



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada

CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY & ST. ATHANASIUS
MISSISSAUGA - CANADA

BIBLE TREASURES FACTS & FUN



DID YOU
KNOW?



VOLUME **3**

THE OLD TESTAMENT



His Holiness, Pope Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria & Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



His Grace, Bishop Mina
Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Book of 1 Kings	5
Questions on Book of 1 Kings	11
Book of 2 Kings	14
Questions on Book of 2 Kings	20
Book of 1 & 2 Chronicles	23
Questions on Book of 1 & 2 Chronicles	30
Book of Ezra	33
Questions on Book of Ezra	39
Book of Nehemiah	42
Questions on Book of Nehemiah	46
Book of Esther	49
Questions on Book of Esther	54
Answer Key	57

Introduction

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit one God. Amen

The Bible is the most important book ever written.

It is an eyewitness account of historical events that shaped the world in which we live.

Without the Bible the world would be completely different.

It is so important to read and understand the Bible.

I thank God for the group of servants in the church of Virgin Mary and St. Athanasius in Mississauga, Ontario, who have worked tirelessly to make this booklet.

This is an excellent tool to make studying the Bible more interesting, enjoyable and easy for children.

Also, this series is so precious because it covers all the 66 books of the Bible and it promises to be both enjoyable and beneficial for children and adults alike.

I encourage each family to obtain these series of books and sit with their children to study the Bible every day.

May God bless all the families and church servants through the intercession of St. Mary and St. Athanasius and the prayers of HH Pope Tawadros the second.

May God bless you.

Bishop Mina
Bishop of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada

BOOK OF 1KINGS



AUTHOR

Jeremiah the Prophet

WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

Preceded by the Book of 2 Samuel
Followed by the Book of 2 Kings
One of the Historical books of the Old Testament

WHERE ARE WE?

Jerusalem and Samaria

MAIN THEME

Wisdom and foolishness

Kingship

Good, bad or ugly

Prophecy

Elijah's prophecy and other prophets

Worship

Established by Solomon in the temple and Elijah at Mount Carmel

MAIN CHARACTERS

David follows God's commandments

Solomon asks for wisdom

Rehoboam does not listen to advice

Jeroboam wrong use of his rights

Elijah honest witness

Ahab king ruled by his wife

Jezebel puts all her power in evil



Solomon

- The book records the story of Solomon's kingdom
- The rise and fall of Solomon
- The construction and the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem
- The division of the kingdom
- The miraculous ministry of the prophet Elijah and his victory over the prophets of Baal

2 MAIN SECTORS

- The united kingdom (chapters 1-11)
- The divided kingdom (chapters 12-22)

Relation between the 2 kingdoms

- 8 years of continuous wars
- 8 years of peace
- 5 years of scattered wars



BOOK OF 1 KINGS- CONT.

OUTLINE

Chapters 1-2 David's death - Transfer of the Kingdom to Solomon

1. David's last words to Solomon.
2. Solomon secures the kingdom.

Chapters 3-11 Solomon's Activities

1. Prayer for wisdom.
2. Solomon's court, wealth and wisdom.
3. The building and the dedication of the temple and other buildings.
4. Solomon's many wives, idolatry, and God's anger.
5. Solomon's enemies aroused by the Lord.
6. Death of Solomon.



Chapters 12-33 The Kingdom Splits

1. Rehoboam made king
2. Revolt and Jeroboam made king of north (Israel)
3. Jeroboam plunges Israel into idolatry

Chapters 13-16 Reigns of the Israelite and Judean Kings

Chapters 17-19

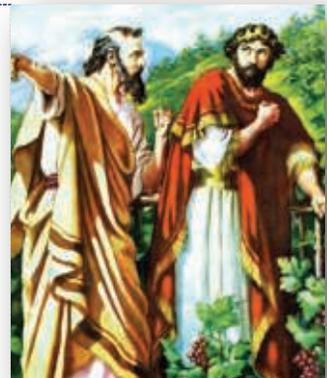
Elijah's Ministry

1. Drought and miracles
2. Prophets of Baal killed
3. Elijah flees to Mount Horeb
4. Elisha called to prophetic ministry

Chapters 20-22

Ahab's Reign

1. War between Ahab and Syria
2. Ahab and the vineyard of Naboth
3. Ahab's death in the battle against Syria (in Ramoth Gilead)
4. Further Kings: Jehosphaphat of Judah - Ahaziah of Israel



BOOK OF 1 KINGS- CONT.



KEYS

KEY WORD

Division of the Kingdom



KEY CHAPTER

Chapter 12

When the **UNITED KINGDOM** becomes the **DIVIDED KINGDOM** upon the death of Solomon



KEY VERSES

KEY PHRASE

As did his father David

“Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness,, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’” 1Kings 9:4-5

“Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.” 1Kings 11:11



KEY THEME

The theme centers on the fact that the welfare of Israel and Judah depends upon the faithfulness of the people and their king to God's covenant.

The books of 1 and 2 kings were originally ONE book, they were divided by the Septuagint translators



BOOK OF 1 KINGS- CONT.

KEY POINTS



David proclaims **SOLOMON KING**



Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet **ANOINTED SOLOMON KING in Gibon**

"I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days." 1 Kings 3:12-13



Solomon asks for **WISDOM**

Solomon builds and dedicates the temple in Jerusalem.
The temple was built in 7 years.

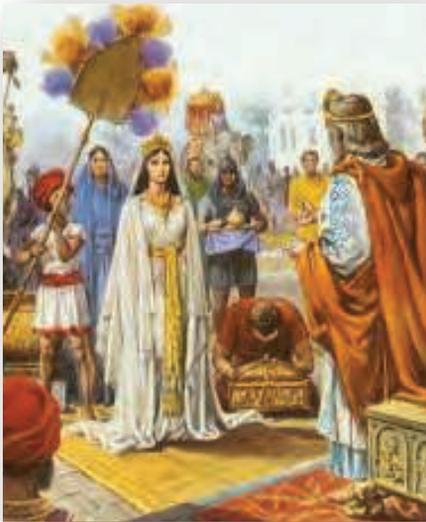


Solomon's **WISE JUDGMENT**
In the case of the 2 women and the child dispute

"That Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day."
1 Kings 8:29



KEY POINTS



The **Queen of Sheba** visits Solomon

Solomon's heart turns from the Lord

However Solomon's great zeal to God diminished in his later years and pagan wives turned his heart after other gods. Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Resulting in...



Rehoboam was king over all Israel for **ONLY 3 days!**



The division of the kingdom which separated 10 tribes in the North (**Israel** with its capital Samaria) under Jeroboam and 2 tribes in the South (**Judah** with its capital Jerusalem) under Rehoboam

WHAT ABOUT AFTER THE DIVISION?

Jeroboam King of Israel

- He made 2 gold calves
- He made shrines on the high places
- He made priests from every class of people
- He ordained different feasts other than the one in Judah
- He sinned and made ALL Israel sin
- All Israel kings were corrupted as a result
- The kingdom ended with the Assyrian exile



As for Judah's kings some were good and some were bad!

BOOK OF 1 KINGS- CONT.

THE MINISTRY OF ELIJAH



Elijah's ministry was during the reign of Ahab the king

"As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."
1 Kings 17:1



The ravens brought Elijah bread and meat in the morning and in the evening



"The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth. "



A widow in Zarephath provides for Elijah



Elijah raises the widow's son from the death



Elijah's victory over the Baal's prophets at Mount Carmel



The drought ends!



God's revelation to Elijah at Mount Horeb (a gentle whisper)

**ELISHA
FOLLOWS
ELIJAH**

Elijah escapes the vengeance of Jezebel

QUESTIONS BOOK OF 1 KINGS

- 1- Who is the writer of the book of 1Kings?
 - a) Isaiah the Prophet
 - b) Jeremiah the Prophet
 - c) Samuel the Prophet

- 2- The book of 1 Kings recounts the story of _____.
 - a) Solomon's kingdom
 - b) Building of the temple
 - c) Division of the kingdom
 - d) All of the above

- 3- The kingdom of Israel was divided after the death of Solomon.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 4- There was peace between the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms all the time.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 5- God said to Solomon: "If you walk before Me _____ I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever"
 - a) As your father David walked
 - b) According to the Law of Moses
 - c) According to my commandments

- 6- The books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally one book and were divided by _____.
 - a) King Solomon's followers
 - b) The Septuagint translators
 - c) None of the above

- 7- Solomon was proclaimed king after David's death.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 8- Who anointed Solomon in Gibeon?
 - a) Zadok the priest
 - b) Nathan the prophet
 - c) a and b

- 9- What did Solomon ask from God?
 - a) Peace
 - b) Wisdom
 - c) Health

- 10-What did God promise to Solomon that he had not asked for?
 - a) To give him knowledge
 - b) To give him many children
 - c) To give him riches and honor

11-Fill in the blank: "That you eyes may be open toward this temple _____" 1 Kings 8:29

- a) Day and night
- b) All the time
- c) Forever

12-How long did it take to complete the temple?

