

Memory Challenge



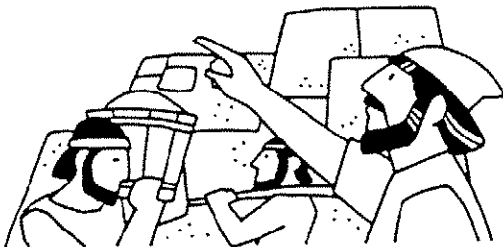
Ezra 9:8

"And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give up a peg in his Holy Place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage."



Daniel 2:44

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. . . and it shall stand forever."



Nehemiah 4:6

"So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."



Esther 4:14

"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

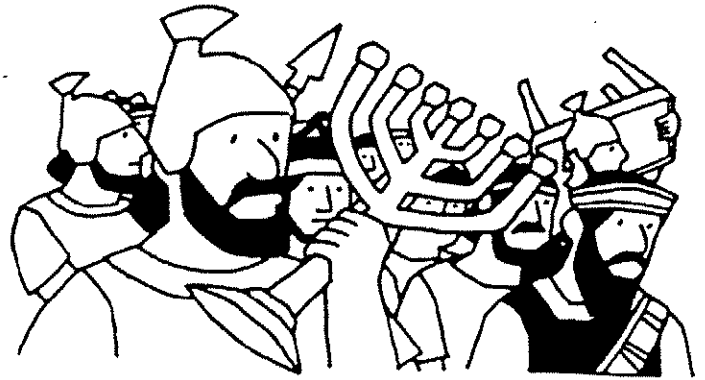
"...But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on His law he meditates day and night."



Lesson 1

The First Captives Are Taken to Babylon

II Kings 24,
Daniel 1, Ezekiel 1



Read II Kings 23:36-24:20

1. Who was the king in **Judah** at this time? _____
2. What had Jehoiakim become for Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon? _____
3. What did the Lord send against **Judah**? _____

4. Why did the Lord allow **Judah** to be attacked? _____

5. After Jehoiakim died, who became king? _____
6. What happened to Jehoiachin when the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem? _____
7. What did the Babylonians take from the temple? _____

8. When they captured the city, which people did they leave behind? _____
9. What kind of people did they take captive? Why do you think they took these people and left the poor? _____

10. Who did Nebuchadnezzar make king in Jerusalem after he had captured most of the people? _____

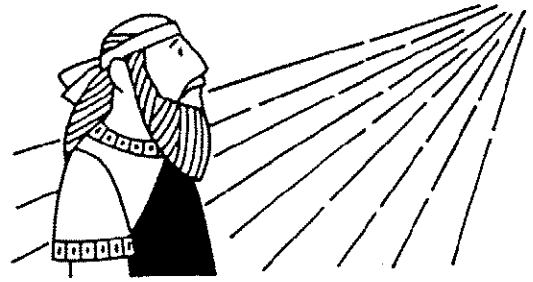


Read Daniel 1:1-21

Check the correct answer:

1. This book talks about the same King Jeholakim who was
_____ following God's laws.
_____ taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.
2. The king had commanded that they bring with the captives
several young men who were
_____ good and intelligent.
_____ uneducated so they could teach them.
3. The king would give them
_____ many hard jobs to do.
_____ daily food from the king's table.
4. After three years of training, these young men would
_____ serve before the king.
_____ return to Judah.
5. Daniel and his three friends were
_____ given Babylonian names.
_____ treated poorly.
6. Daniel and his friends refused to
_____ eat the king's delicacies or drink his wine.
_____ obey the king's officers.
7. After a trial period of ten days, Daniel and his friends looked
_____ ill and starving.
_____ better and fatter.
8. The Lord gave these four young men
_____ the courage to stand up against the king.
_____ knowledge and wisdom.
9. When they were brought before the king, these men were
_____ ten times better than his magicians and wise men.
_____ thrown into prison.

Ezekiel was a prophet who was taken captive with the other people of **Judah**. He will be called to speak to God's people that are living in Babylonian captivity. He used many stories or parables to teach the people God's messages.



