

NAME _____

a study of

NEHEMIAH

and the exile's return

"Let us Rise Up and Build!"

Christadelphian

Kid's Camp

California

Intermediate

Workbook 2017

parent's
signature _____

workbook is complete

WELCOME!



"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously, and without reproaching, and it will be given him." James 1:5
REMEMBER to start every study with a prayer to your Heavenly Father.

to YOUR Study of the Word of God!

here's a few HELPFUL HINTS:

use **PENCIL** 

(that way you can erase your answers if you make a mistake or want to change your answer later)

 **read EVERYTHING**

(this workbook has a lot of information - you'll find a lot of ANSWERS by reading the information in this workbook!)

READ, RE-READ 
& ask **QUESTIONS!**

(always make sure you totally understand the passage you are studying before you try to answer questions. Ask your parents, or Uncles and Aunties in your ecclesia if you have any questions, they'd LOVE to help you!)

STUCK? use a  **star**

(If you really get stuck, put a STAR next to the question and move on to the next question. When you've completed the section, you can go back and try again)

Here's What You'll NEED to Complete This Workbook.

- King James Version Wide-Margin Bible.
- Strong's Concordance
- Dictionary
- Bible Atlas or access to online references

Here are some other resources that are nice to have in your study of the exiles.

- Story of the Bible, Volumes 4 & 5
- Jerusalem in the Time of Nehemiah by Leen and Kathleen Ritmeyer



Intermediate Project

All Kid's Campers are required to complete a special project about their studies before arriving at Camp. It will be presented to your counselors and your group, and then displayed in the Main Hall during the week. Please choose **one** project from the list below.

It's a good idea to read through these instructions before you begin, so as you're doing your study you can be thinking of ideas for your project.

-  **The wall is complete!** Write an article for the Jerusalem News Website about some of the people who worked on the wall, where they worked, and a bit about the history of the people or families who did the work. Make the article interesting by including pictures, diagrams, headlines, testimonials and anything else you can think of. Article should be printed out on standard scroll-size paper at least one cubit by one cubit less a span (17X11).
-  **Write an ad for the Babylonian News Website** inviting Jews to move to Israel. Be sure to include verses that explain how their return to the land is prophesied and why all Jews should be moving there. Don't forget to explain what has happened in Jerusalem in the past, what is going to happen to Jerusalem in the future - especially Jerusalem's role in the kingdom of God. Make the invitation compelling by including photos, headlines, testimonials and anything else you can think of. Ad should be printed out on standard scroll-size paper at least one cubit by one cubit less a span (17X11).
-  **Write short biographies for Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi**, the three of prophets who prophesied during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. Use a Bible Dictionary to find any information about them that you can. Then focus on the main messages of their prophesies. Describe how they inspired the people to build the ecclesia and to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Make sure you include at least 4 verses from their books with explanations.
-  **Make a model of the wall of Jerusalem** out of Clay, Wood, Lego, or etc., with its gates and other features labelled. Label places where different events from your studies took place.

Most of the questions in this workbook can be answered by carefully reading the Bible and the information in this workbook and setting your mind to understand.

However, there are times when a bit more effort is required, and extra research will need to be done to find the answers.



Don't Start Yet!



Read This First!

All throughout any studies you should always take the time and effort to mark your Bible.

You're required to put some information in your Bible to complete this workbook, but you are greatly encouraged to take as many notes as you can in your Bible.

Our minds are funny things: we forget things unless we're reminded of them, and writing things in the margin of your Bible is a great start.

Finishing this workbook is required to attend Kid's Camp, but

HOW
MUCH
YOU
LEARN

from your study

is

UP
TO
YOU!

At the beginning of this workbook is a **CHARTS & MAPS** section.

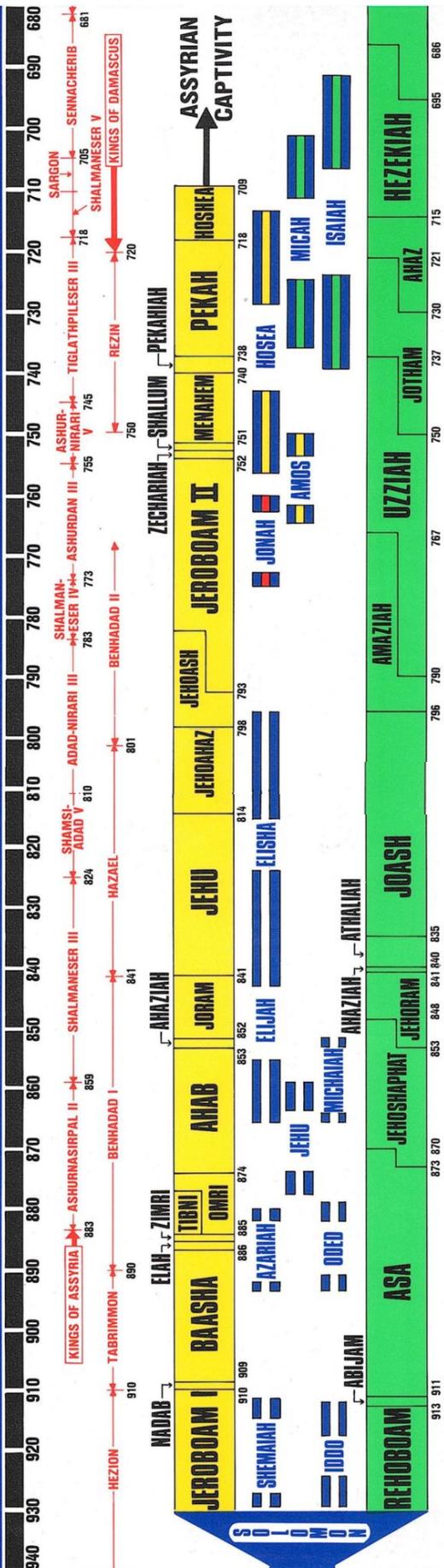
These are pages that you will be using throughout your study.

SKIP THEM FOR NOW,
turn to page 1, &
Let's Get Started!!



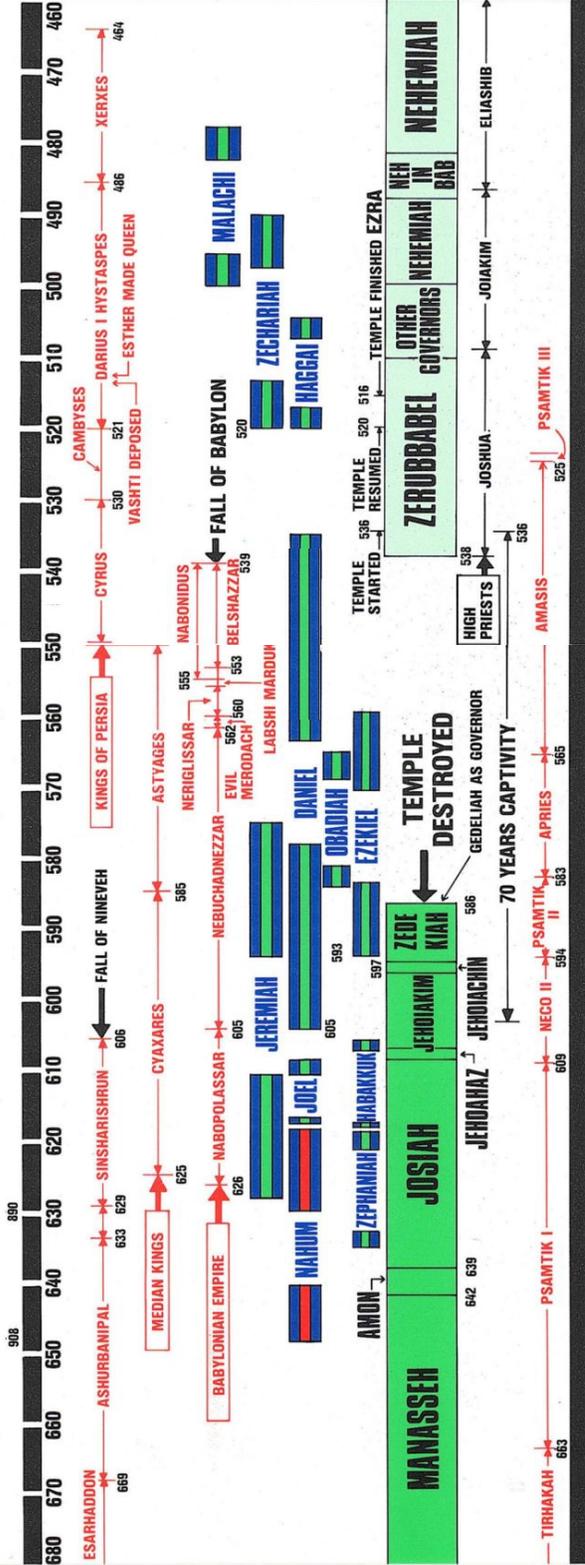
Enjoy Your Study!

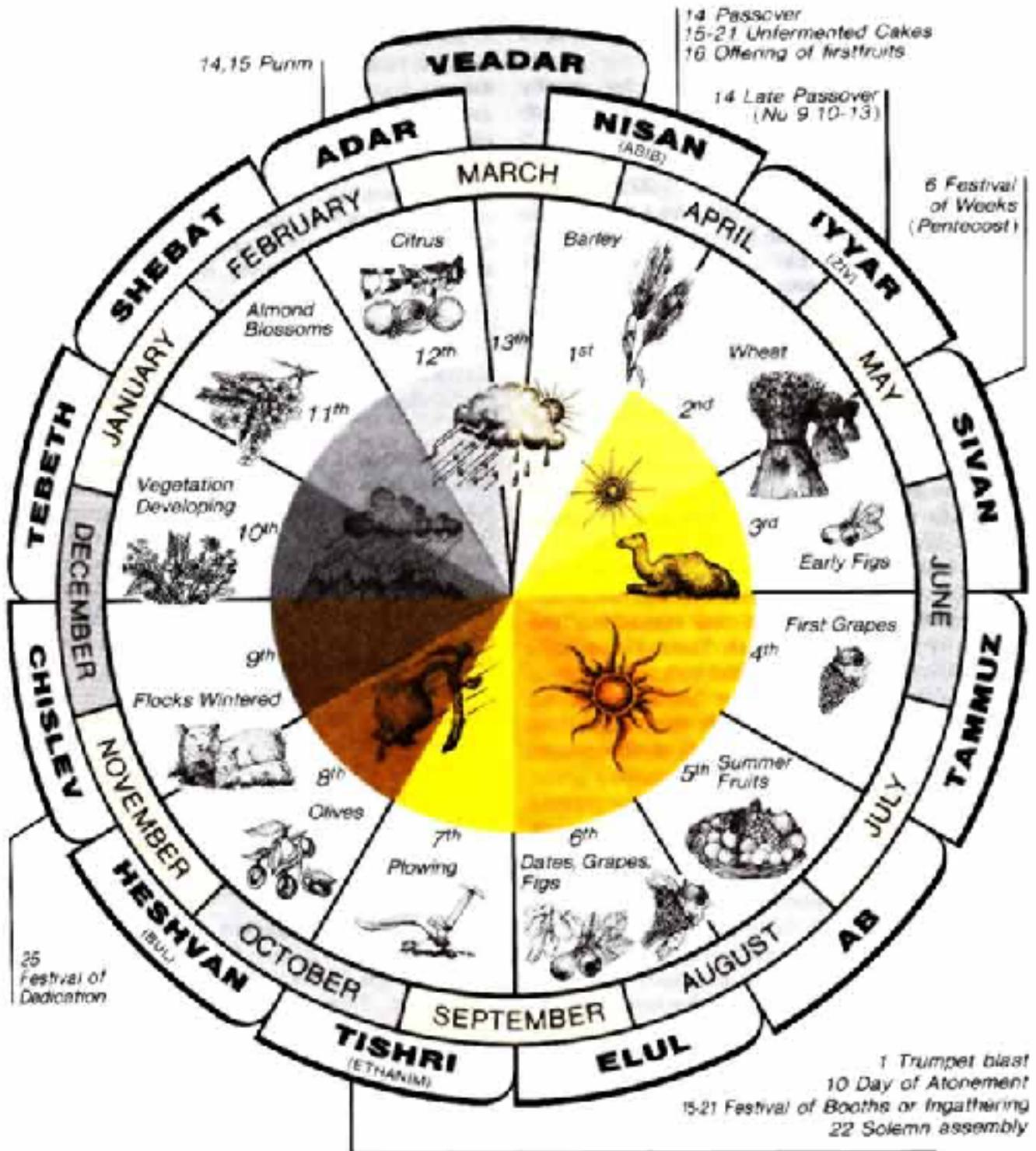
THE KINGS AND PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH



KEY

- 940 Years B.C.
- Nations around Israel
- Kings of Judah
- Kings of Israel
- Prophets (no book)
- Prophets to Nations
- Prophets to Israel
- Prophets to Judah
- Judah after Captivity