- a) 7 years
- b) 10 years
- c) 12 years

13-Who visited Solomon when she/he heard about his fame?

- a) The king of Tyre
- b) The queen of Sheba
- c) a and b

14-Who turned Solomon's heart and made him worship idols?

- a) Pagan priests
- b) The people of Israel
- c) His foreign wives

15-What was the capital of the Northern Kingdom?

- a) Samaria
- b) Jerusalem

16-How many tribes were in the Northern Kingdom?

- a) 2
- b) 11
- c) 10

17-How long did king Rehoboam rule over all Israel?

- a) 3 months
- b) 3 days
- c) 1 year

18-Jeroboam appointed priests from the son's of Aaron.

- a) True
- b) False

19-What did Jeroboam do in the kingdom of Israel?

- a) He made 2 gold calves
- b) He made shrines on the high places
- c) He ordained different feasts other than the one in Judah
- d) All of the above

BOOK OF 2KINGS

WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

- Preceded by the Book of 1Kings
- Followed by the Book of 1Chronicles
- One of the historical books of the Old Testament



AUTHOR

Jeremiah the Prophet



WHERE ARE WE?

Jerusalem and Samaria

- 2 Kings records the history after the division of the kingdom (continuation of 1 Kings)
- The Kingdom of Israel until its captivity by the Assyrians and the fall of Samaria
- The Kingdom of Judah until its captivity by the Babylonians and the fall of Jerusalem

MAIN CHARACTERS

Elijah the prophet
Elisha the Prophet
The **Shunammite** woman
King **Hezekiah**
King **Josiah**



Captivity



1 KINGS

Begins with:

- Victories of King David
- Solomon's glory
- Obedience
- The building of the Temple
- Kings forsaking God
- God's patience manifested



2 KINGS

Ends with:

- Defeat by Nebuchadnezzar
- Jehoiachim's shame
- Disobedience
- The Temple destroyed
- God forsaking kings
- No remedy against captivity



KEY WORD

Captivities of the Kingdom



KEY CHAPTERS

Chapter 2

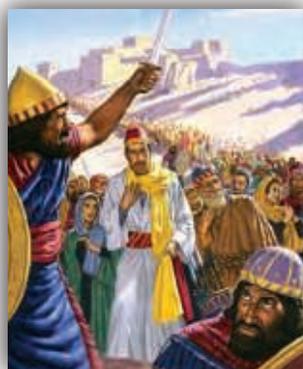
The translation of Elijah and Elisha's power.

Chapter 25

Records the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.



KEY VERSES



“For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.” 2 Kings 17:22-23

“And the Lord said, “I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, ‘My name shall be there.’” 2 Kings 23:27

DIVISIONS

Chapter 1

Fiery Elijah

Chapter 2-8

Elisha's miracles

Chapter 9-17

Two kingdoms until Israel's captivity by the Assyrians

Chapter 18-25

Judah until the Babylonian captivity



The kings of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) can be divided into **9** dynasties. The Southern Kingdom has only **1** dynasty the line of David

KEY PHRASES

“Did evil in the sight of the Lord”
“Man of God”

BOOK OF 2KINGS – CONT.

THE MINISTRY OF ELISHA



A Chariot of fire appeared and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven

“Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, *“Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”*”

Elisha was a prophet and a wonder-worker of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He was the son of Shaphat. He became the attendant and the disciple of Elijah.



Elisha divides the Jordan River and crosses over



Blessing of the oil in the widow's house. *They filled all the vessels until there was none left.*



Thus says the Lord: ‘I have healed this water; there shall be no more death or barrenness

Elisha and the Shunammite woman



About this time next year you shall embrace a son



Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman after he had died

Namaan the Syrian washed in the Jordan as Elisha told him and was healed from leprosy. Because of greed Gehazi, Elisha's servant, becomes leprous!



“Why not wash and be clean?”



Elisha put some salt and cured a poisonous stew. He fed 100 men with 20 loaves

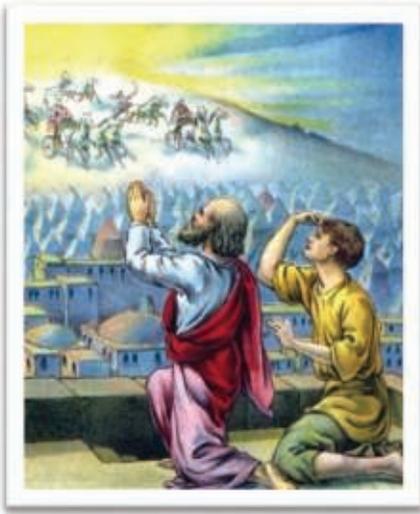


A floating axe head!



BOOK OF 2KINGS – CONT.

THE MINISTRY OF ELISHA

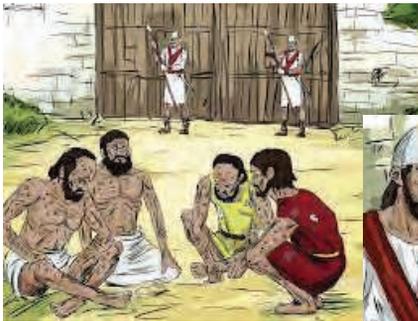


Syria besieges Samaria in famine

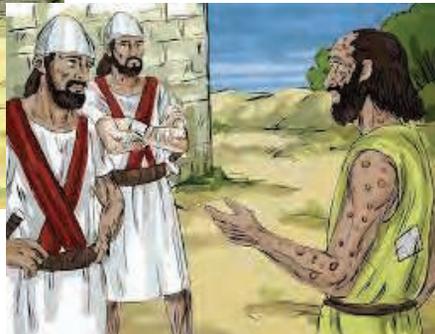
“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them” 2Kings 6:16



“You shall not kill them ... Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.”
2 Kings 6:22



We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent



The blinded Syrians captured



“Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.”
2 Kings 7:1



Elisha was sick and the king of Israel visited him

Then Elisha died, and they buried him. So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.



BOOK OF 2KINGS – CONT.

OUTLINE

Chapter 1- 17

- *The kings and prophets of Israel and Judah*
- *Elijah and Elisha*
- *Translation of Elijah*
- *Miracles and other works of Elisha*
- *Israel oppressed by Hazael of Syria*
- *Athaliah and Joash*
- *Joash of Judah and his reforms*
- *Decline and fall of the Northern Kingdom*
- *Israel captive to the Assyrians*
- *Assyria resettles Samaria*



Chapter 18-25

The Kings of the surviving Kingdom of Judah- Hezekiah of Judah and His Sons to Josiah of Judah (Chapter 18 – 21)

- *Defeat of Sennacherib; Isaiah's prophecy*
- *Hezekiah's illness*
- *Hezekiah's life extended*

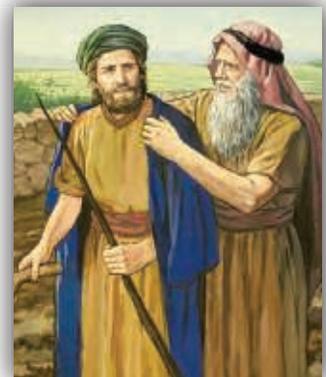
Josiah of Judah and His Sons to the Fall of Jerusalem (Chapter 22-25)

- *Discovery of the Law; Reforms*
- *Initial invasion of Nebuchadnezzar*
- *Fall of Jerusalem*
- *Jehoiachim honored in Babylon*

The decline and collapse of the two kingdoms occurred because of failure of the rulers and people to heed the warnings of God's messengers.

Elijah is a type of John the Baptist while **Elisha** reminds us of our Lord Jesus' ministry

Elijah lived apart from the people and stressed on law, judgment and repentance while **Elisha** lived among the people and emphasized grace, life and hope **Elisha** was known as the great worker of miracles and for helping those in need



BOOK OF 2KINGS – CONT.



KEY POINTS

Unique features

- It records the final 2 of 3 Old Testament **resurrections**
- It records the 2nd of 2 men in the bible who **left the earth without dying** (Elijah) - the first was Enoch (Genesis 5:21-22)
- It records the 2nd and 3rd of 3 occasions when **God rolled back the water of the Jordan River**
- It records the 2nd Old Testament miracle involving the **rotation of the earth around the sun** (20:8-11) , the first time recorded in Joshua 10:12-14



The kings of Israel were ALL evil. They walked in the sins of Jeroboam and were under constant threat from the Assyrians.

The situation was somewhat better in Judah but not much with the exception of:

3 NOTABLE SPIRITUAL REFORMATIONS

1



Joash (also known as Jehoash) the boy king who was rescued from his enemies in his infancy. His great achievement was the repair of the damaged temple in Jerusalem.

