king's forest to provide Nehemiah with timber for his building projects (Neh. 2:1-10).

After Nehemiah had been in Jerusalem for three days without revealing his mission to anyone, he went out at night to inspect the walls of the city. Then he went to the Jewish leaders and proposed that the work of rebuilding commence at once, giving two reasons ensuring success (Neh. 2:11-17).

1. What were these reasons? (Neh. 2:18)
 - a. the hand of _____ was good upon him
 - b. the _____ words that were spoken to him
2. What was the response of the leaders? (Neh. 2:18)

C. NEHEMIAH'S OPPOSITION. With the cooperation of the leaders of the Jews, Nehemiah then organized the work for the construction project. Besides voluntary labor from the people of surrounding villages, the residents of Jerusalem repaired the section of walls opposite their own homes (Neh. 3).

Some of the rulers of surrounding territories felt threatened by the restoration of fortifications at Jerusalem and opposed the project. Sanballat, a Horonite (secular history states he was governor of Samaria), Tobiah, an Ammonite, and Geshem, an Arabian, first ridiculed the Jews in their labors (Neh. 2:19; 4:1).

1. What did Sanballat call the Jews as he mocked them, asking if they could fortify themselves, offer sacrifices, complete the work in a day, revive stones from heaps of rubbish? (Neh. 4:1-2)
2. How did Tobiah mock the Jews? (Neh. 4:3)
3. Nehemiah then prayed, asking God to notice how the workers were despised. He begged God to avenge their cause, for their enemies had provoked _____ to anger before the builders. (Neh. 4:4-5)
4. Despite the opposition, how were the people able to build the wall unto half the height? (Neh. 4:6)
5. Next Sanballat and his allies conspired to do what to stop the work? (Neh. 4:7-8)
6. What two things did Nehemiah and the builders do? (Neh. 4:9)
7. What else did the workers do? (Neh. 4:17-18)

D. NEHEMIAH'S SUCCESS. When their ridicule and threat of armed intervention failed to stop the work, Sanballat and his allies attempted to trick Nehemiah to parley with them outside the city. Four times Nehemiah declined. The fifth time Sanballat threatened Nehemiah in a letter, accusing him of rebelling against the Persian king and suggesting that the rumors of his treason might spread to the palace. Nehemiah replied that the rumors were invented in Sanballat's heart (Neh. 6:1-8).

1. Again Nehemiah prayed. What did he pray? (Neh. 6:9)

2. How long did it take to rebuild the walls? (Neh. 6:15)

Note. This was a remarkable endeavor, made possible by Nehemiah's faith and trust in God, and his determination, persistence, and courage.