Nehemiah's Nocturnal Trek

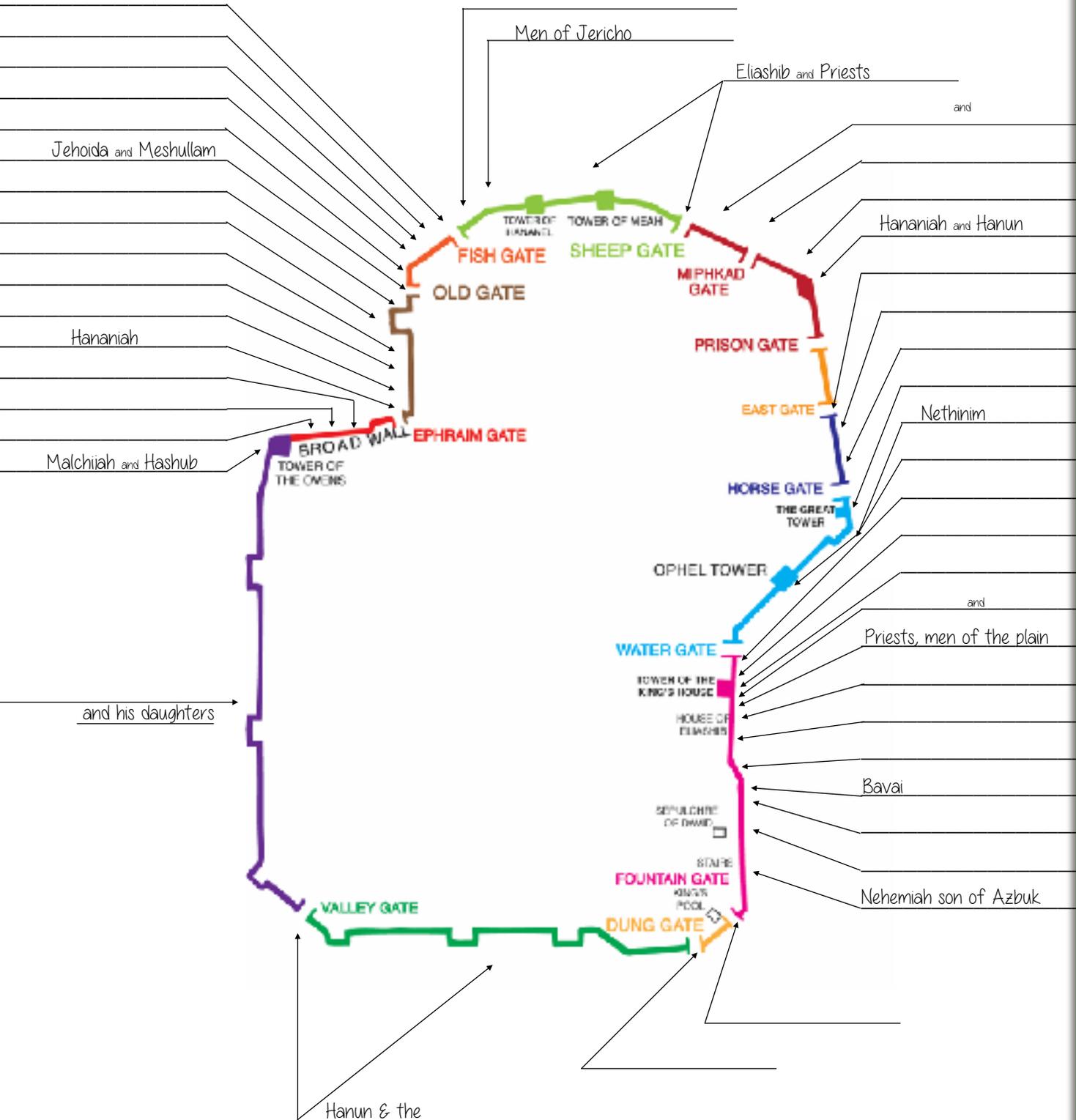
Nehemiah 2

Each box indicates a spot on Nehemiah's nighttime inspection of the city.. Number each box in the order of the landmarks he saw, and draw a line indicating the path he took.



The Wall is Built - Nehemiah 3

Using Nehemiah 3, beginning at verse 1, fill in each blank with the name of the people or family that worked on each section of the wall. A few have been filled in for you already.



Let's begin

in the beginning...

When God created the earth He had a wonderful purpose in mind. He wanted the earth to be full of men and women who were like Him. People who loved Him. People who loved His word. People who followed His ways. The Bible tells us that people who act like God in this way are manifesting Him and glorifying Him.

God's purpose is so important to Him that it is a part of His name. His name is 'Yahweh' which means, "He who will be." A more complete meaning of His name is, He who will be revealed to the world in a group of people.

<p>manifest</p> <p><small>['manə, fest] verb</small></p> <p>display or show (a quality or feeling) by one's acts or appearance; demonstrate:</p> <p><small>example:</small></p> <p><i>"Ray manifested signs of sleepiness"</i></p>

YAHWEH

the Name of our God.

Yahweh is not only His name, but it's His whole purpose.

It means,

"He Who Will Be"

The better we understand His name, the better we understand his purpose with us.

Yahweh:

He Who Will Be revealed to the world in a group of people.

Can you imagine what it will be like when everyone on earth is manifesting God? When everyone is living up to His name? I think we would all like to be a part of God's kingdom to come.

1. What does Yahweh mean? _____

Since the beginning God has been working to provide people to be a part of the kingdom: He sent his angels to create the

world and he gave them power to control it. He gave the world His word and His laws. He sent prophets, priests, judges, kings, apostles and even His son to help with that work. As an introduction to our studies let's take a trip through history to see the challenges that God has faced filling the earth with people that love Him, His word and follow His ways.



2. What was God's purpose for creating the earth, and what are some things He has done to accomplish this? _____

a little history...

Being RIGHTEOUS means showing God by what we DO & SAY, that GOD IS RIGHT.

In Noah's time there were many many people on the earth, some even think that there were millions and millions, but most of those people did not love God nor kept His commandments. Only eight people were righteous, so God caused a flood to destroy the wicked and to save the righteous.



3. What does it mean to be righteous?

As the years passed, people started to think and act like they were right, and not that God was right, so God did an amazing thing: He mixed up their languages and spread them out over the earth to separate them so those who were still trying to be righteous have a chance.

4. Why did God mix up everyone's languages?



Of course, because people are people, and people naturally want to make themselves happy, there were soon only a few righteous people on earth. God, once again, decided to do what He could to help. He told a man named Abram to leave the prosperous city of Ur where he lived as a very wealthy

man, and separate himself and his family from the people who lived near him. Just as God doesn't want us to mingle with those around us, God didn't want Abram having anything to do with the people he lived and worked with. God promised him that if left everything behind, his descendants would live forever (that's a long time!) in a land God would bring him to. And Abram did.

The hand of Yahweh working throughout history is QUITE WONDROUS!



5. Why did God want Abraham to move away from his nice home?

A few years later, Abraham's family was associating with those who weren't trying with all of their heart to follow God. Once again, God did what He could to make His people realize that they needed to be separate from those around them. This time, God brought a famine on the whole world just to help His people. Because of this famine, Abraham's grandson Jacob moved his entire family into the land of Egypt where they lived for many years, had families, and because they were blessed by God, that one family of 12 sons soon grew to be millions of people.



6. What did God do to the earth so that his people would be made separate from other unrighteous people?

Here in this land of Egypt, because they were treated so poorly, and made slaves by the Egyptians, they couldn't mingle with the people and became like them. And because they were working together they became united as a nation, and God miraculously brought them out of Egypt, and into the land just as He'd promised Abraham many, many, many years before.



7. What was the result of God's people being put into slavery in Egypt? _____

We know the story: God brought His people out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and even though they rebelled, He watched over them in the wilderness for 40 years!



Once they got to the land God had promised to them, and had the faith to conquer the people there, they finally lived in the land God had promised years and years earlier to their great-great- (many greats) grandfather, Abraham. Over the years, however, even though God had provided them help by giving them prophets and judges to teach them, they didn't want to be different. They wanted to be like the people around them, so they asked one of those judges, Samuel, to help them get a king like all of the other countries had. They chose Saul.

8. Once God's people were in the land promised to Abraham, were they content? What did they want, and why? _____

After Saul, God gave them David to be their king, and then the wise king Solomon, but even with that, people weren't content. Again, they wanted to do things differently than how God had told them. They did what they wanted, and not what God wanted. God's nation of Israel split into two nations, following two different kings. Ten of the tribes in the north became known as Israel, while the two tribes in the south became the nation of Judah. God sent many teachers and prophets to the people to try to get them to see that what they were doing was wrong. We read over and over again the pleading God did with his people when He sent Elijah to them with His word. Then He sent them more help with Elisha. He sent Amos, Hosea, and even the prophet Jonah, but people don't want to hear that they're doing badly, so once again, God needed to do something to turn His people back to Him.



9. Why did God send so many prophets to His people in the land of Israel?



God's patience when working with his people is remarkable. This time, he sent the Assyrian army to take the ten tribes of Israel captive, hoping that may cause the people to wake up and follow their God. The children of Israel were killed, imprisoned, tortured, and made slaves of this wicked and horrifying nation. God left the two tribes of Judah in the land in the hopes they would repent and turn back to Him and be His people.

10. Why did God send the wicked Assyrian army to destroy and imprison His people?

11. Why *didn't* God allow the Assyrian army to take the two tribes of Judah captive too?

But even after God had allowed the ten tribes of Israel to be taken as slaves and captives, He sent teachers and prophets to the people left in Judah. God tried to warn them that if they didn't do all that they could to turn back to correctly worshipping Yahweh, that they, too, would be dragged from their homes and forced to be slaves of a wicked nation just as Israel had. He sent them many, many, many warnings. Many of the prophets we read of in the Old Testament were sent in these



years to try to warn them to turn back to Yahweh's ways but they were mostly unsuccessful, and God sent the mighty Babylonian army under the rule of the king Nebuchadnezzar to fight the nation of Judah.



12. What did God do to try to get his people to turn back to him, and then why did he finally send the Babylonian army to take Judah captive? _____

Now there were none of God's people left in Israel. The **nORTHERN 10** tribes had been **destroyed** and taken into **captivity** by the **ASSYRIANS**, and the **sOUTHERN 2** tribes had been **destroyed** and taken into **captivity** by the **BABYLONIANS**.

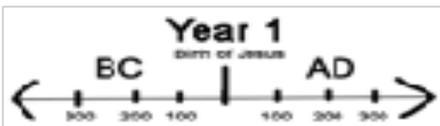
Let's look and see how that happened!!

the Kingdom of Israel.

Turn to the **CHARTS & MAPS** section in the front of your workbook. The chart of the timeline of The Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah on page **A** is going to be very valuable in your studies. Maybe you've seen this chart before. Take a couple of minutes to look at this chart and try to understand what it tells you.

We'll be referring to this timeline quite a bit during our studies as a way to keep track of where we're at. Look at the timeline to answer the following questions.

13. At the beginning of this timeline is King Solomon, **in blue**. He was the last king who reigned over the **WHOLE** nation of Israel. After that, the kingdom of Israel split into two. In about what year, BC, was the kingdom split, according to this chart? _____
14. Solomon's son became king of only the **2 tribes** in the **south** (shown in **green**), which was called the "**kingdom of Judah**." This king's name was _____
15. Solomon's servant took over as king of **10 tribes** in the **north** (shown in **yellow**), which was called the "**kingdom of Israel**." This king's name was _____
16. Who was the last king of the northern kingdom of Israel, right before the Assyrians took them captive? _____ In about what year did this happen? _____
17. Who was the last king of Judah, right before the Temple was destroyed? _____ In about what year did this happen? _____



It wasn't until years after Christ was born that people started keeping records of years like we do. We count years forward & backward from Christ

It's been **2,017** years since Christ so we are in the year **2017 AD**

'A.D.', stands for the Latin words "Anno Domini" It means "the year of our Lord."

But the years count backwards from Christ, and we use the term "B.C." which means "Before Christ". So, ten years before Christ was born would be 10 BC.

The earth was created about 4,000 years before Christ, so we say it was created 4000BC. Watch for this! It gets kind of confusing when you're counting years.

If Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel captive in 606BC, and he had his dreams of the great image 2 years later, he would have had his dreams in 604BC. (NOT 608)

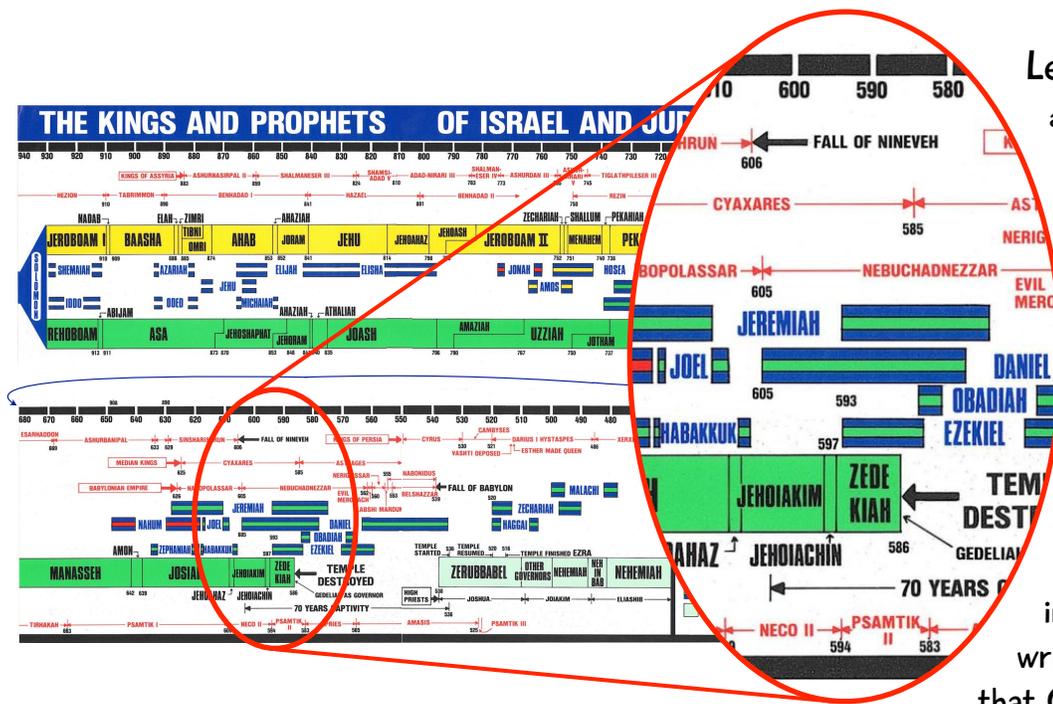
KEEP IN MIND... **TRICKY!**

These dates are just approximate. We don't know many of the dates exactly; not even exactly how many years ago Christ was born. So if you hear of dates that are a few years off, don't worry about it.

a bit more info...

Today, because there are people who are **offended** by those who **believe in Christ**, many people refuse to use Christ as a starting point for dating anything. You may hear of people referring to **BC** as "**BCE**" which stands for "**Before the Common Era**" and instead of **AD** they use "**CE**" which means "**Common Era**."

Let's look at the Bible and work out what happened during the last years of the kingdom of Judah, since this is where our story really begins. We read about this period of time in many parts of the Bible. This period of time is recorded in Kings, in Chronicles, and in many of the books written about the prophets that God sent for the people.