Read Ezekiel 1:1-28

Make a list of three or four things which Ezekiel saw in his vision of God:

After several warnings of judgment on the unrighteous of **Judah** and other nations, Ezekiel gives the people of **Judah** the good news that even though they are prisoners now, eventually, they will return to their land in Israel.



Read the following verses and match them to Ezekiel's message of hope:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Ezekiel 34:13 | _____ | I will multiply the house of Israel, the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. |
| 2. Ezekiel 36:10 | _____ | I will take the children of Israel and make them one nation. |
| 3. Ezekiel 36:28 | _____ | I will gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land. |
| 4. Ezekiel 37:21-22 | _____ | You will dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers. |

Ezekiel also spoke of a time when they would even have a new king.



Read Ezekiel 37:24-25

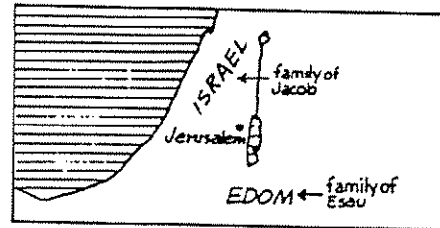
Who do you think this king would be? _____

Obadiah was another prophet during this time, but he was sent to give God's message to the people of Edom. The Edomites were the family of Esau, the brother of Jacob.

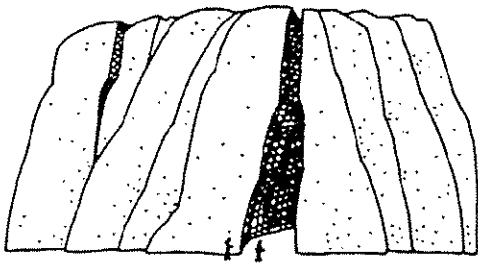


1. Can you remember any of the reasons Jacob and Esau had been enemies of each other? _____

Even when the two brothers had made peace with each other, their families could not live together, so they had decided to live apart.



2. What happened with Edom in Numbers 20? _____



The capitol city of Edom was a place called "Petra". The only entrance to the great city was through a narrow passage between tall cliffs. Since the city could easily be defended, the Edomites became very proud. They never forgot their hatred toward the Israelites and were eager to help any other nation trying to attack Israel.

Because of this longtime hatred of God's people, **Obadiah** was sent to tell what God's judgment would be on the nation of Edom.



Read these two verses and write what Obadiah said would happen:

Obadiah 1:15 _____
Obadiah 1:18 _____

The Edomites were driven from their rocky home by the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, about five years after Jerusalem was destroyed. By the time of Christ, the Edomites completely disappeared from history, just as Obadiah had said.

Lesson 2

Jeremiah Predicts Jerusalem's Destruction

Jeremiah 34-37
II Kings 25
Lentations



Jeremiah was another prophet during the time when the people of **Judah** were taken prisoners to Babylon. He has spoken earlier of the judgment God would send on His people for their disobedience. He is called the "weeping prophet" because he was deeply sad for his people even though they got what they deserved. Jeremiah lived to see many of his words (prophecies) come true.

