

Men and Women of the Bible

Lives - Times - Events - Principles

SECOND QUARTER

SAUL - NEHEMIAH

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND QUARTER

Men and Women of the Bible is a course designed to help the student learn more about characters in the Bible and to discover principles that are timeless in their application. Although the Old Testament describes a time different from our own, with respect to specific requirements, it is valuable for the purpose of learning about man's relationship with God.

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4

"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:11-12

It is the goal of this course that a study of these Old Testament characters and their relationship with God will provide practical lessons that will benefit the Christian in his walk of faith. It will be necessary that the lives, times, and events be thoroughly studied outside of class so that the emphasis of the class period can be a study of the principles, and practical lessons for us today.

These lessons were written by members of the East Side Church of Christ in Columbia, Missouri, including: Craig Roberts, Kelly Hersey, Ben Holt, Bob Bassford, Ron Bassford, Paul Smith and Karl Hennecke. Although there may be differences in style and presentation it was our desire to present the material in accordance with the expressed purpose and goals of the course. It was our sincere desire to write material that would be true to the Bible. It is the responsibility of the student to carefully compare it with the Word, to accept the things that are true and reject those things that are false.

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Lesson 1: Saul, Israel's First King (1 Samuel 8-12)

Introduction: Israel was led by judges, appointed by God, until they appointed a king. Their defeats were the result of sin, not the political incompetence of the judges. Israel presumed, that a stable monarchy, would put an end to the ups and downs experienced during the time of the judges. They showed their desire to be like the nations around them and rejected God's rule, when they asked for a king.

I. Israel Demands A King (1 Samuel 8)

- A. The sons of Samuel (vss. 1-4)
 - 1. They were evil judges.
 - 2. Remember the sons of Aaron (Lev. 10) and the sons of Eli (1 Sam.2:12).
- B. The people request a king (vss. 5-6)
 - 1. They desired to be like the nations around them (vs. 5)
 - 2. It displeased Samuel and he prayed to God (vs. 6).
 - 3. The people rejected God, not Samuel (vs. 7).
 - 4. Samuel warned them concerning the behavior of kings (vss. 9-19).
- C. The people refused to obey, and they demanded a king to judge them and to fight their battles (vs. 19).

Principles:

- 1. **We displease God, when we become dissatisfied with His way.**
- 2. **Today, men want to be like the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17).**
- 3. **People reject God's leadership in their lives, but God is still in control.**
- 4. **Today, many do not heed the warnings of God, even though the warnings are clear.**
- 5. **Today, many will refuse to obey; they will be responsible for their actions.**

II. Saul Chosen To Be King (1 Samuel 9)

- A. Saul, the man (vss. 1-2)
 - 1. The son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin (compare Saul of Tarsus, Paul, Rom. 11:1).
 - 2. Saul was choice, handsome, and tall.
- B. In search of lost donkeys
 - 1. It was on this occasion that Saul met Samuel.
 - 2. God spoke to Samuel and told him about Saul.
- C. Saul was anointed King by Samuel in a private ceremony (9:27-10:1).
 - 1. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul.
 - a. He was turned into "another man."
 - b. He was told to do as the "occasion demands."

c. God was with him and gave him "another heart."

D. Saul's Coronation (1 Sam. 10:24)

1. Saul hid in the equipment.
2. "Long live the king."

Principles:

- 1. We see the providence of God working to bring Saul and Samuel together. A search for lost donkeys led to Saul being anointed king. Seemingly insignificant events in our lives may lead to some important event.**
- 2. An attractive or handsome appearance does not necessarily mean one will be a good servant of God. Compare the appearance of David and his kingship.**
- 3. The Spirit of God seeks to turn us into other people with another heart.**
- 4. When God is "with us", we must always do as the "occasion demands."**

III. Samuel's Address To The People (1 Sam. 12)

A. The righteous acts of the Lord are remembered (vss.7-11).

B. Blessings from God are conditional (vss. 14-15; 24-25).

C. Thunder and rain were sent to show the wickedness of the people (vss. 17, 18).

D. Exhortation:

1. Do not go after empty things that cannot profit or deliver (vs. 21).
2. "I will teach you the good and right way."
3. Serve God in truth with all your heart.