18. The chart above can be found in the back of this workbook on appendix page 'a'. Take a look at what all was happening in Judah, during the reign of king Jehoiakim. At that time, there were four young men named Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were living in Judah, doing their best to follow God while the nation was being ruled over by king Jehoiakim who was NOT trying his best to serve Yahweh. Read Daniel 1:1-8. What happened to them when Jehoiakim had been king for three years? _____

19. In 2 Kings 24:1,11-17 we read that king Jehoiakim became a slave of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. In verse 6 we learn that his son Jehoiachin became king. What happened to Jehoiachin, the treasures of Solomon's temple, and almost everyone in the land? (vv. 11-17) _____
20. The book of Esther also takes place during this time. Look in Esther 2:5-6 to find out the name of one of the men taken as a captive by Nebuchadnezzar with Jehoiachin (also known as Jeconiah). _____
21. In Ezek 1:1-3 we also see that the prophet Ezekiel also lived during this time. How many years after King Jehoiachin was taken captive did Ezekiel get his first vision from Yahweh? _____
22. Turn to 2 Kings 25. Once again, we see God was *still* trying to teach his people to follow Him. However, God realized that more needed to be done. His people needed to be taught a lesson. What happened nine years after Zedekiah became king? (v.1) _____
23. This means that no-one could go out, or come into the city of Jerusalem. They were captives in their own city. Unfortunately, this meant there wasn't enough food in the city for the people to live for very long - their food was grown outside of the city walls. How long did Nebuchadnezzar stay camped outside of the walls of Jerusalem? (compare v.1 & v.2) _____

The Burning of Jerusalem



24. Explain what king Nebuchadnezzar did to Zedekiah and his family in v7. _____

25. This is the end of the kingdom of Judah. Explain what happened in the following verses from 2 Kings 25.

v.9 - _____

v.10- _____

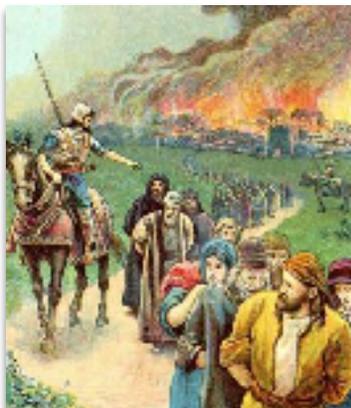
v.11- _____

v12- _____



vv13-17 lists many many very valuable things that Solomon had made for Yahweh's temple out of gold, silver, and brass. What did Nebuchadnezzar do with all of these?

vv18-21 -What did he do with the priests, and the scribes and officers left in the land? _____



26. What is the end result of all of this destruction? (copy out the last sentence of v21) _____

This was a terrible time for the people of God.

They were exiled from their land, but God had a plan.

exile |'eg,zīl'ek,sīl|

noun

the state of being barred from one's native country, typically for political or punitive reasons: he knew now that he would die in exile.

- a person who lives away from their native country, either from choice or compulsion: the return of political exiles.

- **(the Exile)** another term for *Babylonian Captivity*.

God's People in Exile

The Jews lived as captives in Babylon for a long time. On the timeline on the Kings & Prophets chart we can see that there were many

years. Although they weren't allowed to live in the land God had promised to them, there were still some people who tried their best to follow God, and God allowed them to prosper.

We read of the stories of Esther, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Daniel, and Ezekiel who all lived in Babylon at this time and prospered even



though they weren't free to live in their own country. They worshipped Yahweh and He made them important people in the land they were captive in. They had the writings of the prophets God (their Bibles!), and those who studied God's word and searched these prophecies realized they would be in the land of captivity for a long time. Daniel was one of the men who studied the prophecies and understood them. Daniel read the book of Jeremiah, just like we do! Read Daniel 9:2 to find out what Daniel understood when he read Jeremiah 25:12, and 29:10.

27. How long had the prophet Jeremiah said the nation would be in captivity in Babylon?

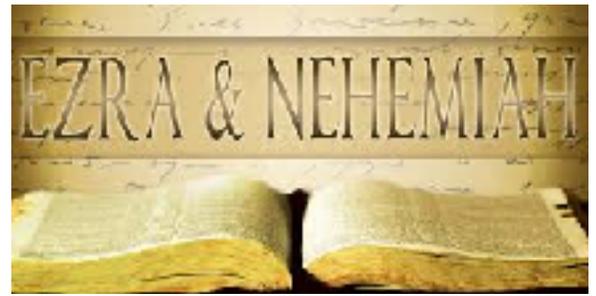
It's **FASCINATING** the way our God works.

Turn to **Daniel 5**, and read the chapter if you're not familiar with the story.

28. After King Nebuchadnezzar died, and his grandson Belshazzar became king, what happened to Daniel? Dan. 5:29 _____

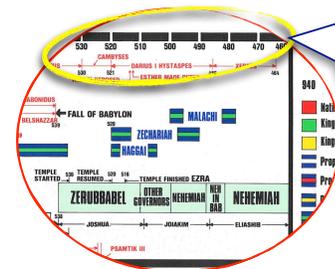
29. The **very night** after Belshazzar did this, what happened to the powerful Babylonian Empire? _____

30. Who took over the Babylonian Empire after this? (hint he wasn't Babylonian!) _____



were originally one book of the Bible, but were divided in the 3rd century AD.

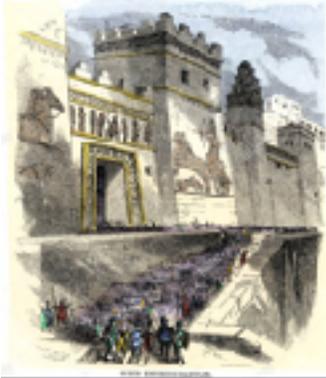
These two books record the time from the fall of Babylon in 539 BC to the second half of the 5th century BC.



take a look at your chart to see when this all happened!

They tell of the successive missions to Jerusalem, the 1st led by Zerubbabel, the 2nd by Ezra, the 3rd by Nehemiah, and their efforts to restore the worship of the God of Israel & to create a purified Jewish community.

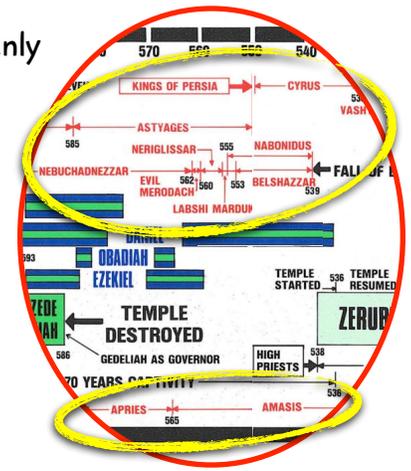
Just like that, the powerful Babylonian Empire had been suddenly taken over by the Persian king, King Cyrus, who was a co-ruler with King Darius the Mede. Together these two nations, the Medes and the Persians, had taken over many lands. This time in history was full of violent ups and downs. Kings warring



God's plan was at work. Cyrus the Great overthrew the great Babylonian Empire JUST AS PROPHESED.

against kings, nations against nations, all trying to take over the world.

Take a look at this portion of the chart, see how many kings are in red? Those are all of the warring kings of foreign nations destroying each other for power!



31. Explain what king Darius the Mede did in Dan 6:1-3.

32. In Daniel 6 we read the story of the men in the kingdom who didn't want Daniel to have this authority and who tried to get him killed by having him thrown in the den of lions. We know this didn't work. God saved him. Darius took him out of the pit of lions, and even made a decree declaring Daniel's God to be the one true God. What does Dan 6:28 tell us about Daniel?

After a couple of years however, King Darius the Mede died, and King Cyrus, the Persian king, reigned alone.

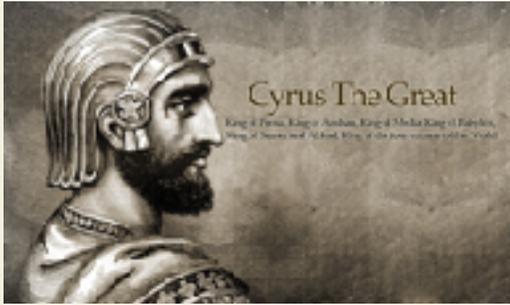
INTERESTING!

Historians believe that the name Darius was not a proper name at all, but a title of honor meaning "Holder of the Scepter." In other words Darius the Mede was "The Scepter Holder (King) of the Medes" He was a co-ruler with the Persian king, Cyrus the Great.



The beginning of Daniel is the only time we read of Darius the Mede. Later on we read about another King Darius, (in Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai & Zechariah) who was a Persian king.

Different man. More about him later.



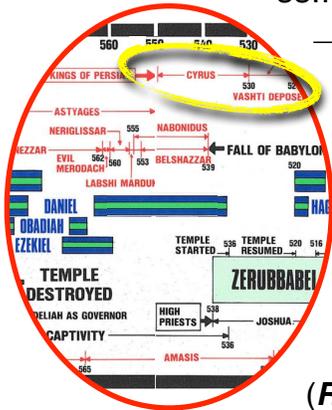
Cyrus was Yahweh's instrument, freeing His people from captivity

Cyrus the Great created the largest empire the world had yet seen

King Cyrus of Persia in 538BC decided to change the way he ruled. He allowed the conquered people to return to their lands to 'self-rule' under his authority. The rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem (in Ezra) known as the Second Temple, began in 520BC and was completed in 516BC.

Daniel read and studied his Bible. In the book of Isaiah, written over 200 years before Daniel lived, Isaiah had prophesied that the nation of Israel would be taken captive by a powerful nation and the temple would be destroyed. This had happened in Daniel's lifetime!

33. How would seeing that happen help strengthen Daniel's faith?



But that wasn't the end of Isaiah's prophecy. Daniel would have also learned from the book of Isaiah that there one of these kings who ruled over the captives would help the people rebuild Israel! This prophecy even NAMES the king, years before he was born!

34. Look at Isaiah 44:28 and summarize what was prophesied about this. (**REMEMBER!!!** This verse was written **200 years** before there was even a Persian Empire!!)

Imagine Daniel's excitement when he first heard the Persian king's name. Imagine what he would have told Cyrus! We can imagine that Daniel probably had something to do with King Cyrus's feelings about the Jewish people.

the CYRUS CYLINDER

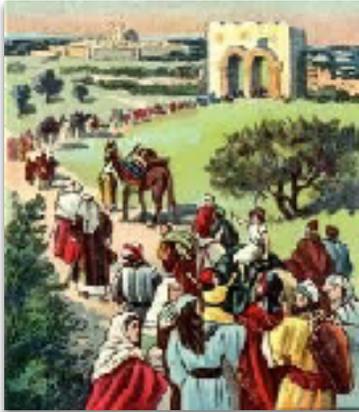
This ancient cylinder was found in the ruins of Babylon.

On it says, "I am Cyrus, king of the world, great king, powerful king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four quarters [of the earth],..."

He also describes some of the deeds he performed after his conquest: he boasts of how he restored peace to Babylon and other cities, freeing their inhabitants from their yoke, and he repaired the ruined temples in the cities he conquered.



God's people were all living in captivity. God's land was in ruins. But God now wanted His people to return to the land He'd promised to Abraham. We can see how He'd already been working in the world to make things happen. There were people who were ready to go back to the land and try to serve Yahweh again. God caused a king, named Cyrus, to have sympathy for His people, and Cyrus passed an edict, or a law, that allowed the Israelites to return to Israel. We can read about Cyrus' edict in history books, but we also can read about it in Ezra 1.



EZRA

1-6

35. Summarize in your own words what king Cyrus the Great, of the Empire of Persia did in the following verses from Ezra 1.

v. 1 - _____

v. 2 _____

v. 3 _____

v. 4 _____

edict |'ēdikt|
 noun
 an official order or proclamation issued by a person in authority.

Ezra 1:1 notes that Cyrus, king of Persia made a proclamation and put it also in writing. There is not one thing mentioned in the Bible that isn't important. Why does God choose to mention that he put it in writing? We'll learn that later on in Ezra 6!

That was amazing!

This wicked powerful king actually wrote an official edict allowing God's people to return to their land and rebuild their temple and their city!

We see our God at work once again.

36. Look at Ezra 1:7-8 - Not only did King Cyrus let them go back to rebuild Yahweh's temple. What else did he give the people to help the building of the temple, and where did these things come from? _____



Cyrus gave the vessels of silver & gold that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the house of Yahweh to Sheshbazzar

37. Ezra 1:11 -Who was put in charge of taking these things to Jerusalem? _____

This promise of the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem after 70 years must have been a wonderful thing for those who were followers of God. Finally they were to go to the promised land again! Finally they were free to worship Yahweh again! Finally they could rebuild the great temple their great king Solomon had built! Psalm 126 tells about this time. Answer the following questions by reading Psalm 126

38.- When Yahweh turned the captivity of Zion (another way of saying Yahweh reversed their captivity, or *let them go* free) what did the people say they were like, and what does that mean? _____

Who was Sheshbazzar?

We only read the name four times in the Bible, and only in Ezra 1&5. It seems likely that Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel are different names for the same person. Another idea is that Sheshbazzar was the uncle or great-uncle of Zerubbabel (because of similar names in the genealogy recorded in 1 Chronicles 3:17-19.)

Whatever the true explanation, attention quickly become focussed on Zerubbabel and the record of the happenings in Jerusalem begin with him in control.

39.-How does verse 2 describe the feelings of these people? _____

THE RETURN OF THE EXILES

The return of the Jews from Babylon (Persia) to Jerusalem (Israel) didn't happen all at once. There were three groups, led by different people, that made this journey. We can read about the first two journeys in **Ezra** and the last one in **Nehemiah**.

Ezra 1-6

have nothing to do with Ezra himself, but record a large group of exiled Jews returning to Jerusalem with **Zerubbabel & Jeshua** to **rebuild Yahweh's temple.**

Ezra 7-10

are about **Ezra** leading a group of the exiles to Jerusalem to **strengthen the ecclesia** there.

Nehemiah

records a large group of exiles returning to Jerusalem with **Nehemiah** to **rebuild the walls** & **strengthen the ecclesia** in Israel.

Think about what this actually meant. What if this was you? Your family had come



from Jerusalem as captives 70 years ago. How old were you when you came? Oh. Wait. You weren't even born. How old were your parents when they came to Babylon? Nope. They were born in Babylon too. Your grandparents? Chances are, it was your great-grandparents, or great-great-grandparents who were taken from Jerusalem. They would be super excited to return! But would you? (Do you even KNOW where your great-great grandparents

lived 70 years ago?) You have a nice life in Babylon, where you were born and raised, why ruin it? You've never even been to Jerusalem! It's a broken down ancient city! Why would you want to live there? But this was about more than just a good place to live. This was where God had chosen for His people to live. And those that understood that were willing to do anything to do what God wanted them to do.