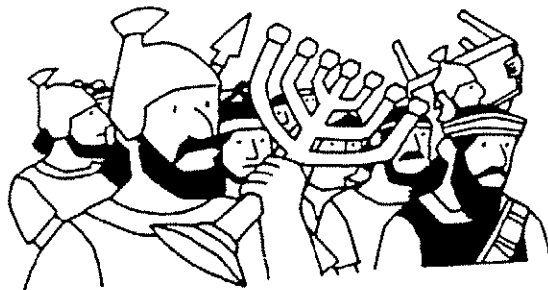


Read Jeremiah 34:1-7

1. What did God tell Jeremiah to say to King Zedekiah? _____

2. How did Jeremiah say that Zedekiah would die? _____

3. What were the only fortified cities remaining in Judah except for Jerusalem? _____

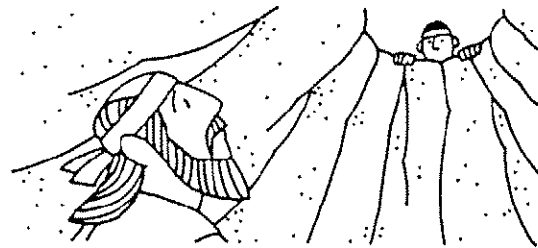
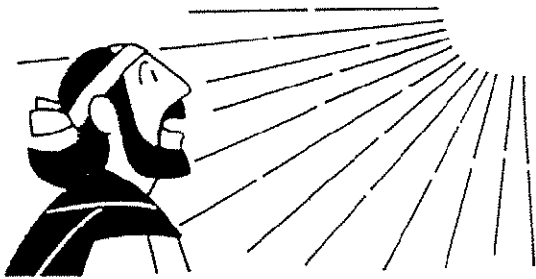




Read Jeremiah 37:1-21

True/False

- _____ 1. After the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, had made Zedekiah the king, the people turned to the Lord.
- _____ 2. Zedekiah wanted Jeremiah to pray to God for the people.
- _____ 3. Jeremiah said that the Chaldeans (Babylonians) would fight against Jerusalem and burn it with fire.
- _____ 4. When Jeremiah tried to leave Jerusalem, he was arrested.
- _____ 5. Jeremiah was accused of joining the side of the Chaldeans.
- _____ 6. Jeremiah was thrown into a dungeon for many days.
- _____ 7. When King Zedekiah brought Jeremiah out of the prison, Jeremiah said that the Chaldeans would now leave them alone.
- _____ 8. Jeremiah begged the king not to put him back in the prison dungeon.
- _____ 9. The king had Jeremiah placed in the court of the prison.



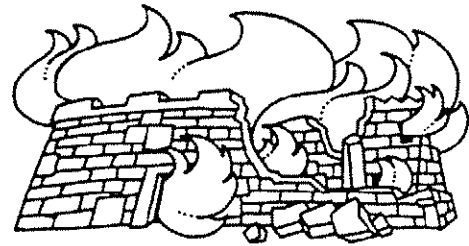
Read Jeremiah 38:1-16

Number these sentences in the correct order:

- _____ Jeremiah was brought out of the dungeon.
- _____ Zedekiah wanted to know what he should do.
- _____ The princes wanted to put Jeremiah to death.
- _____ Finally, Jeremiah was allowed to live in the court.
- _____ Jeremiah was again thrown into a dungeon for speaking what the Lord had told him.



Read II Kings 25:1-21



1. What did the king of Babylon do to Jerusalem?

2. What happens when a city is beseiged? _____
3. Did the city eventually run out of food? _____
4. What did the men of war decide that they would do? _____
5. What had King Zedekiah done? _____
6. What happened when the Chaldeans (Babylonians) discovered that King Zedekiah was trying to escape? _____
7. What three things were done to Zedekiah when he was brought before the king of Babylon? _____
8. What did the king's officers do when he came to Jerusalem? _____
9. Who was left in Jerusalem? _____
10. What happened to the priests, officers and friends of the king? _____

What's the Meaning?

seige _____

Lamentations is the saddest book in the Bible. It was probably written by Jeremiah as he witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem, just as he had warned the people for the past forty years. The title, "Lamentations" means to cry out aloud.



Read the following verses and write the words that describe Jeremiah's sorrow:

Lamentations 1:4 _____

Lamentations 1:12 _____

Lamentations 1:16 _____

Lamentations 2:11 _____

Despite Jeremiah's deep sorrow over Jerusalem and Judah, he remains faithful to God and continues to put his trust in Him.



Read Lamentations 3:24-26

Fill in the blanks:

"The _____ is my _____."

"Therefore I _____ in Him."

"The _____ is _____ to those who _____ for Him."

"To the _____ who _____ Him."

"It is _____ that one should _____ and _____ quietly."

"For the _____ of the _____."

What Do You Think?