2



King Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He trusted the Lord with all his heart.



3

Josiah, the best and last good king of Judah. He was 8 years old when he became king. He understood that any spiritual revival must be preceded by the reading and heeding of God's word.



QUESTIONS BOOK OF 2 KINGS

- 1- In the bible which book follows the book of 2 Kings?
 - a) The book of 1 Samuel
 - b) The book of 1 Chronicles
 - c) The book of Ezra

- 2- The book of 2 Kings is an Old Testament Prophetic book.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 3- The events of the book of 2 Kings took place in _____.
 - a) Jerusalem
 - b) Samaria
 - c) a and b

- 4- What did Elisha request of Elijah?
 - a) A double portion of Elijah's spirit
 - b) Elijah's mantle
 - c) Elijah's staff

- 5- How was Elijah taken to heaven?
 - a) An angel got him on a cloud
 - b) God took him
 - c) A chariot and horses of fire caught him up in a whirlwind

- 6- Elisha was _____.
 - a) A prophet of the Northern kingdom
 - b) The son of Shaphat
 - c) The disciple of Elijah
 - d) All of the above

- 7- How did Elisha help the poor widow?
 - a) He found jobs to her sons and gave them money
 - b) He prayed and the Lord blessed the oil in her house
 - c) He gave her money and food

- 8- What did Elisha promise the Shunammite woman?
 - a) That she would have a son
 - b) That she would have a bigger house
 - c) a and b

- 9- How was the poisonous pot of stew cured?
 - a) They boiled the pot of stew to kill the germs
 - b) Elisha put some gourds in the pot
 - c) Elisha put some salt in the pot

10- What did Elisha tell Naaman to do to heal his leprosy?

- a) To return to Syria
- b) To repent
- c) To wash in the Jordan

11- What happened to Gehazi because of his greed?

- a) He became blind
- b) He became leper
- c) He became lame

12- What happened to the axe head that fell in the water when Elisha cast in a stick?

- a) It floated
- b) It sank
- c) It was washed down stream

13- Fill in the blank: “Do not fear, for those who are with us are _____” 2 Kings 6:16

- a) Greater than those who are with them
- b) More than those who are with them
- c) Stronger with God’s power

14- Fill in the blanks: “We are not doing right. This day is a day of ____, and we ____”

- a) Joy, are not celebrating
- b) Victory, are not preaching
- c) Good news, remain silent

15- The king of Israel visited Elisha when he was sick.

- a) True
- b) False

16- When a dead man was cast into Elisha’s tomb he revived.

- a) True
- b) False

17- The book of 2 Kings records _____.

- a) The transition of Elijah
- b) The ministry of Elisha
- c) a and b

18- Elijah lived among the people.

- a) True
- b) False

19- Elijah is a type of John the Baptist while Elisha reminds us of our Lord Jesus’ ministry.

- a) True
- b) False

20- Which chapter in 2 Kings records the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple?

- a) Chapter 15
- b) Chapter 25
- c) Chapter 30

- 21- The kings of the Northern Kingdom can be divided into ____ dynasties
a) 3
b) 2
c) 9
- 22- The Southern Kingdom has only 1 dynasty the line of David
a) True b) False
- 23- The book of 2 Kings records _____ when God rolled back the water of the Jordan River.
a) 3 occasions
b) 2 occasions
c) 1 occasion
- 24- Other than Elijah, who left the earth without dying?
a) Enoch
b) Elisha
c) Moses
- 25- Which king was rescued from his enemies in his infancy?
a) Jeroboam
b) Josiah
c) Joash
- 26- What was Joash great achievement?
a) The repair of the damaged temple in Jerusalem
b) The building of a royal palace
c) The victory over the Babylonians
- 27- King Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord.
a) True b) False
- 28- How old was Josiah when he was made king of Judah?
a) 10 years old
b) 8 years old
c) 12 years old
- 29- King Josiah was the best and the last good king of Judah.
a) True b) False
- 30- The kingdom of Judah was taken captive by _____.
a) The Egyptians
b) The Assyrians
c) The Babylonians

BOOKS OF 1&2 CHRONICLES

WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

The Books of 1 & 2 Chronicles are preceded by the Book of 2 Kings
Followed by the Book of Ezra
They are among the Historical books of the Old Testament



AUDIENCE

Nation of Judah
The second and third group of people returning from exile during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah to promote spiritual renewal

AUTHOR

Ezra the Scribe and Priest

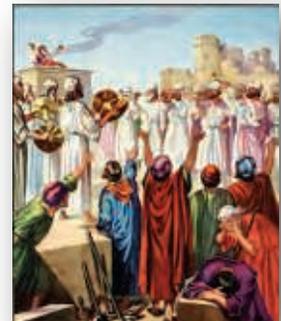
FOCUS

1st Chronicles: Focus on David
2nd Chronicles: Focus on David's descendants



1st & 2nd Chronicles cover a time period of about 3500 years starting with Adam's genealogy to the return from the Babylonian captivity.

They recount the history of the people of Israel from the death of King Saul to after the time of exile in Babylon. It includes the decree of King Cyrus which allowed God's people to return to Jerusalem and build a temple after 70 years in captivity.



THEME

The central theme of Chronicles is God's covenant with David as the basis of Israel's life and hope. The **Davidic covenant** is expressed in two institutions: the **Monarchy** and the **Temple**.

MAIN CHARACTERS

David and Solomon



The content in Chronicles also reflects Moses' predictions in Deuteronomy:

- Anointing of a righteous king.
- Establishment of a temple where God's name dwells.
- Prosperity when Israel obeys God under David and Solomon.
- Exile when Israel disobeys God.
- Restoration to the Promised Land.

BOOKS OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES – CONT.

KEY WORDS

1 Chronicles
Priestly view of David's reign
2 Chronicles
Priestly view of Judah



KEYS

KEY CHAPTERS

1Chronicles
Chapter 17
Davidic covenant
2 Chronicles
Chapter 7
Promise and conditions for
Divine blessings

KEY VERSES



“He [Solomon] shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.” 1 Chronicles 17:12

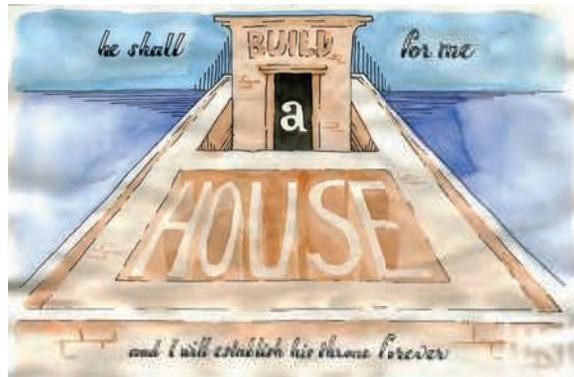
“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14



“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.” 2 Chronicles 16:9



“No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever” 1 Chronicles 15:2



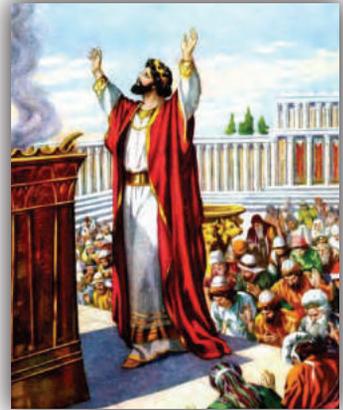
“My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense.” 2 Chronicles 29:11-12

BOOKS OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES – CONT.

OUTLINE

WHAT ARE
THE BOOKS OF
1&2 CHRONICLES
ALL ABOUT?

The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles should not be read as only stories, but as insights into how God has kept faith with His people across the centuries. It selects events to show how God has kept His promise.



1 Chronicles

Chapters 1-9 Genealogical lists

The first word of 1Chronicles is “**Adam**”

Chapter 10 Saul’s reign

Chapters 11- 29 David’s reign

2 Chronicles

Chapters 1- 9 Solomon’s reign and building of the temple

Chapters 10-36 Kings of Judah - from the death of Solomon till the captivity in Babylon and the return to Jerusalem



Genealogies

Abraham the father of the believers; he received the promise of blessing and salvation

Moses the first leader; he delivered the people from the bondage and led them to the Promised Land

David the chosen king; Jesus Christ came from his descendants



There are several reason why genealogies were recorded in such detail.

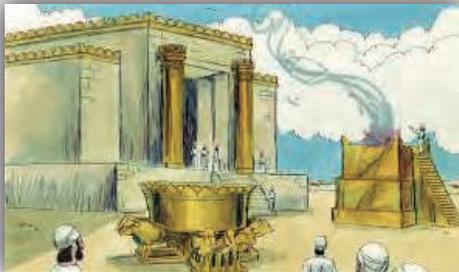
1. When the Jews returned to Jerusalem after their captivity, this genealogy would make it possible for land to be distributed to the rightful heirs.
2. It would make it possible to identify those of Levite descent because only Levites could be priest and serve in the temple.
3. It also showed the lineage of David, offering proof of the lineage of Christ

BOOKS OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES – CONT.