Principles:

- 1. God is righteous and He keeps his promises. However, some promises are conditional.**
- 2. It is vanity to go after "empty" things today.**
- 3. God's right way must be taught.**
- 4. We must serve God in truth, with all of our heart.**

Questions: Lesson 1

1. Give some examples of people substituting their own way when they become dissatisfied with God's way.
2. List some warnings God gives people today that go unheeded.
3. In what ways do people desire to be like the world?
4. How often do we judge people by their appearance? Is this always a valid method (Read James 2:1-7)?
5. How does God change the hearts of people today? Give specific examples.
6. When can we say that "God is with us?" What kind of demands are placed on us when "God is with us?"
7. Give examples of God's conditional and unconditional promises.
8. What does it mean to go "after empty things" (Mat. 6:19-21)?
9. What does it mean to serve God in truth?
10. What is involved in serving God with "all your heart"?

Lesson 2: Saul, Disobedience (1 Samuel 13-15)

Introduction: The spirit of God came upon Saul after he was anointed king by Samuel. Before long, Saul sinned and lost the favor of God. In this lesson, we will study three events in the life of Saul that indicate his inability and unworthiness to be king of Israel.

I. Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice (1 Samuel 13)

- A. Israel's troops were mustered for war with the Philistines (vss. 1-4).
 - 1. Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines (vs.3).
 - 2. Israel became an "abomination" to the Philistines.
 - 3. The people were called together at Gilgal.
- B. The Philistines assembled a huge force to battle Israel (vs. 5).
- C. The people of Israel were "distressed" and "trembling" and began to hide (vss. 6,7).
- D. Saul offered an unlawful sacrifice.
 - 1. Samuel had delayed coming (vs. 8).
 - 2. Saul offered the burnt offering to ensure success in battle.
 - 3. Samuel arrived and questioned Saul about the sacrifice (vs. 11-14).
 - 4. Saul's excuse:
 - a. the Philistines were preparing to attack,
 - b. the people of Israel were scattering,
 - c. he needed to make supplication to the Lord,
 - d. "I felt compelled and offered a burnt offering" (vs. 12).
 - 5. Samuel responded, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God" (vs.13).
- E. God cursed Saul's monarchy (vs. 14).
 - 1. His kingdom would not continue.
 - 2. The Lord was seeking a man "after His own heart".

Principles:

- 1. In spite of excuses, the Lord is not pleased when people are disobedient to His commands.**
- 2. Some advocate "situation ethics." If such reasoning were valid, God would have excused Saul.**
- 3. God wants men and women who are "after His own heart."**
- 4. The fear exhibited by the Israelites was uncalled for. God was on their side, and He is on our side.**

II. Saul's Rash Oath (1 Samuel 14)

- A. The exploits of Jonathan (vss. 1-23)
 - 1. Jonathan and his armor bearer went to the Philistine camp.
 - 2. "For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few" (vs. 6).
 - 3. Jonathan and armor bearer killed about 20 Philistines.

4. The Philistines trembled and fled, pursued by the Israelites.
- B. Saul placed the people under an oath: "Cursed is the man who eats any food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies" (vs. 24).
 1. Joathan did not hear the oath; when he found some honeycomb, he ate it.
 2. The honeycomb revived him, "and his countenance brightened" (vs. 25-27).
 3. Jonathan found fault with his father's oath (vs. 29-30).
- C. Saul built an altar to the Lord (vss. 33-35).
- D. Jonathan was sentenced to death, but the people rescued him (vss.36-46).

Principles:

- 1. Numbers are unimportant, if we are doing the Lord's will.**
- 2. Impulsive and ill-considered actions can cause great harm.**

III. Saul Spares Agag (1 Sam. 15)

- A. Samuel commanded Saul to heed the words of the Lord (vs. 1).
- B. Saul was commanded to destroy the Amalekites (vs. 3).
 1. He was commanded to kill all the people and the livestock.
- C. Saul attacked the Amalekites but spared king Agag and the best of the livestock (vs. 9).
 1. They destroyed all they deemed worthless and despised, but saved all they thought to be good.
- D. The Lord regretted that He made Saul king. Samuel was sent to confront him (vss. 10-33).
 1. It grieved Samuel (vs. 11).
 2. Saul set up a monument to himself (vs.12).
 3. Saul claimed that he performed the commandment of the Lord (vs.13).
 4. Samuel spoke to Saul"
 - a. "When you were little in your own eyes..."(vs. 17)
 - b. You have "done evil in the sight of the Lord..."(vs. 19)
 - c. The Lord prefers obedience over sacrifice...(vs. 22).
 5. Saul acknowledged his sin. He claimed he did it because he feared the people (vs. 24).
 6. Saul requested pardon, but Samuel told him the kingdom would be taken from him (vss. 27-28).