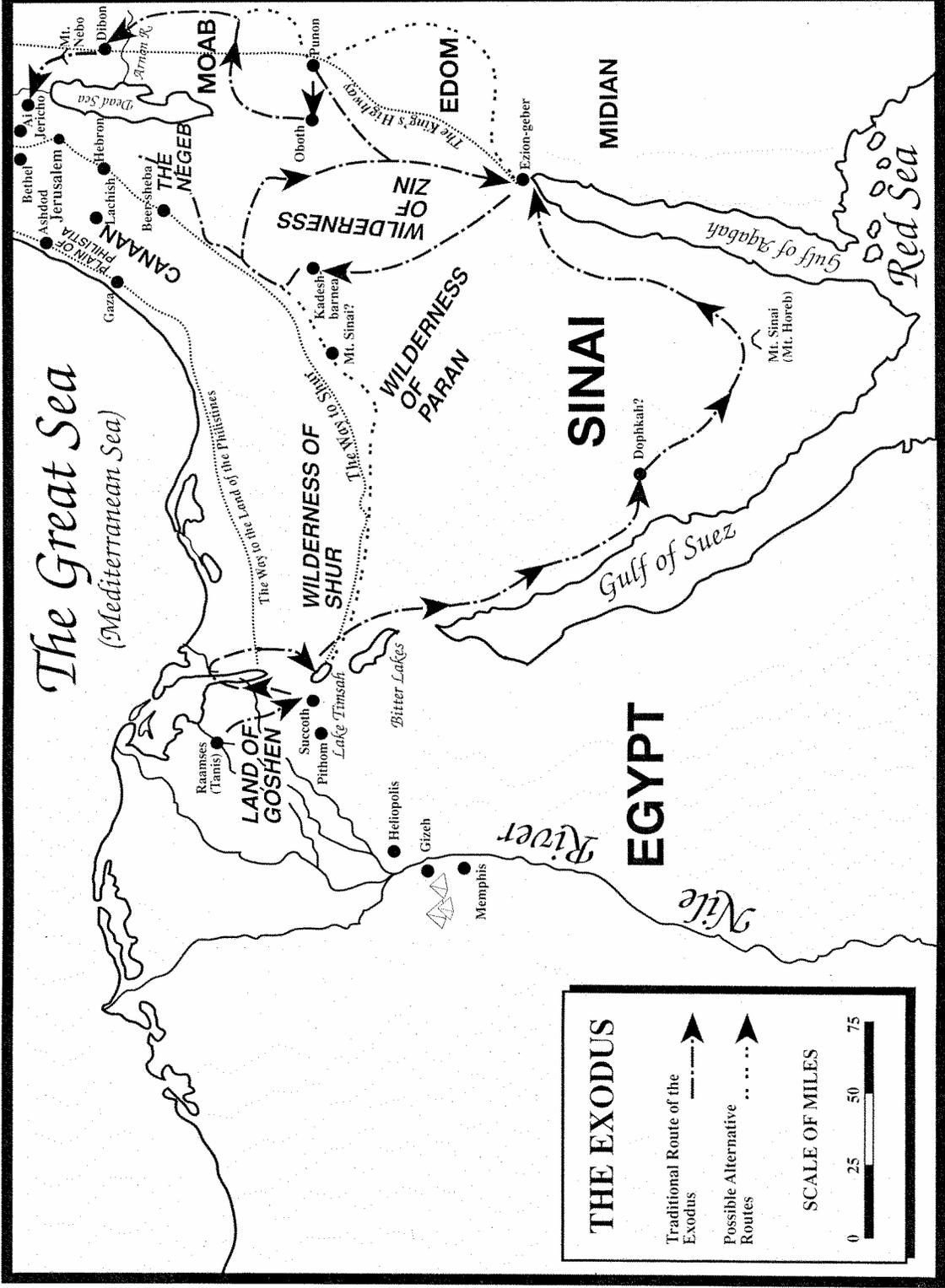
3. When the enemies of the Jews heard that the walls were finished, what was their reaction? (Neh. 6:16)

E. NEHEMIAH'S DEVOTION. The remainder of the book of Nehemiah deals with Nehemiah's administration of civil matters and his religious and social reforms. Nehemiah went back to Persia in the thirty-second year of the reign of Artaxerxes, then returned to Jerusalem again some time later and continued with his religious and social reforms (Neh. 13:6-7).