40. Ask your parents where their grandparents lived 70 years ago and write their answer..

41. Imagine what it will be like when Christ returns. There are many prophecies that tell us that he is going to return soon. Find at least 2 prophecies that indicate that the return of Christ is going to happen soon. (You may need to get help from someone on this question.)

We aren't told anything about their journey to Jerusalem from Babylon, but it couldn't have been easy. The walking distance from Babylon to Jerusalem was almost 1,000 miles!



42. How many days would it take to walk that far? _____

43. How far is it from Seattle to Los Angeles? _____

People who really understood how important Jerusalem had been in the past and how important it would be in the future were eager to move back.

Next to the references below write what is said of Jerusalem or what happened there that makes it important:

~ Gen. 14:17-18 _____

~ Gen. 22:1-2 _____

~ Deut. 12:5 _____

~ 1 Sam. 17:54 _____

~ 1 Chron. 16:1 _____

~ Isa. 2:1-3 _____

44. Ezra 1:64-69 How many of each of the following went to Jerusalem?

The whole congregation of Jews = _____ Camels = _____

Servants = _____ Asses = _____

Singers = _____ Gold = _____ drams (coin pieces)

Horses = _____ Silver = _____ pounds

Mules = _____ Priest's garments = _____

45. What does the word Nethinim mean? (concordance) _____

46. Mark your answer in your Bible next to these verses, and put a check mark in the box when you're done.

Ezra 2:70 and Nehemiah. 3:26

The Nethinim were temple servants who can be traced back to the Gibeonites of Joshua's time. The Gibeonites were the ones who tricked the Israelites into making peace with them by saying that they were from a far country. Later they were given by David to the Levites to serve them in the work of the temple. They were not Israelites but are counted among those who were followers of God.

47. What jobs were the Gibeonites given in Josh 9:27? _____



48. Ezra 3:1-2 Once they were in the land, and settled, what did they decide to rebuild first? _____

49. Why do you think they made that choice? _____

50. There were two men who gathered the people together in Jerusalem to begin the work. Who were these two men? _____

51. What does the margin of your Bible suggest for Jeshua?

52. What does name Jeshua mean? _____

53. What is the Greek form of that name? _____

54. Mark your answer in your Bible next to the name
"Jeshua".

55. According to Haggai 1:1 who was Jeshua (Joshua)? _____

56. Fill in the blanks of the following verses to find out who these men were.

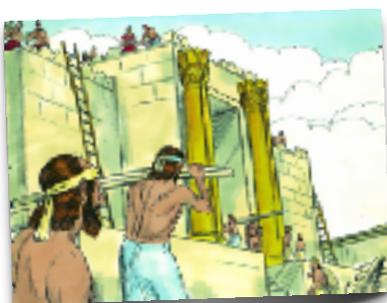
Who was Zerubbabel? Matthew 1 gives us Christ's genealogy. It begins with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and on and on through son after son after son after son. In verses 11-12 we read something interesting to our study (note that Matthew is written in Greek, so the names are spelled differently) "And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: and _____ they were brought to _____, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and _____ begat _____;"

57. Do you recognize those names? Who was an important person in that list named in verse 6 who would have been Zorobabel's (Zerubbabel's) great-great-(many greats) grandfather?

58. Look in Matt 1:16. Who was Zerubbabel's great-great-(many greats) grandson? _____

59. This means that if the children of Israel hadn't been taken captive into Babylon 70 years earlier, who would have been the **high priest** in Judah during this time? _____

60. This means that if the children of Israel hadn't been taken captive into Babylon 70 years earlier, who would have been **king** of Judah during this time? _____



61. Under the direction of Zerubbabel and Joshua construction was started. The people began to rebuild the great temple that Solomon had built, which had been destroyed over 50 years before. What did the people do once the foundation of the temple was started? Ezra 3:11

62. Some of the people shouted for joy, but others wept. Explain who wept and why they wept. Ezra 3:12

Zerubbabel & Joshua
begin to rebuild
Solomon's temple

**the
People
are
Stopped**

63. When the people living in the area heard that the temple was being rebuilt they came to Zerubbabel. What did they ask to do? (Ezra 4:2)

64. Ezra 4:3 What was Zerubbabel's answer? _____

65. At first this answer seems strange. Building the temple was a huge project that was going to take a lot of work. What word in verse one shows us that these people were not really really interested in helping? _____

66. These would be helpers are sometimes called Samaritans. They were people that had been resettled in the area from many different countries. Look at 2 Kings 17:24-25 and explain where these people came from. _____



**the Samaritans
wanted to help the people
build a temple.**

67. What reason did Zerubbabel give for saying no to them in verse 3? _____

68. What did these Samaritans do in vv. 4&5 that shows that Zerubbabel had made the right choice? _____

69. There is an important lesson for us in these verses. We will run into people in the work of the truth that are not really interested in building God's house even though they say that they are. How are we building the temple of God today? (hint 2 Cor. 6:14-17) _____

70. In 2 Cor. 2:14 Paul talks about being unequally yoked to unbelievers. How might that apply to the Zerubbabel's decision? _____

71. Give at least one example of a problem you could have if you are trying to work with someone who doesn't believe in God or want to obey His rules. _____

Their refusal to allow the Samaritans to join with them in such work was based on religious grounds. They were not opposed to strangers helping them, (see Ezra 3:7) but they refused to identify themselves with the false worship of the Samaritans. If the Samaritans really wanted to help, let them first embrace the true worship of Yahweh in its entirety.

**This was the attitude of the Jewish leaders,
and it is the attitude that faithful worshippers of God have always adopted.**

72. God wanted the Jews to return to the land. He was completely in control of the nations and He had caused great things to happen so that their return would come about - He even made sure that King Cyrus was in control of the Persian Empire to allow them to return. He could have made it so that the people in the land said, "Welcome! We're glad you're back in your land. If you need anything, or if we can help you in any way, please let us know!" But that's not what God did.

the Samaritans wanted to be associated with the true believers, but didn't want to actually follow God.



Why didn't God make it easy for the people who returned to the land? (Hint: James 1:2-4) _____

MEANWHILE in Babylon interesting things were afoot...

King Cyrus, who had been so helpful to the Jewish people, died. The Persian empire went through a period of revolution and overthrowing. Cyrus's son Cambyses (called by his title, "AHASUERUS" in Ezra 4:6) became king.

When Cambyses died, a man named Guamata pretended to be Cambyses's brother! and took over the Persian Empire.

In history books this man is known by the name Pseudo-Smerdis, or "False-Smerdis" because he was a fake, he wasn't even the king's son! (pseudo means 'fake')

In the book of Ezra he is known as ARTAXERXES.

Pseudo-Smerdis (ARTAXERXES) was constantly afraid of someone else taking over the kingship, so when he received a letter from the Samaritans, he knew he didn't want any troubles, so he commanded that all of the work being done in Jerusalem stop immediately.



73. What did these Samaritans decide to do to try to get the Jews to stop building? (vv 6-16)

74. The Samaritan's letter is recorded for us in Ezra 4:11-16. Explain the points they make in the following verses to try to get Artaxerxes on their side: (reading these verses from other versions may be helpful)

v.12 - _____

v.13 - _____

v.14 - _____

v.15 - _____

75. What was the king's response to the letter that the Samaritans had sent? (v21-22)

76. Why would Artaxerxes (thought to be Pseudo-Smerdis) have been so ready to stop these Jews from building up their city? _____

77. The foundations of the temple had been started in Ezra 3:10, But when the Samaritans wrote this letter to King Artaxerxes the work completely stopped. The temple wasn't finished until much later (after this king died!) When did the work begin again?(Ezra 4:24)

Who WAS this DARIUS?
...let's find out more!

You will remember that Gaumata, also called Pseudo-Smerdis, took over the Persian Empire by pretending to be a member of the ruling family.

He pretended to be one of the sons of Cyrus the Great, and just took over the throne.

A man named Darius Hystaspes knew Gaumata wasn't the real king, overthrew him and took over the throne of the Persian Empire.

As king, Darius expanded the empire to the largest it ever was, and become known as "Darius the Great"

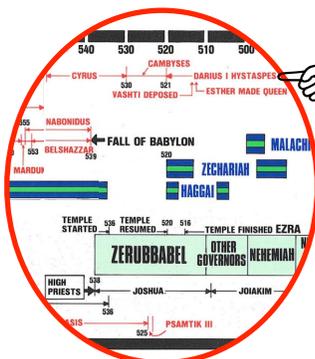
This is the Darius we read of in Ezra & Nehemiah.

Haggai and Zachariah also mention this Darius, and most historians believe this may be the king Esther married!



Gaumata Under Darius's Boot
This rock relief sculpture, authored by Darius I the Great, can still be seen in Persia (Iran) today!

78. Work on the temple had stopped because the people were afraid of the letter from Artaxerxes (Pseudo-Smerdis) but God wanted the temple to be built! He sent two of his prophets to encourage the people to get back to work. Who did God send? (Ezra 5:1)_____

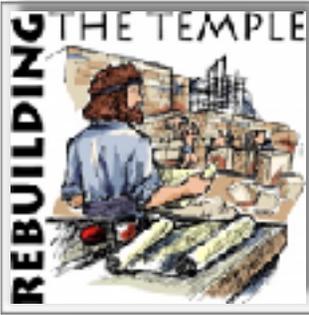


Note the line of Persian Kings in your chart.

You will notice that Pseudo-Smerdis isn't in the line of Persian kings.

Because he wasn't even in the *true* line of Persian Kings, ('pseudo' means false or pretend) he's often not even listed.

Plus, he reigned for such a short time, there really isn't much room for him on this chart!



We can read the records of what the prophets told the people in our Bibles.

Let's look a bit at what God told His prophets to say to the people.

God helps His people through the work of

Haggai

79. Look at Haggai 1:1. When did Haggai write his prophecy, and who did he write the prophecy to? _____

80. In Haggai 1:4, the word "cieled" means "covered" or "paneled." In other words, "richly decorated". Mark that in your Bible. Then rewrite verse 4 in your own words.

81. What did Haggai tell them to do? Haggai 1:7&8? _____

82. There was a lot of opposition to building Yahweh's house because the people had become more interested in their own lives and they spent their time on their own interests. This can be a problem for our ecclesias today if we do not put our first efforts into the building of Yahweh's house. List five things we can do to build God's house today. _____

83. What was Haggai's message from Yahweh to the people?

Fill in the blanks from Haggai 2:4,

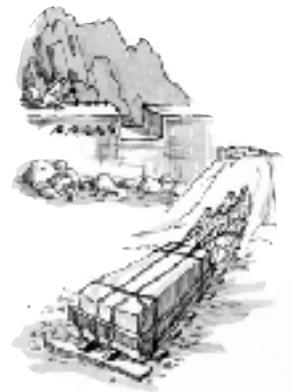
"Yet now _____ O _____ saith Yahweh;

And _____ O _____ son of Josedech,

the high priest; And _____ all ye _____ saith

Yahweh, and _____: For _____

_____ saith Yahweh of hosts:"



God helps His people through the work of

Zechariah

84. Look at Zechariah 1:1 When does Zechariah receive his prophecy from Yahweh? _____

85. Look in the following verses in Zechariah's prophecy and summarize in your own words what he told the people.



Zech 1: 2-3 - _____

Zech 1:16 - _____

Zech 4:9 - _____

86. Turn back to Ezra 5. Because of the prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah, what did the people do? _____

87. Once again however, men came to try to get them to stop building. In Ezra 5:3 we read of two men who tried to get them to stop. What were their names? _____

88. What do you think it means in verse 5 when it says that the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews? _____

89. What was the response that the Jews gave when they were asked who had commanded them to build Yahweh's house? _____

90. In your own words explain the letter written by Tatnai, Shetharboznai and their companions to Darius in Ezra 5:7-16? _____

91. The letter ends in Ezra 5:17 with a request. What did they ask King Darius to do? _____



92. What extra step with his decree had Cyrus taken in Ezra 1:1 that turned our to be very important? _____

93. What happened when Darius looked for the decree in Ezra 6:1-2? _____

94. What did the decree say about the building of the house of God at Jerusalem in Ezra 6:3?

95. After finding the decree of Cyrus, what did Dairus reply to the letter from Tatnai, Shetharboznai and their companions? Explain what he said to do in the following verses:

~Ezra 6:6-7 - _____

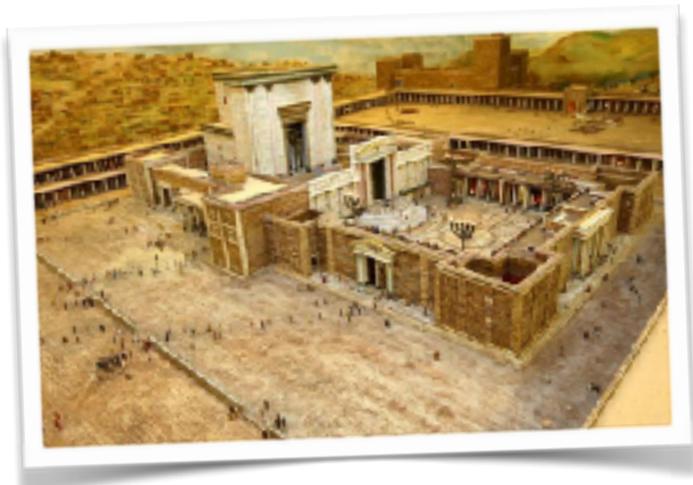
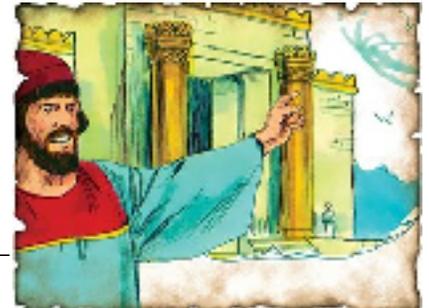
~Ezra 6:8 - _____

~Ezra 6:9-10 - _____

96. In Ezra 6:11, what does Darius say will happen to anyone who doesn't **help** the Jews build? _____

97. In what year of King Darius's reign was the temple finally completed? Ez 6:15 _____

98. What feast were the children of Israel finally able to keep in the land once this was done? (Ezra 6:16-19)

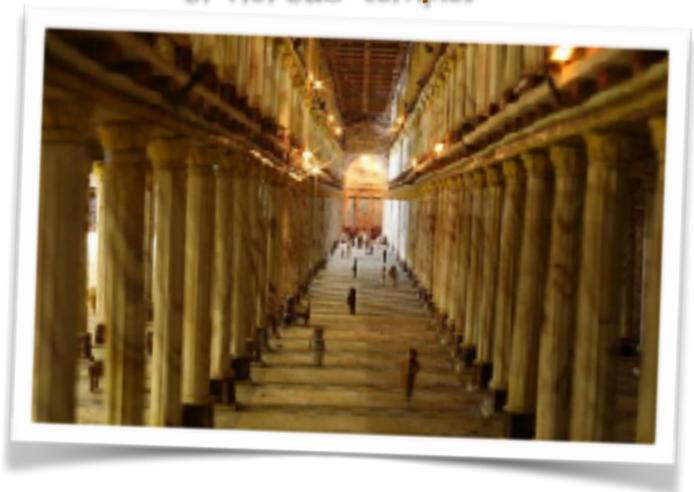


These are models of what this temple looked like during the days of Herod.