Principles:

- 1. We can please the Lord only if we heed His word.**
- 2. We are not at liberty to disregard the commandments of God.**
- 3. We must be humble before God, remaining "little in our own eyes".**
- 4. God is not interested in excuses, when we sin. He wants repentance.**

Questions: Lesson 2

1. Why were the children of Israel afraid when the Philistines gathered for war?
2. When did Samuel finally arrive to offer the sacrifice?
3. Why was it wrong for Saul to offer the sacrifice?
4. Who would be the man "after God's own heart," to replace Saul?
5. Describe the faith of Jonathan exhibited in his fight against the Philistines.

How does this relate to our faith before our enemies?

6. List some other rash oaths recorded in the Bible.
7. Why do you think Saul kept insisting that he had obeyed the voice of the Lord?
8. How do the principles learned in this lesson relate to the creeds and worship practices of men today? Give some specific examples.
9. What does Samuel say about stubbornness and rebellion in 1 Sam. 15:23?

Lesson 3: David, Israel's New King (1 Sam. 16, 17, 24)

Introduction: Because of the sins of Saul, God instructed Samuel to anoint a new king. David was the man "after God's own heart", the one who would replace Saul as king of Israel. David proved himself to be a courageous and faithful man. He respected and trusted God.

I. David Anointed King (1 Samuel 16)

- A. Saul was rejected by the Lord from reigning over Israel (vs. 1).
- B. Samuel sent to house of Jesse the Bethlehemite to find a new king (vs. 2).
 - 1. Samuel feared the wrath of Saul.
 - 2. Samuel was told to take a heifer and go to sacrifice it in Bethlehem, inviting Jesse and his son.
- C. Samuel thought Jesse's son, Eliab was the obvious choice.
 - 1. God said, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature... For the Lord does not look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"(vs. 7).
 - 2. Seven sons passed before Samuel, but none of them was God's choice.
 - 3. Jesse called his youngest son, who was keeping the sheep. He was God's choice.
- D. Samuel anointed David in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

Principles:

- 1. The Lord rejects those who are disobedient.**
- 2. God judges the heart.**

II. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

- A. The armies of the Israelites and the Philistines were arrayed against each other (vs. 1-3).
- B. Goliath, the champion of the Philistines
 - 1. His height was 6 cubits and a span (vs.4).
 - 2. He had a bronze helmet, coat of mail weighing 5,000 shekels, bronze greaves on his legs, a bronze javelin, staff of spear like a weaver's beam, and iron spearhead weighed 600 shekels.
 - 3. Challenged the Israelites to send a man against him.
- C. Saul and his soldiers were dismayed and greatly afraid (vs. 11).
- D. David was sent by his father to deliver food to his brothers who followed Saul to battle (vss. 13-18).
- E. David displayed courage:
 - 1. "who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? (vs. 26).
 - 2. "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this

Philistine" (vs. 32).

3. "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God" (vs. 36).
4. "The Lord...will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine (vs. 37).

F. David killed Goliath.

1. He rejected Saul's armor.
2. David took his staff and five smooth stones for his sling.
3. He spoke to Goliath: "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand...Then all this assembly will know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands" (vss. 46-47).
4. He killed Goliath with a stone from his sling, and the Philistine army was routed.

Principles:

- 1. Those who do not trust in God will be afraid.**
- 2. Defying God brings sure defeat.**
- 3. The battle is the Lord's.**

III. David Spares Saul (1 Sam. 24)

A. Enmity between Saul and David developed (1 Sam. 18-23).

1. Jonathan, the son of Saul, was David's friend.
2. Saul was jealous of David's popularity with the people.
3. David married Michal, Saul's oldest daughter.
4. Saul persecuted David, and David fled for his life.

B. David spared the life of "God's anointed" (1 Sam. 24).

1. Saul pursued David.
2. Saul entered a cave without knowing that David was inside.
3. David secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.
4. David restrained his servants from killing Saul, God's anointed (vs. 6).
5. David later revealed the piece of robe in attempt to convince Saul that he meant him no harm.
6. Saul said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good whereas I have rewarded you with evil....And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king" (vss. 16-22).

