

# 1

## Rehoboam Listens to the Wrong Advice

I Kings 12

**Memory Verse:** “Warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.” I Samuel 8: 9

**Overview:** Rehoboam went to Shechem, because all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. Jeroboam and all of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, “Your father made our yoke (load) hard; now lighten the hard service and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.” Rehoboam said to them, “Leave for three days, then return to me.” So the people left.

First, King Rehoboam consulted with the elders (older men) who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive and he asked, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” Then they answered him, “If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them and give them what they ask, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.”

But Rehoboam didn’t take the advice of the elders. He talked to the young men who grew up with him and served him. He asked them, “What advice do you give to answer this people?” The young men who grew up with him said, “You shall say, “My little finger is thicker than my father’s loins! (middle part of his body around the hips) My father loaded you with a heavy load, but I will add to your load; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as he had asked them. The king answered the people cruelly because he ignored the advice of the elders, and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your load heavy, but I will add to your load; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” So he did not listen to the people because it was a turn of events from the Lord, so that what God had said would come to pass.

When Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people left and sent for Jeroboam and made him king over all Israel except for the tribe of Judah. Rehoboam ruled over Judah.

**Lessons to Learn:** Long ago God told Samuel to warn the Israelites about how a king would treat them badly. Rehoboam should have listened to the wise older men and treated the people kindly.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Rehoboam was wise like his father Solomon, so he asked God what he should do as the king.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. First, Rehoboam asked the young men what he should do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The older men told Rehoboam to do what the people asked and be kind to them, and the people would serve him forever.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Rehoboam listened to the men who were wiser about how to deal with the Israelites.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Israelites were so unhappy with Rehoboam that they made Jeroboam their king.

**Short Answer:**

6. What did the people of Israel ask Rehoboam to do when they came to make him king?

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7. What did the elders say that Rehoboam should do?

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8. What did the young men tell Rehoboam that he should do?

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9. How many tribes was Rehoboam left with after his unwise decision to act mean to the Israelites?

10. Who became king of the other tribes?

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**Remember this:**

11. Does acting mean to other people ever work out for good for everyone?

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12. If Rehoboam had been humble (modest and respectful) to the Israelites, would they have felt differently about him?

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13. God knew what Rehoboam would do. Does that mean that God made him do it? How do you know?

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14. Can God sometimes use evil people to punish other people or to make sure that His will is done?

Can you think of another example from the Bible that shows the answer to this question too?

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15. If you want wise advice about what you should do, do you just ask people who think like you do? Or should you ask wise people who will tell you the truth?

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## 2

# Jeroboam's Idolatry

I Kings 12

**Memory verse:** "You shall have no other gods before Me... You shall not make for yourself an idol." Exodus 20: 3 - 4

**Overview:** You remember that all but one tribe of Israel made Jeroboam their king after Rehoboam acted unwisely. Then Jeroboam built a city called Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built another city called Penuel.

And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the Temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to him." So the king made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." And he put one in the city of Bethel, and the other one he put in Dan.

The idols became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. Jeroboam also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. And Jeroboam appointed his own feast like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel in the month that he had devised from his own heart. (Made up in his own mind) And he started a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.

This was the thing that God had warned the Israelites not to do. He had told them many times. But, He also knew that they would not obey Him all the time; and He had told them what would happen when they disobeyed. Later, a prophet came and warned Jeroboam about his sin, but Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way.

**Lessons to Learn:** Jeroboam purposefully did not obey God. God had given laws about worship that His people were supposed to obey.  
God had chosen Levites to be His priests.

Jeroboam sinned and caused the Israelites to sin.  
If a ruler is sinning, people should obey God rather than the ruler.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Jeroboam was afraid that Israel would turn back to Rehoboam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Israelites were supposed to sacrifice in Jerusalem where the Temple was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jeroboam made three gold calf idols so the people would not want to go to Jerusalem.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Israelites knew better than to worship idols, but they did it anyway.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. An evil ruler like Jeroboam can lead a nation away from God.

**Short Answer:**

6. What kind of idols did Jeroboam make? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What did Jeroboam tell the people that the idols had done for them? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Jeroboam made idols. Then what did he make on high places? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Who did Jeroboam make to be priests? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Instead of keeping God's feasts, what did Jeroboam do? \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. When had the Israelites made a golden calf before?

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12. The Israelites should not have followed Jeroboam in his sin. Read Acts 5: 29 and fill in the blanks.

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey  
\_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.”

13. Who were the only people who could be priests for God?

14. Jeroboam made his own religion and worshipped the way he wanted to worship. He didn’t do some things he should have done, and he added other things. Do people do that today?

15. Name a few things that people today do wrong, but they say that they are doing these things to worship God.

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### 3

## Ravens Bring Food to Elijah

I Kings 16: 29- 17:6

**Memory verse:** “The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and ...in the evening.” I Kings 17: 6

**Overview:** Ahab was now the king of Israel, but he was evil and worshiped idols instead of God. The Bible says that he acted more wickedly than all the kings before him. He also married a wicked woman named Jezebel and worshipped Baal and Asherah idols like the nations around Israel. Many of the Israelite people also stopped worshiping God and worshiped idols. God was very angry.

Elijah was a prophet who obeyed God. He told Ahab that there would not be rain for a long time because of Ahab’s sin. That made Ahab angry-so angry that he wanted to kill Elijah. So God told Elijah to hide by a brook east of Jordan, and Elijah could drink out of the brook, and the ravens would bring him bread and meat. Ravens are large black birds in the crow family.

Elijah left the city and went far away like God had told him to do. Finally he came to the brook. God used ravens to bring Elijah food every morning and every evening. The land of Israel was without rain for three years, and after awhile the brook dried up. Elijah had to move to another place. God told him to go to a widow (woman whose husband had died) who would feed him.

**Lessons to learn:** Evil people will often be angry with God’s people and persecute them.

God will provide what is needed for His people.

Elijah trusted and obeyed God and so should we.

We must worship only God.

### True or False:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ahab wasn’t any worse than the other evil kings of Israel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ahab was thankful that Elijah talked to him so that he could change and do what God wanted.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. God told Elijah where he could go and be safe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The punishment for Ahab's sins was that the land would not have rain for a year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Having no rain affected the good and the bad people, including Elijah.

**Short Answer:**

6. What does the Bible say about how evil or sinful Ahab was?

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\_\_\_\_\_

7. Who was Ahab's wicked wife?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What were the names of the idols that Ahab worshipped?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What did Ahab want to do when Elijah told him that there would be no rain?

10. How did Elijah get food when he went away from the city and lived by the brook? What did he eat?

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**Remember this:**

11. Ahab and Jezebel were very evil. They worshipped idols, and the people followed them and worshipped idols, too. What kind of example are we supposed to be for other people?

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12. Who does God help when there is trouble?

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13. Ahab became angry with Elijah when Elijah told him the truth from God. Does that ever happen today when someone tells the truth?

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14. Since people sometimes become angry when they hear the truth, can we just be quiet and not tell them the truth?

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15. Read Matthew 5:16 and fill in the blanks.

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“Let your \_\_\_\_\_ shine before others, so that they  
may see your \_\_\_\_\_ and give  
glory to your \_\_\_\_\_ who is in heaven.”



## 4

# Elijah and the Widow

I Kings 17: 8 – 24

**Memory Verse:** “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.” I Kings 17: 24

**Overview:** When the brook near Elijah dried up, God told Elijah to go to Zarephath and live there. God said, “Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

So Elijah went; and when he got to the gate of the city, he saw a widow (woman whose husband had died) gathering sticks. He asked her for a little water to drink. When she went to get it, he asked her to also bring him a piece of bread. The woman said that she did not have any bread baked and only had a handful of flour and oil in a jug. She said that she was gathering sticks to fix the bread for herself and her son “that we may eat it and die.”

Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For the Lord, the God of Israel says, ‘The jar of flour shall not run out, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.’” So the woman went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour did not run out, nor did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

After this, the son of the woman became sick, and it was so bad that there was no breath left in him. The woman asked Elijah if he had come to cause the death of her son. And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper room where he lived, and laid him on his own bed. And he cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, have you brought trouble upon the widow I stay with, by killing her son?” Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again.” And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the child's life came into him again, and he woke up. And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know

that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

**Lessons to Learn:** God takes care of His people. God made the woman’s flour and oil last to provide for her family and Elijah. Elijah was able to raise the child from the dead because God was with him. The miracle that Elijah did showed the widow that he was a man of God.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When Elijah asked the widow for bread, she didn’t think she could help him because she didn’t have very much flour and oil left.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Elijah didn’t tell the widow how long her flour and oil would last.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The widow’s son died because he was so sick.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Elijah prayed and stretched himself out on the son three times before the son came back to life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The miracle of Elijah bringing the son back to life showed the widow that God was with Elijah.

**Short Answer:**

6. How did Elijah know where to go when his brook dried up? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What was the widow doing when Elijah found her? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What did the widow think would happen to her and her son because they only had a little flour and oil left? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How long would the widow’s oil and flour last? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Where did Elijah stay while he was with the widow and her family?

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**Remember this:**

11. Who is able to take a little bit of something and make it into a lot?

\_\_\_\_\_ Can you think of another Bible story when a little bit of food was made into a lot of food?

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12. When someone was able to do a miracle, what did that prove to the people who saw or heard about the miracle?

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13. Did the widow have faith in God when Elijah said, “first make me a little cake and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.” and when he told her what God said?

14. God’s people help other people when they need food or other things. What did the widow give Elijah besides food?

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15. What things can you do to help people who are poor or sick or old and need help?

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## 5

# Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

I Kings 18: 16-46

**Memory verse:** “O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God!” I Kings 18: 39

**Overview:** Remember that King Ahab and many Israelites had stopped worshiping God and worshiped idols instead. Elijah kept trying to get the people to turn back to God, but they would not.

God sent Elijah back to King Ahab, and He said that after that he would send rain on the land. When Ahab saw Elijah, he said, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” And Elijah answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have left the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baal idols. Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah (another idol), who eat at Jezebel's table.”

So, Elijah called together all the people and challenged (dared) the prophets of Baal to a contest on Mt. Carmel. They all would build altars and pray for fire. The god/God who sent fire would be the real God.

The prophets of Baal cried out for fire all morning until noon. Then Elijah began to make fun of them. He said that they needed to shout more loudly because maybe Baal was talking, or busy, or traveling, or sleeping. The prophets shouted louder until time for evening sacrifices, but nothing happened.

Then Elijah fixed the altar to the Lord with twelve stones for the twelve tribes and dug a trench around it. He prepared his sacrifice and asked the people to pour four large jars of water on the sacrifice and the wood. He had the people do this three times until water flowed down the altar and filled the trench.

Next Elijah prayed to God asking Him to show the people that He was the real God. Fire from the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, wood, the stones, the dirt, and even the water in the trench. When the people saw this, they shouted, “The Lord-He is God!”

Elijah commanded the people to get the prophets of Baal and kill them because of their sin. After the evil prophets were gone and the people turned back to God, rain finally came again to the land.

**Lessons to learn:**

We must only worship God, and He is the only God who can help us. Idols can't do anything.

God listened to the prayer of Elijah because Elijah was obedient to Him.

When the sin was removed and the people turned back to God, God blessed them again with rain.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. There were many more “prophets” for the idols than for God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Elijah had troubled Israel by obeying God and telling Ahab that Ahab had sinned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The prophets of Baal called out to the idol gods from morning until the time of evening sacrifices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. All the water that Elijah had poured on the altar kept the fire from burning up everything.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The prophets of Baal had to be killed to get the evil out of the nation of Israel.

**Short Answer:**

6. Who did Elijah say had troubled Israel? \_\_\_\_\_ How  
had he troubled Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

7. The prophets of Baal called to the idol from morning until evening. What happened?  
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8. What would be the test of who was the real God?  
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9. How much water did Elijah have the people pour on his altar to God?

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10. When Elijah made fun of the prophets of Baal, why did Elijah say that Baal did not answer the prophets?

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**Remember this:**

11. Where did the fire come from, and what did it do?

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12. What did the people say after they saw the fire come down?

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13. After the prophets of Baal were gone, what happened?

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\_\_\_\_\_ because the people turned \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Who is the one that causes trouble --The person who tries to get someone else to stop sinning--- or the person who is sinning? Why?

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## 6

# Elijah Hides to Save His Life

I Kings 19

**Memory verse:** And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”  
I Kings 19: 10

**Overview:** Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” In other words, she wanted going to kill Elijah.

And Elijah was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he asked God that he might die, and said, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers.”