It remained in existence in Jerusalem until it was destroyed by Titus and the Romans in 70 AD.

This temple that was built under the leadership of Zerubbabel & Jeshua was later renovated by Herod the Great.

This temple is often called The Second Temple of Jerusalem, or Herod's temple.

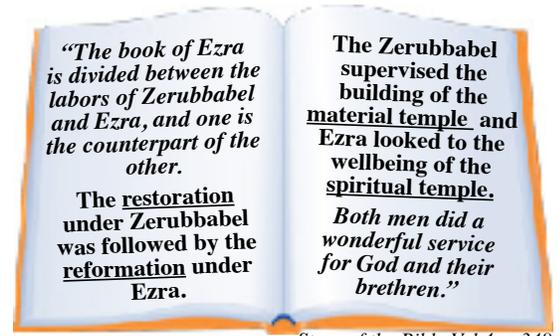


the **SECOND**
group of

Exiles
Return.

Ezra 7-10

Ezra 7 begins with
"Now after these things..."
This begins a separate
section of the book of Ezra,
and takes place years after
the "things" that happened
at the end of Ezra 6.



99. During whose reign did Ezra 7 take place? _____

Although it's not important for us to know (if it was, it'd be included in the Bible!) it's interesting to think about: **WHO WAS THIS "ARTAXERXES"?**

Along with Darius & Ahasuerus, Artaxerxes was a title used by several kings. They are not the names of individual monarchs. Often the kings of Persia used more than one such title.

AHASUERUS means, "The Mighty" and is a title used by at least four different Median and Persian kings.
ARTAXERXES means "Great King" and is equivalent to the more modern title of "Shah" used in Persia (Iran).
DARIUS means "The Restrainer", "Scepter Holder," or "Maintainer" and signifies a King or Ruler.

These are all titles, such as President, Prime Minister, King, or Pharaoh.

For this, and many other reasons, it is not known for certain who this "Artaxerxes" is. However, most agree that it was either the same King, Darius the Great, that we read about in chapters 5 & 6 or his son King Xerxes.

DID YOU KNOW??...
The story of Esther takes place in Persia during this same time? Most historians believe the "Ahasuerus" that married the Jewish slave Esther was Darius Hystaspes! Keep that in mind!
This will be a very interesting piece of information later on...

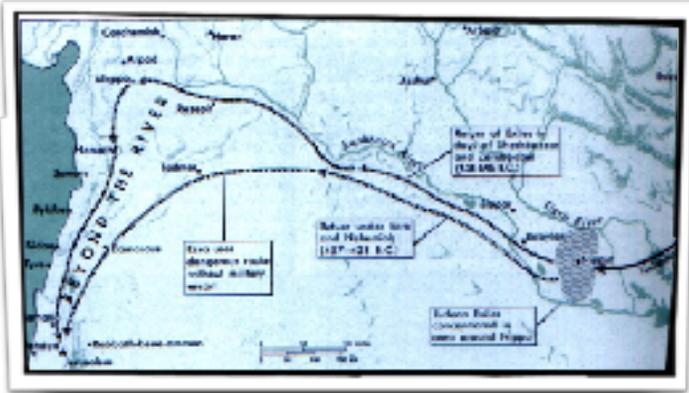
Ezra Chapter 7 takes place many years after Ezra 6, when the temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem. There were still faithful people in Persia (Babylon) that longed to see the temple and be a part of the ecclesia in Jerusalem. It may have been because of the influence of Queen Esther that Ezra had the courage to ask the King for permission to take a large group of captives and make the long journey to Jerusalem.

100. Ezra 7 begins by making sure we know *exactly* who Ezra was. Who does Ezra trace his genealogy back to in the first few verses of Ezra 7? _____

101. Look back at the record of Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem in 2 Kings 25 and find out what had happened to Ezra's father, Seraiah. (especially vv.1, 9-11, 18-21) _____

102. What does it mean that Ezra was a ready scribe? (Hint check other translations.)

103. What does it mean in verse 6 when it says that the hand of Yahweh his God was upon Ezra?



104. How long did it take Ezra's & the people to get from Babylon to Jerusalem? Ezra 7:9

105. Ezra 7:10 gives us the reasons he wanted to go to Jerusalem. Why did Ezra go to Jerusalem?

Artaxerxes not only allowed Ezra to return to Jerusalem to help the ecclesia there, but he also wrote a letter for Ezra to take with him, giving him permission and authority to do many things. God not only gave Ezra what he asked for, He gave him so much more!

106. From the following verses in Ezra 7, state what authority Ezra was given by the Persian king, or what he was allowed to do because Artaxerxes gave him the power.

~ v.13 -

~ v.14 -

~ v.15-18 -

~ v.19 -

~ v.20 -

~ vv.21-23 -

~ v.24 -

~ v.25-26 -

Artaxerxes gave Ezra everything that he asked for, because God was in control. Soon there were about 5,000 who were ready to go to Jerusalem with Ezra. It was an amazing thing and the ecclesias in Jerusalem would be absolutely thrilled when they arrived.



107. Ezra 8:15-20 -The group assembled at the river of Ahava and Ezra took a few days to walk among the people to see who was going on this journey with him. He'd taken a count of all of the people, but found no one there from one of the tribes. Which tribe was missing?

108. Look at Malachi 2:7 & 2 Chron. 35:3. Considering the main reason Ezra wanted to go to Jerusalem, why was this a problem? _____
109. Read vv16-17. Ezra sent some men to return with a message to Iddo, the chief of a place called Casiphia where Levites and Nethinim lived. Why did he send them back? _____
110. How many came back with the men that went to Iddo? v.18-20 _____
111. In verse 22 Ezra says that he was 'ashamed' to ask the king for a band of soldiers to go with them for protection. Why didn't he ask for this? _____
112. When they finally got to Jerusalem, we are told they 'abode their three days' (we can only imagine how tired and exhausted they were after traveling for that long!) What did they do once they'd recuperated (v35)? _____

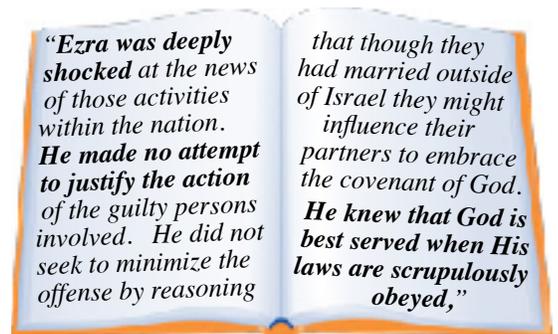


113. Ezra's main objective for making the long and hard trip to Jerusalem was to help the people in the ecclesia. What was the first problem that the princes brought to Ezra in ch.9? _____

114. When Ezra heard about the problems that they were having he was astonished. Look in a Concordance to find out: what does astonished mean? _____

115. Mark your answer in your Bible next to the word "astonied".

The rest of chapter 9 records Ezra's prayer about their sins. It is a wonderful example of a humble prayer to Yahweh.



Story of the Bible Vol 4, p.357

116. Ez 10:1- After Ezra's prayer, how did the people who heard him react? 10:1 _____
117. Who was it that came up with a plan to return the people to Yahweh? _____
(remember this man!)
118. What was his solution? _____

"Strange" signifies "foreign" - These were wives who were foreign in every way - introducing even foreign worship into Israel. (Ezra 9:1-2, 10:10) Those wives who embraced the hope of Israel by following Yahweh's commandments would have been as acceptable as Rahab or Ruth.

119. What are strange wives? _____



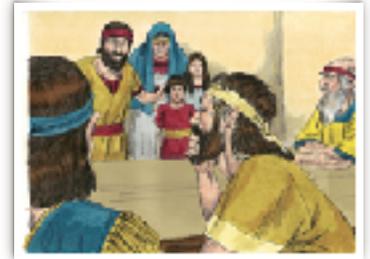
120. What did Ezra tell the people to do in 10:11? _____

121. Did they agree? _____

122. vv.13-15 tells us that although they knew what they had to do, it wasn't going to be easy. It was a big problem. What was the plan for correcting their trespass? _____

123. Compare v.9 & v.17. How long did this take the people to do?

124. vv.18-44 names all of the priests in the land who had married non-believing wives. Whose family was the first one named?



What do we know about this man from before (earlier in the book of Ezra)? _____

Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of Yahweh, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

He was well on his way to accomplishing what he'd set out to do when he left Babylon.

Nehemiah:

“Yahweh Comforts”

“Yahweh Comforts” is a very appropriate name for this man. Through him Yahweh brought comfort to his people in the hardships and difficulties of captivity.

Read Nehemiah 1

NEHEMIAH WAS ABOVE ALL A MAN OF PRAYER

125. Compare the timing of the beginning of Nehemiah(1:1) to the timing of when Ezra left Babylon and went to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:7) How long had it been since Ezra left Babylon? _____

126. In your Bible, next to the title “Nehemiah” write how many years it had been since Ezra went to Jerusalem

127. Who is telling the story in this book? (v1) _____

128. What does his name mean? _____

129. Mark it in your Bible.

130. Where is he? _____

131. What other important events happened in this place? (hint: Esther 2:5-6, 4:8, Dan. 8:1-2)



Susa is one of the oldest cities in the world. Susa was a principal city of the Persian empire. The Greek name for the city was **Sousa** & the **Hebrew** name was **Shushan**. Today it is known as **Shush, Iran**.

132. When Nehemiah’s brother Hanani came to see him with some other Israelites, what did Nehemiah want to know about? _____

133. What three things did Hanani say about the Jews and Jerusalem? _____

134. Nehemiah was told that the people of Jerusalem were in great affliction and reproach. They had come back to Jerusalem expecting to be able to be a witness to Yahweh, but instead the people in the world around them hated them. They were constantly attacking them and the Jews were losing hope because of this pressure. The brothers and sisters were in real trouble and needed help immediately. What would you do to help someone that was troubled because the world's influence was causing them to lose hope in God?

135. List at least 5 ways that the world's influence could cause you to lose hope in the kingdom.

136. Hanani was Nehemiah's brother. They both had a concern for how God's people were doing. What are some advantages of having family members who share the same beliefs?

137. Did you notice what it was that Nehemiah and his brother were interested in, and talked about? When you talk to your family and friends, what do you talk about? Is it the Bible readings? How near the Kingdom is? How the people in your ecclesia are doing? Or is it about sports teams, computer games, or entertainment? What is the easiest for you to talk about? List some things that you could do to make sure that your conversations are about the Bible and the welfare of the members of God's ecclesia.

138. Why do you think Nehemiah didn't have up-to-date information about Jerusalem? (hint: Ezra 7:9)

THE GREAT HALL OF THE KING
AT SHUSHAN
as it would have looked
in Nehemiah's time



139. In the Bible, the people of God are sometimes referred to as Jerusalem. God wants us to be thinking about the ecclesia when we read about the city of Jerusalem. So when we read about all of the problems that the city was having, we are really reading about the problems that the brothers and sisters were having. With this in mind, what do you think the Bible means when it says that Jerusalem is that place that Yahweh would put His name? (hint: remember that Yahweh's name signifies, 'He who will be revealed to the world in a group of people') _____

140. Walls were very important for cities to have in Bible times. What kinds of problems would a city with no walls have? (think Joshua and Jericho) _____



141. Having walls and gates around your city made you much safer by keeping invaders out. In the Bible walls represent defenses against worldly thinking.

Mark in your Bible:

walls → defenses against worldly thinking.
(an arrow, → means "represents")

142. Today, the ways of the world enter cannot be stopped with walls made of brick and mortar. What kind of defenses have your parents set up to keep the world out of your mind?

143. What kind of defenses have you (or should you) set up to protect your mind? _____

144. What kind of defenses should an ecclesia have to keep the world out? _____

145. How did Nehemiah feel after he heard the news about Jerusalem? (v4) _____

146. Why do you think he was so upset? _____

147. Would you be as concerned as Nehemiah was if the world's influence was causing some of your friends to lose hope in God? _____

148. If you have ever built a really awesome sandcastle you will know that it takes a lot of work and a lot of time. It can take hours as you carefully shape the sand and add water to make your masterpiece. And if you have built a castle like this you know what a disaster it is when your little brother destroys it by kicking it to pieces.

This teaches us an important lesson. If we work really hard to help build our ecclesia spending time together, being there when times are tough, sharing scriptural lessons together, using our time and our money to help the brothers and sisters, then we will be very concerned for their well being. Our work will be our treasure and we will be devastated to hear that anyone is losing hope or that the world is taking them away from God. Explain what Christ was saying when he said, "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt 6:21) _____

149. What did Nehemiah do after he had mourned and wept because of the news from Jerusalem? (Neh. 1:4b) (*'b' = last part of verse*) _____



150. Why do you think Nehemiah prayed? _____

151. Look in a Bible Dictionary. What does it mean to fast? _____

152. Why do you think Nehemiah fasted and prayed at the same time? _____

153. Write out the part of James 5:16 that tells us that what Nehemiah did can help a lot.

154. Nehemiah took a whole verse, verse 5, to address God, rather than just begin his prayer with something such as, "Dear God in heaven." Why do you think he made it so long? What does it show about Nehemiah's attitude toward God? Explain. _____

155. In verse 6 Nehemiah asked God to hear his prayer. Why did he say this? Doesn't God hear everything? Doesn't God hear all prayers? Read Prov. 15:29; Psa. 66:18; Isa. 59:2; John 9:31 and explain. _____

156. Nehemiah quotes many scriptures while praying to God. Look in the center margin of a reference Bible and find at least two quotes that Nehemiah makes from other parts of the Bible. Write them out here. _____

157. A prayer like Nehemiah's that is heartfelt can help make things clear in our mind.
- ✓ *We understand the problem more clearly because we have told God about it.*
 - ✓ *We are aware and open to God's great power to help.*
 - ✓ *We see more clearly the job we have to do.*

By the end of his prayer, Nehemiah knew what action he had to take. What do you think Nehemiah was asking God for help with? (see verse 11) _____

158. What does Nehemiah's prayer tell us about Nehemiah and his character? List three things. _____

159. What was Nehemiah's job? (1:11) _____

cups from
Ancient Persia

160. Look in a Bible Dictionary or other reference and find out more about this job, its privileges, and its responsibilities. Write a brief explanation. _____



161. When problems arise or someone needs help, people often say how sorry they are, yet do nothing to really help. Look at James 2:15-16 and explain how this doesn't solve problems.