Principles:

- 1. Jealousy is a destructive emotion.**
- 2. We need to respect the things God has appointed.**
- 3. Repay no one evil for evil (Rom. 12:17-21).**

Questions: Lesson 3

1. Why did God reject Saul from being king?
2. Who looked more like a king, Saul or David? What does this tell us about outward appearance?
3. Why were the Israelites afraid of Goliath?
4. What do we use today to fight the Lord's battles? Who has armed us for this battle?
5. What will be the final outcome of the Lord's battle against evil?
6. Why did Saul believe David was unqualified to fight Goliath (1 Sam. 17:33; 1 Tim. 4:12)?
7. Why did Saul resent David?
8. Why did David restrain his servants from killing Saul in the cave?
9. Who would avenge David against Saul (1 Sam. 24:12-15)?

Lesson 4: David

Introduction: Samuel died (1 Sam. 25:1). Saul continued as king, and David was on the run. In this lesson we will consider David and Abigail, and the last days of Saul.

I. David and Abigail (1 Samuel 25)

A. Nabal:

1. A rich man of Maon, who was "harsh and evil in his doings" (vs. 2,3).
2. He had a wife named Abigail, a woman of "good understanding and beautiful appearance" (vs. 3).

B. David sent ten men to Nabal to request food(vs, 5-9).

C. Nabal refused to feed David and his men (vs. 10-11).

D. David and 400 men prepared to attack Nabal (vs. 12,13).

E. Abigail heard of her husband's evil response. She gathered supplies and went out to meet David (vs. 14-22).

F. Abigail met David.

1. She fell on her face before him (vs. 23).
2. She begged for mercy from David, denouncing the actions of her husband (vs. 25).
3. "the Lord has held you back...from avenging" (vs. 26).
4. She appealed to David's goodness to curb vengeance on her family (vs. 28-31).

G. David responded with blessing

1. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me" (vs. 32)!
2. "Blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me...from avenging myself with my own hand" (vs. 33).
3. "I have heeded your voice and respected your person" (vs. 35).

H. The Lord struck Nabal and he died (vs. 36-38).

I. David married Abigail (vs. 39-43).

Principles:

1. **The desire for revenge is a strong emotion, but vengeance is not justified (Rom. 12:17-21).**
2. **It is a blessing when someone turns us from revenge.**
3. **Vengeance belongs to God.**

II. David Spares Saul A Second Time (1 Samuel 26)

A. Saul went to the Wilderness of Ziph with 3,000 men in pursuit of David (vs. 2).

B. David came to Saul's encampment (vs. 5).

1. David and Abishai entered the camp at night while Saul and his army slept (vs. 7).
2. Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time" (vs. 8)!
3. David said, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the

- Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?" (vs. 9).
4. "the Lord will strike him" (vs. 10).
 5. David took the spear and jug of water by Saul's head (vs. 11).
 6. The army slept because the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall on them (vs. 12).
- C. David spoke to Saul from a distance.
1. David asked why he was being pursued (vs. 18-20).
 2. Saul said he had sinned against David and promised him no more harm (vs. 21).
 3. David said, "Here is the king's spear" (vs. 22).
 4. David did not kill Saul because he was "valued" in his eyes (vs. 24).

Principles:

- 1. We must respect authority and those in power (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).**
- 2. Vengeance belongs to God (Romans 12:17-21).**

III. The Death of Saul (1 Samuel 31)

- A. The Philistines fought against Israel (vs. 1).
1. They killed the sons of Saul, including Jonathan (vs. 2).
 2. Saul was severely wounded by archers (3).
 3. Saul asked his armorbearer to kill him so that he would not be abused by the Philistines. The armorbearer refused, so Saul fell on his own sword (vs. 4).
- B. They cut off Saul's head, put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan (vs. 9,10).
1. Valiant men of Israel traveled all night to get Saul's body (vs. 11-13).
- C. David received word and mourned, wept, and fasted for Jonathan and Saul (2 Sam. 1:11,12).

Principle: It is devastating when one becomes entangled in the "pollutions of the world" (2 Pet. 2:18-22).