FACTS

3 separate temples were built in Jerusalem on the same site on a hill known as **Mount Moriah**:

- **1st Temple** - built by King Solomon and destroyed by the Babylonians.
- **2nd Temple** - built by Zerubbabel after their return from exile at the urging of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.
- **3rd Temple** - Zerubbabel's temple renewed and rededicated by King Herod (*which is how it was during the time of Christ*). Later destroyed by the Romans.



Synagogues

They were possibly founded in Babylon during the exile instead of the Temple.

They begin in homes and were used for local meetings and worship

ARE CHRONICLES A DUPLICATION OF KINGS?

Although they cover the same ground from Saul to Zedekiah, **they are not duplications**. Greek translators gave Chronicles the title of “Things Omitted”. This is another instance in which God goes over previously covered ground in order to add details and emphasizes what **He considers important**.

1. Chronicles gives the **history of Judah** while practically ignoring the northern kingdom.
2. Chronicles does not record David's sin — when *God forgives, He forgets*.
3. The **Temple and Jerusalem** are prominent in Chronicles.
4. In Kings, the history of the nation is given from the **Throne**; in Chronicles, it is given from the **Altar**.
5. The **Palace** is the center in Kings; the **Temple** is the center in Chronicles.
6. Kings records the **Political** history; Chronicles records the **Religious** history.
7. Chronicles is an interpretation of Kings — hence the constant reference in Kings to Chronicles.
8. Kings gives us man's viewpoint; Chronicles gives us **God's viewpoint**.

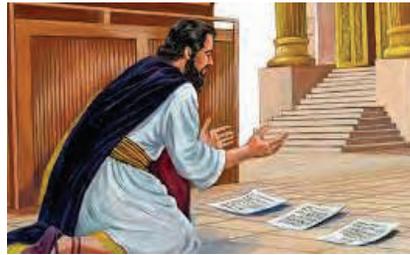


1 & 2 Chronicles were originally one book just like 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings were. They were split into two in the Septuagint translation.

The name Chronicles comes from the Latin name “Chronicon” which means “Annals”. The Hebrew title of this work is “The events of the Days” or simply Journals.

BOOKS OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES – CONT.

FACTS



Only 8 Good Kings in the Southern Kingdom (Judah) the rest were all evil

After Josiah's reign (the last good king) there was no hope for Judah, the last kings were evil. The Babylonians came and captured Jerusalem. Captives were taken to Babylon.



“When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple” 2 Chronicles 7:1



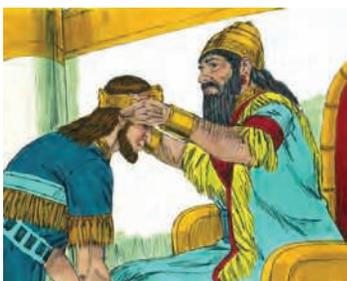
UNIQUE FEATURES

1 Chronicles

- Genealogy of the tribes
- Extensive preparation for the return of the Ark (15-16)
- Extensive preparation for the building of the temple (22-29)
- A psalm of David (16)

2 Chronicles

- The fire coming down from heaven and consuming the sacrifice after Solomon's prayer in the temple
- The stoning of Zechariah at the command of Joash, king of Judah
- The conversion of Manasseh, king of Judah after being taken captive to Babylon- He was restored back to his kingdom



“Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.” 2 Chronicles 33:12-13

BOOKS OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES – CONT.

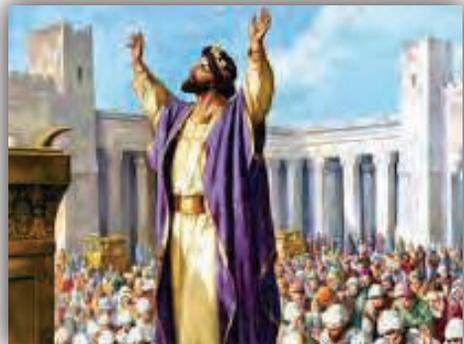
VERSES TO REMEMBER



JABEZ'S PRAYER

“ And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep *me* from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.”

1 Chronicles 4:10



JEOSHAPHAT'S PRAYER

“O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” 2 Chronicles 20:5-12

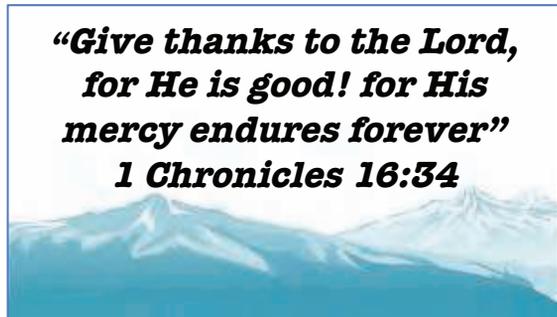
BOOKS OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES – CONT.

VERSES TO REMEMBER

*“Let the field
rejoice, and all
that is in it”
1 Chronicles 16:32*



***“Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good! for His
mercy endures forever”
1 Chronicles 16:34***

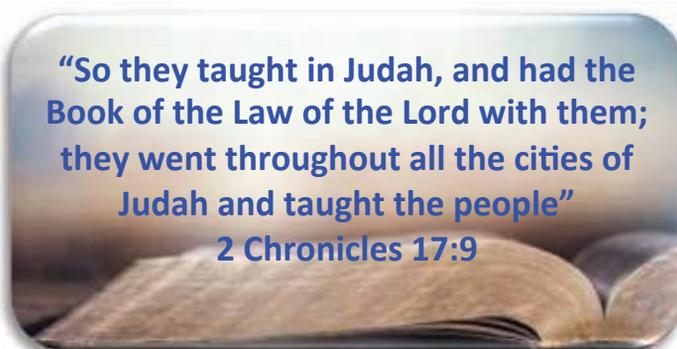


***“But as for us, the Lord is our
God, and we have not forsaken
Him; and the priests who
minister to the Lord are the sons
of Aaron, and the Levites attend
to their duties”
2 Chronicles 13:10***

***If My people
who are called by My name,
will humble themselves
& pray, and seek My face,
& turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven
& will forgive their sin,
& will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14***

***“Thus says the Lord : You
shall not go up or fight
against your brethren.”
2 Chronicles 11:4***

***“So they taught in Judah, and had the
Book of the Law of the Lord with them;
they went throughout all the cities of
Judah and taught the people”
2 Chronicles 17:9***



QUESTIONS BOOKS OF 1 AND 2 CHRONICLES

- 1- Who wrote the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles?
 - a) Samuel the prophet
 - b) David the king
 - c) Ezra the scribe

- 2- 1 and 2 Chronicles were written to promote spiritual revival of the Jewish before the exile.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 3- The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles are Old Testament _____ books.
 - a) Prophetical
 - b) Historical
 - c) None of the above

- 4- The book of 1 Chronicles focus on _____ while 2 Chronicles focus on _____.

- 5- The Israelites were allowed to return to Jerusalem and build the temple after _____ years in captivity.
 - a) 70
 - b) 50
 - c) 100

- 6- What Persian king decreed the release and return of the Israelites to their homeland?
 - a) Nebuchadnezzar
 - b) Darius
 - c) Cyrus

- 7- The central theme of Chronicles is God covenant with _____.
 - a) Moses
 - b) Abraham
 - c) David

- 8- "He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever" 1 Chronicles 17:12- In this verse "He" refers to _____.
 - a) Solomon
 - b) David
 - c) Nathan

- 9- The content of Chronicles reflects Moses' predictions in Deuteronomy about _____.
 - a) Anointing of a righteous king
 - b) Exile when Israel disobeys
 - c) Restoration to the Promised Land
 - d) All of the above

- 10- All is true about the books of Chronicles EXCEPT
 - a) The altar is the center in Chronicles
 - b) Chronicles mentions all the kings of the Northern Kingdom
 - c) Chronicles does not mention David's sin
 - d) Chronicles gives us God's viewpoint

11-Which bible translation divided Chronicles to two books?

- a) Septuagint
- b) King James
- c) Latin Vulgate

12-What is the Hebrew title of Chronicles?

- a) The repetition of the Law
- b) Words of the Days
- c) The omitted text

13-Who destroyed the first temple built by Solomon?

- a) The Assyrians
- b) The Romans
- c) The Babylonians

14-Who rebuilt the temple after the return from exile?

- a) Zerubbabel
- b) Nehemiah
- c) Haggai

15-Herod renovated and renewed the temple but it was destroyed by _____.

- a) The Romans
- b) The Philistines
- c) None of the above

16-The Synagogues are Jewish places of meeting and worship.