162. Nehemiah did more than just feel sorry. Give an example of how you could do something to help in a difficult situation when others might just feel sorry. _____

163. Nehemiah was planning to ask someone in the world for a favor, a favor Nehemiah wanted because of his belief in God. Have you ever had to ask for that type of favor? (for example, from a coach when a game was supposed to be played on a Sunday?) Write down an example in your life where this has, or might, come up. _____

164. How do you feel about asking for this type of favor? _____

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8

PRAY

165. Look at the Jewish Calendar in the **CHARTS & MAPS** section of this workbook, page 'B'. How much time had passed since chapter 1? _____
166. Nehemiah allowed his sadness to show when he enters the king's presence. This was against the Persian law. What other Bible character had risked unlawfully entering the king's presence after praying and fasting for God's help? (Est. 4:2,16) _____
167. When the king actually noticed Nehemiah's sadness, what was Nehemiah's reaction? _____
168. When Nehemiah told the king that his sadness was because of the gates of his ancestor's city were burned and the city was in ruins, what was the king's response? (v.4) _____

169. What did Nehemiah do before answering? (v.4) How long does it seem that it took him to do this? _____



***Nehemiah was, a man of prayer.** Here, we see what is probably the **shortest** prayer in the Bible, and interestingly, in Nehemiah 9 we have recorded the **longest** prayer in the Bible.*

170. What does this indicate to you about when or where you can pray to God? _____

171. What did Nehemiah ask the king to allow him to do? _____

172. What did the king say that showed that he approved Nehemiah's plan? _____

173. It's very interesting that the Bible **very specifically** tells us that the Queen was sitting next to him. Who do you think the Queen might have been? (Esther 2:15-17) _____



174. Compare Neh. 2:1 to 13:6. How long did it take for them to rebuild the wall? _____

175. What two things had Nehemiah carefully thought of in advance to ask the king for? (v7&8) _____

176. Notice that Nehemiah had carefully presented his plans to the king, having prayed for help in advance. What other righteous Bible characters made a good impression on a foreign king? _____

177. Do you think they prayed first? Explain why. _____

178. What reason did Nehemiah give as to why the king gave him all that he wanted? (v.8) _____

179. Who else in the Bible left a life of money and comfort to do a difficult job for God? Give at least two examples and include references. _____

Read Nehemiah 2:9-20

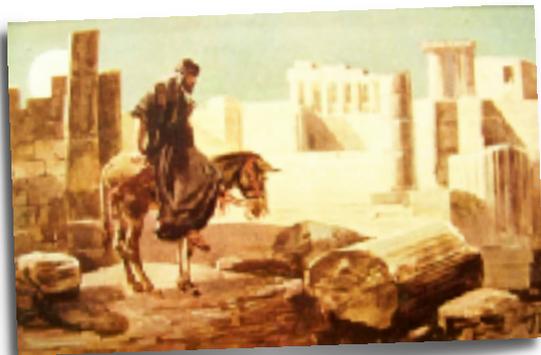


180. Who had given Nehemiah the idea to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem? (v.12) _____

181. The king helped Nehemiah by giving him impressive traveling companions. Who did the king send with him? (v.9) _____

182. Look at Neh. 5:14. What important job did the king give to Nehemiah? _____

183. Who were the enemies of the children of Israel in the land, and how did they feel about Nehemiah's arrival? (vv.10,19) _____



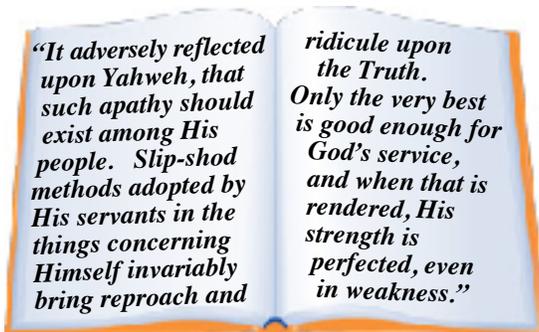
184. Before Nehemiah announced what his plans for the city were, what did he do? (vv. 12-16) _____

185. Imagine if Nehemiah came to our ecclesias and homes to check our walls and gates. What are you doing to keep the world's influences out? What else could you be doing? _____

186. Notice how carefully Nehemiah looked into the matter before presenting his plan to the leaders. Why do you think that Nehemiah did all of this research ahead of time? _____

187. On the map of Jerusalem on page 'C' of the **CHARTS & MAPS** section of the workbook, draw the route Nehemiah took during this nocturnal trek.

188. Notice how Nehemiah presented his plan to the people. He doesn't just tell them, "This is what you should do." First, he explained the problem. What was the problem? (v.17) _____



Story of the Bible Vol 5, p.19

189. Then he explained his plan. What was the plan?(v.17) _____

190. Then he gave a reason why they would benefit. What was the reason? (v.17) _____

191. Lastly, he showed them that God was blessing this effort. (v.18) What did he tell them that showed this? _____

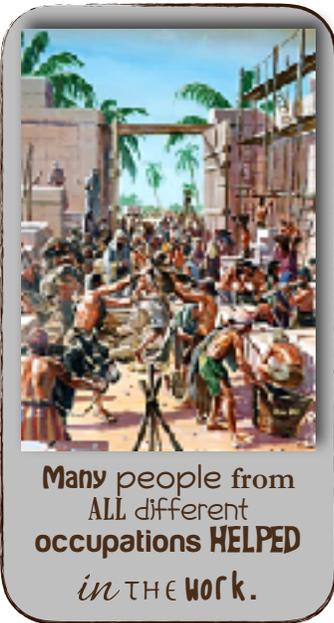
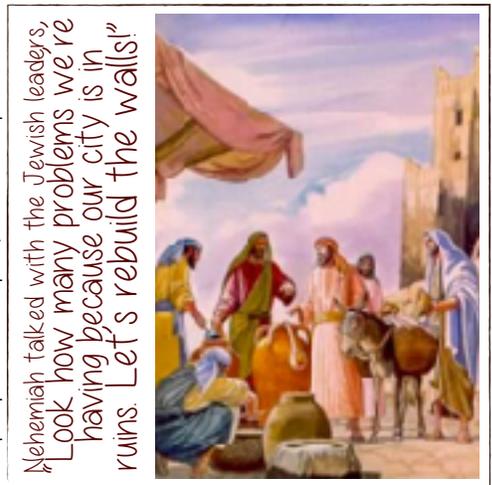
192. How did the people respond? (v.18) _____

193. What did Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem think of this plan? _____

194. Why do you think they didn't like the plan? _____

195. What did they accuse Nehemiah of doing? _____

196. How did Nehemiah answer them? _____



Read Nehemiah 3

197. With such an energetic and faithful leader as Nehemiah in charge, the people soon became caught up in the growing enthusiasm. From every part of the land people came to the city of Jerusalem to help in the labor. Nehemiah kept a careful account of all of the workers, and where they labored. This list is recorded in Nehemiah chapter 3. Find all of the different occupations of the workers on the wall and list them below.

198. Having so many people working together on the wall was the best thing that could have happened. They all put their time and energy into building the wall. It was where they put their treasure. What did Christ say about where our treasure is?

Be Ye Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only. James 1:22

As we consider the people who labored on the wall, the work they did, together with their future actions, we cannot help but note some powerful lessons.

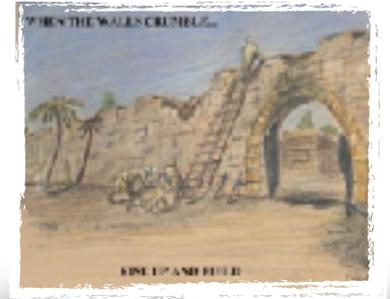
Let's look at a few of these examples from Nehemiah 3.

199. The first man that Nehemiah recorded as foremost in the work was Eliashib. He rose up immediately and supported the work that would help bring in the animals for sacrifice to Yahweh. What gate did he help build? _____

200. Eliashib was a great worker. He gave valuable service to God's work. Unfortunately, he was the type of person who was active and excited about doing things, but didn't pay enough attention to God's requirements. In chapter 13 Eliashib allied himself with Tobiah, one of the enemies of the Jews, What did he do for him? _____

201. Why do you think that was such a big problem? _____

202. Some people were assigned a portion of the wall, but when they finished, they didn't just think they could relax with their job well-done. Some went and found another part of the wall they could help with. Who was one of the people that did this? (Neh. 4:4&21) _____



203. What other job had he done back when Ezra had returned that showed his trustworthiness? (Ezra 8:33) _____

204. Who is another person that worked on two portions? (v.4&v.30) _____

205. Whose nobles did not put their necks to the work of their Lord? _____

206. What is an apothecary? v 8 (concordance) _____

207. What other group that worked on two portions? (v. 5 & v.27) _____

208. How many gates of Jerusalem are mentioned in this chapter? _____

209. Turn to the **CHARTS & MAPS** section at the front of the workbook. On Page "D" there is a map of the wall of Jerusalem. Beginning at verse 1, fill in the blank lines with the names of the people, or the families who worked on each section of the wall. A few have been filled in for you already.



The People Had A Mind To Work!

Nehemiah's problems came not only from his enemies, but also from those who were supposed to be his friends. Why didn't Nehemiah give up and go home? Why didn't he go back to his comfortable life in the Persian palace?

How would you feel if you worked hard all day doing God's work, while people laugh and made fun of you, even try to kill you, and when those around you who are helping you are complaining and giving up?

God didn't make things easier on Nehemiah even though Nehemiah was doing God's work. This is a good lesson for us.



Nehemiah had faith, prayed to God, then acted. He got the job done.

We will see how Nehemiah reacted in the next two chapters as he deals with problems.

Read Nehemiah 4:1-6

210. Look up "Sanballat" in other resources (Bible Dictionary, Story of the Bible, Vol. 5, or other resource books) to find out who Sanballat was.

Where was he from? _____

What was his position? _____

Why he was so opposed to Nehemiah and the building of the wall of Jerusalem. _____

What army did he control? (v.2) _____

211. How did Sanballat and his friend Tobiah make fun of the work? (vv.2-3) _____

212. Give an example or two of how you might be laughed at or made fun of by people in the world by doing God's commands, such as going to Bible class instead of the movies with your friends. _____

213. In vv. 4-5 we see what Nehemiah's response was to Sanballat's mocking. What did he do when the world made fun of him? _____

214. If you were working on a big and important project, and some kids tried to push you around and made fun of you, what would you be tempted to do? _____

215. When we feel the need to 'teach someone a lesson' or get back at them, what Bible principles should we remember? _____

**Nehemiah ...
did not act without prayer,
and did not pray without acting**

216. Look up Hebrews 10:30-31 and write out the parts that apply. Explain what it means.

217. Did the enemies succeed in stopping the work? Why not? (v.6)

Read Nehemiah 4:7-9

218. What made the enemies of the Jews wroth? _____

219. What did the enemies decide to do next? _____

220. Nehemiah did two things in response to this. What did he do?



221. Nehemiah is a wonderful example of how to solve our problems. Pray to God for help, and then do everything that you can yourself. God doesn't bless laziness. Why? (see Prov. 21:25, 24:30-34) _____

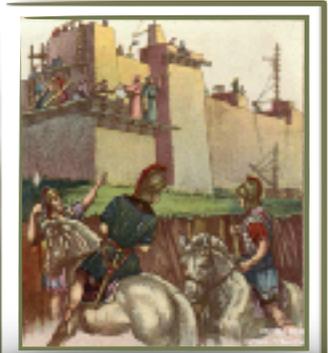
222. Proverbs 16:9 is a good verse for us to remember. It says that we can come up with our own ways to do things, but only God will guide us to the *right* ways. Write out Prov. 16:9 _____

223. Hebrews 6 tells us what we should do instead of being lazy. Fill in the blanks from vv. 11-12

"And we desire that every one of you do show the same _____ to the full assurance of _____ unto the end: That ye be not _____, but _____ of them who through _____ and _____ inherit the _____."

224. What does it mean to be slothful? Mark it in Heb. 6:12

225. Give some examples of what could happen in your camp group at Kids Camp if you and your counsellors are lazy. _____

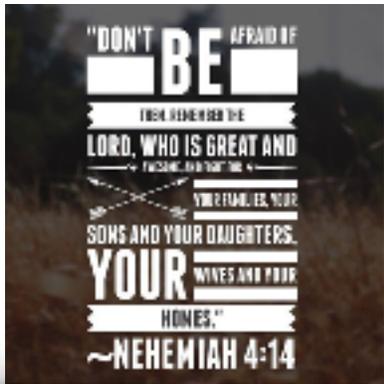


What an **excellent** way to handle the **backbiting** of one's enemies! In spite of all his **mocking** words, the **wall went up steadily** becoming a **complete and effective answer** to their **mocking**

The work was tiring! There was so much rubble and debris they had to get rid of that the people began to get discouraged. At the same time their enemies were attacking the workers. Also, the workers were afraid of the threats to themselves and to their families. No wonder they got discouraged - was a wall worth getting killed for?

Read Nehemiah 4:10-23

226. Nehemiah saw the trouble, and did things to counteract the problem. (vv13-14) He grouped the people by _____ both in the _____ places behind the wall, and on the _____ places. He made sure they were all armed with _____, _____, and _____. And he said to them, “_____”



227. To whom does Nehemiah give credit for the enemies' retreat and how had he done this? (compare v. 15 & Ps 33:10 _____)

228. From this time forward, Nehemiah made preparations to defend and protect the workers and their work. Explain what Nehemiah did to defend Jerusalem in vv. 16-18. What did Nehemiah's servants do? What did all of the builders do?