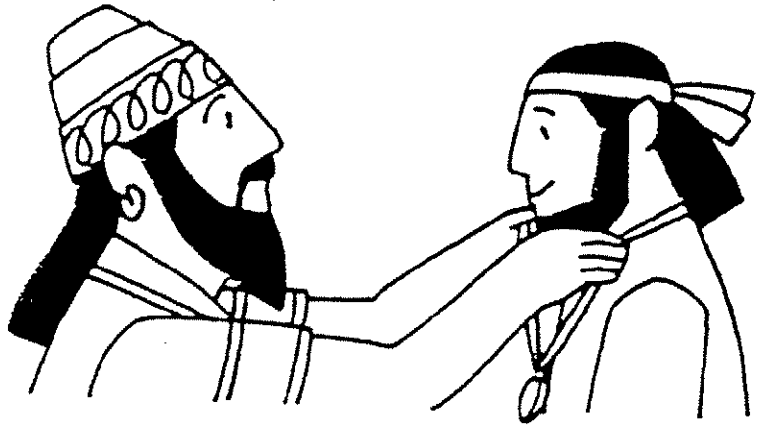
1. Why do you think Jeremiah was so sad that Jerusalem had been destroyed? _____
2. What can you learn from Jeremiah's faith in God? _____

3. Can we trust God like Jeremiah did? _____

Lesson 3

Daniel's Life In Babylon

Daniel 1-6



As a young man, Daniel was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon in the first group of captives. Even though he was a captive, he rose to be a prime minister of Babylon. He would not go against God or His commandments. Daniel lived to be over 90 years old. He saw the Babylonian kingdom fall and the Medo-Persian kingdom established. He held high positions under kings Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus.



Nebuchadnezzar



Belshazzar



Darius

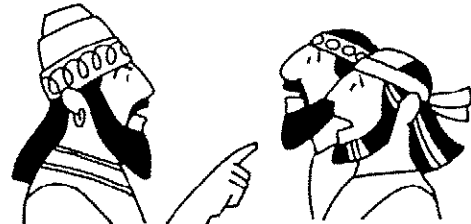


Cyrus



Read Daniel 2:1-13

Put these sentences in the correct order:



- _____ The magicians said they couldn't interpret the king's dream unless he could tell them what the dream was.
- _____ King Nebuchadnezzar was having dreams and he was so worried that he could not sleep.
- _____ The king was furious with the magicians and ordered that they all be killed.
- _____ They sought Daniel and his companions to kill them, too.
- _____ King Nebuchadnezzar called for all the magicians and the sorcerers to tell him what he dreamed and what it meant.

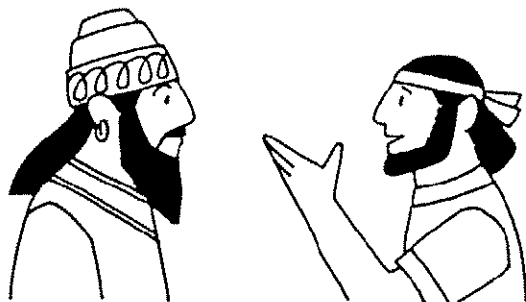


Read Daniel 2:14-49

1. What did Daniel ask the king to do? _____
2. What were the new names of his companions? (See chapter 1:7)

3. What did Daniel and his companions do first? _____
4. When Daniel went before the king to give him the meaning of his dream, who did he say had made known the dream? _____
5. What was the king's dream? _____
6. What were the four parts of the image made of? _____
7. What happened when the stone struck the image? _____
8. Which part did Daniel say represented King Nebuchadnezzar?

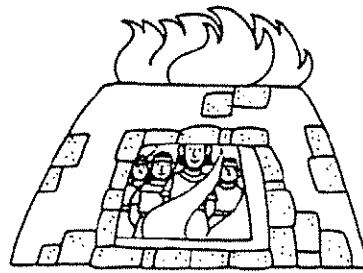
9. After all of these kingdoms had been destroyed, who did Daniel say would set up a kingdom? _____
10. What kingdom do you think this would be? _____
11. After the king heard the meaning of his dream, what did he say about God? _____
12. What did the king do to Daniel and his friends? _____





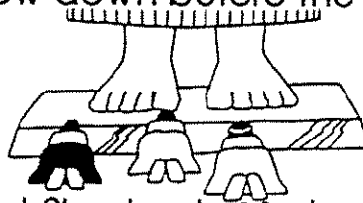
Read Daniel 3:1-30

Check the correct answer:



1. Nebuchadnezzar made a gold image and commanded that
_____ everyone bow down to it when they heard music.
_____ everyone give him money to pay for it.