- a) True
- b) False

17-How many kings of Judah were considered "Good Kings"?

- a) 19
- b) 11
- c) 8

18-Josiah was the last good king of Judah.

- a) True
- b) False

19-What happened in the temple after Solomon finished his prayer?

- a) The glory of the Lord filled the temple
- b) A fire came down and consumed the sacrifice
- c) a and b

20-Zechariah was stoned during the reign of king _____.

- a) Josiah
- b) Joash
- c) Jeroboam

BOOK OF EZRA

WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

- Preceded by the Book of 2 Chronicles
- Followed by the Book of Nehemiah
- One of the Historical books of the Old Testament

MAIN CHARACTERS

2 LEADERS

Zerubbabel and Ezra

3 KINGS

Cyrus, Artaxerxes and Darius

2 PROPHETS

Haggai and Zechariah

WHO IS EZRA?

- A Priest and a “Skilled Scribe in the Law of Moses”
- A religious leader and a reformer
- He was born in Babylon
- He is the son of Seraiah - the last High Priest to serve in the 1st temple (temple of Solomon) - He is also a descendant of Hilkiah the High Priest
- A close relative to Jeshua - the first High Priest to serve in the 2nd temple (temple of Zerubbabel)
- He did not practice the priest’s duties as he grew up in the land of exile
- He led the 2nd group in the return from the Babylonian exile
- He did not return to Jerusalem with the 1st group
- He restored the worship in Jerusalem
- His name means **“help or God helps”**
- A man of prayer, faith and self-denial
- He studied and taught the word of God
- One of the last Old Testament authors and one of the first Jewish scribes who preserved the Old Testament canon



AUTHOR

Ezra the Prophet and Scribe

WHERE ARE WE?

Babylon and Jerusalem

The Book of Ezra continues from where 2 Chronicles ends.



WHO IS ZERUBBABEL?

- Son of Shealtiel
- Born during the Babylonian exile
- A direct descendant of King David
- A Prince of Judah
- Given the title Governor of Judah
- Leader of the 1st group returned to Jerusalem appointed by King Cyrus
- Restored the altar and the religious feasts in Jerusalem
- He is included in the genealogy of Jesus in the New Testament
- His name means **“Seed of Babylon”**

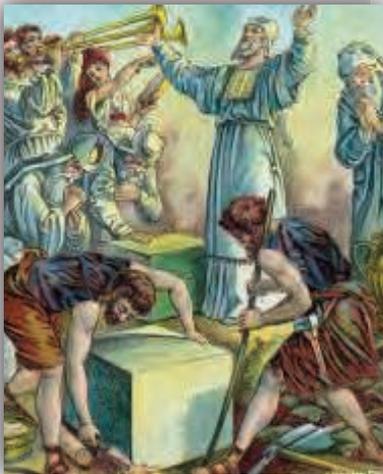
‘I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,’ says the Lord, ‘and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,’ says the Lord of hosts.’ Haggai 2:23

BOOK OF EZRA – CONT.

KEY WORD

Build

Building of the Temple



KEYS

KEY CHAPTER

Chapter 6

Records the completion and dedication of the temple which stimulates the obedience of the remnant to keep the Passover and separate themselves

KEY THOUGHT

Return

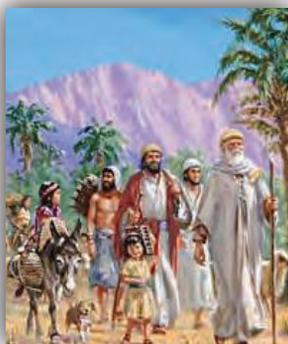
KEY PHRASE

“The word of the Lord”

KEY VERSES

“Who 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 build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.” Ezra 1:3

“With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: ‘He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.’” Ezra 3:11



“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.” Ezra 7:10

KEY THEME

Struggle, Success and Restoration

The basic theme is the restoration of the temple and the spiritual moral and social restoration of the returned remnant in Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Ezra.



Prophet Haggai and Zechariah exhort the people to get back to the building of the temple

BOOK OF EZRA – CONT.

OUTLINE

1- The Restoration of the Temple of God Chapter 1-6

A- The First Return to Jerusalem

- Decree of Cyrus
- Gifts from Israel and Cyrus
- Census of the returning people
- The return completed

B- The Consecration of the Temple

- Construction of the foundation
- Interruption of the construction
- Completion of the temple
- Celebration of the Passover



The Book of Ezra covers the events of the Jews returning from the Babylonian captivity. It is the accomplishment of **Jeremiah's Prophecy** concerning the return of the Jews out of Babylon at the end of 70 years.

When King Cyrus of Persia arose to power, he issued a decree to let the Jews return to Jerusalem. The Jews were counted and were permitted to return to Judah to rebuild the temple.

Ezra dedicated the temple, but was not happy with the Jews marrying pagan wives. Despite the delays because of opposition and enemies of the Jews, the temple was completed and dedicated to God.

2- Reformation of God's People Chapter 7-10

A- The Second Return to Jerusalem

- The decree of Artaxerxes
- Census of the returning Israelites
- Spiritual preparation of the return
- The return is completed

B- The Restoration of the Temple

- Israel intermarries
- Ezra intercede with God
- Reformation of Israel

“Though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening burnt offerings.” Ezra 3:3

BOOK OF EZRA – CONT.

SUMMARY

Chapter 1 – End of the Babylonian captivity. King Cyrus decree to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

Chapter 2 – The List of the captives who returned from Babylon.

Chapter 3 – Worship In Jerusalem restored. Temple foundation laid. Songs and praises of the Lord.

Chapter 4 – Enemies resistance to rebuilding the House of God. Enemies send a complaint to King Artaxerxes. So he stopped the building.

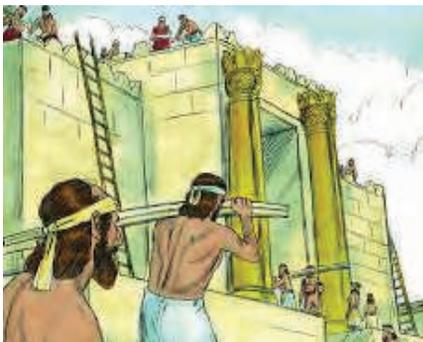


*“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia:
“All the kingdoms of the earth the
Lord God of heaven has given me.
And He has commanded me to build
Him a house at Jerusalem
which is in Judah.” Ezra 1:2*



Chapter 5 – The Jews resume the temple building. Tattenai protests to Darius about the building of the temple. He said Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this temple.

Chapter 6 – Darius searched for the decree and confirms it, and even forced Tattenai to provide whatever is needed to complete the work. The temple is completed and inaugurated. Temple Dedication and the Passover is celebrated.



Chapter 7 – Ezra comes to Jerusalem.

Artaxerxes commanded Ezra to teach the Law of God to anyone who does not know them.

Chapter 8 – List of those returning with Ezra. Ezra Proclaims a fast. Levites and leaders return from Babylon to Jerusalem with gifts for the temple.



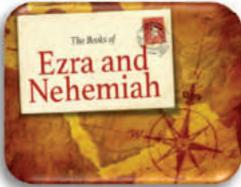
Chapter 9 – Intermarriage in Israel. Ezra grieved, prayed and confessed the people’s sins.

Chapter 10 – Foreign wives and children are sent away. Jews confess their sins.

“And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments.” Ezra :9:10

BOOK OF EZRA – CONT.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Book of Ezra and the Book of Nehemiah were originally one book and served as a continuation of the Israelites' history in 1 and 2 Chronicles.

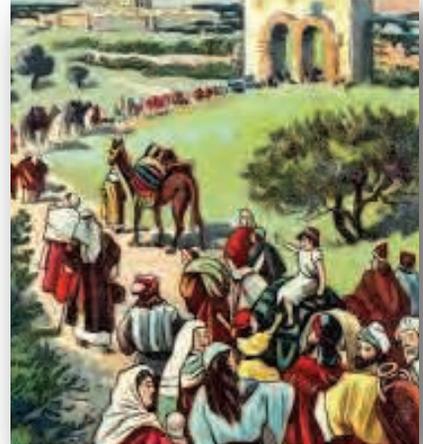
Ezra's achievements are recorded in two books of the Bible, Ezra and Nehemiah

Ezra took care of the Law and building the temple in Jerusalem

Nehemiah took care of the people and building of the wall of Jerusalem

Note: *the temple is built first (inner) then the wall is repaired (outer).*

Clean the heart first (inner) then everything else (outer) will be clean!