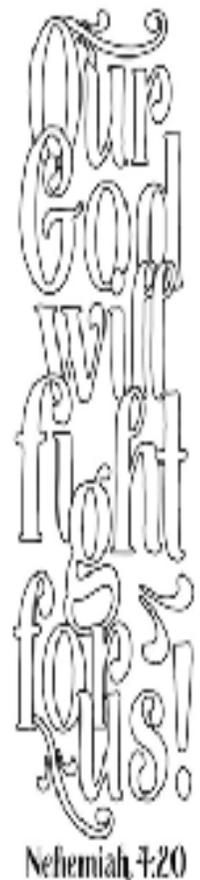
229. Because the workers were spread out along the wall, and on both the inside and the outside of the wall, it would be easy for their enemies to attack small groups of people. How did Nehemiah prepare for this possibility? (vv.19-20) _____

230. Even though Nehemiah was doing all of this preparation and work to protect the people, how do we know that he was still relying on God's power to protect them? _____

231. Today, a normal day at work is about 8 hours long. Did they work that long? _____ Considering it was summer time when they were building, how long do you think they worked each day? _____

232. Why did Nehemiah tell the people and their servants to stay inside of the city at night? (v.22) _____

233. Verse 23 shows the dedication of the workers. Explain. _____



Once Nehemiah had made provision for defending themselves from their enemies, he learned of another problem that was revealed when the people began working full-time on their section of the wall.

In **Ezra 2** we read that there were many who had come back to the land earlier on in our studies that were very wealthy. They had been rich enough to contribute about 4,200 pounds of silver and 41,000 drams of gold toward the building of the temple.



But in **Haggai 1** we read that there had been a famine in the land during that time and many of the poorer people had had to borrow from the richer people to survive.

Although God had now caused it to rain, and the famine to cease, the people still hadn't recovered because they still owed money to their brethren, and were having to give up even more to pay them back.

The people were desperate! They wanted to continue working on the wall, but their families were starving, or being sold into slavery, or their lands were being taken away as payments on their debts.

Read Nehemiah 5:1-5

What would Nehemiah do now?

234. Who were the people and their wives crying out against?

235. The Jews were putting so much effort into working on the wall and defending themselves against their enemies that those of them that did not have much money in the first place were running into big problems. Draw a line to match the problem the poorer families were having next to the verse that talks about it:



- | | |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| verse 2 | some people had to take out loans on their land and houses to buy food |
| verse 3 | some had to sell their children as slaves |
| verse 4 | many were running out of food |
| verse 5 | some had to take out loans to pay their taxes |

236. Why do you think the poorer families were crying out against their richer brethren?

237. How could the richer families have helped the the poorer families? (Hint 1Tim. 6:17-18)

tribute |'tribyōōt|
 noun
 an excessive tax or tariff imposed by a government, sovereign, lord, or landlord

Read Nehemiah 5:6-13

238. How did Nehemiah feel after he heard about this problem?

239. The rich Jewish nobles and rulers been exacting usury on the poor Jews. (v.7) "Exacting" means "demanding." What is usury? _____



240. God's concern for the poor is found in almost every book of the Bible. What are some of the rules God made in the law to protect the poor? See Ex. 22:22-27, Lev. 25:35-41, Deut. 14:28-29, 15:7-11 _____

241. What reason did Nehemiah give in v. 8 as to why the nobles should not have sold their fellow Jews? Look at another translation to help understand what Nehemiah means.

242. God wants us to help each other and to love one another. But the actions of the rich brethren did not show love at all. In fact how they were treating each other was being seen by their Gentile enemies. What would people think of us if we claimed to follow Christ and then failed to help our brother in need? _____

243. What TWO demands did Nehemiah make of the nobles? (vv. 10-11) _____

244. In verse 12 Nehemiah had the nobles swear an oath in front of the priests that they would honor their commitment. Why do you think Nehemiah did that? _____



245. A similar thing had happened in Jeremiah's time that Nehemiah probably read of and had learned from. Explain what happened in Jer. 34:13-17. _____

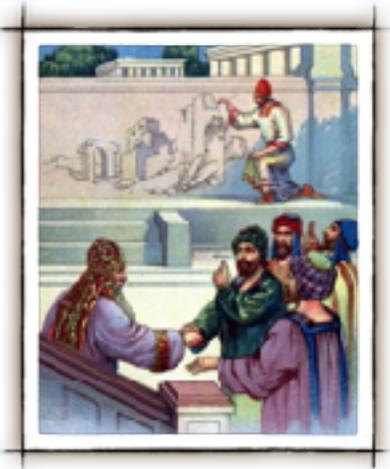
246. What did Nehemiah say would happen to those who didn't keep this promise? (v.13) _____

247. Did the people keep this promise? _____

248. Let's think about these rich nobles for a bit. How did the nobles react when Nehemiah criticized them in front of everyone? (v.8) _____

249. What did they say when they heard Nehemiah's demands? (v.12) _____

250. Do you think it would have been easy for them nobles to give back fields, vineyards, orchards, houses, money, food, wine, oil, and slaves? Why? _____



251. Do you think the nobles reacted in the right way when they realized they had been doing wrong all along? Explain. _____

criticism, *explanation*, censure, *condemnation*, **disapproval**, **fault-finding**, *evaluation*, assessment, *disapproval*, **analysis**, **commentary**, **judgment**, **explanation**, elucidation.

“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”
Proverbs 27:17

252. How do you *feel* like responding when your parents, teachers, or friends tell you about a mistake they see you have been making? _____

How *should* you respond to this type of criticism? _____

Read Nehemiah 5:14-19

253. Nehemiah told the people that for the entire time he was governor of the land, he never had “eaten the bread of the governor.”

Governors were appointed by the king, and were paid by the taxes, or tribute collected from the people. Nehemiah told the people that he hadn't taken his portion of the taxes that he was entitled to in his position as governor appointed by King Artaxerxes. What two reasons did he give for not taking this food allowance? (vv.15&18) _____

254. Also, what did he and his servants not do while working on the wall? (v.16) _____

255. How many people was Nehemiah in charge of feeding, and how much did it take to feed them? (vv.17-18) _____



Sanballat and Tobiah were getting desperate. In Nehemiah 6 we see them taking some drastic measures as they saw the wall was almost complete, and everything they had done to try to stop its construction had failed. They tried new approaches. They tried to lure Nehemiah into an ambush (v.2). They attacked Nehemiah's character by spreading false rumors (v.6). They hired a 'prophet' to try to get Nehemiah to damage his reputation and make him look bad (v.12). They sent a letter to scare him (v.19). When opposition builds up against us, we are tempted to pray to God, "Get me out of this situation." Instead, Nehemiah prayed, "Strengthen my hands." When we pray for strength to do what's right, **God always answers.**

Read Nehemiah 6:1-4

256. What did Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem notice that caused them to be alarmed? (v.1) _____

257. What did Sanballat and Geshem ask Nehemiah to do, and why do you think they asked him? _____

258. What was Nehemiah's answer? (v.3) _____



259. Notice that Nehemiah did not reveal that he was suspicious of them. If he had let them know he thought they were out to get him, they might have acted on it. How many times did they try to get him to come meet them alone? _____

260. The next time, because all their previous efforts had failed to get a reaction out of Nehemiah, Sanballat tried something else. He sent an open letter. Think about what this means.

Read Nehemiah 6:5-9

If you were to send a note on a slip of paper to a friend across a crowded room, to be passed from person to person until it got to your friend, do you think that what was written on that note would be a secret by the time it got there unless that note was sealed in an envelope? This was Sanballat's plan in sending an 'open letter', he wanted to *force* Nehemiah to *have* to meet with him. What two things did Sanballat accuse Nehemiah of in this letter? (vv.6&7)

261. Explain how Nehemiah replied to him in v.8. _____

262. How did this discourage the people? (v.9) What might the king do if he believed this to be true? _____

263. Where might Sanballat have gotten this idea? where had these adversaries used this technique before? Did it work? Explain what had happened and what the result was when they tried this before. (Ezra 4:12-21) _____



264. Find at least one more person in the Bible who had false rumors spread about them yet reacted righteously. Explain what happened. Give references. _____

265. How did Nehemiah handle this problem? (v.9)

266. Why do you think that Nehemiah prayed about everything?

267. Find at least one more person in the Bible who went to God in prayer about everything, and so no one could find any fault with him. Explain what happened. Give references. _____



268. How would your life be better if you followed this example? _____

Read Nehemiah 6:10-14

269. What was the message the prophet Shemaiah gave Nehemiah? _____

270. According to God's law (see Numbers 18:7 & 22), would it have been all right for Nehemiah, who was not a priest, to go into the temple to hide? _____

271. Why did this prophet give Nehemiah a false message? (v.12) _____

272. Find at least one more time in the Bible where prophets gave false messages. Explain what happened. Give references. _____

273. How could this type of thing happen today? _____



274. What did Nehemiah do after he answered Shemaiah? (v.14)

275. How long did it take to finish the walls of Jerusalem? _____



276. When their enemies heard the wall was built, we read, "they were much cast down in their own eyes." This means they lost their self-confidence. What did they realize that caused them to doubt themselves? (v. 16)

277. It is a real shock to us when we find that some of the Jewish nobles were helping Tobiah in his conflict with Nehemiah. What are we told that the nobles had been sending to Tobiah? _____

278. Write out verse 18 in your own words to show why some of the Jewish nobles supported Tobiah. _____

279. What did the the Jewish nobles tell Nehemiah about Tobiah? _____

280. What does v.19 tell us that Tobiah was doing at that same time. _____

281. Write out Psalm 127:1 - _____



282. Explain what Psa. 127:1 means, and how it applies to the building of the wall, and how it applies to you. _____

283. Who was Meshullam the son of Berechiah, and what have we learned about him already in our study? (Look up in concordance, or refer to questions in chapter 3) _____



284. What do you think could have led Meshullam to give his daughter in marriage to the son of Tobiah, the enemy of God's people? (Try to come up with a list of possible reasons why he may have wanted this.) _____

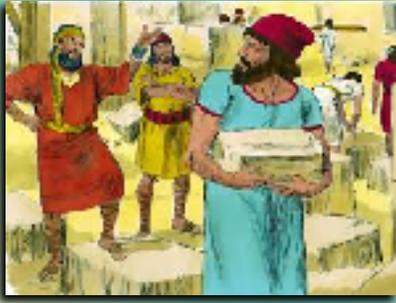
285. What did God's law say about marriages between Israelites and the inhabitants of the land? (Deut. 7:3-4) _____

286. What usually happened when Israelites married unbelievers? Give examples. (One example: 1 Kings 11:1-3) _____

287. What should we look for in a husband or wife to prevent problems Solomon faced? _____

sympathizer |sɪmpəˈtɪzər| noun
a person who agrees with or supports a thought or opinion:

The sympathizers with Tobiah and his kind thought complete separateness from the world was too harsh and unyielding, and so they allowed little departures from God's laws here and there.



Unfortunately, this ultimately led to serious abuses of God's law within Judah that Nehemiah had to correct later.

pray
always

The betrayal of Shechaniah, Meshullam and the nobles Judah must have made Nehemiah realize that even though the work of building the wall was completed, there were still enemies he had to guard against. There were two men he could put his confidence in. One was his brother Hanani, who had originally brought the report about the conditions of Jerusalem to Nehemiah when he was cupbearer in Shushan, and the other was a man named Hananiah, who was a ruler of the fortress, and a faithful man. Nehemiah put these two men in charge of Jerusalem.

Read Nehemiah 7

Just as the **Book of Ezra** is naturally divided into two sections; 1) the **rebuilding of the temple** under Zerubbabel, 2) and the **rebuilding of the ecclesia** under Ezra, The **Book of Nehemiah** can also be divided into two sections; 1) the **reconstructing of the wall** in chapters 1-6, and 2) the **reconstructing of the people** in chapters 7-13.

288. After the wall was finished what did Nehemiah set up?

289. What does the word 'porter' mean? (Strong's)

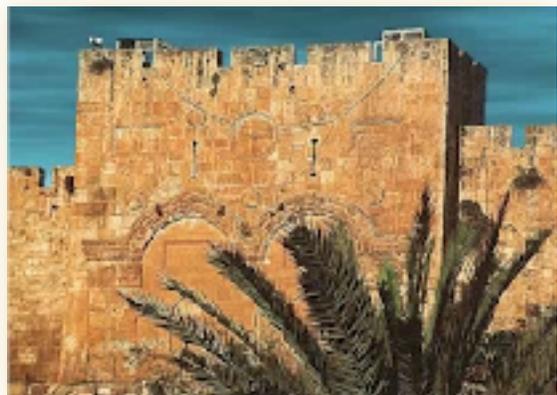
Mark it in your Bible next to the word 'porter' in v.1 -

290. What was it about Hananiah's character that Nehemiah felt qualified him to lead? _____

291. Verse 4 tells us that "the houses were not yet built" Why do you think it was that they hadn't built their houses yet? _____

292. Verse 4 also tells us another problem. What was the situation in the beginning of verse 4?

Jerusalem became a vigilant city surrounded by its walls and overshadowed by the ever watchful eyes of Yahweh



This is a wonderful type of the spiritual Jerusalem referred to also in the Bible.

293. Because of this, Nehemiah decided to take a census, or an official count of the population of Jerusalem. He counted of all of the people, the rulers and the nobles in the land. From verse 8 on to the end of the chapter is a census list. Read verses 5-7 carefully: who is this a list of? _____

Read Nehemiah 8



Nehemiah had strengthened and fortified the city now he needed to strengthen and fortify the people

Back in chapter six we saw the problems that the brothers and sisters were having, especially with Tobiah who was constantly trying to sabotage the work of Nehemiah. The ultimate solution to this problem was to turn to the word of God for direction and that was exactly what God caused the people to do.

Nehemiah had been a great leader of the people but they needed someone that could help them to understand the word of God. The perfect man for the job was Ezra, a man respected as a great scribe and priest, that he might assist him in the important work that now needed to be done.