He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, “Arise, eat.” Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.” So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Then he came to a cave and lodged (lived) there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Elijah said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

So God said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending (tearing) the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind came an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake a



fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle (outer cloak or coat) and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Then Elijah said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

The Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; and Jehu you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha you shall anoint as prophet in your place... Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

So Elijah left and found Elisha while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle (outer cloak or coat) on him.

Elisha left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you.” And Elijah said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him. (served him)

**Lessons to learn:** Elijah was discouraged and thought that he was the only person left who obeyed God, but God told him that there were 7,000 other people who still obeyed Him.

God took care of Elijah, and He always takes care of His people.

God chose a prophet, Elisha, who would take Elijah’s place when Elijah went to heaven.

### **True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah after he killed the prophets of Baal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ravens brought Elijah food at this time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Elijah knew there were 7,000 other people who were still obeying God.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. God still had jobs for Elijah to do for Him.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Elijah found Elisha plowing and threw his mantle on Elisha.

**Short Answer:**

6. Where did Elijah go to hide from Jezebel? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Where did Elijah sleep there? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What did the angel feed Elijah? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many times did the angel feed Elijah? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What was the second place that Elijah stayed? \_\_\_\_\_

11. How many days did Elijah travel without food to Mt. Horeb? \_\_\_\_\_

12. List the things that happened when Elijah stood on the mountain before God.

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**Remember this:**

13. Elijah was so discouraged thinking that he was the only person faithful to God that he asked God to

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14. Sometimes it might seem like we are the only people who are doing the right things that God wants us to do. What should we do when we are sad and discouraged?

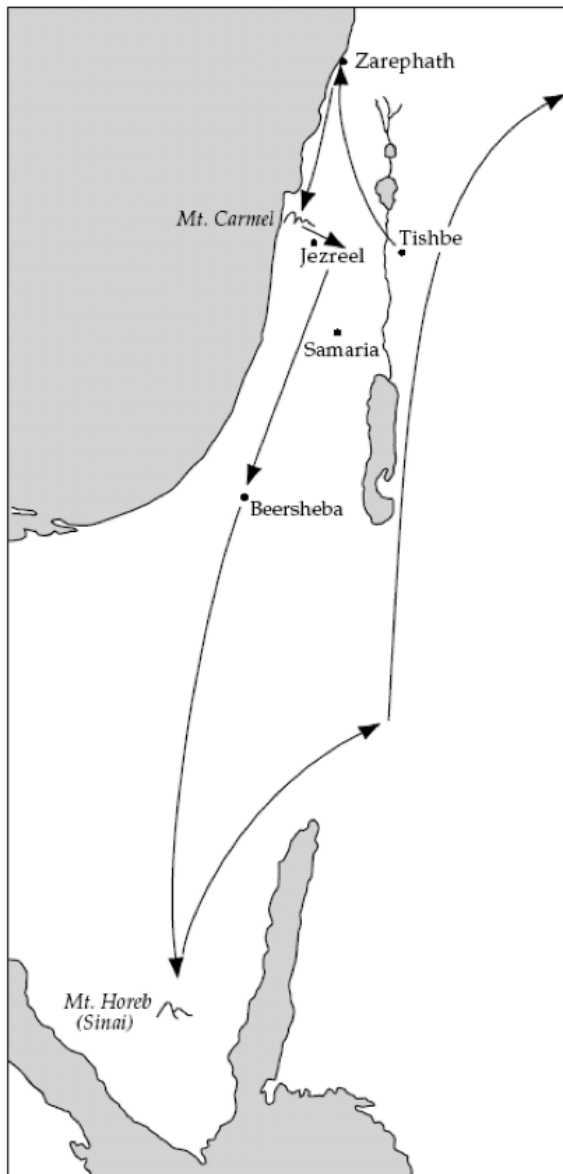
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15. Do you remember another name for Mt. Horeb?

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(hint: It is the same place where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the other laws for the Israelites.)

16. Look at the map. Find Beersheba in Judah, where Elijah left his servant. Then find Mt. Horeb/ Sinai. Circle each one. See how far Elijah went. It was about 265 miles (or a six hour car ride).



## 7

# Ahab Covets Naboth's Vineyard

I Kings 21

**Memory verse:** ““I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord. I Kings 21: 20

**Overview:** Naboth had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of King Ahab. Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money.” But Naboth said, “The Lord forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed (grumpy and frustrated) because of what Naboth had said to him. And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food. In other words, he was pouting and sulking. But Jezebel his wife came to him and asked him why he was so grumpy that he was not eating his food. So he told her what Naboth had said to him. Jezebel said to him, “Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth.”

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders and nobles who were living with Naboth in his city. In the letters she wrote, “Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people; and seat two worthless men before him, and let them give evidence against him, saying, ‘You cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.”

So the elders and the nobles did as Jezebel had told them. Then they sent word to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead.”

When Jezebel heard that Naboth was dead, she said to Ahab, “Arise, take the vineyard of Naboth, ...for Naboth is not alive, but dead.” When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth, to own it.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah saying, “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, ... You shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Have you murdered and also taken possession?”’” God said Elijah was to tell Ahab that Ahab would die in the same place that Naboth had.

When Ahab saw Elijah, he said, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” Elijah answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord. Behold, I will bring evil upon you, and will ...cut off from Ahab every male ... because you have provoked Me to anger, and because you have made Israel sin.”

When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about discouraged. Then the word of God came to Elijah saying, “Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son’s days.”

**Lessons to learn:** God said that people were not to covet (want something wrongly).

God’s people must not pout and sulk when they do not get their way.

No one can have everything that he/she wants, even a king.

Even very wicked people can change. They can be sorry for their sins, stop being bad, and start being good.---They can repent.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ahab was only thinking about what **he** wanted when he pouted after Naboth refused to give him the vineyard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jezebel said that she would get the vineyard for Ahab.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jezebel convinced Naboth to sell the vineyard to her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Naboth had cursed God and the king.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Ahab was so evil that nothing could ever make him change.

**Short Answer:**

6. Why wouldn’t Naboth give the vineyard to Ahab? \_\_\_\_\_
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7. Tell how Ahab acted when he didn't get the vineyard that he wanted.

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8. What did Jezebel write in her letter that the worthless men were supposed to say about Naboth?

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9. What happened to Naboth after he was accused by the worthless men?

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10. What did Elijah say would happen to Ahab?

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**Remember this:**

11. The Bible says that Jezebel stirred up Ahab to do evil. What did she do or say in this lesson that encouraged him to do evil?

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12. There were several sins that Jezebel did in this lesson. Can you tell about at least two?

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13. What did Ahab do that shows that he repented?

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14. Review all the books of the Bible so you can say them in class.

## 8

# King Ahaziah Dies

### II Kings 1

**Memory verse:** “Because you have sent messengers to inquire of ... the god of Ekron,... you shall surely die.”II Kings 1: 16

**Overview:** Ahaziah fell through the lattice (wood strips used as a fence) in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, “Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness.” But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and ask them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus says the Lord, You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’” So Elijah went.

The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, “Why have you returned?” And they said to him, “There came a man to meet us, and said to us, ‘Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, Thus says the Lord, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’”

He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?”

They answered him, “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.”

And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”

Then Ahaziah sent to Elijah a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’”

But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, “O man of God, this is the king's order, ‘Come down quickly!’”



But Elijah answered them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated him, “O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight.”

Then the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.”

So he arose and went down with him to the king and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron—is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word?—therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’” So he died according to the word of the Lord that Elijah had spoken. Jehoram became king in his place.

**Lessons to learn:** God punished Ahaziah because he did not depend on

God, but depended on an idol.

Sometimes evil people become angry with people who tell them the truth and want to hurt or kill them.

God took care of Elijah and He takes care of the people who obey Him.

### **True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When Ahaziah fell and was sick, he prayed to ask God to help him get better.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The angel of the Lord told Elijah what to say to Ahaziah’s servants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Ahaziah sent captains and their fifty men to Elijah three times to try to kill Elijah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Fire came down from heaven and killed all the captains and their fifty men.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. God said that Ahaziah would not even get out of his bed; he would die.

**Short Answer:**

6. What happened to Ahaziah that made him sick in bed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How did Ahaziah try to find out whether he would get well or not?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Elijah tell Ahaziah's servants to tell Ahaziah?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How did the servants describe Elijah?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What happened to the first two captains and their fifty men?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. What kept the third captain from being punished the same way as the first two captains?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

12. Who should be the first "person" we depend on when we are sick, in trouble, or sad? –Really at any time. \_\_\_\_\_

13. How should we respond when someone tells us we are wrong?

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14. God took care of His prophet, Elijah. Can you think of at least two other examples of times when God took care of His people who were in trouble?

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15. Ahaziah lived in Samaria. Find Samaria on the map and circle it.



## 9

# Elijah Goes to Heaven

I Kings 19; II Kings 2: 1- 18

**Memory verse:** “ “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” II Kings 2:4

**Overview:** Elijah had been a good prophet who obeyed God and told people the messages from God. God had used Elijah to speak his word to Ahab and finally Ahab repented of his evil. (sin)

Sometimes Elijah had felt like he was the only righteous man in Israel, but God had told him that there were still 7,000 people in Israel who had not bowed down to Baal. God had also provided a man for Elijah to anoint as a prophet in his place. Elisha followed Elijah and helped him.

But now it was time for Elijah to go to heaven. Elijah and God’s new prophet Elisha traveled together to Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River. Elisha knew that God would be taking Elijah away, but Elisha would not leave Elijah. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets watched from a distance.

When they reached the Jordan River, Elijah rolled up his cloak and struck the water with it. The water parted on each side so the prophets could cross over on dry land.

Elijah told Elisha to ask him for whatever Elijah could do for him before he was taken away. Elisha asked to have double the spirit of Elijah. Elijah said that if Elisha saw him taken away, then he would have it.

While they were still talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the prophets. Elisha saw Elijah taken up into heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha was sad that he wouldn’t see Elijah any more, so he tore his clothes.

Then he picked up the cloak that Elijah had dropped and went back to the Jordan River. He struck the water with Elijah’s cloak and said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” The water parted and he crossed over- - just like before. The men who were watching knew that the spirit of Elijah was now resting on Elisha. God was with him.

**Lessons to learn:** People who obey God will be rewarded in heaven some day.

God gave the prophets miracles to do which showed the people that they were from God.

Elijah did not die. He was taken up by God. Only two men in The Bible did not die, but were taken by God because they were righteous.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Elijah was always sure that some of the Israelites were still faithful and obeying God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. King Ahab, Elijah's enemy, was evil for all of his life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. When he was travelling with Elijah, Elisha knew that God was going to take Elijah away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Elijah parted the water of the Jordan River, so that he and Elisha walked across on dry land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Elijah went up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

**Short Answer:**

6. How many people did God tell Elijah were still faithful to Him and did not bow to Baal?

7. Who told Elijah who he should anoint as prophet in Elijah's place, and what was his name?

8. What did the chariot of fire and horses of fire do?

9. How did Elijah go up into heaven?

10. What did Elisha pick up and use to part the Jordan River?

continued

**Remember this:**

11. What did Elijah say would have to happen in order for Elisha to get a double portion of Elijah's spirit?

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12. How did the fifty sons of the prophets know that Elijah's spirit rested on Elisha?

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13. What is special about Elijah being taken up into heaven?

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14. We do not have prophets today, so who does God want to tell other people about God and God's word?

**Preacher**

**Parents**

**Children**

**Teenagers**

**Grandparents**

**Friends**

15. After years of Elijah speaking the truth to Ahab, Ahab finally repented and stopped sinning. What lesson(s) can we learn from that? Ask a parent if you don't know for sure.

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# 10

## Stories About Elisha

II Kings 2: 19-25; 4: 38 -44; 6: 1-7

**Memory verse:** “The king was talking, saying, “Tell me all the great things that Elisha has done.” II Kings 8: 4

**Overview:** After Elijah went up to heaven in the whirlwind, the sons of the prophets from Jericho said to Elisha, “Behold, the position of this city is nice, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” (not good for growing things) So Elisha said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the Lord, I have healed this water; from now on neither death ...shall come from it.” So the water was healed, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

Elisha went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and made fun of him disrespectfully, saying, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!” And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys.