BACK TO JERUSALEM

In 3 GROUPS

1st under the leadership of Zerubbabel

2nd under the leadership of Ezra

3rd under the leadership of Nehemiah



THE VESSELS OF THE TEMPLE

3 KINGS dealt with the vessels of the temple.

Nebuchadnezzar took them from Jerusalem to Babylon to fulfill God's warning

Belshazzar profaned them and he was killed before the start of a new day

Cyrus returned them to Jerusalem to fulfill God's promise





SYMBOLS OF CHRIST

- **Cyrus**

Freed the people from captivity

- **Zerubbabel**

Led the people out of captivity

- **Ezra**

Restored the people religious life (taught the Law)



Moses led the people out of Egypt and received the Law

Ezra led the people out of Babylon and took care of the Law

The Persian Empire, unlike the Babylonian Empire, allowed their subject nation to live in their own native regions under the authority of a ruling governor and practiced religious tolerance.

A return under Ezra takes place 81 years after the first return under Zerubbabel by the authority of king Artaxerxes.

King Artaxerxes of Persia, gave permission to Ezra to visit Judea, bearing with him the latter's gifts for the Holy Temple. Ezra went with a big group. They made the journey from Babylon without any military escort, thereby demonstrating their **trust and reliance upon God**.

“Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, “The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.” So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.” Ezra 8:21-23



QUESTIONS BOOK OF EZRA

- 1- In the bible the book of Ezra is followed by _____.
 - a) The book of 2 Chronicles
 - b) The book of Nehemiah
 - c) The book of Ruth

- 2- The book of Ezra is a historical book of the Old Testament.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 3- All is true about Ezra EXCEPT _____.
 - a) He was a priest and a scribe
 - b) He was born in Babylon
 - c) He led the first group of Jewish back to Jerusalem
 - d) He is the son of Seraiah

- 4- What does the name “Ezra” mean?
 - a) God helps
 - b) God judges
 - c) God’s mercy

- 5- Ezra practiced the priesthood duties in Babylon.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 6- Zerubbabel was _____.
 - a) The son of Shealtiel
 - b) Given the title of governor of Judah
 - c) A descendant to king David
 - d) All of the above

- 7- What does the name Zerubbabel mean?
 - a) Born in captivity
 - b) Seed of Babylon
 - c) Prince of Babylon

- 8- Zerubbabel was included in the genealogy of Jesus in the New Testament.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 9- Fill in the blanks: “Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, let him go to _____ which is in Judah, and _____ of the Lord God of Israel. Ezra 1:3
 - a) Jerusalem, build the house
 - b) Israel, build the temple
 - c) Jerusalem, build the temple

- 10- Which prophet prophesized that the Jews will return after 70 years of exile?
- a) Haggai
 - b) Malachi
 - c) Jeremiah
- 11- Which king issued the decree to the Jewish to return to Jerusalem?
- a) Darius
 - b) Cyrus
 - c) Solomon
- 12- King Artaxerxes wrote a letter to stop the building of the temple.
- a) True
 - b) False
- 13- Which 2 prophets prophesied to the Jews in Judah?
- a) Elijah and Elisha
 - b) Haggai and Zechariah
 - c) Zerubbabel and Haggai
- 14- Who wrote a letter to king Darius regarding the building of the temple?
- a) Zerubbabel
 - b) Haggai
 - c) Tattenai
- 15- King Darius was asked to search in the king's treasure for _____.
- a) A decree issued by King Cyrus
 - b) An order given by Nebuchadnezzar
 - c) A prophecy from Jeremiah
- 16- Which feast was celebrated after the building of the temple was completed?
- a) The Pentecost
 - b) The Passover
 - c) The Tabernacle
- 17- What did King Artaxerxes ask Ezra to do in Jerusalem?
- a) To teach the laws of God to those who do not know them
 - b) To celebrate all the Jewish feasts on time
 - c) a and b
- 18- Who led the 3rd group of Jewish to return to Jerusalem?
- a) Zerubbabel
 - b) Ezra
 - c) Nehemiah
- 19- Which king took the vessels of the temple from Jerusalem to Babylon?
- a) Darius
 - b) Nebuchadnezzar
 - c) Cyrus

- 20- Which king profaned the vessels of the temple and died?
a) Belshazzar
b) Nebuchadnezzar
c) Jeroboam
- 21- King Cyrus is a symbol of Christ because _____.
a) He took care of the poor people in captivity
b) He freed the people from the captivity
c) None of the above
- 22- Ezra was not happy because the Jewish in Jerusalem have married pagan wives.
a) True
b) False
- 23- Who was the first priest to serve in the 2nd temple?
a) Jeshua the son of Jozadak
b) Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel
c) Hilkiah the High Priest
- 24- Ezra and his group made the journey from Babylon to Judea accompanied by a large military escort.
a) True
b) False
- 25- Fill in the blank: “The hand of our God is upon all those for good who _____ Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who _____ Him.” Ezra 8:22
a) Are with, leave
b) Follow, are against
c) Seek, forsake

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

Preceded by the Book of Ezra
Followed by the Book of Esther
One of the Historical Books of the
Old Testament

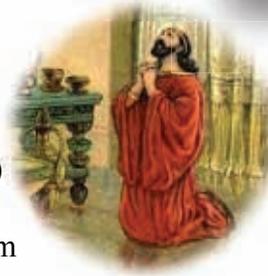
AUTHOR

Nehemiah son of Halchaliah



WHO IS NEHEMIAH?

1. He is the son of Hachaliah
2. He is the ideal worker of God
3. He was the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes
4. He was a devout Jew born in exile (in Babylon)
5. He was the governor of Judah
6. He led the third group of exile back to Jerusalem
7. He preserved God's covenant
8. He turned to prayer at all times
9. He took the work God gave him seriously
10. He overcame opposition from outsiders as well as internal turmoil
11. His name means **"Comfort of God"**



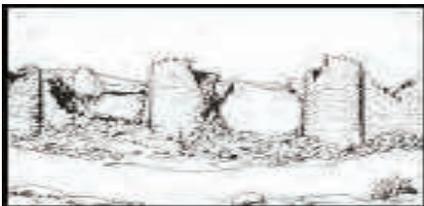
TIRSHATHA
A Persian word
meaning
"Governor".
This title was
given to Nehemiah

He was a man of prayer

- He prayed when he heard of the state of Jerusalem
- He prayed when he faced the king
- He prayed in the face of opposition
- He prayed when false accusations were made
- He prayed when the work was completed

He was Successful because of:

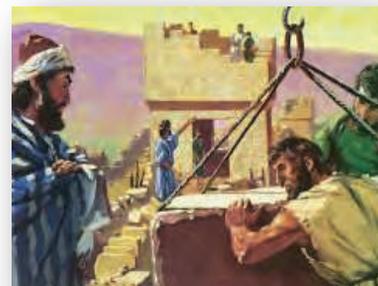
- His obedience to the word of God
- His deep prayer life
- His unceasing service in the face of opposition



"Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." Nehemiah 2:17

CHARACTERISTICS OF HIS PRAYER

- ✦ Accompanied by mourning and fasting
- ✦ With hope, looking to God's mercy
- ✦ Humble, accompanied by confession of sins
- ✦ Believing in God's promise to the repentant
- ✦ Practical and unselfish
- ✦ Glorifying God



BOOK OF NEHEMIAH – CONT.

KEYS

KEY WORDS

Prayer and Work

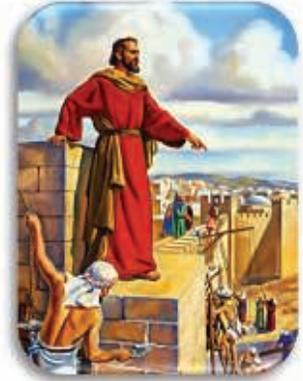


KEY CHAPTER

Chapter 9

Records that upon completion of the Jerusalem wall the people reaffirmed their loyalty to God's covenant.

Throughout Israel's history, God's conditional covenant: Blessings from obedience and destruction from disobedience.



KEY VERSES

“Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.” Nehemiah 5:19

“So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.” Nehemiah 6:15-16

“So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.” Nehemiah 8:8



NOTE:

Nehemiah's expertise in the king's court equipped him for the political and physical reconstruction necessary for the remnant to survive.

He led by example, giving up a respected position in a palace for hard labour in a politically insignificant district.

His humility before God provided an example for the people. He did not claim glory for himself but always gave God the credit for his successes.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah were originally considered part one and two of the same work (one book). Together, they tell the story of God restoring His people, keeping His promise to them in Deuteronomy 30.

Nehemiah led the third group of exile back to Jerusalem 13 years after the return led by Ezra and 94 years after the return led by Zerubbabel.

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH – CONT.

WHERE ARE WE?

The Book of Nehemiah opens in the Persian **city of Shushan**

Later Nehemiah traveled to **Jerusalem** leading the 3rd of three returns of the Jewish people following their 70 years of exile in Babylon



The book of Nehemiah is about re-establishing God's people both physically and spiritually.

In the **first part** of the book, Nehemiah restores Jerusalem in a physical sense.

In the **second part** of the book, Nehemiah and Ezra bring spiritual revival to Jerusalem.