2. He said that anyone who did not bow down before the image
would be thrown into
_____ prison.
_____ a fiery furnace.



3. When Nebuchadnezzar was told that Shadrach, Meshach and
Abed-Nego were not worshipping the image, he
_____ was furious.
_____ didn't pay any attention because they were Jews.

4. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego told the king that
_____ they would try to remember to worship the image.
_____ God would save them from the furnace, and even if
he didn't, they would not bow down to the image.

5. Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he
_____ had the furnace heated seven times hotter.
_____ killed them himself.

6. When they were thrown into the furnace,
_____ it wasn't as hot as it should have been.
_____ it was so hot that it killed the guards as well.

7. King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed when
_____ he saw four men walking in the furnace.
_____ he realized how powerful he was.

8. When they were brought out of the furnace, Nebuchadnezzar
_____ praised God.
_____ put them into prison.



Read Daniel 5:1-30

True/False



- _____ 1. After Nebuchadnezzar died, his son Belshazzar became king.
- _____ 2. Belshazzar gave a great feast for his lords.
- _____ 3. During the feast, the fingers of a man's hand wrote words on the wall.
- _____ 4. Belshazzar laughed at the writing on the wall.
- _____ 5. Belshazzar promised great honors to anyone who could tell the meaning of the writing on the wall.
- _____ 6. Daniel told Belshazzar that he had not humbled himself.
- _____ 7. Daniel said that the writing meant that he would be king for a long time.
- _____ 8. That very night, Belshazzar was killed.



Read Daniel 6:1-28

Fill in the blanks:



- _____ 1. I became king after Belshazzar.
- _____ 2. I was one of Darius's three governors.
- _____ 3. The king thought about setting me over the whole country.
- _____ 4. We tried to find something against Daniel.
- _____ 5. I was persuaded to sign a decree that anyone caught praying to any god, would be thrown into a den of lions.
- _____ 6. I went home and opened my windows toward Jerusalem and prayed just like I always had done.
- _____ 7. These men told Darius that I was still praying to God three times a day.
- _____ 8. Even though I didn't want to do it, I commanded that Daniel be put into the den of lions.
- _____ 9. The next morning, the king came to the lion's den and asked if my God had saved me.
- _____ 10. I was sent to shut the mouths of the lions.
- _____ 11. We killed the men who plotted against Daniel.

Lesson 4

The First Exiles Return to Jerusalem

Ezra 1-2



Read Jeremiah 29:10-15

1. How long had Jeremiah said the people would remain in Babylon? _____
2. What did Jeremiah say God wanted for His people? _____
3. What would the people do when they return to their own land?

4. What was the reason given that God would bring them back?



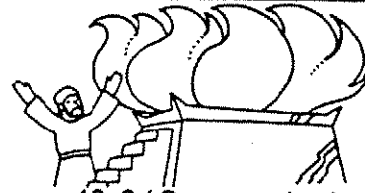
Read Ezra 1:1-4



1. Who was the ruler over the people of Judah now? _____
2. Which prophet had predicted that the people of Judah would be allowed to return to their home? _____
3. Which prophet had served in a high position under King Cyrus?
(See Daniel 6:28) _____
4. Why do you think King Cyrus was so favorable to the people of Judah? _____
5. Do you think that Daniel may have had an influence for good on the king? _____



Read the following verses and match them with the correct sentences.