And Elisha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, “Set on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.” One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered a lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were. And they poured out some for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the stew, they cried out, “O man of God, there is death in the pot!” And they could not eat it. Elisha said, “Then bring flour.” And he threw it into the pot and said, “Pour some out for the men, that they may eat.” And there was no harm in the pot.

A man came bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, (first crops of the season) twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, “Give to the men, that they may eat.” But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred men?” So Elisha repeated, “Give

them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the Lord, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” So he set it before them. And they ate and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

**Lessons to Learn:** We must respect the men of God. Today that would be preachers and elders.

We should treat others as we would want to be treated.

Miracles showed that God was with Elisha.

God is able to make much out of a little.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God was with Elisha so he could do the miracles in this lesson.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The sons of the prophets lived in a place where everything was good.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Elisha gave the glory to God for the miracles that he did.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The boys did a very bad thing when they were disrespectful of the man of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The sons of the prophets thought the stew would kill them.

**Short Answer:**

6. Tell how Elisha made the water near Jericho good. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What about Elisha were the boys making fun of, and what was their punishment?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

continued



8. What made the stew in the pot taste so terrible?

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9. How did Elisha fix the stew in the pot?

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10. What did the man bring to Elisha as firstfruits?

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11. The firstfruits did not seem like enough for the sons of the prophets.  
How was it enough and more, so that there was some left?

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**Remember this:**

12. What do the miracles tell us about Elisha? (Miracles always were a sign of this.)

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13. Can you tell about another time when there was only a little food for many people, but a miracle made enough for everyone with more left over?

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14. Be ready to discuss how we should treat men of God/preachers today.

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# 11

## More Stories About Elisha

II Kings 4: 1-7; 6: 1-7

**Memory verse:** And he said to her, “Go sell the oil and pay your debt.” II Kings 4: 7

**Overview:** Another time the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “See, the place where we live is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan and each of us get a log, and let us make a place for us to live there.” And he answered, “Go.” Then one of them asked Elisha to go with them, and he answered, “I will go.” And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees, but as one was cutting down a log, his axe head fell into the water, and he cried out, “Alas, my master! It was borrowed.” Then Elisha said, “Where did it fall?” When he showed Elisha the place, Elisha cut off a stick and threw it in and made the iron float. Then Elisha said, “Take it up.” So he reached out his hand and took it.

A woman’s husband died and left her with bills that needed to be paid. She had no money to pay the bills, so the bill collector wanted to take her two sons and sell them as slaves.

The woman came to Elisha to ask for help. He asked her what she had in her house, and all she had was a little oil.

Elisha told her to go ask all her neighbors for empty jars. She was to ask for as many as she could, not just a few. Then she was to go inside her house and shut the door. She was to pour oil into the jars.

The woman did what Elisha told her. Her sons brought jars to her and she poured oil until they were all full. When there were no more jars to fill, the oil stopped flowing.

The woman went back to Elisha and told him what she had done. He said that she could go sell the oil now and pay her debt. Then there was enough oil left for her and her sons to live on.

This was another great example of God’s power.

**Lessons to learn:** God helps His people.

God was with Elisha.

The woman believed Elisha (the man of God) and did what he told her to do. God is able to do great things like this –making a little into a lot. (Remember the five loaves and two fishes?)

God can make things act differently than they usually act.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The sons of the prophets needed a larger place to live.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The man who lost the axe head didn't want to lose it because it was his favorite tool.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. It is normal for an axe head to float.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The woman had no money to pay her bills, so she thought she would have to sell her sons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. God has power to take a little oil and make it into a lot of oil.

**Short Answer:**

6. Why were the sons of the prophets cutting down trees? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Why was the man so worried about getting the axe head back?

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Why does an axe head not float by itself?

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. How did the man get his borrowed axe head back?

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. What did the bill collector want to take from the woman?

continued

**Remember this:**

11. Did the woman have faith? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Tell what the woman and her sons had to do

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What happened after all the jars were full?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Tell two things that are not natural that happened in these stories.

\_\_\_\_\_

15. A person's faith is shown by his works. What can you do to show your faith in God?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 12

### Elisha and the Shunammite Woman

II Kings 4: 8 – 37

**Memory verse:** “I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way.” II Kings 4: 9

**Overview:** One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a rich woman lived. She asked him to eat some food, so whenever he passed that way, he would stop there to eat. So she said to her husband, “I know that this is a holy man of God who is always passing our way. Let’s make a small room on the roof and put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp for him, so that whenever he comes to us, he can stay there.”

One day Elisha came and went into the room and rested there, and he told Gehazi his servant to call the woman to him. He told Gehazi to ask her, ‘what is to be done for you?’ because the woman had gone to the trouble of making Elisha a room. She did not need what he first offered her, so Gehazi told Elisha that she had no child and her husband was old. So Elisha said that about the same time next year she would have a son. She said, “No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant.” But the woman did have a son the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers, and he said to his father, “Oh, my head, my head!” The father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” So he brought him to his mother, and the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. The woman went up and laid him on Elisha’s bed and shut the door behind him and went out. Then she told her husband to send a servant and one of the donkeys, so she could quickly go to Elisha and come back again. Then she rode quickly to get Elisha at Mount Carmel.

When Elisha saw her coming, he sent Gehazi to ask her if all was well with her, her husband and the child. And she answered, “All is well.” When she got to Elisha, she took hold of his feet. She would not leave Elisha, so he followed her. Gehazi went on ahead and laid Elisha’s staff on the child’s face, but there was no sign of life. So he went to meet Elisha and told him, “The child has not awakened.”

Then Elisha came into the house, and he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door and prayed to the Lord. Then he

laid on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the child became warm. Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and stretched himself on him again. The child sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes. Then Elisha had Gehazi call for the woman; and when she came to him, he said, "Pick up your son." The woman came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

**Lessons to Learn:** The woman was kind to Elisha and she was rewarded for her kindness.

Elisha was able to raise the boy from the dead because God was with Him.

The woman had faith that Elisha could help when her son died. Her faith made her go find Elisha.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Elisha wanted to do something for the woman because she had prepared a room for him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Elisha told the woman that she would have a son two years later.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. While out in the field, the son complained that his head hurt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. After her son died, the woman went to get Elisha because she knew that he could do something for her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Elisha raised the boy from the dead by laying his staff on him.

**Short Answer:**

6. When the woman saw that Elisha was a holy man of God, what did she want to do for him?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. When did Elisha say the woman would have a son?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did the woman do with her son when he died?

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9. What did Gahezi do first to try to raise the son?

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10. Explain in your own words how Elisha brought the boy back to life.

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**Remember this:**

11. God wants his people to be kind and hospitable (friendly and welcoming to guests). What two things did the woman do that show she was hospitable?

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12. Gehazi helped Elisha twice in this lesson. What did he do?

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13. List some things that the woman did that show she had faith in Elisha and in God even when her son died.

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14. Even though you are still a child, you can do things to be kind and hospitable. What can you do?

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# 13

## Naaman is Healed

II Kings 5

**Memory verse:** “Go wash in the Jordan seven times...and you will be clean.” II Kings 5:10

**Overview:** Naaman was an important commander in the army of Aram, but he had the terrible disease of leprosy. (a disease that leaves sores all over the skin and does other bad things to a person’s body) One of his servants was a girl from Israel. She told his wife that the prophet in Israel could cure his disease.

Naaman’s king sent a letter to the king of Israel. The king could not help, but Elisha said to send Naaman to him.

So, Naaman went to Elisha’s house, and Elisha sent his servant Gehazi to tell Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then his skin would be healed.

But Naaman was angry because Elisha did come and talk to him himself and do a great miracle. He didn’t want to wash in the muddy Jordan River! He said, “The Abana and Pharpar Rivers in Damascus have better water than any of the rivers in Israel. Couldn’t I wash in them and be clean?” So he turned around and left in anger. He started to go home, but his servants begged him to do what Elisha had asked him to do. They said, “Master, if the prophet had asked you to do some great thing, wouldn’t you have done it? Why shouldn’t you do as he said: ‘Wash and be clean’?”

So, Naaman went to the Jordan River and went under the water seven times. When he was done, his skin was well and clean like the skin of a little child. Naaman was so happy that he went back to Elisha’s house to give him gifts, but Elisha would not take any of them.

Naaman started home, but on the way Elisha’s servant Gehazi met him because he was greedy and thought that he could get something from Naaman for himself. He lied to Naaman to get two talents of silver and two sets of clothes. Then he went home and hid the gifts.

Later Elisha asked Gehazi where he had gone. Gehazi lied again and said he hadn’t gone anywhere, but Elisha knew exactly what Gehazi had done. Elisha said that because of his sin, Gehazi and all his descendants would have Naaman’s disease of leprosy. When Gehazi went out from



Elisha, he was covered with leprosy and white as snow.

**Lessons to learn:** We must do exactly what God tells us to do, no matter how small it seems to us.

God doesn't always work the way man imagines that he should.

Being greedy will get a person into trouble.

Lying is always wrong.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Naaman was a commander of the Israelite army.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Naaman had a disease called leprosy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Naaman sent a letter to Elisha asking him to help Naaman with his leprosy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Naaman thought that Elisha would do something great for him and he was angry that Elisha did not talk to him himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Gehazi was punished because of his greed and lying.

**Short Answer:**

6. From what country was Naaman? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who told Naaman's wife about how Naaman could be healed? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Who did Naaman go to see and what was Naaman told to do to be clean?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why was Naaman angry about what he was told to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

continued

10. What did Gehazi, Elisha's servant, do wrong?

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11. What was Gehazi's punishment?

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**Remember this:**

12. What was the difference between the Jordan River and the other rivers Naaman mentioned?

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13. Was Naaman asked to do something hard?

14. Would Naaman have been cleaned if he dipped less than seven times in the Jordan River? Why?

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15. Naaman had his own idea of what Elisha would do and what he should have to do to be made clean. Many people make their own rules to be saved. Which of these ideas below are right?

**Any church is O.K.**

**God has only one church.**

**Just believe and pray to ask Jesus to save you.**

**Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, and be baptized.**

**We must obey God to be saved.**

**You don't have to do anything to be saved.**

**Play instruments to worship God.**

**Sing with your heart.**

**Christ is head of the church.**

**A man is head of the church.**

**Saturday is still the Sabbath.**

**Sunday is the Lord's Day.**

# 14

## Horses and Chariots of Fire

II Kings 6: 8- 23

**Memory verse:** “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” II Kings 6: 16

**Overview:** Now the king of Aram was warring against Israel; and he told his servants, “In such and such a place shall be my camp.”

The man of God (Elisha) sent word to the king of Israel saying, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Arameans are coming down there.” The king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there more than once or twice.

Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged (very angry) over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?” He meant that he thought one of his men was telling Israel where he would be.

One of his servants said, “No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him.”

And it was told him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

Now when the servant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to Elisha, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

So Elisha answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Strike this people with blindness, I pray.” So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. Then Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he brought them to Samaria.

When they had come into Samaria, Elisha said, “O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” So the Lord opened their eyes and they saw; and behold, they were in the middle of Samaria. Then the king of Israel when he saw the men of Aram, said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?” Elisha answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the thieving bands of men from Aram did not come again into the land of Israel.

**Lessons to learn:** God told Elisha where the enemy would be so that Elisha could save the Israelites.

Elisha trusted in God to take care of him.

When the King and men of Aram saw the men who were struck blind, they did not bother the Israelites again.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Elisha told the king of Israel not to pass by the place where the king of Aram was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. At first, the king of Aram thought that one of his men was telling the Israelites where he was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Elisha’s servant had the same kind of faith in God’s care that Elisha had.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Elisha was in Samaria when the king of Aram surrounded the city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Elisha prepared a great feast for the men who had come to kill him.

**Short Answer:**

6. Why was the king of Aram so angry? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who did the Aramean servant say was telling the Israelites about where the king of Aram was camping?

8. Who went to Dothan and when did they go?

9. What did Elisha's servant say when he saw the army surrounding the city in the morning?

10. What did the servant see when God opened his eyes?

11. What did Elisha ask God to do to their enemies?

**Remember this:**

12. Why do you think that Elisha took the blind men into the middle of the city of Samara, made them a feast, and then sent the men back to the camp of Aram? Think about what would happen when they got back to the camp.

13. We may not see horses and chariots of fire; but if we are faithful to God. What do we have that is more powerful than anything else?