1. How long was Nehemiah in Judah the first time? (Neh. 5:14)

2. What did Nehemiah ask God to remember? (Neh. 5:19)

3. Nehemiah prayed often. The last words of the book record a petition to God. What is the prayer? (Neh. 13:31)



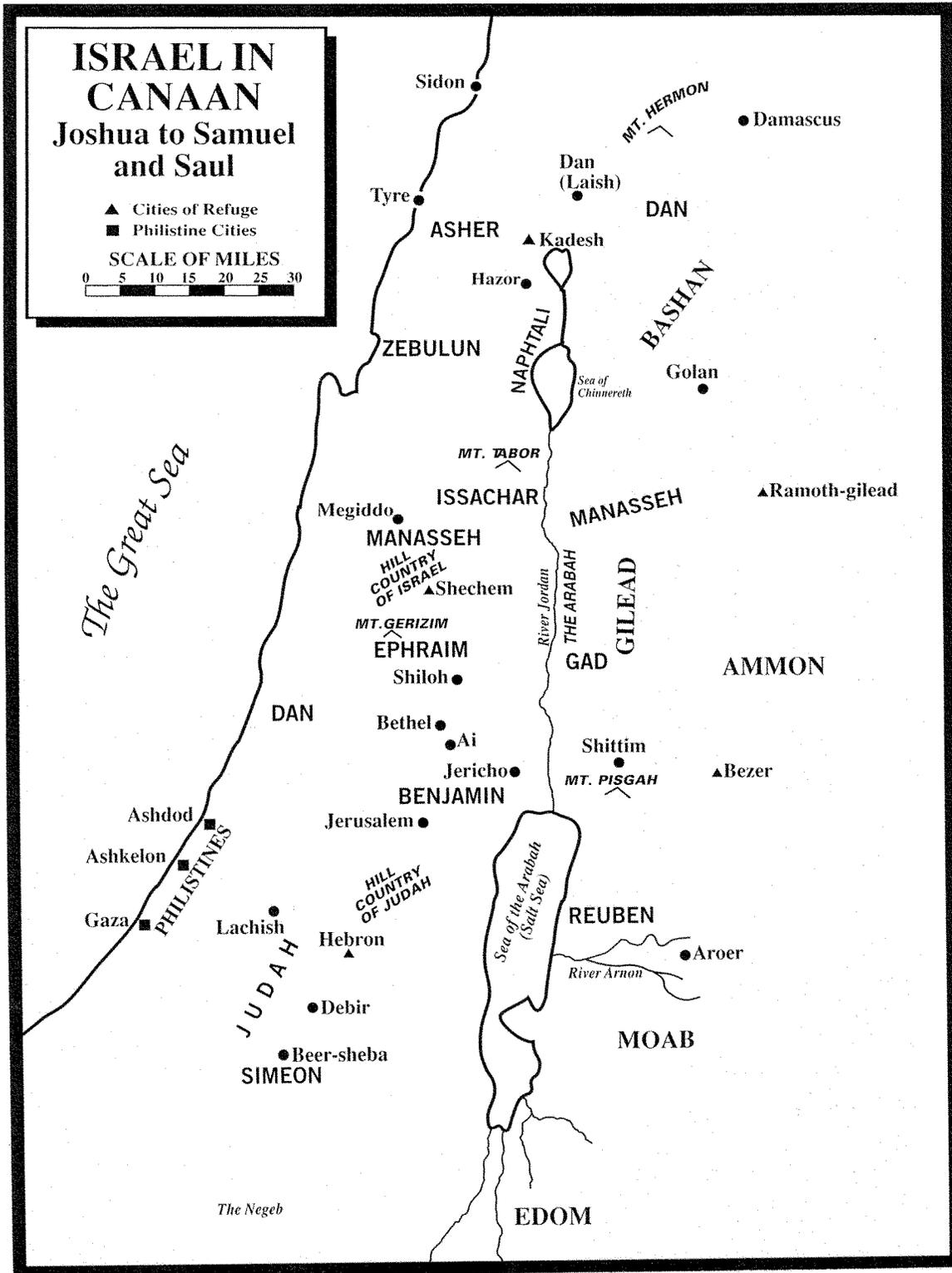
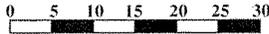
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ISRAEL IN CANAAN