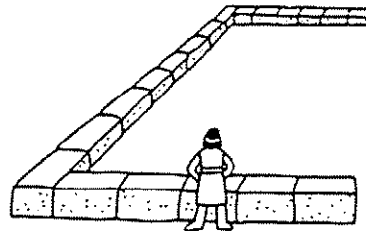


- | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------|---|
| 1. | Ezra 1:2 | _____ | There were 43,360 people in this group that returned to Jerusalem. |
| 2. | Ezra 1:6 | _____ | The people in Babylon gave the Israelites gifts as they left. |
| 3. | Ezra 1:7 | _____ | They observed the Feast of Tabernacles when they returned. |
| 4. | Ezra 2:2 | _____ | When they arrived in Jerusalem, they offered burnt offerings to God. |
| 5. | Ezra 2:64 | _____ | The leader of this group of Israelites was Zerubbabel. |
| 6. | Ezra 3:2 | _____ | King Cyrus returned all the treasures of the temple which Nebuchadnezzar had taken. |
| 7. | Ezra 3:4 | _____ | King Cyrus said that God had told him to build a house for Him. |



Read Ezra 3:8-4:24

True/False



- _____ 1. After they had been in the land about two years, Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the other men, began the work to rebuild the temple again.
- _____ 2. When the foundation was laid, the people shouted and praised God.
- _____ 3. Some of the old priests wept when they saw the foundation because they had seen the first temple.
- _____ 4. Some of the enemies of Judah said they wanted to help with the building of the temple.
- _____ 5. Zerubbabel said he would be glad if they helped them.
- _____ 6. These enemies sent letters to the king in Persia, saying that the temple would be beautiful when it was finished.
- _____ 7. When the servants of the king heard the letter, they went to Jerusalem and forced them to stop the work of building the temple.

Now we will look at two prophets who prophesied to these people who had returned to Jerusalem after being in Babylonian captivity for seventy years. **Haggai** and **Zechariah** both encouraged the people to go back to working on the temple.



Haggai

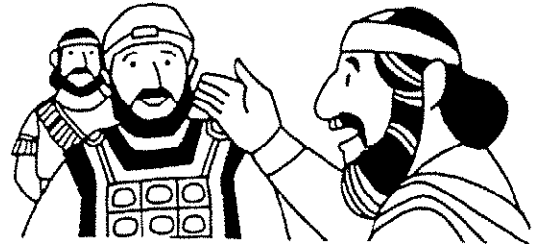


Zechariah



Read Haggai 1:1-15

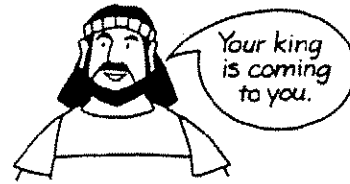
Check the correct answer:




1. Haggai said the people were saying
 it was not time to build the temple.
 they did not have enough money to finish the temple.
2. Haggai said the people were living in
 nice houses while the temple was unfinished.
 tents until the temple was finished.
3. Haggai said that God wanted the people to
 wait to finish the temple till the rest of the people came back to Jerusalem.
 finish the temple.
4. Haggai said that there had been a drought in the land because
 the enemy nations were bothering the Israelites.
 they had not finished the temple.
5. Zerubbabel and the people
 would not listen to Haggai.
 obeyed the word of the Lord.
6. Haggai spoke God's message and
 said, "I am with you, says the Lord."
 the people refused to listen.



Zechariah also spoke to the people about finishing the work on the temple. His main message to the people, though, was about the coming of Jesus as their new king.




 **Read the following verses and write a few words that describe something about the coming of Jesus.**

Zechariah 9:9 _____

Zechariah 11:13 _____

Zechariah 12:10 _____

Zechariah 13:6 _____

 **Read Ezra 6:1-22**

1. What did Darius find in the palace at Achmetha? _____
2. Who had written the scroll and what did it say? (verse 3) _____

3. What did Darius tell the governor to do? (verse 6-7) _____

4. Through which prophets had the work prospered? _____

5. When they had finished the work, what did they do? _____

What's The Meaning?

remnant _____

decree _____

scroll _____

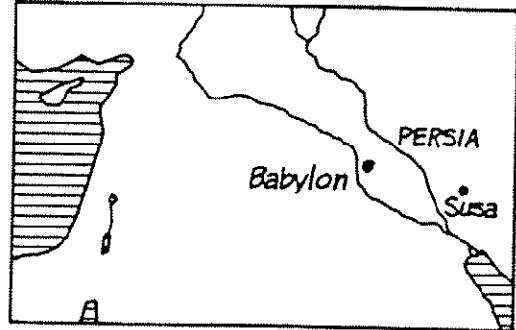
Lesson 5

Esther Saves God's People

Esther 1-10



The story of Esther happened sometime between the first and second group of exiles who returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. This is a story of the Jews who stayed in Persia instead of going to Jerusalem.