SECTIONS

Chapters 1-7 Rebuilding the wall

Chapters 8- 13 Remembering the Law

OUTLINE

1- The Reconstruction of the wall Chapter 1-7

A- The Preparation to Reconstruct the Wall

- Discovery of the broken wall
- Intercession of Nehemiah
- Arrival of Nehemiah in Jerusalem
- Preparation to reconstruct the wall

B- The Reconstruction of the Wall

- Records of the builders
- Opposition to the reconstruction
- Completion of the reconstruction
- Organization of Jerusalem
- Registration of Jerusalem



2- The Restoration of the People Chapter 8-13

A- The Renewal of the Covenant

- Interpretation of the Law
- Reaffirmation of the Covenant

B- The Obedience to the Covenant

- Resettlement of the people
- Register of the priests and the Levites
- Dedication of the Jerusalem wall
- Restoration of the people

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH – CONT.

Chapter 1 Nehemiah wept when he heard that the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed.

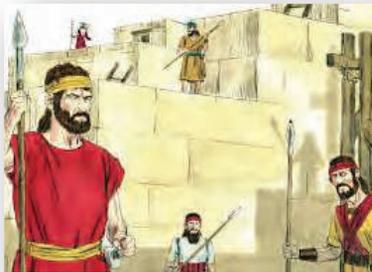


“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build.” Nehemiah 2:20

Chapter 3 Nehemiah organized the people to build the walls.



Chapter 4 Sanballat plots to attack Jerusalem. Construction continues with workers armed. Nehemiah overcomes opposition.

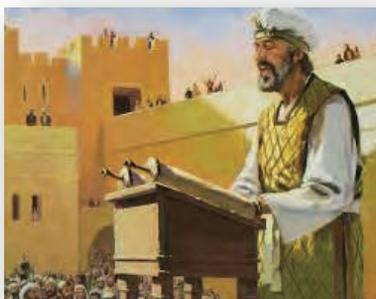


Chapter 6 Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem the Arab try to trap and kill Nehemiah. The wall is completed in 52 days. Enemies lose hope.

The wall is completed in 52 days

Chapter 7 Nehemiah ordered to guard Jerusalem. Totals of people and gifts.

Chapter 8 The Book of Law is read and explained. They celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles.



Chapter 9 The Israelites confessed. Israel’s vow of faithfulness. Review of Israel’s history.

Chapter 11 List of people who stayed in Jerusalem.

Chapter 12 Consecration of the walls and rejoicing.

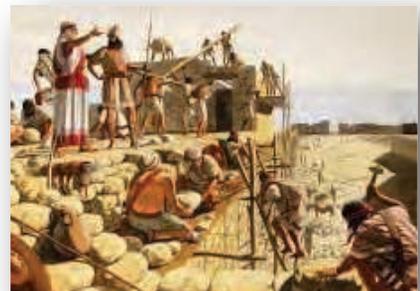
Chapter 13 Nehemiah took measure to encourage the people to obey God’s Law.

SUMMARY

Chapter 2 The king allowed Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem as he requested. Nehemiah inspects the walls and decides to restore them.



Chapter 5 Nehemiah stops corruption of some Jews who oppressed others with debts. Nehemiah stopped the rich from taking advantage of the poor.



Chapter 10 The leaders signed a covenant and made an oath “We will not marry foreigners and we will live according to God’s Law.”



QUESTIONS BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

- 1- In the bible, the book of Nehemiah is followed by _____.
 - a) The book of Ezra
 - b) The book of 1 Kings
 - c) The book of Esther

- 2- What is the meaning of “Nehemiah”?
 - a) Comfort of God
 - b) Mercy of God
 - c) Love of God

- 3- All is true about Nehemiah EXCEPT _____.
 - a) He was a man of prayer
 - b) He was born in Jerusalem
 - c) He was the governor of Judea
 - d) He was the cupbearer of the king

- 4- Nehemiah was the son of _____.
 - a) Hilkiah
 - b) Hachaliah
 - c) Siraya

- 5- Nehemiah’s prayer was accompanied by mourning and fasting.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 6- Tirshatha is a Persian word meaning _____.
 - a) Priest
 - b) Lawyer
 - c) Governor

- 7- Fill in the blank: “_____ me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for _____.” Nehemiah 5:19
 - a) Bless, your children
 - b) Remember, this people
 - c) Protect, the poor

- 8- The books of Ezra and Nehemiah were originally one book.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 9- In his prayers Nehemiah _____.
 - a) Humbled himself before God
 - b) Did not claim glory for himself
 - c) Glorified God
 - d) a and c
 - e) All of the above

- 10- The key words in the book of Nehemiah are _____.
a) Dedication and faith
b) Prayer and fasting
c) Prayer and work
- 11- The book of Nehemiah opens in the city of _____.
a) Samaria
b) Shushan
c) None of the above
- 12- Nehemiah led the _____ of exile back to Jerusalem.
a) 1st group
b) 2nd group
c) 3rd group
- 13- The book of Nehemiah chapters 8 to 13 talk about _____.
a) Building the wall of Jerusalem
b) Restoration of God's Law
c) a and b
- 14- Nehemiah wept when he heard that the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed.
a) True
b) False
- 15- What did Nehemiah request from King Artaxerxes?
a) To send him to Jerusalem
b) To give him some money for the poor
c) To give him one day off
- 16- Fill in the blanks: "Come and let us _____ the wall of _____, that we may no longer be _____." Nehemiah 2:17
a) Fix, the city, blamed
b) Build, Jerusalem, a reproach
c) Secure, Jerusalem, at risk
- 17- What did Sanballat plan to do?
a) To help in the construction
b) To send builder to help Nehemiah
c) To attack Jerusalem
- 18- Nehemiah stopped the rich people from _____.
a) Taking advantage of the poor
b) Helping in the building of the wall
c) Leaving the city

19- Why did Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab try to do to Nehemiah?

- a) Kill him
- b) Give him a present
- c) Send him to the king

20- Fill in the blanks: “The God of heaven Himself will _____; therefore we His servants will _____” Nehemiah 2:20

- a) Help us, build and restore
- b) Be with us, serve Him
- c) Prosper us, arise and build

21- The wall was completed in _____ days.

- a) 50
- b) 52
- c) 55

22- The Book of Law was read and explained to the people?

- a) True
- b) False

23- What feast did the people celebrate after the completion of the wall?

- a) Feast of the Tabernacles
- b) Feast of the Light
- c) Feast of the Dedication

24- Nehemiah took measure to encourage the people to obey the Law.

- a) True
- b) False

25- The dedication of the wall was celebrated with praise and rejoicing.

- a) True
- b) False

BOOK OF ESTHER

WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

Preceded by the Book of Nehemiah
Followed by the Book of Job
One of the Historical Books of the Old Testament



AUTHOR

Unknown author
According to the Jewish tradition the author is Ezra, however some historians believe that the writer is Mordecai himself.

WHERE ARE WE?

In Shushan
the capital of Persia

WHERE IS GOD?

There is no direct mention of the name of **“God”**
God is behind the scenes working for our good.



THE BOOK OF BANQUETS

The King's banquet (chapter 1-2)
Esther's banquets (Chapter 3-7)
The Purim Celebration (Chapter 8-10)

MAIN CHARACTERS

Esther
Mordecai
Ahasuerus
Haman

*Esther becomes the
Queen of Persia*

WHO IS ESTHER?

- She is the daughter of Abihail
- A Jewish girl born in the Persian exile
- Raised by her cousin, Mordecai, after her parents died
- Her Hebrew name Hadassah means “Myrtle”
- Her Persian name Esther means “Star”
- She married King Ahasuerus and became the Queen of Persia
- She saved her people from a genocide



BOOK OF ESTHER – CONT.

KEYS

KEY WORD

Providence

KEY CHAPTER

Chapter 8

The salvation of the Jews is accomplished through the second decree of King Ahasuerus allowing the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies.

This chapter records this key event with the accompanying result that “many people of the land became Jews”



KEY VERSES

“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14

“And in every province and city, wherever the king’s command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.” Esther 8:17

KEY THEME

God is working behind the scenes. There was a divine purpose for all the decisions and details documented in this story, yet none of that becomes apparent until the end.



KEY MESSAGE

The Book of Esther was written to show how the Jewish people were protected and preserved by the gracious hand of God from the threat of complete destruction. Although God disciplines His people, He never abandons them.

BOOK OF ESTHER – CONT.