14. Read Psalms 103: 13- 14 and fill in the blanks.

**“Just as a \_\_\_\_\_ has compassion (love, concern) on his**

**\_\_\_\_\_, So the \_\_\_\_\_ has compassion on**

**those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him.”**

# 15

## Joash Repairs the Temple

II Kings 12: 1-15, II Chron. 24: 1- 14

**Memory verse:** “They rebuilt the temple of God and strengthened it.”  
II Chron. 24: 13

**Overview:** Joash was saved from an evil queen named Athaliah who wanted to kill him when she killed his other brothers. He was hidden for six years until he was old enough to become the king of Israel.

Joash was only seven years old when he became king. Jehoiada the priest and the soldiers brought Joash to the Temple. The soldiers surrounded Joash to keep him safe, and guards kept watch around the Temple. Then Jehoiada brought the king’s son (Joash) out and put the crown on him and gave him the Book of the Law; and they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, “Long live the king!”

When Athaliah heard the noise of the guards and of the people, she came to the people in the house of the Lord. She looked and behold, the king was standing by the pillar, according to the custom, with the captains and the trumpeters beside the king; and all the people of the land rejoiced and blew trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, “Treason! Treason!” (That means that they were not being loyal to their country.) But, really she was the one who was not loyal to her country because she killed the king’s sons.

Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the army to grab the queen and anyone who supported her. Later she was put to death because of her sins. Then Jehoiada made a covenant (agreement) between the Lord and the king and the people, that they would be the Lord’s people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people.

Joash did what was right and didn’t turn to the right or to the left, but the children of Israel had not been worshiping God as they were supposed to worship Him. For a long time, no one had cleaned the Temple or taken care of the things inside the Temple. The walls and the roof needed to be repaired. Many things were broken or missing. The evil people had taken the beautiful things that belonged to God and given them to the idols that they worshiped.

King Joash wanted to fix the Temple. He told the priests to go gather money from all the cities of Judah and do it quickly. At first, the Levites did not start gathering the money to repair the Temple. Joash had to tell Jehoiada to have the Levites bring the money, and the priests put a large box beside the altar and put all the money that was brought into the Temple into it. When the box was full of money, the priests emptied the box and put it back into its place. King Joash and the Jehoiada the priest gave the money to the men who were fixing the Temple. The men worked hard and did their best. They followed all the details for making the Temple like it had been before. All the people wanted the Temple to look nice again. They wanted to worship God there and learn more about him.

When the workmen were finished fixing the Temple, they brought the rest of the money to the king and used it to make bowls and basins of gold and silver for the Lord. Then the people offered sacrifices to the Lord and worshiped Him correctly.

**Lessons to learn:** We must worship God in the right way.  
We learn how to worship God in His word, the Bible.  
Joash was young, but he could obey God.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Joash was about a year old when Queen Athaliah killed his brothers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The priest had the soldiers all around Joash and the Temple to keep Joash safe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The priests and soldiers were guilty of treason. (disloyalty to their country.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Levites quickly collected money to fix the Temple as soon as Joash told them to get the money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The men fixing the Temple did what ever they thought was best to fix the Temple. There was no pattern to follow.

**Short Answer:**

6. Why did Joash have to be hidden for six years? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. When Queen Athaliah heard the people rejoicing over Joash being crowned king, of what did she accuse them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What kind of king was Joash? Give examples. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What had happened to the Temple while people were not worshipping God correctly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What had happened to the beautiful, gold, silver, and bronze things inside the Temple?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. The Bible says, “You shall worship the \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and Him only shall you serve.”  
Matthew 4:10
12. How did the priests get the money to fix the Temple?  
**They made people pay.** **They sold tickets for a party.**  
**People offered money in a box by the altar.** **They sold baked goods.**
13. Does God expect us to take care of His house of worship? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What does “did not turn to the right or to the left” mean? \_\_\_\_\_



# 16

## Jonah

The book of Jonah

**Memory verse:** “Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish.” Jonah 2:1

**Overview:** God was not happy with the way the people in the city of Nineveh acted, so He told Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh that God would punish them for the evil things they were doing. But the people of Nineveh were enemies of the Israelites. Jonah decided to disobey God and run away. He found a ship that was going the other way and got on it.

God wanted Jonah to obey Him, so he sent a great storm that made the ship start to sink. The men on the ship were afraid and wanted to know why this trouble had come upon them. They cast lots and found that Jonah was the one causing the trouble.

Jonah told the men that God had sent the storm because he had tried to run away from God. He told them that if they threw him out into the sea, the sea would be calm for them. First, the men tried to row for the shore, but they couldn't because the storm was growing stronger. Then they called on God and said, “We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life...” Finally, because the men were so afraid and could not get to land, they threw Jonah overboard. The storm stopped, and the men feared God greatly and offered sacrifices.

God had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah lived in the fish's belly for three days and nights. (Whales are not fish, so it wasn't a whale.) While he was there, he prayed to God because he was sorry for running away. God spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out on dry land.

Again God told Jonah to go warn Nineveh; and this time, Jonah obeyed and went. The people of Nineveh listened to Jonah and turned back to God. But when God did not punish Nineveh because the people had repented, Jonah was angry. He went out of the city and sat under a shade to watch the city. God made a plant grow up over Jonah to shade him, and Jonah was very happy to have the plant. Then God sent a worm to attack the plant and it withered. God also sent a scorching wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint. Jonah begged to die, saying, “Death is better to me than life.”

God asked Jonah if he had a good reason to be angry about the plant. God said, “You had compassion (love or concern) on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons ...?”

**Lessons to learn:** We must obey God.

We cannot run away from God. He sees us wherever we are.

God will punish those who do evil; but if a person turns back to God, he will be saved from punishment. We should tell everyone about God—even our enemies.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God has always wanted **everyone** to repent and obey Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jonah told the men on the ship that God had sent the storm because he had tried to run away from God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A whale swallowed Jonah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. God punished the people of Nineveh for their sins even though they repented.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Jonah was happy that the people of Nineveh repented.

**Short Answer:**

6. Did God know where Jonah went when he ran away on the ship? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What did Jonah say the men on the ship needed to do to him so they would be safe from the storm?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

continued

8. Number the events below in the correct order.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jonah ran away on a ship.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jonah was angry.

\_\_\_\_\_ God told Jonah to preach to Ninevah.

\_\_\_\_\_ God prepared a fish for Jonah

\_\_\_\_\_ Jonah prayed to God from the fish's belly.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jonah preached to Ninevah

\_\_\_\_\_ The plant withered

\_\_\_\_\_ People of Ninevah repented

9. Did the men do what Jonah said right away? What did they do?

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10. How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish, and what did he do while he was there?

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11. How did Jonah feel when the people of Nineveh repented of their sins?

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**Remember this:**

12. Did Jonah repent of disobeying God? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Can anyone hide from God?

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14. How should we feel when someone repents and obeys God?

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15. God taught Jonah a lesson from Jonah's love/compassion for the plant that had given him shade. What did it teach Jonah about God's love?

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16. Review the books of the Bible and the steps of salvation for class.

# 17

## Isaiah the Prophet

The book of Isaiah

**Memory verse:** “And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9: 6

**Overview:** Isaiah was God’s prophet who told people God’s word during the times of four kings. Uzziah was a king who did the right things when he first became king, and God blessed him. But later he disobeyed God because he was proud. He tried to burn incense even though he was not a priest. God struck him with leprosy, and he had to live alone for the rest of his life.

When Uzziah died, his son Jotham became king. He listened to God and the prophets, and God blessed him. After Jotham died, his son Ahaz ruled, but he worshipped idols and caused many of God’s people to worship idols. He even closed the Temple doors and made altars on every corner in Jerusalem.

Hezekiah was a good king. When enemies from Assyria came to fight with Hezekiah, Isaiah told him not to be afraid. God sent an angel to destroy the enemy army without any fighting.

We remember Isaiah for several things. One of those things is when he had a vision and God asked “Whom shall I send?” to tell the people about their sins. Isaiah answered, “Here am I. Send me.” But Isaiah didn’t have to go far away because God wanted him to tell his own people in his own country that God was angry at their sins.

Isaiah also told the people about a person who would come and save them from their sin. This person would be the Messiah (Savior) that God’s people should have been looking for. Isaiah said, “Behold a virgin shall bear a son and His name shall be called Immanuel.” (God with us) “And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Of course this was Christ, who would come to save the Jews and the Gentiles.

Isaiah also spoke about what would happen to Jesus. Jesus would die on the cross for all of our sins. Isaiah told these things 700 years before Jesus was born. Only God could know ahead of time how Jesus would be born and die. Prophecies about the future like this gave the people hope for God’s Son coming to earth.

**Lessons to Learn:** Isaiah was ready and willing to go where God told him to go and speak what God told him to speak.

Isaiah spoke for God during the reigns of four kings.

Isaiah prophesied about Christ long before He was born. This is a sign that God had told Isaiah what to say.

A good father can have an evil son, or an evil father can have a good son.

Each person is responsible for his own actions.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Uzziah tried to burn incense – something that only a priest was supposed to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jotham was struck by leprosy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jotham was a good man, but his son Ahaz was a bad man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Isaiah told Hezekiah not to be afraid of the Assyrian enemies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Jesus the Christ came to the earth to save the Jews only.

**Short Answer:**

6. Who were the four kings who lived while Isaiah was preaching for God?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What was the punishment for Uzziah being proud rather than humble before God?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Which two kings were good?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. To whom did God want Isaiah to preach?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How many years before Christ came did Isaiah prophesy about Him?

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**Remember this:**

11. Jotham was a good king, but his son was very evil. What lesson does that teach us?

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12. How did Hezekiah get rid of the Assyrian army?

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13. What name for Christ means Savior and who would he save?

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14. How would the Christ save people from their sins?

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15. What were some of the names of the Savior that we have in the lesson?

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16. Circle the word in the names above that means powerful. Underline the word that means “God with us.” Draw a box around the word that means “Savior.” Draw an arrow pointing to the word that means lasting forever. Put a wiggly line under the name that shows He is a ruler. Use a different color to circle the word that tells us that we are His children because He created us.

# 18

## Hezekiah Praises God

II Chron. 29: 1-8 and II Chron. 30

**Memory verse:** “O people of Israel, return to the Lord the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel.” II Chron. 30: 6

**Overview:** Hezekiah was a good king who obeyed God. The Bible says that, “He did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.” He repaired the Temple and told the priests to sanctify themselves because they and their fathers had turned away from God and had made God angry with them.

The Levites cleaned the Temple and took out everything that was unclean. It took them eight days to finish. Then Hezekiah and the princes came to the Temple and the priests offered seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom, the sanctuary (Temple), and Judah. Everyone worshipped God, and the Levites sang psalms of praise.

After the Temple was cleansed, Hezekiah sent letters to all of Israel to come keep the Passover and turn back to God. The letters said, “O sons of Israel, return to the Lord of Abraham, Isaac and Israel... Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were unfaithful to the Lord God of their fathers... for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him.” Many of the people had humble hearts and wanted to obey. They traveled to Jerusalem to keep the Passover feast.

Some of the people were not sanctified (purified) to worship God, but Hezekiah prayed for God to forgive them. God listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.

Israel celebrated the Passover for seven days. Then, because they were so happy to worship God, they decided to celebrate another seven days. There had not been such joy in Jerusalem since the time of King Solomon.

King Hezekiah gave the people thousands of bull calves and sheep so that they could offer sacrifices to God. The priests cleansed themselves and blessed the people. And, God heard their prayers that went up to heaven.



**Lessons to learn:** We should be happy to go to God's house and worship Him.

When we have done wrong, we can turn back to God and do right again.

When we obey God, He will hear our prayers.

We should keep God's house clean of things that do not belong in it.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Temple needed repaired and cleansed again because the people had not been worshiping God correctly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Hezekiah offered sin offerings for the kingdom, the Temple and Judah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. God will not turn away from people who turn back to Him.  
(Repent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Israel celebrated the Passover for seven days.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. There had not been such joy since the days of Solomon.

**Short Answer:**

6. What kind of King was Hezekiah? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why did Hezekiah say that the people should not be like their fathers and brothers?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How long did it take the Levites to clean the Temple? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How does God feel toward people who repent and turn to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why did the Israelites celebrate the Passover for an extra seven days?

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**Remember this:**

11. Why did Hezekiah pray for the people? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Hezekiah had the Levites offer sacrifices for a \_\_\_\_\_  
offering after the Temple was clean because the people had

\_\_\_\_\_ God.