294. Why do you think that Nehemiah and Ezra arranged to read the Scriptures to the people in Jerusalem? _____

295. Where did the people gather for the reading of the Scriptures? _____

296. What day did this reading of the Law begin? (v2) _____

297. How long did Ezra read on the first day? _____

298. What was the pulpit that Ezra stood on? _____ (Concordance)

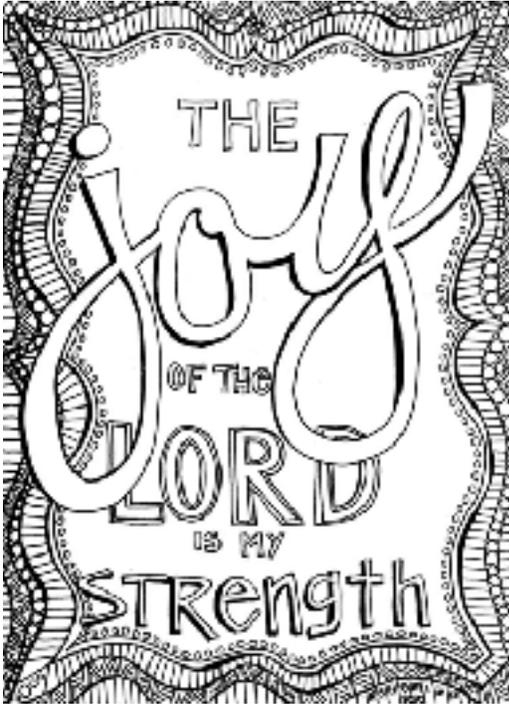
Mark it in your Bible

299. Why do you think the people stood up when Ezra opened the book? _____

300. How often did Ezra do this? (v.18) _____

301. How did the people react? (vv.3,5,6) _____

302. What arrangements were made so that the people would be sure to understand the message of God?(v.7) _____



303. In verse 9 Nehemiah is called the **Tirshatha**. What is a tirshatha? (Concordance)

_____ Mark it in your Bible

304. Verse 14 tells us one of the things they realized as they were reading the law. Read Deut. 31:10-12, and Lev 23:33-34, and explain **what** feast they were supposed to be observing, and **why** this was an appropriate time to do this. _____

305. Why do you think the people wept when they heard the words of the law? (v.9) _____

306. When the people wept, what did Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites tell them? (vv.9-11)

307. The people did as they were told, and celebrated. Why did they celebrate? (v.12) _____

308. How long had it been since the Israelites celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles like this? (v.17) _____



Read Nehemiah 9

309. After learning from the law of God what God requires, the people felt they needed to repent, and they made a commitment to God. Explain what they did to rededicate themselves to God.

(vv.1-3) _____

310. What were the names of them men who led the congregation in their confession to God?

311. Verses 6-31 summarize a particular part of history where God had helped His people, the children of Israel. It lists what God did to save his people. Briefly explain what God does in each of the the following verses:

v.6 -God _____

v.7-God _____

v.8-God _____

vv.9-10-God _____

vv.11-12-God _____

vv.13-14-God _____

v.15-God _____

vv.16-19-God didn't _____

vv.20-21-God _____

vv.22-25-God _____

vv.26-27-God _____

v.28-Many times, God _____

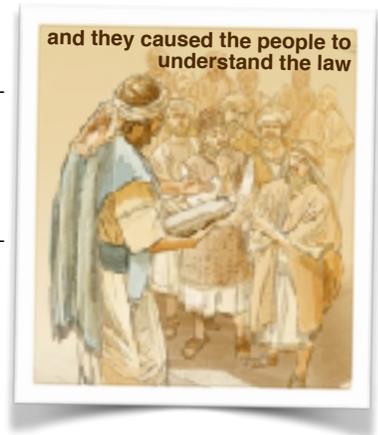
v.29-The reason God did this was to _____

v.30-God _____

v.31- God didn't _____

312. What did the people acknowledge in v33? _____

313. After the children of Israel were finished confessing their sins and praising God, what did the children of Israel make? (v. 38)



Read Nehemiah 10

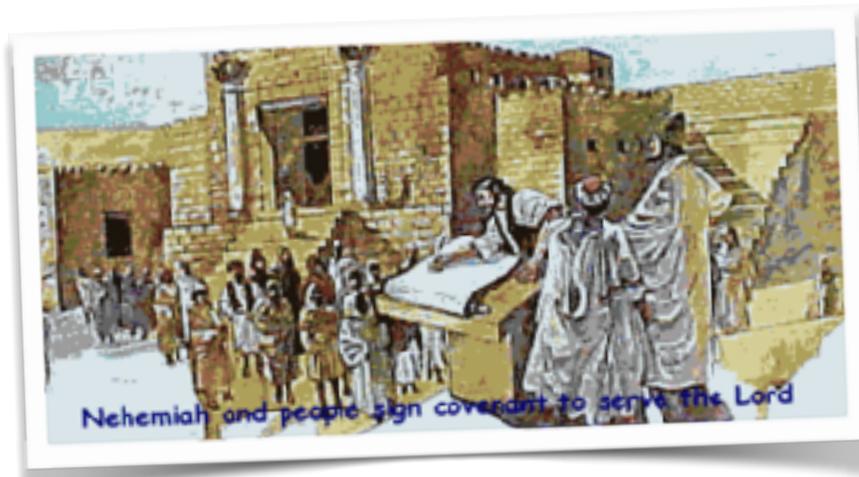
In chapter 10, the people made a covenant to keep God's law which was given by Moses. They promised to observe and do all the commandments of Yahweh. The first 26 verses of chapter 10 is a list of those who sealed the covenant. To 'seal a covenant' is like signing a contract.

314. When the nation of Israel was in the wilderness, God told them that if they obeyed His voice and kept His covenant they would be a peculiar treasure to him. Where in the Bible do we read about this? _____

315. Fill in the blanks to show how the people responded to God's offer in the days of Moses.

"All that the LORD hath spoken _____ ."

316. Did you know that we can make a covenant with God *today*? We can do so by promising to do our *best* to obey Yahweh, by becoming His servants, and by following the example of Christ. Today, when a person decides that this is what they want to do with their life, they show everyone that they are making a covenant with Yahweh by _____.



317. Starting in verse 30, there is a list of special points of the law that had been a problem for the people.

1) **Find verses** from the Law of Moses where these laws are described.

2) **Write the references** that you found next to the verses in Nehemiah 10 in your Bible, then check off that it's marked..

- ▶ Marrying people from the land of Canaan _____ ~ v30
- ▶ Keeping the Sabbath _____ ~ v31
- ▶ Not planting your fields every 7th year _____ ~ v31
- ▶ Forgiving debts every 7th year _____ ~ v31
- ▶ 1/3 shekel tax for the house of God _____ ~ v32
- ▶ Supplying wood for altar by lot _____ ~ v34
- ▶ Firstfruits of ground and tree for the house of God _____ ~ v35
- ▶ Firstborn of sons and cattle for the house of God _____ ~ v36
- ▶ Tithes for Levites _____ ~ v37-38

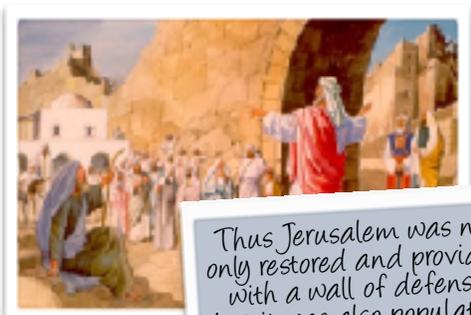
Read Nehemiah 11

318. The city of Jerusalem had been under attack by their enemies for so long that a problem had arisen. Look back at chapter 7:4. What was the problem in Jerusalem?



319. Because of this, they decided that for every ten people from the nation one would move to Jerusalem. Explain how they decided who would move to Jerusalem, and who would remain in other cities? (v.1) _____

320. Which of the tribes of Israel are mentioned in chapter 11? _____



Thus Jerusalem was not only restored and provided with a wall of defense, but it was also populated.

Read Nehemiah 12

321. Who is verses 1-7 a list of? _____

322. In verse 27 we read about the dedication of the wall. Use a concordance to find other structures that were dedicated in the Bible. _____

323. Mark the answers to the question above in your Bible, citing references.

324. What did they do to celebrate the dedication of the wall? (vv.27-29) _____

325. What does 2 Chron. 35:3 tell us was the key job of the Levites? _____

326. What does the word 'purified' mean in verse 30? _____



327. Who and what was purified? _____

328. The walls were built to keep the world out of Jerusalem, protecting the people from worldly thinking. With this in mind, why do you think the people needed to be purified as well?

329. Nehemiah split the princes of Israel into two groups. Where did the first group stand?(vv. 31 - 37) _____
What did they bring with them? (vv.35-36) _____
Who led this group of people? _____

330. Where did the second group stand? (v.38) _____
Who led this group of people?(v.38) _____

331. Have you ever heard a large group of Christadelphians singing praises to God? Just imagine the sound of the singing that occurred on this occasion. How did these singers sing, and who led the singing in this choir?(v.42)



332. What else did they do that day?(v.43) _____

333. How does the Bible describe how great the noise of their rejoicing was? _____



334. In the last verse of this chapter we learn that the children of Israel again began to pay their tithes. Fill in the blanks of the charts below to see why it was such a big problem that the people were not paying their tithes.

If the People **OBEYED** the Law,
GOD'S WAYS WORKED!

God made it a part of His law that everyone in Israel gave tithes (1/10) of their money or crops to the Levites.

SO THAT

The Levites did not have to spend their time planting crops or working at other jobs.

THEREFORE

The Levites could do the work of the temple, teaching the people the ways of God.

AND THEN

The nation would prosper because they were following God's laws.



The people gave a tenth of the produce of their lands for the use of the Levites; and the Levites separated a tenth of those tithes for the priests

If the People **DIDN'T OBEY** the Law,
GOD'S WAYS WERE LOST

The people did not obey God's law and did not bother to give tithes (1/10) of their money or crops.

SO THAT

The Levites had to spend their time planting crops or _____

THEREFORE

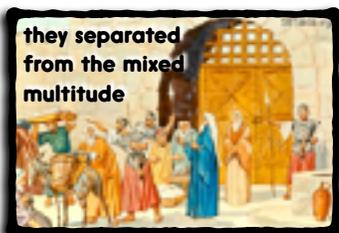
The Levites could not do the work of the temple, _____ the ways of God.

AND THEN

The nation would not _____ because they did not know _____ and could not keep them.

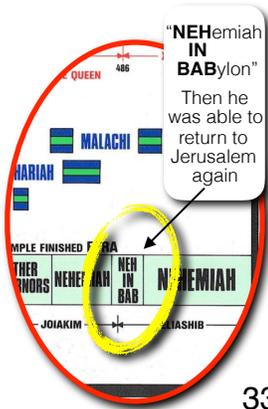
When we first read chapter 13 we are very surprised to find that the people are already breaking the covenant that they had made with God in chapter 10. We wonder how Nehemiah could have allowed this to happen. But as we look closer at the chapter we find that these things happened while Nehemiah was not around. He had left Jerusalem to go back to king Artaxerxes. While he was gone the people had gone astray and once again we find Tobiah mixed up in the problems.

Read Nehemiah 13



335. While reading the law, the people realized God's Law had told them that *"the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever."* (Deut 23:3) This meant that those who hadn't dedicated their lives to Yahweh should not be allowed to mix with God's people. What did the children of Israel do in v.3 now that they realized this? _____

336. In verse 6 we see that some time had passed. Nehemiah had stayed in Jerusalem helping to strengthen the ecclesia there for quite a while. Compare Nehemiah 1:1 with 13:6 How long had he been in Jerusalem? (also 5:14) _____



"NEHEMIAH IN BABYLON"
Then he was able to return to Jerusalem again

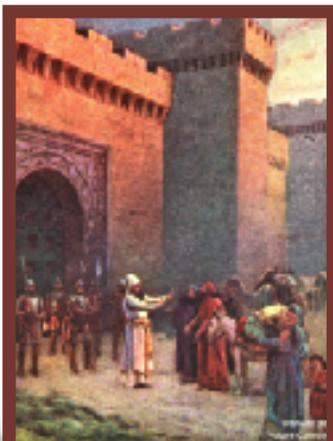
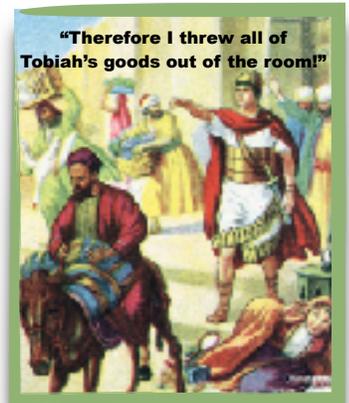
337. After his time in Jerusalem he was required to go back to Persia as he had told King Artaxerxes he would when he first asked permission to go to Jerusalem. However, "after certain days" back in Persia, what did he ask of King Artaxerxes again? (vv.5-6) _____

338. What had Eliashib done after Nehemiah left Jerusalem? Explain why this was so evil?(vv.4-5&7, compare with 12:44) _____

339. What major problems had this caused? (v.10) _____

340. Why was it a problem that the Levites had gone out to work in the fields? _____

341. Explain what Nehemiah did to fix this problem.(vv.11-14)



Nehemiah warned those who were camped outside the wall, "Why do you camp outside the wall? If you do this again, I'll arrest you!" And they never came back on the Sabbath again.

342. Nehemiah also saw the children of Israel breaking another commandment of God, found in Ex. 20:10. What was the problem, and what steps did Nehemiah take to fix this problem? (vv.15-22) _____

343. What commandment of God did Nehemiah also find the children of Israel had broken? (v.23) _____

344. What was one of the results of the people marrying strange wives? (v.24) _____

345. The fact that the children could not speak the language of the Jews was an indication of a very big problem. They were able to speak the language of their mother and not the language of their father because the children were being raised and taught by their mother. If their mother was teaching the children only her language, then whose religion would she be teaching them? _____



CONGRATULATIONS!

you're almost finished also!

351. Turn back to the first page in this workbook. Look through all of the questions and carefully make sure you have completed *every* question, and that *every* question is completed to the **BEST** of your ability. Once you have done that, **sign your name** below.

X _____

352. Give this completed workbook to a parent. Have them look at your workbook to certify its completion, then have **a parent sign below** that they are satisfied with your work.

X _____

353. If you haven't already, now is the time to decide on a **project** to complete (see intro page 'iv'). Projects must be completed before camp, and brought to camp. It will be shared with your group and your class. Do your best work!

354. Have a **parent** sign the front cover, confirming that they have reviewed the entire workbook AND your project.

Don't forget to bring with you to camp:

- **Your Bible** complete with Bible Marking from this workbook
- **This Completed Workbook**
- **Your Intermediate Project**