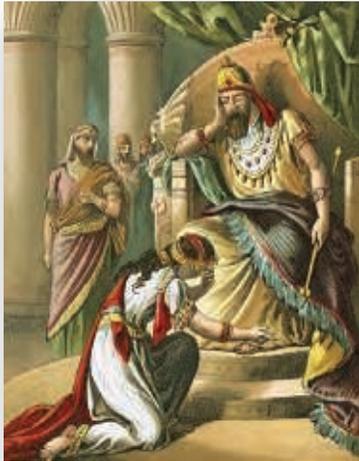
God's care for His people
under Gentile rule

1- The Threat to the Jews Chapters 1-4

A- The Selection of Esther as a Queen

- Vashti is dethroned
- Esther is queen

B- The Formulation of the Plot by Haman



2- The Triumph of the Jews Chapters 5-10

A- The Triumph of Mordecai over Haman

- Setting for the triumph
- Mordecai is honoured
- Haman dies on gallows
- Mordecai is given Haman's house

B- The Triumph of Israel over their Enemies

- Preparation for the victory of Israel
- Israel's victory over their enemies
- Israel's celebration



ESTHER TEACHES US

- To have confidence in God for He is caring
- To trust in God because His timing is perfect
- To do what is right and leave the rest in God's hand

DID YOU KNOW?

The story forms the core of the **Jewish festival of Purim**, during which it is read aloud twice: once in the evening and again the following morning.

When the Persians overthrew the Babylonians, they allowed the Jewish exiles to return to their native land; but thousands of Jewish citizens chose to remain in Persia. This is the setting of Esther.



BOOK OF ESTHER – CONT.

SUMMARY

Chapter 1: King Ahasuerus of Persia holds two giant parties. Queen Vashti is dethroned for refusing the king's command

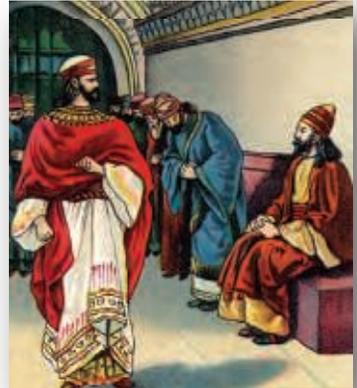
Chapter 2: A search for a new queen results in Esther (Mordecai's cousin) being taken to the palace, but not sharing her Jewish identity.

Mordecai saves the king from two plotting palace staffers.



Chapter 3: The evil advisor, Haman, convinces the king to have all the Jews in his empire executed on one day.

Chapter 4: Mordecai asks Esther to intercede before the king.



Chapter 5: Esther invites the king and Haman to a private party, during which she invites both of them to a second party. Haman decides to erect gallows to hang Mordecai, who bravely refuses to bow to him.



Chapter 6: The king is unable to sleep, and on that night, he is reminded that he never rewarded Mordecai for saving his life. He asks Haman to parade Mordecai around city, dressed in royal clothing, riding the king's horse

Chapter 7: At the second party, Esther tells the king that Haman wishes to exterminate her people. She asked him to save her people. Enraged, the king has Haman hung on the gallows he had prepared.



Chapter 8: Orders are issued in the king's name, authorizing the Jews to defend themselves and kill those who wish to kill them.

Chapter 9: The Jews defended themselves. They called these days **Purim**. This feast is celebrated every year. Esther has the events recorded, and scrolls are sent to Jews all over.

Chapter 10: The events are included in the records of Persia and Media. Mordecai was second to King Ahasuerus

THE IMPORTANCE AND POWER OF FASTING

“Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” Esther 4:16



NO COINCIDENCE! GOD’S HAND IS BEHIND ALL EVENTS

- A poor girl is chosen to be a queen, then this queen would save her people.
- Mordecai discovers a plot against the king and saves his life.
- The King cannot sleep and orders to bring the book of records of the chronicles, which are read before the king.
- God changes the king’s spirit into gentleness, he holds out the golden scepter to Esther and does not harm her, but rather accepts her requests.
- God changes the king’s heart, so that after he was a friend of Haman, he turns against him, and even becomes a friend of God’s people. As it says in the book of Proverbs: ***“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord” (Proverbs 21: 1).***

“So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand”. Esther 5:2

QUESTIONS BOOK OF ESTHER

- 1- The book of Esther is a _____ book.
 - a) Prophetical
 - b) Historical
 - c) Poetical

- 2- How many times was the name of God mentioned in the book of Esther?
 - a) 3 times
 - b) 10 times
 - c) 0 time

- 3- In the bible the book of _____ precedes the book of Esther.
 - a) Nehemiah
 - b) Judges
 - c) 1 Samuel

- 4- Esther's Hebrew name means _____.
 - a) Star
 - b) Beauty
 - c) Myrtle

- 5- Esther's Hebrew name was _____.
 - a) Hadassah
 - b) Hannah
 - c) Rebecca

- 6- The book of Esther is also considered the book of Banquets.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 7- Where did the events of the book of Esther take place?
 - a) Jerusalem
 - b) Shushan
 - c) Syria

- 8- What is the name of Esther's father?
 - a) Hilkiyah
 - b) Ahasuerus
 - c) Abihail

- 9- Fill in the blanks: "Yet who knows whether you have come to the _____ for _____ as this?
Esther 4:14
 - a) Palace, a problem
 - b) King, a difficult time
 - c) Kingdom, such a time

10- Queen Vashti _____ because she refused to obey the king's request.

- a) Executed
- b) Dethroned
- c) Exiled

11- _____ was Esther's cousin.

- a) Joel
- b) Hosea
- c) Mordecai

12- Mordecai told Esther not to tell anyone that _____.

- a) She was Jewish
- b) She didn't like the king
- c) She will be queen

13- What did Mordecai discover and then tell Esther about?

- a) That the food at the court was spoiled
- b) A plot to kill the king
- c) A plot to kill Esther

14- Who wanted to destroy the Jewish people?

- a) Naman
- b) The king
- c) Haman

15- Mordecai told Esther to intercede before the king to save the Jewish.

- a) True
- b) False

16- What did Esther request that all Jews in Shushan do for her?

- a) Fast for 3 days
- b) Pray for her with sackcloth
- c) Ask the king to meet her

17- What was Esther's first request from the king?

- a) Half of the kingdom
- b) That he would come with Haman to her banquet
- c) That he would save the Jews

18- What did Haman do to Mordecai?

- a) He sent him to jail
- b) He erected a gallows to hang him
- c) He asked the king to execute him

19- What did the king ask Haman to do for Mordecai?

- a) To put on him the royal robe
- b) To parade Mordecai around the city
- c) To let him ride on the king's horse
- d) All of the above

20- Esther asked the king to _____.

- a) Save her people
- b) Kill Haman
- c) Give Mordecai a promotion

21- The king gave permission to the Jews to defend themselves.

- a) True
- b) False

22- What is the name of the Jewish Holiday celebrated because the Jews survived?

- a) Yom Kippur
- b) The Tabernacle
- c) The Purim

23- What did the king hold out, showing Esther that she could come forward?

- a) His crown
- b) His hand
- c) His golden scepter

24- Fill in the blanks: My maids and I will _____ likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the _____; and if I _____, I _____!" Esther 4:16

25- What did the king have read to him to help him sleep?

- a) The records of chronicles
- b) The book of Law
- c) The story of his victories

ANSWERS KEY

Book of 1 Kings	Book of 2 Kings	Books of 1&2 Chronicles	Book of Ezra	Book of Nehemiah	Book of Esther
1- b	1- b	1- c	1- b	1- c	1- b
2- d	2- b	2- b	2- a	2- a	2- c
3- a	3- c	3- b	3- c	3- b	3- a
4- b	4- a	4- David, David's descendants	4- a	4- b	4- c
5- a	5- c	5- a	5- b	5- a	5- a
6- b	6- d	6- c	6- d	6- c	6- a
7- b	7- b	7- c	7- b	7- b	7- b
8- c	8- a	8- a	8- a	8- a	8- c
9- b	9- c	9- d	9- a	9- e	9- c
10- c	10- c	10- b	10- c	10- c	10- b
11- a	11- b	11- a	11- b	11- b	11- c
12- a	12- a	12- b	12- a	12- c	12- a
13- b	13- b	13- c	13- b	13- b	13- b
14- c	14- c	14- a	14- c	14- a	14- c
15- a	15- a	15- a	15- a	15- a	15- a
16- c	16- a	16- a	16- b	16- b	16- a
17- b	17- c	17- c	17- a	17- c	17- b
18- b	18- b	18- a	18- c	18- a	18- b
19- d	19- a	19- c	19- b	19- a	19- d
20- b	20- b	20- b	20- a	20- c	20- a
21- b	21- c	21- a	21- b	21- b	21- a
22- a	22- a	22- c	22- a	22- a	22- c
23- b	23- b	23- b	23- a	23- a	23- c
24- a	24- a	24- a	24- b	24- a	24- fast, law,
25- b	25- c	25- d	25- c	25- a	perish, perish
26- a	26- a	26- b			25- a
27- c	27- a	27- a			
28- a	28- b	28- c			
29- b	29- a	29- b			
30- b	30- c	30- b			

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