13. Read I John 5:14 and fill in the blanks.

“If we ask \_\_\_\_\_ according to His  
\_\_\_\_\_ He hears us.”

14. God heard the Israelites’ prayers because they wanted to repent. Whose  
prayers does God hear?

**People who obey Him**

**Children**

**Sinners who keep  
doing bad things**

**Sinners who  
want to do good**

**People who are selfish**

**People who ask  
for good things**

15. We should be happy to worship God. Read Psalm 122: 1 and fill in the  
blanks.

“I was \_\_\_\_\_ when they said unto me, Let us go into the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

# 19

## Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

II Kings 20: 1-11

**Memory verse:** “Remember now, O Lord, I beg You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart.” II Kings 20: 3

**Overview:** The king of Assyria came to do battle against Jerusalem, and Hezekiah prayed to God asking God to save his people from the Assyrians to show all the kingdoms of the world that He was the true God. God heard his prayer and sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that God would deliver Jerusalem from the Assyrians. That night the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 men in the camp of the Assyrians; and when the rest of the men rose early in the morning, and saw the dead men, the Assyrians left and went back to their country.

About the same time Hezekiah became mortally ill. (sick enough to die) And Isaiah the prophet came to him and said to him, “Thus says the Lord ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’” Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord saying, “Remember now, O Lord, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah cried bitterly. Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of your father David, “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord. I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.”’ Then Isaiah said, “Take a cake of figs.” And they took and laid it on the boil, and Hezekiah recovered.

Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “What will be the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the Lord on the third day?” Isaiah said, “This shall be the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing that He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten steps or go back ten steps?” So Hezekiah answered, “It is easy for the shadow to get longer by ten steps; no, let the shadow turn backward ten steps.” Isaiah

the prophet cried to the Lord, and He brought the shadow on the stairway back ten steps.

**Lessons to learn:** Prayer of a righteous man can cause wonderful things to happen.

Isaiah spoke for God to tell Hezekiah what would happen.

God can make things happen that are against nature.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. If God saved Jerusalem from the Assyrians, it would show all the nations that God was the true God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Assyrian army left because they were afraid of Hezekiah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. When Hezekiah first became sick, God said that he would die.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. God added fifty years to Hezekiah's life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. God defended Jerusalem for His own sake and the sake of King David who had been His servant.

**Short Answer:**

6. Tell what made the Assyrians leave Jerusalem. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What did Hezekiah pray for God to remember after Isaiah said that Hezekiah would die?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How many years did God add to Hezekiah's life? \_\_\_\_\_

9. In how many days would Hezekiah be well enough to go to the Temple or House of God?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What would be the sign that Hezekiah would recover (get well)?

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**Remember this:**

11. Does God ever change his mind? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What kind of person do you have to be for God to hear your prayers?  
Read John 9: 31 and fill in the blanks.

"We know that God does not hear \_\_\_\_\_; but if  
anyone is \_\_\_\_\_ and does His \_\_\_\_\_,  
He hears him."

13. Read Proverbs 15: 29 and fill in the blanks.

"The Lord is far from the \_\_\_\_\_, but he hears  
the prayer of the \_\_\_\_\_.

14. What lesson does God's changing the movement of shadow prove about  
God?

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15. List as many times as you can think of when you can pray for yourself  
or others.

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## 20

# Josiah and Finding the Law of God

II Kings 22: 1-23: 3; II Chron. 34: 14- 32

**Memory verse:** “I have found the Book of the Law in the House of the Lord.” II Kings 22: 8

**Overview:** Josiah was eight years old when he became king. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the ways of David his father and didn’t turn to the left or the right. He reigned for 31 years.

When he was about 20 years old, Josiah began getting rid of the idols and the altars to the idols. Then when Josiah was about 26, he commanded that the Temple be repaired again. It had been neglected when the Israelites had turned to idol worship again. Once again the money that the Levites collected was given to carpenters, builders, and masons (stone workers) to restore the Temple to what it should have been.

While the Temple was being repaired, Hilkiah the high priest found the book of the Law of God that had been given to Moses, but which had been forgotten. Hilkiah gave the book of the Law to Shaphan the scribe to read. Shaphan took the book to King Josiah and read it to him.

When Josiah heard the words and knew that Israel had not been doing what God wanted them to do, he tore his clothes. He commanded Hilkiah to ask God about the book because he knew that God would be angry with them for disobeying Him.

Hilkiah and others went to Huldah the prophetess who told them that evil would come to Israel because the people had left God and worshiped idols. But God said, “Because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before Me and have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you.” God would not bring the evil upon Israel while Josiah was alive.

Josiah gathered all the people to him and read all the words of the book of God. Then he made a covenant (agreement) before God to keep His commandments and do all God said with all his heart and soul. All the people promised to do the same. Josiah removed the idols, groves, and the evil priests from the land. The people did not turn away from God all the time that Josiah lived. Josiah also commanded the people to keep the

Passover to the Lord because no one had kept the Passover In Jerusalem since the days of the judges.

No other king was like Josiah in turning back to God with all his heart.

(23:25)

**Lessons to learn:** People become very evil when they forget God's word. When people turn back to God, they are saved from punishment.

Only by reading God's word each day can we remember it and teach it to others.

Sometimes good people are the cause of God waiting to punish evil.

(Remember Abraham and Sodom, David and Solomon when he turned away from God I Kings 11: 11-12; II Kings 13: 23; Josiah II Kings 22: 17-20)

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Josiah did what was right like King David did years before.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The priests had been keeping the Book of the Law of God safe in the Temple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Josiah was upset when the Law was read to him because no one had been obeying God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. God didn't punish the people of Judah in Josiah's days because they had stopped worshipping idols already.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Josiah commanded the people to keep the Passover.

**Short Answer:**

6. Josiah was so good that he was compared to what other king?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. When Josiah was about 20 years old, what did he do?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What had happened to the Temple when the people were worshipping idols?

9. What was found while the Temple was being repaired?

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10. When Shaphan read the Law to Josiah, how did Josiah feel? Why?

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11. What did Josiah and the people agree to do?

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**Remember this:**

12. What is a covenant?

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13. Could nations lose or forget God's word today? How?

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14. What did Josiah do that showed that he had repented?

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15. What did God wait to do because Josiah had humbled himself and repented?

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# 21

## Jeremiah the Prophet

The Book of Jeremiah

**Memory verse:** “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. I have set you...over nations and over kingdoms.” Jeremiah 1: 9

**Overview:** While Josiah was the king in Judah, God called Jeremiah to be a prophet. At first Jeremiah thought he could not obey God’s call, because he was a shy young man. God told Jeremiah that He knew him and formed him into a little baby in his mother. God had decided at **that** time that Jeremiah would help Him. God told him that he had to go to every person to whom God sent him, and he should tell them every word that God told him. Then He touched Jeremiah's mouth and said, "I have put my words in your mouth, and I have set you over nations.”

Jeremiah was not afraid to obey when God promised to be with him and help him out of his troubles. Jeremiah knew he would have many troubles like the prophets before him who had been cruelly treated because they dared to speak God's words to the sinful people.

While Josiah was king in Judah, Jeremiah was treated kindly. But after Josiah died the people started worshipping idols again. Josiah's sons were not good men like their father. They left God and allowed idols to be set up all through the land. They even treated Jeremiah unkindly because he warned them about punishments God would send for their sins.

Jeremiah reminded the people that, about a hundred years before, the northern kingdom of Israel had left God. Their enemies, the Assyrians, conquered them and moved all of the Israelites to far off lands.

Now the people of Judah had left God, and enemies were already coming to fight them. God even told Jeremiah not to pray for the people of Judah. He would not hear the sinful people when they called to Him for help. Jeremiah warned the king that Judah would be captured by Babylon, but the king was angry and threw Jeremiah in prison.

When Jeremiah got out of prison, he preached God’s word to the people again and told them that they needed to repent and turn back to God. Some wicked men put Jeremiah into a muddy water tank. There was no water there, but Jeremiah sank into the mud. King Zedekiah let some men rescue Jeremiah so that he would not die. Then King Zedekiah asked

Jeremiah to tell him what he should do and not hide anything from him. Jeremiah said that he should not fight the Babylonians, or the city would be burned and the king would die. Instead, the king should surrender, be captured, and go to the far away land, and he would live.

Soon the Babylonians came, burned the city, and broke down the walls and the buildings because no one was willing to surrender. King Zedekiah and the soldiers tried to run away, but they were captured.

God said that Judah would be in captivity for seventy years and then God would bring what was left of the people back to Canaan. Only some poor people were left in the land, and Jeremiah lived in the land of Judah with them until he died.

**Lessons to Learn:** God knew Jeremiah when he was a baby still in his mother. This means that unborn babies are real people.

Young people can become preachers of God's word.

Good people are often mistreated.

There came a time when God's mind was made up about Judah's punishment, and He would no longer hear their prayers for help.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God put His words into Jeremiah's mouth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. While Josiah and his sons were kings, Jeremiah was treated well.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Assyrians had captured Judah about 100 years before Babylon came.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. God told Jeremiah not to pray for the people of Judah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Judah would be captive to Babylon for seventy years.

**Short Answer:**

6. Who had made (or formed) Jeremiah when he was a baby still inside his mother?

7. Which good king treated Jeremiah well?

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8. Who set up idols all through the land?

9. When the Assyrians captured Israel, what did they do with the Israelites?

10. What would happen if the king of Judah tried to fight the Babylonians?

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11. Once Jeremiah was thrown in prison and once he was thrown into

\_\_\_\_\_ and sank into the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Remember this:**

12. Now God told Jeremiah not to pray for the people of Judah. Why would that be? Think about what they kept doing.

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What did Jeremiah say that king Zedekiah should do when the Babylonians came?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. After seventy years, what would happen to the people of Judah who were still left?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 22

# Daniel and His Friends Choose to Obey God

Daniel 1:1-21

**Memory verse:** “God gave them knowledge,...and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Daniel 1: 17

**Overview:** King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon captured Jerusalem and commanded that certain beautiful, wise, and smart children be brought to Babylon to learn the teaching and language of the Babylonians. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were some of the young men who were brought to Babylon.

Daniel and his friends wanted to obey God. They knew that God would not want them to eat the kind of food that the king gave them. So Daniel asked the chief official who watched over the boys to give him and his friends only vegetables and water. The chief official was afraid that the boys would not be as healthy as the other boys he took care of. They might be too skinny. Then the king would be angry. But God was with Daniel so the official was kind to Daniel and his friends.

Daniel asked for the chief official to test them for ten days by giving them vegetables and water and then seeing who was healthiest. The man agreed to test them.

After ten days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and fatter than the other young men. So they were allowed to keep eating the vegetables and water and all the other young men were given the same food.

God was with Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave them knowledge, skill in learning, and wisdom. Daniel also understood visions and dreams. The king found that they were smarter than his magicians and astrologers, and he gave them important jobs.

**Lessons to learn:** Even when we are in a strange place, we must keep doing right.

God blesses those who obey him.

Even young people (children) can be good examples for other people.

Daniel knew what God wanted him to do. He dared to be different and do it.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. King Nebuchadnezzar had all the children brought to Babylon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The kind of food that the king wanted Daniel and his friends to eat was not O.K. with God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The official watching the young men was afraid that Daniel and his friends would get special treatment and be healthier than other children.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Daniel and his friends were healthy after eating just vegetables and water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The official taking care of the boys was kind to Daniel.

**Short Answer:**

6. Why was the chief official afraid to give Daniel and his friends just vegetables and water?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How many days did the chief of the officials test Daniel and his friends with the vegetables and water for their food?

8. Because Daniel and his friends looked so healthy, what did the chief official do?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why was the chief official kind to the boys?

10. What four boys are named in this lesson?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. Daniel and the other young people were taken far from their families into a foreign (strange) land, but they remembered \_\_\_\_\_

12. Who was most important to Daniel?

**The King                      His friends                      God**

**Family                      Friends                      Himself**

13. To whom were Daniel and his friends good examples? \_\_\_\_\_

14. The King wanted Daniel and the others to eat foods that God said were unclean. Fill in the blank with what the Bible says about this.

**We must obey \_\_\_\_\_ rather than  
[instead of] men.    Acts 5: 29**

15. God was with Daniel and his friends because they obeyed Him. Can you remember other young people whom God was with?

## 23

### Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

**Memory verse:** “No wise men,... can show to the king the mystery...,  
but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.”