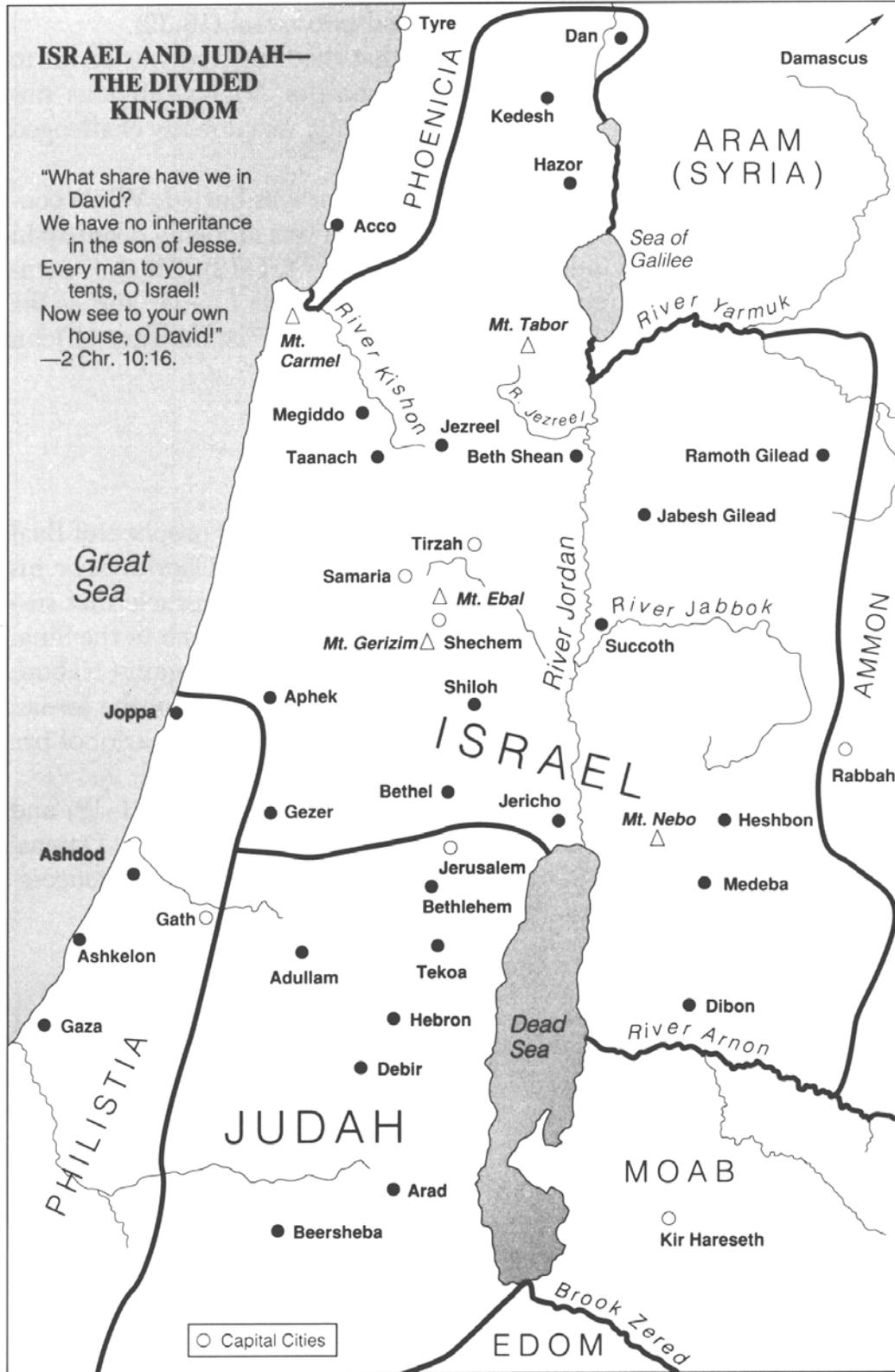
Joshua to Samuel and Saul

- ▲ Cities of Refuge
- Philistine Cities

SCALE OF MILES



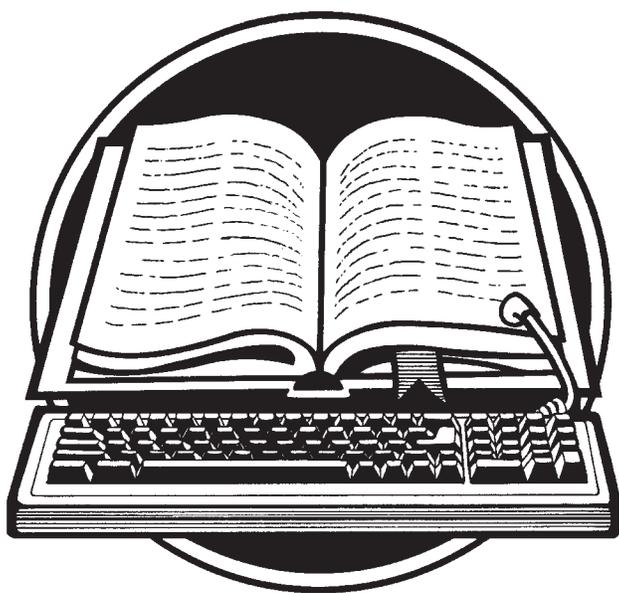
The Divided Kingdom



Jewish Feasts

Feast of	Month on Jewish Calendar	Day	Corresponding Month	References
Passover	Nisan	14	Mar.-Apr.	Ex. 12:1-14; Matt. 26:17-20
*Unleavened Bread	Nisan	15-21	Mar.-Apr.	Ex. 12:15-20
Firstfruits	Nisan or Sivan	16 6	Mar.-Apr. May-June	Lev. 23:9-14; Num. 28:26
*Pentecost (Harvest or Weeks)	Sivan	6 (50 days after barley harvest)	May-June	Deut. 16:9-12; Acts 2:1
Trumpets, <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Tishri	1, 2	Sept.-Oct.	Num. 29:1-6
Day of Atonement, <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Tishri	10	Sept.-Oct.	Lev. 23:26-32; Heb. 9:7
*Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering)	Tishri	15-22	Sept.-Oct.	Neh. 8:13-18; John 7:2
Dedication (Lights), <i>Hanukkah</i>	Chislev	25 (8 days)	Nov.-Dec.	John 10:22
Purim (Lots)	Adar	14, 15	Feb.-Mar.	Esth. 9:18-32

*The three major feasts for which all males of Israel were required to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14-19).



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