Read Esther 1:1-19

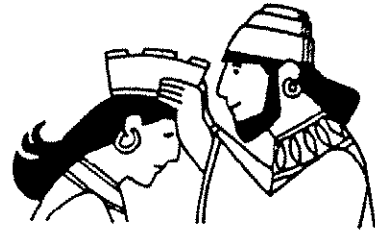
Number these sentences in the correct order:

- _____ The queen refused to go to the king's feast.
- _____ The king made a great feast to show off his riches to his guests.
- _____ The king was afraid that all the women in the kingdom would begin to disobey their husbands.
- _____ The queen made a feast for all the women in the royal palace.
- _____ The king was furious when the queen refused to attend his feast.
- _____ The queen was banished from the palace.





Read Esther 2:1-23

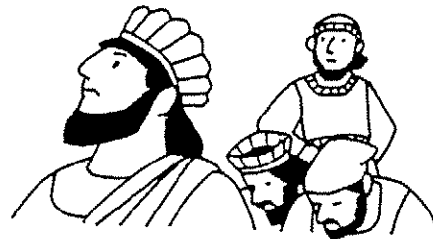


1. What plan did the king's servants suggest for replacing the Queen?

2. \ Who had raised Esther? _____
3. What was Esther's secret? _____
4. When she was presented to the king, what did she become? _____
5. What plot did Mordecai overhear? _____
6. How did he warn the king? _____
7. What happened to the two men? _____



Read Esther 3:1-15



True/False

- _____ 1. The king promoted Haman to a high position.
- _____ 2. The king had commanded that everyone bow before Haman.
- _____ 3. Mordecai bowed before Haman.
- _____ 4. Haman was furious that Mordecai would not bow before him.
- _____ 5. Instead of trying to destroy Mordecai, Haman plotted to kill all the Jews, Mordecai's people.
- _____ 6. Haman told the king that the Jews did not keep his laws.
- _____ 7. Haman's plan was to have all of the Jews killed one day.
- _____ 8. The king did not agree to Haman's plan.
- _____ 9. When the decree was proclaimed, the people of the city were puzzled.



Read Esther 4:1-17

Which verse tells us that . . .

- 1. When Mordecai heard the decree, he was very sad? vs. _____
- 2. Esther tried to get Mordecai to take off the sackcloth and put on regular clothes? vs. _____
- 3. Esther said she was not supposed to go to the king unless he called for her? vs. _____
- 4. Mordecai told Esther that she would be in danger as well as the rest of the Jews? vs. _____
- 5. Esther said she would go to the king even if it meant that she would be killed? vs. _____



Read Esther 5:1-14

Fill in the blanks with the missing words:

- 1. When Esther stood in the inner court, the king held out the _____.
- 2. Esther invited the king and Haman to a _____.
- 3. At the banquet, the king asked _____ what she wanted.
- 4. _____ was furious that Mordecai did not stand or tremble before him.
- 5. Haman's wife suggested that he have _____ built to hang Mordecai.

What's the Meaning?

scepter _____

sackcloth _____



Read Esther 6:1-14 and 7:1-10

1. One night when the king could not sleep, what did he read in the book of the records? _____
2. When Haman came in before the king, what did the king ask Haman? _____
3. Who did Haman think the king wanted to honor? _____
4. Who did the king really want to honor? _____
5. How did Haman feel after he had done all of this to Mordecai? _____
6. When Haman and the king went to Esther's second banquet, what did Esther tell the king? _____
7. What happened to Haman? _____



Read Esther 8:1-17

Check the correct answer:

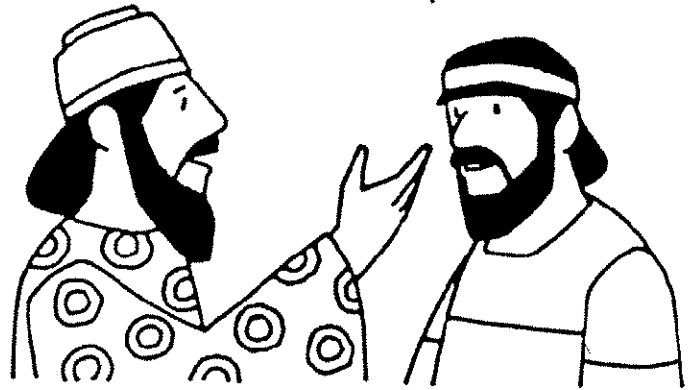
1. When Esther begged the king to take back the decree, he told _____ Esther that it was final, the Jews must die.
_____ Esther that he could not take back the decree, but they could write another decree.
2. The new decree allowed the Jews to _____ defend themselves.
_____ flee into other countries.
3. After this, Mordecai was _____ promoted to a position of high honor.
_____ sent to prison.



Lesson 6

More Exiles Return With Ezra

Ezra 7-10



Read Ezra 7:1-10

1. Who is the reigning king of Persia now? _____
2. Ezra was a distant grandchild of which Israelite leader? _____
3. What was Ezra's occupation? _____
4. How long did it take for Ezra to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem?

5. What were the three main goals in Ezra's life? _____

6. Do you think these would be good goals for our lives? _____



Read Ezra 7:11-16

Check the things which King Artaxerxes said in his letter to Ezra:

- _____ The people of Israel living in his land could go to Jerusalem with Ezra.
- _____ Use the money he gave them to buy animals for sacrifices.
- _____ If you need any more money for building the house of God, he would give it to them from the king's treasury.
- _____ Ezra would appoint judges to judge the people.
- _____ The people would have to worship the gods of Persia.
- _____ Whoever does not obey the law of God would be punished.

Ezra assembled his group of almost 2,000 men and their families to return to Jerusalem. Ezra was very careful that he led the people in accordance with God's word.



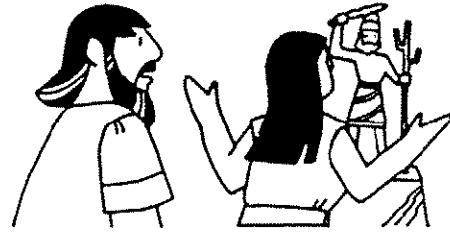
Read Ezra 8:21-36

Check the correct answer:

1. When Ezra assembled the people at the river before they began their long journey to Jerusalem, he
 made the people fast so that they would humble themselves before God.
 gave all the men weapons to protect their families.
2. Ezra did not want to ask the king for soldiers to protect them as they traveled because
 he didn't think the king would give them to him.
 he had said that God would protect them.
3. Ezra appointed twelve of the leaders of the priests to
 carry all of the gold and silver which had been given to them to build the house of God.
 be in charge of the temple when they arrived in Jerusalem.
4. As they began their journey,
 they were attacked by enemies along the way.
 God protected them from the enemies along the way.
5. When they arrived in Jerusalem, one of the first things the people did was to
 build new houses for their families.
 offer sacrifices to God.



Read Ezra 9:1-15



Which verse tells us that . . .

- 1. Some of the people were still married to people of other nations? vs. _____
- 2. Ezra tore his clothes to show his shame for the people? vs. _____
- 3. Ezra prayed to God that he was too ashamed to lift up his face to God? vs. _____
- 4. God had allowed a remnant to escape from captivity? vs. _____
- 5. They had been slaves, but God had not forgotten them? vs. _____
- 6. God had told them not to marry the foreign people ever since they had entered Canaan? vs. _____
- 7. God had not punished them as much as they had sinned? vs. _____
- 8. If they did all of this again, God might destroy them so there would be nothing left? vs. _____
- 9. Ezra concluded his prayer by saying the people were guilty before God? vs. _____

What's The Meaning?

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