Daniel 2: 27- 28

**Overview:** In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Babylonians be called to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. Nebuchadnezzar wanted the officials to tell him his dream, but the men didn't know what the dream was, so they tried to get the king to tell them what the dream was. Twice Nebuchadnezzar commanded the officials to tell him the dream and its interpretation. (what it meant) The officials said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand.” The king was angry/furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. When they came to get Daniel and his friends, Daniel wisely asked what the king wanted and then asked that the king appoint him a time, so he might show the interpretation (meaning) of the dream.

God revealed the mystery of the dream to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven for giving him the wisdom to know the king's dream. Daniel went to the king and he asked Daniel, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its meaning?” Daniel said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: “You saw, O king, ... a great image...mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found.

But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, O king, ..., to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory,... —you are the head of gold. Another kingdom [lesser than] you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, ...And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. And ... the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. And in the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed...It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever....A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its meaning sure.”

Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief official over all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel asked the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

**Lessons to learn:** Only God knows the future, and He told Daniel the dream.

God’s kingdom, the church, would be more powerful and last longer than the other kingdoms.

Daniel and his friends were still doing God’s will, and that made them valuable to Nebuchadnezzar.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Nebuchadnezzar’s wise men could tell him what his dream was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Daniel was able to figure out what Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The image (or statue) had four different parts for four different kingdoms that would come in the future.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A man cut out a stone and broke the statue.



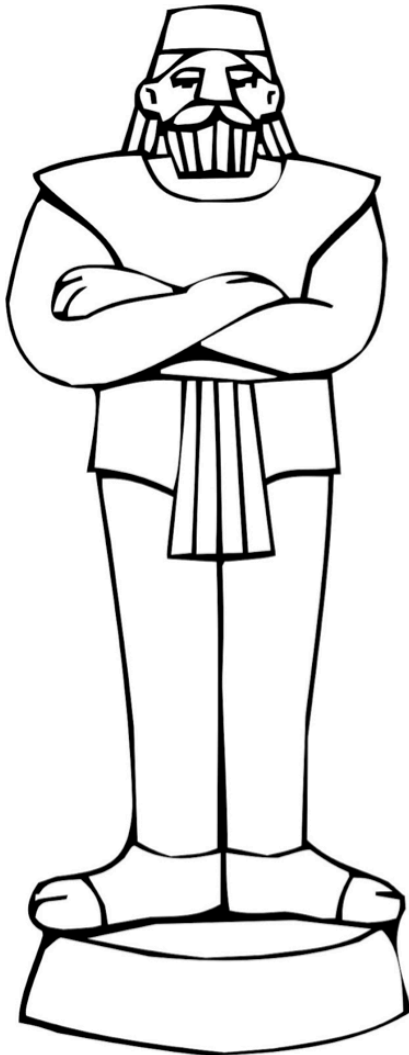
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Because God made known the dream and the interpretation, it was certain and sure. (definite)

**Short Answer:**

6. No man could do what Nebuchadnezzar asked, but who could? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What did Nebuchadnezzar want to do when none of the wise men could tell the dream to him?

8. Label and color the statue according to what it looked like in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Babylon)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Medo Persia)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Greece)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Rome)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(end of Rome)

9. The stone broke the statue and then became what? \_\_\_\_\_

10. The stone stood for a kingdom. How long would the kingdom last?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. The parts of the image (statue) stood for Babylon and the kingdoms that would come after Babylon. Would a man have known what kingdoms were coming in the future?

12. How did God make the dream known to Daniel? Does God talk to us in the same way today?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. The stone stood for a kingdom that would come during the end of Rome and would last forever. That kingdom is the church. Who is the King and who are the citizens in the kingdom?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Is the church a physical kingdom like the other kingdoms in the dream?

15. How does a person get into the kingdom of the church?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 24

## Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Daniel 3

**Memory verse:** “The God we serve is able to save us.” Daniel 3: 17

**Overview:** King Nebuchadnezzar built a very tall gold statue (9 ft. tall) and invited all his officials to celebrate. The herald (messenger) told them that Nebuchadnezzar commanded everyone to bow down and worship the statue when they heard special music played. He said that anyone who would not bow down would be thrown into a blazing furnace.

Some of the men who worked for the king saw that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow down to the idol when the music was played. Of course, these men did not bow down because they knew that they should worship only God, not a statue. The men wanted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to get in trouble, so they told the king.

King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry and asked the three men if they had bowed down or not. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the truth that they would not bow down to the statue. They told the king that “our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.”

Nebuchadnezzar commanded that the three men be thrown into the fiery furnace after it had been heated seven times hotter than usual. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up. The king servants who took the three men to the furnace died because of the terrible heat. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell down in the middle of the furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed. He saw four men walking the middle of the fire without being hurt! The fourth person was an angel whom God had sent to protect his people.

Nebuchadnezzar called to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, “Servants of the most high God, come forth!” The three men came out and everyone saw that not even a hair on them was burned, their cloaks were not harmed, and there was no smell of fire on them.

So Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in Him, and set aside the king's command, and gave up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.” Then

the King made a law that no one was to speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He promoted the men to important jobs in his kingdom.

**Lessons to learn:** We must worship only God.  
We must obey God rather than men.  
God protects his people.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. King Nebuchadnezzar commanded everyone to bow before him when music was played.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. All the king's officials bowed before the statue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to die if they had to die.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that the King had said that anyone who did not bow down to the statue would be thrown into a fiery furnace.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. King Nebuchadnezzar was so angry at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that he had the furnace heated to ten times its usual heat.

**Short Answer:**

6. What was the punishment if anyone did not bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not afraid of being thrown into the fiery furnace?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

continued

8. What happened to the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why did King Nebuchadnezzar see four men in the furnace? \_\_\_\_\_

10. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the furnace what things had the fire **not** done to them?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. When King Nebuchadnezzar saw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego come out of the furnace, whom did he bless?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Nebuchadnezzar said that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had done several things instead of serving the idol god. Fill in the blanks below.

They “\_\_\_\_\_ in Him, and \_\_\_\_\_  
the king's command, and \_\_\_\_\_ up their bodies rather  
than serve and worship any god except \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Daniel 3: 28

continued

13. Sometimes ungodly people will do evil things to hurt good people.  
What should you do if someone mistreats you?

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14. What law did Nebuchadnezzar make about God?

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## 25

# King Nebuchadnezzar's Punishment

Daniel 4

**Memory verse:** “I,...praise ...the King of heaven, for all His works are right and His ways are just.” Daniel 4: 37

**Overview:** Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was very large and powerful, but Nebuchadnezzar was a sinful man. One night he had a second dream about a tree being cut down and just the tree stump remaining. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that the dream was about the king and Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar would become crazy and live with the animals of the field. He would eat grass like an ox for a certain amount of time and then what was left of his kingdom would be given back to him.

The stump of the tree meant his kingdom shall be Nebuchadnezzar's from the time he learned that Heaven rules. (God controls everything.) So Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar to stop his sins by practicing righteousness and showing mercy to those who were treated cruelly; so maybe God would make him prosper for a longer time.

After a year, Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king said, “Is not this great Babylon, which **I** have built by **my** mighty power as a royal house and for the glory of **my** majesty?” While the words were still in his mouth, a voice from heaven said, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your home shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will.” Immediately Nebuchadnezzar was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

At the end of the time period God had said, Nebuchadnezzar stopped being crazy and said, “I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever.” His mind returned to him, and he was made king again; and even more greatness was given to him.

Nebuchadnezzar had learned his lesson that God had given him the greatness and the kingdom that he had. He said, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar,

praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are right, and His ways are just; and those who walk in pride He is able to humble.”

**Lessons to learn:** Having pride in the great things you have done is wrong. God is one who gives us the talents and the physical things we have, and we should give Him praise for what He has done for us. God controls kingdoms of the world.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom was large and powerful even though he was a sinful man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The dream was a warning to Nebuchadnezzar to repent so God would prosper him longer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Nebuchadnezzar repented and did good things as soon as Daniel told him what his dream meant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A year after his dream, Nebuchadnezzar looked at his kingdom and bragged about his power and majesty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Nebuchadnezzar lost his kingdom because he went crazy and lived like an ox.

**Short Answer:**

6. What was Nebuchadnezzar’s second dream about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What two things did Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar he needed to change? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. When he looked over his kingdom, Nebuchadnezzar give praise for it all to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



9. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar as he was bragging? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What did Nebuchadnezzar know after his crazy time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. Nebuchadnezzar would live outside like an animal until

**“you know that the \_\_\_\_\_ rules the**

**\_\_\_\_\_ of men and gives it to \_\_\_\_\_ He will.”**

12. Fill in the blanks with what Nebuchadnezzar said about God.

**“His works are \_\_\_\_\_, and His ways are \_\_\_\_\_;**

**and those who walk in \_\_\_\_\_ He is able to \_\_\_\_\_.”**

13. Being humble is the opposite of being proud. Fill in the blanks and see what God will do for us if we are humble.

**“\_\_\_\_\_ yourselves before the Lord, and He will**

**\_\_\_\_\_ you.” James 4: 10**

14. What are some things which you do well? Remember that you must give God praise for these things.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 26

# The Handwriting on the Wall

Daniel 5

**Memory verse:** “The Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will.” Daniel 5: 21

**Overview:** After a while, Nebuchadnezzar died and his son Belshazzar became king of Babylon. Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his noble men, and he was drinking wine. When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he ordered to bring the gold and silver vessels (dishes or containers) which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the Temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the people at the feast could drink from them. They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing. Then the king’s face grew pale and his thoughts frightened him, and his hip joints became loose and his knees began knocking together. The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, (magicians) the Babylonians and the diviners (fortunetellers). The king said to the wise men of Babylon, “Any man who can read this writing and explain its meaning to me shall be clothed with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom.” All the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known its meaning. Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed (afraid), his face grew even paler, and his nobles were puzzled.

The queen came in and said, “O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale. There is a man in your kingdom in whom is spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, appointed him chief of the wise men because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge, interpretation of dreams, ...were found in Daniel, whom the king named Belshazzar. Call Daniel and he will declare the interpretation(meaning).”

Then Daniel was brought in and the king said to Daniel, “Are you that Daniel, whom my father the king brought from Judah? I have heard that you have extraordinary wisdom, and I have heard that you are able to give

meanings and solve difficult problems. Now if you are able to read the writing and make its meaning known to me, you will be clothed with purple and wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.”

Then Daniel said, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the writing to the king and make the meaning known to him. Daniel reminded Belshazzar about what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar when he was proud. Then he said, “But you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and have brought the dishes of His house before you, and you all have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But you have not glorified God. The hand was sent from Him and this writing was written out: ‘MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.’ This is the meaning: ‘MENĒ’—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. ‘TEKĒL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found lacking. ‘PERĒS’—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and proclaimed that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom. That same night Belshazzar was killed, and Darius the Mede received the kingdom when he was about 62 years old.

**Lessons to learn:** God’s things are to be holy and set apart for Him. Belshazzar should have learned from what happened to his father. Belshazzar should have known about Daniel and God. The writing came true that very night.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Belshazzar brought the containers that belonged in the Temple to his feast so the people could drink from them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. God’s hand wrote on the palace wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Belshazzar was even more afraid when none of his wise men could read the writing and tell the meaning.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. King Nebuchadnezzar had made Daniel his chief wise man.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. King Belshazzar did not know what had happened to his father, Nebuchadnezzar, when he was proud.

**Short Answer:**

6. Tell who the people at the feast praised while they were drinking wine out of the dishes from the Temple.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Tell how Belshazzar felt when the hand wrote on the palace wall.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. What was Daniel's Babylonian name?

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Who knew about Daniel and his wisdom and ability to interpret dreams?

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. What did Daniel say was Belshazzar's sin?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. What did the writing on the wall mean? (In your own words)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. When was Belshazzar's kingdom taken away from him?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

continued

**Remember this:**

13. Belshazzar was doing the same thing wrong that his father had done.  
Whom did Daniel say he had exalted himself against?
- 
14. Look back to Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the statue. Which part of  
the statue was the new kingdom that took over after Babylon?
- 
15. Daniel became the third ruler in the kingdom. What characteristics  
(qualities) about Daniel had helped him be important in the  
Babylonian kingdom?
- 
- 
- 



## 27

# Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel 6

**Memory verse:** “He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.”  
Daniel 6: 10

**Overview:** Now Darius was king, and he picked three high officials to be over the other officials (satraps) in the kingdom. Daniel became more well-known than all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. The king was so impressed with Daniel that he planned to make him ruler over the whole kingdom. When the other officials heard about that, they were very jealous.

They began watching to find something wrong with Daniel but they couldn't find anything. Since Daniel was such a good man, they knew that they would only be able to find fault (something wrong) with him through his worship to God. So the men went to the king and said, “We think you should make a rule that everyone must pray only to you. If people pray to anyone else but you, they will be thrown into a den of lions.” King Darius thought this would be a good idea.

Daniel loved God and prayed to Him every day. In fact, he prayed three times every day. Daniel knew that praying to God was a right thing to do, so the next day, even though he knew about the new law, Daniel prayed to God as he always did. The mean men watched as he prayed. Then they ran to tell the king what they saw.

Darius was sad because he liked Daniel, and he was determined to rescue Daniel somehow. He knew he had been tricked into hurting Daniel. But the king had to obey the law, too; so Daniel was put into the lion's den, and a stone was put over the opening to the den so he could not get out.

King Darius was so worried about Daniel that he didn't eat or drink all night. He didn't sleep either. Early in the morning, he hurried to the den and called to Daniel. “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

Daniel answered the king, “My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I done any wrong before you, O king.”

The king was so glad that Daniel was not hurt. He had men lift Daniel out of the den; and when they did, they saw no wounds on him “because he trusted in his God.”

Then King Darius had the men who had accused Daniel thrown into the lion’s den with their families. The lions killed them all.

King Darius wrote to all his people and told them about the living God who worked miracles and saved Daniel. He wanted all his people to fear the true God. So Daniel was successful during Darius’ reign and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

**Lessons to Learn:** Sometimes God’s people are persecuted (treated badly) because they are doing good things.

God will be with His people and care for them.

We must obey God even if it is against the law of the land.

We are supposed to pray to God, no one else.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. King Darius was impressed by Daniel ‘s excellent spirit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The other officials were happy for Daniel when he was going to be ruler over the whole kingdom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The officials could not find anything wrong with Daniel unless they found something wrong with his worship of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. King Darius wanted to punish Daniel for disobeying his law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. An angel shut the mouths of the lions so they would not hurt Daniel.

**Short Answer:**

6. Why did King Darius make a law saying that people could only pray to him?

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7. When the other officials watched Daniel to find something wrong, what happened?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How many times a day did Daniel pray to God? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Did Daniel know about the law? \_\_\_\_\_ What did he do?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. King Darius had to follow the law, but how did he feel about putting Daniel in the lion's den?

11. What did king do (or not do) during the night?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Who did the King think might have saved Daniel?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

13. Daniel kept praying even though the law said that he would be in trouble. Fill in the blanks about whom we should obey.

“We must obey \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 5: 29

14. Because Daniel was innocent, he was saved. Fill in the blanks with the correct words that Daniel told the king.

“My \_\_\_\_\_ sent His angel, and He shut the mouths of the \_\_\_\_\_. Daniel 6: 22

15. List all the people who learned about God because of Daniel. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## 28

# Queen Esther Saves Her People

The book of Esther

**Memory verse:** “Grant me my life...and spare my people - this is my request.” Esther 7: 3

**Overview:** King Xerxes’ queen did not obey him and that made him angry. He decided that he would send her away and look for a new queen. Some of the king’s men went looking through the kingdom for beautiful girls. They brought them to the palace so that King Xerxes could pick the one who pleased him to be his queen.

One of the girls who was brought to the palace was named Esther. She was very beautiful and she was a Jew - one of God’s people. Her uncle, Mordecai, told her to keep that a secret.

When the king saw Esther, he liked her more than any of the other girls. So, he set the crown on Esther’s head and made her the queen. Then he held a large banquet (feast) for Queen Esther and proclaimed a holiday throughout his kingdom.

But there was an evil man named Haman who was angry with Mordecai because Mordecai would not bow down to him. He found out that Mordecai was a Jew and looked for a way to destroy all the Jews. He told the king that the Jews kept themselves separate from other people and did not obey the laws of the land. He tricked Xerxes into making a law to destroy the Jews. Remember that the king did not know that Esther was a Jew. Mordecai heard about the law and sent to tell Esther that she needed to ask the king to save her people.

Esther knew that it was against the law to go to the king unless he called for her. Unless the king extended his gold scepter to Esther and spared her life, she could be killed. Mordecai said that perhaps Esther had received her royal position as Queen for a time like this. So Esther asked all the Jews to pray and fast (stop eating) for three days. Then she would go to the king even though it was against the law. She said that if she died, she died. After three days, Esther went to see the king. He was happy to see her.

Queen Esther invited the king and Haman to two banquets. At the second banquet, she asked the king to save her and her people. She told him that the enemy who wanted to hurt her people was Haman. The king had Haman killed for his evil.

Then Esther told the king that Mordecai was her uncle. She asked the king to write an order to cancel the order to kill the Jews. The king said that Mordecai could write the new order and seal it with the king's ring because a law written and sealed with the king's ring could not be canceled. Mordecai became second in command next to King Xerxes.

God's people were saved! All the Jews celebrated with days of feasting and began a yearly feast to remember how they had been saved.

**Lessons to learn:** Sometimes God's people are able to help when help is needed. God can use us for good. We can pray for others, too. Like Esther, we might have to do something even if we are afraid of what might happen. Once again God was with his people and protected them.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. King Xerxes looked for a new queen because the old queen died.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mordecai told Esther to keep the secret that she was a Jew.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Haman just hated the Jews because they were different than his people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It was against the law for someone to go to the king unless he called for that person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Esther may have become queen in order to save her people at this time.

**Short Answer:**

6. Which of the women did King Xerxes like most, and what did he do for her?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why was Haman angry with Mordecai?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Haman trick the king into doing? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What would have to happen when Esther went to the king for her not to be killed?  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What did Esther ask all the Jews to do for three days before she went to the king?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. Esther's uncle said that maybe God had allowed her to become queen to save her people. Does God use people to do his plan?

Can you think of any other examples in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Haman said he wanted to kill the Jews because they were different from other people and did not obey the Kings laws. Whose laws were the Jews obeying?  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Why would the Jews try to be separate from the Persian people?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Esther asked her people to pray for her because she had a hard job to do. Can we pray for other people who need God's help?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 29

# Rebuilding the Temple (part 1)

Book of Ezra 1- 4: 5

**Memory verse:** “The Lord, the God of heaven... has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem.” Ezra 1: 2

**Overview:** God had promised to send some of the people of Judah back to Caanan after seventy years of captivity in Babylonia. So, he used Cyrus, the King of Persia to write a law which said, “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all His people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—He is the God who is in Jerusalem.” The people who lived near the Jews were supposed to help them by giving them silver, gold, and other offerings- besides the freewill offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem. Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels (dishes) of the Temple that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and gave them to the men who wanted to return to Jerusalem.

“And this was the number of them: 30 basins of gold, 1,000 basins of silver, 29 censers (for incense), 30 bowls of gold, 410 bowls of silver, and 1,000 other vessels (dishes of various kinds); all the vessels of gold and of silver were 5,400.”

Zerubbabel was one of the men who went back to Jerusalem and he built an altar for burnt offerings and the Jews sacrificed day and night and at all the feasts that God had given them.

Two years after they came to Jerusalem, they appointed the Levites to supervise the work on the Temple. When they laid the foundation (base) of the Temple, the priests praised God and the people shouted; but the old men who had seen the first Temple cried loudly.

The enemies of the people of Judah came to Zerubbabel and pretended like they wanted to help with building the Temple, but Zerubbabel said only God’s people would build. So then the enemies discouraged the people of Judah, paid men to influence them for evil, and made them afraid to build for a long time.

**Lessons to Learn:** God used Cyrus to fulfill His plans to send some Jews back to the land of Canaan.

Cyrus was a Persian, but he believed in God.

The Jews got extra gold, silver, and other offerings from the people who lived near them.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God can use rulers to fulfill his plans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the Jews went back to Canaan, they began worshipping God again, according to His Law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Cyrus had taken away the vessels that belonged in the Temple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. After two years, the foundation of the Temple was laid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Everyone shouted with joy when the foundation of the Temple was laid.

**Short Answer:**

6. Did the Persian King Cyrus believe in God? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How did the Jews get more offerings to use for building the Temple? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Who supervised the work on the Temple? \_\_\_\_\_

9. A foundation is the base on which the Temple would stand. Why do you think the Jews were so happy when just the foundation of the Temple was finished?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Fill in the blanks with what Haggai said about the new Temple.

“The latter \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_  
shall be \_\_\_\_\_ than the former, says the \_\_\_\_\_  
of hosts.” Haggai 2: 9

11. What did the enemies in Canaan do to keep the Jews from building the Temple?

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**Remember this:**

12. Can you remember other times when the vessels of the Temple were mentioned in our lessons while the Jews were in captivity?

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13. Who did Cyrus say had charged him to build the Temple?

14. Can you remember another time when God’s people got gold, silver, and other offerings from their neighbors? Think about the time of Moses.

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15. Think about how you would feel if someone tore down your place of worship (church building) and how you would feel when people were able to rebuild it.

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## 30

# Rebuilding the Temple (part 2)

Ezra 4-6

**Memory verse:** “Cyrus the king made a decree (order) that this House of God should be rebuilt.” Ezra 5: 13

**Overview:** You should remember from your last lesson that the enemies of the Jews tried to keep the Jews from building the Temple. When Artaxerxes (art a zurk sez) became king of Persia, the enemies of Judah sent a letter saying that the Jews “are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations. Now be it known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, (payment to a king) and the royal income will be impaired. The king sent an order for the Jews to stop building.

Later, when Darius II became king, Zerubbabel and the men started building again. God’s prophets Haggai and Zechariah supported what they were doing. Their enemies in the land asked them who had given them an order to build, but the Jews kept building. So the enemies sent a letter to King Darius saying that the Temple “is being built with huge stones, and timber is laid in the walls. This work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands.” They said that when they asked about who ordered the Jews to build, the Jews said, “We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished...However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree (order) that this House of God should be rebuilt.” The enemies of the Jews wanted King Darius to find out if Cyrus had told them to rebuild.

King Darius found the record of Cyrus’s decree, so he told the enemies to leave the Jews alone. He also told the enemies to give the Jews whatever they needed. They would use the money which they owed to the king as tribute, and “bulls, rams, or sheep for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, as the priests at Jerusalem require—let that be given to them day by day without fail, so that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons.”

So the Jews were able to finish rebuilding the Temple, and they

celebrated with joy. They offered hundreds of sin offerings. At the proper time, the Jews kept the Passover feast for seven days with everyone who had separated themselves from the unclean people of the land.

**Lessons to Learn:** The Jews were rebuilding the Temple because they were servants of God and Cyrus had given them an order allowing them to build.

Darius did the right thing and upheld the law for the Jews to rebuild the Temple.

Darius also made the enemies of the Jews give the Jews money and the things they needed to offer their sacrifices to God.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Their enemies claimed that the Jews were rebellious and wicked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. God's prophets supported the Jews in building the Temple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The enemies were really just trying to be sure that laws were being correctly followed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Darius believed in God enough to want the Jews to pray for him and his sons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Only people who had cleansed themselves could keep the Passover feast.

**Short Answer:**

6. What did the Jews' enemies say the Jews would not do in their letter to King Artaxerxes?

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7. Who were the prophets who encouraged the Jews to build?

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8. The Jews said, “We are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.” Who was the king who built the first Temple? I Kings 6

9. Do you think the enemies of the Jews were happy with Darius’ answer to their letter? Why?

10. It had been over \_\_\_\_\_ years since the Jews had had a Temple in which to worship.

**Remember this:**

11. Several kings had helped the Jews go back to Canaan and rebuild the Temple. Which King did not help?

12. Who had given the order to rebuild the Temple?

13. What are some of the things that show that God was behind the rebuilding of the Temple?

14. Why do you think that after seventy years, the Jews sacrificed hundreds of sin offerings? Ask a parent if you are not sure.

# 31

## Ezra Teaches the Jews

Ezra 7- 10

**Memory verse:** “Make confession to the Lord, the God of your fathers and do His will.” Ezra 10:11

**Overview:** Ezra was a scribe (priest who copied the Law) skilled in the Law of Moses, and the king of Persia granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him. Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord and to do it and to teach His statutes (laws) and rules to the Jews who were in Canaan. The King said that anyone who wanted to go with Ezra could go to Canaan, too.

The King and his men also sent silver and gold they had offered, and the offerings of the people and the priests. The offerings were to be used to buy sacrifices for God and anything else that Ezra thought was needed. So Ezra gathered people to go to Jerusalem with him and went.

One of the things that Ezra found out was that the Jews had married women from the evil nations around them. Ezra was very upset, and prayed to God. He knew that the Jews had sinned and disobeyed God’s law about not marrying the people around them. Ezra confessed their sins and cried to God and threw himself down in front of the Temple, and the people cried bitterly.

One man suggested that they needed to make a covenant with God to put away all these wives and their children, ...and let it be done according to the Law. He told Ezra, “Arise, for it is your task (job), and we are with you; be strong and do it.” Then Ezra arose and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath (promise) that they would do as had been said. So they took the oath.

All the Jews were called to come to Jerusalem within three days. When they gathered, Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. Now then make confession to the Lord, the God of your fathers and do His will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives.” Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, “It is so; we must do as you have said.” The Jews got rid of all the wives that they should not have married.

**Lessons to Learn:** God took care of Ezra by having the king of Persia give him whatever he wanted.

Ezra knew God's Law and was very upset that the Jews had disobeyed God. In order to repent of the sin of marrying foreign wives, the Jews were sorry, confessed that they had sinned, and gave up the foreign wives and children. (stopped sinning)

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ezra had decided to study God's Law, do it, and teach it to the Jews.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Jews were not sorry for marrying women from the nations around them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. An oath is a promise.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. All the Jews had to come to Jerusalem within three days.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. To do God's will, the Jews had to get rid of the foreign wives and children.

**Short Answer:**

6. What was a scribe? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What did the king send with Ezra and the people who went to Jerusalem with him?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Ezra do when he found out about the Jews who had married foreign wives?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. One man said the Jews needed to make a covenant (agreement) with God to \_\_\_\_\_

10. Ezra told the people what they had done wrong and what they needed to do to repent. Was it an easy thing they needed to do? \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. How do we know God's will today? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are there certain kinds of people we should marry and certain people we should not marry? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Circle the things we should think about when looking for someone to marry. Put a star next to the most important one.

**Does the person look beautiful/ handsome?**

**Will the person make a good husband or wife?**

**Is the person rich?**

**Will the person be a good father or mother?**

**Is the person a Christian?**

14. The Jews had to do something very hard to repent and obey God. Here are some other things to think about.

**Can someone steal something and say that he repented, but not give back the thing he stole?**

**Can a person say that he has repented, but keep on sinning just like he had been sinning before?**

**Would it be O.K. for other people to say that the sinner doesn't truly need to repent because some things are just too hard to do?**

## 32

# Rebuilding Jerusalem's Wall

Nehemiah 1 – 7:4

**Memory verse:** "...the great and awesome God who keeps...steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments."  
Nehemiah 1: 5

**Overview:** Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king of Persia. That means that he was trustworthy to pour drinks for the king and taste drinks to protect the king from someone trying to poison him.

One day when Nehemiah came before the king, he was very sad. The king asked him why he was sad. Nehemiah said he was sad because Jerusalem was in ruins and the gates had been burned. Nehemiah prayed to God, and then he asked the king to let him go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. The king allowed him to go because God was with Nehemiah. Nehemiah also asked for letters to protect him on his journey and a letter to the keeper of the king's forests to give Nehemiah as much wood as he needed to do his building. The king gave him all he asked.

When Nehemiah got to Jerusalem, he went out for three nights to inspect the damage of the city. He told the city officials that they needed to rebuild, and he told them how God had been with him and the king had helped him. The men said, "Let us rise up and build."

Once again enemies of the Jews did not want them to rebuild, so they made fun of the Jews. But the Jewish people had a mind to work, so they soon had the wall built to half its height. When the mocking (making fun) did not work, the enemies planned to band together to fight against the Jews and make as much trouble as they could make. Nehemiah prayed for God to help the Jews, and he placed a guard day and night so no one could surprise them.

The people worked so hard, that they were becoming tired, and they were afraid that the enemies would come fight them. Nehemiah told them "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." Nehemiah had the men work with one hand and hold their weapon in their other hand. Nehemiah was appointed to be governor of the land, but he did not demand food and money from the Jews like the previous governors. He paid for all his food himself.

Finally the wall was complete except for doors that needed to be put into the gates. But when the enemies heard that there were no gaps in the walls, they planned to harm Nehemiah. They asked him to meet them in a place called Ono, but Nehemiah knew they just wanted him out of Jerusalem to hurt him. He wrote them and said that he would not leave the work. So, the enemies threatened to tell the king of Persia that Nehemiah and the people were going to rebel. But Nehemiah said they had just made that up.

When the walls were totally complete, Nehemiah had guards set up and told the Jews not to open the gates of the city until the sun was hot, (late in the morning) and to shut and bar doors at night.

**Lessons to Learn:** Sometimes God causes people in the world to see His people in a good way so that His will can be done.

Nehemiah wisely asked for protection and lumber he needed to build the wall.

Enemies were still trying to keep God's work from proceeding.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Nehemiah was the cupbearer for the king of Persia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Jews were ready to help Nehemiah rebuild the walls.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. First, the enemies came to fight the Jews to keep them from building the walls.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Nehemiah acted the same as the other governors of Jerusalem had acted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Nehemiah did many things to protect the wall, the builders, and the city.

**Short Answer:**

6. Why was Nehemiah sad when he came before the king of Persia?

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7. For what two things did Nehemiah ask the king before he left for Jerusalem?

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8. What did Nehemiah do for three nights once he got to Jerusalem?

9. Their enemies

\_\_\_\_\_ of the builders and then they banded together to

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10. When the walls were complete, what did the enemies try to do to Nehemiah?

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**Remember this:**

11. When the Jews were told there was work to be done, they had a good attitude. Fill in the blanks about what they said.

**The men said, “Let us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”** Nehemiah 2: 18

12. What does the Bible say about the people and the work?

**“The people had a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.”**  
Nehemiah 4:6

13. The people had to deal with several problems from enemies. What can we learn from them since we have to endure troubles while doing God’s will?

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# 33

## Ezra Reads the Law

Nehemiah 7-13

**Memory verse:** “Blessed be Your glorious Name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.” Nehemiah 9: 5

**Overview:** All the people gathered in front of the Water Gate, and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose with Levites standing on each side of him. Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people; and as he opened it, all the people stood.

And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Ezra read the Law from early morning until midday, and all the people paid close attention. The Levites helped the people to understand the Law. They read from the Law of God clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading. Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” because all the people cried as they heard the words of the Law.

After reading God’s Law, the Jews separated themselves from all foreigners and confessed their sins. They promised to walk in God’s Law that was given by Moses and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord. They said, “We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons. They also promised to keep the Sabbath and to give yearly offering to the Temple.

Then the priests and the Levites purified (cleansed) themselves and the people and the gates and the wall to dedicate the wall. Nehemiah brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks. They offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

When they read from the Book of Moses, they found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, so as soon as the people heard the law, they separated all foreign people from the Jews.



**Lessons to Learn:** Ezra read the Book of the Law and the people listened carefully.

While reading the Law, the people found several things they needed to change to be right with God. They made the changes.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The people agreed with Ezra's blessing of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Levites helped the people understand what Ezra read.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The people rejoiced as they heard the word of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Jews had sinned by having foreigners in the assembly of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The people were supposed to cry when they heard God's word.

**Short Answer:**

6. How were all the people able to see Ezra? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What words did the people say that showed they agreed with Ezra's blessing of God. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why were the people not supposed to cry when they heard the word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many of God's commandments did the people agree to do? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What three things did the Jews promise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember this:**

11. Like the Jews, how are we supposed to listen when God's word is read?

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12. Does listening to God's word mean just hearing the words?

How do you know from this lesson? In other words, what did the people do when they listened?

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13. Today, if you do not understand something the Bible says, who or what can help you understand?

**Parents**

**Preachers**

**Priests**

**Another Bible**

**Older Christians**

**Elders**

**Angels**

**Bible Dictionary**

**Other Bible help books**

**Prophets**

14. How can we show that we love God? Read John 14: 15 and finish the verse.

**“If you love Me, \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_.

## 34

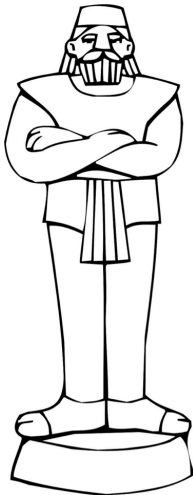
# Time before Christ

**Memory verse:** “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son.” Galatians 4:4

**Overview:** Our last lesson is about the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament. There were 400 years between the last prophet Malachi and the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. The 400 years is called the 400 years of silence because God did not speak to the Jews, and no inspired men wrote Scripture.

400 years is a long time. The United States has only been a country for 238 years. (2014) Most people only live to be 80-90 years old.

What we know about the 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament is just from historians (men who wrote about the history of that time). During this time, the kingdoms that Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed about ruled over Canaan and a large part of the world.



Babylon – head of gold

Medo Persia – chest and arms of silver

Greece - middle and thighs of bronze

Rome – legs of iron

End of Rome – feet of iron and clay

You should remember that the Jews had come back to the land of Canaan and had rebuilt the Temple. The Persian Empire ruled the land when Ezra and Nehemiah helped the Jewish people rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the Temple and taught the Jews turn away from the foreign wives they had married. The Jews turned away from idols and back to God’s law. Priests of the tribe of Levi once again served God. But by the prophet Malachi’s time, The Jewish people were mistreating their wives,

marrying ungodly people and not tithing (giving God what He had commanded them to give back to Him); and the priests were neglecting the Temple and not teaching the people the ways of God.

Then King Alexander the Great ruled over Canaan and the whole Greek empire. During this time the Koine (Koi- nay) Greek language became the world language. That is important because God would use that language when inspired men wrote the New Testament books of the Bible. Jews in the city of Alexandria, Egypt, translated the Old Testament into the Greek Septuagint (sep- ' tü-ə-jənt) Bible. The Jews spoke the Greek language and did many things that Greek people did.

Most of the time the Jews were treated well, and they kept their priesthood and laws. But when an evil king conquered Canaan, a Jewish priest led the Jews in a revolt (rebellion or uprising). The Jews recaptured Jerusalem and cleansed the Temple. There was fighting until the Romans took over Canaan.

The Roman Empire was the next kingdom about which God had told Nebuchadnezzar. During this time, the Jews disobeyed God and picked a priesthood that was not from the Levites. They worshiped in synagogues all over the empire (kingdom). Synagogues were like our church buildings because they were places for worship. Two large groups began among the Jews – the Sadducees and the Pharisees. We will learn more about them in the New Testament.

During the Roman Empire, God sent forth His Son. The Bible says this was the fullness of time or the right time for God's plan. (Galatians 4:4) Many people spoke the Greek language, it was a time of peace, the law was the same all over the empire, and there were good roads to help people spread the gospel.

Some of the Jews, and other people like the wise men from the East, remembered God's promises to send His Son. They were waiting and watching for His coming.

**Lessons to learn:** 400 years went by between the Old Testament time of Malachi and the birth of John and Jesus.

God had told the Jews that Jesus Christ was coming. Some people remembered that and watched for Jesus to come.

During the 400 years of silence, things were happening that would lead to the right time for Jesus to come.

**True or False:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God did not speak to the Jews for 400 years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Bible tells us about these 400 years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The kingdoms or empires in the 400 years came in this order:  
(Medo)Persian, Greece, Roman.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It was important that many people in Jesus' time spoke the same  
Greek language so the gospel would spread easily.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Synagogue was another name for the Temple.

**Short Answer:**

6. During what empire did the Jews rebuild the Temple? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who was the important king of Greece? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What language would God use for inspired men to write the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the name of the Old Testament translation which Jews in Egypt  
wrote? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What were synagogues? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did a Jewish priest lead a revolt? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

continued

**Remember this:**

12. There were many reasons that it was the fullness of time when Jesus came. List the four reasons mentioned in the lesson.

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13. What did the Jews do wrong with the priesthood during the Roman Empire?

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14. What two groups of Jews are mentioned in the lesson and are mentioned in the New Testament?

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15. What did some Jews and some other people do during the 400 years because they believed in God's promises?

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