Questions: Lesson 4

1. What does *Nabal* mean?
2. How did Abigail turn David from vengeance?
3. How are we to treat those who mistreat us?
4. What did Abigail do after her husband, Nabal, died?
5. Why was it so easy for David and Abishai to enter Saul's encampment?
6. What was David's attitude toward Saul?
7. What attitude should we have toward those who rule over us? Is it different for us because we live in the United States, a democracy?
8. Vengeance belongs to God. How is that vengeance carried out?
9. How serious is it when a Christian becomes entangled in the pollutions of the world?
10. What mistakes did Saul make?

Lesson 5: David (2 Samuel 1-10)

Introduction: When David became king, he ruled Judah for 7.5 years then both Judah and Israel another 33 years. Before he sinned with Bathsheba, David defeated his enemies, remained loyal to his friends and to God, and ruled a strong kingdom. It was during this time that he received a promise from God that his throne would endure forever.

I. David Ruled 7.5 Years In Hebron (2 Sam. 1-4)

- A. Saul's murderer was slain (1:1-18).
- B. David became king of Judah in Hebron (2:4), and Ish-bosheth became king of Israel (2:8-11).
- C. Abner defected (3:12-21), was killed (3:26-30), then lamented by David (3:31-39).
- D. Israel began to weaken under Ish-bosheth (4:1-3).
- E. Ish-bosheth's commanders killed him and brought his head to David (4:5-8).
- F. David avenged the death of Ish-bosheth (4:9-12).

II. David Moved Into Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5-6)

- A. David took Jerusalem and called it the "City of David" (5:6-10).
- B. David received riches from king Hiram of Tyre (5:11-12).
- C. David acquired more concubines and children (5:13-16).
- D. With God's counsel, David defeated the Philistines twice (5:17-25).
- E. David transported the ark improperly; Uzzah died (6:1-9).
- F. Obed-Edom was blessed while the ark remained in his house (6:10-12).
- G. David correctly transported the ark to Jerusalem (6:12-23).

Principles:

1. **God requires obedience.**
2. **"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12).**

III. The Covenant Concerning David's Throne (2 Sam. 7)

- A. David received encouragement from Nathan to build a house for God (7:1-3).
- B. Later, Nathan revealed a prophecy preventing the building of a house, but establishing David's throne (7:4-17).
- C. David responded with praise and humility (7:18-29).

Principles:

1. **God determines His own will (2 Sam. 7:5; 1 Chron. 28:3; 1 Kgs. 5:3-5).**
2. **God magnifies Himself by achieving His will through man (2 Sam. 7:25-26).**
3. **God continually refers to the nation, land, and seed promise (2 Sam. 7:12,**

23).

4. It is good to remain humble, even though God regards us as special (2 Sam. 7:18).

IV. David Secured Peace And Showed Kindness (2 Sam. 8-10)

- A. David defeated the surrounding enemies (2 Sam. 8).
- B. David showed kindness to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9; 1 Sam. 18:3; 20:12-17; 23:18)).
- C. David showed kindness to Hanun the Ammonite (10:1-2).
- D. The Ammonites did not trust David's messengers and shamed them (10:2-5).
- E. The Ammonites united with the Arameans against Israel, but lost the battle (10:6-19).

Principles:

- 1. God protects His children (2 Sam. 7:9; 8:6, 14; Psa. 23L4-6).**
- 2. People often mistrust you when you try to be kind (2 Sam. 10:2-3).**

Questions: Lesson 5

1. How did Ish-bosheth's murderers describe Saul (2 Sam. 4:8)?

Why was David displeased?

2. Thought question: Why do you suppose that David was not grateful that these men took revenge on Saul, especially after Saul had sought his life (1 Sam. 24:8-12, 21-24; 2 Sam. 1:14)?

3. Why was Uzzah struck dead by God? Does this seem fair?

4. David's throne and descendent would rule forever (2 Sam. 7:12-16). How was this prophecy fulfilled (1 Chron. 28:2-7; Heb. 1:1-5; Acts 2:29-36)?

5. After God promised David that his descendents would rule on his throne, he responded with a beautiful prayer (2 Sam. 7:18-29). Statements from his prayer are listed below. What do these statements tell us of David's heart?

"Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far" (vs. 18).

"...establish it forever and do as You have said. So let Your name be magnified forever" (vss. 25-26).

"And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true" (vs. 28).

6. Why did David want to be kind to Hanun (2 Sam. 10:1-4)?

Was David really trying to be kind, or was there a hidden motive?

Did Hanun trust David?

What does this say about Hanun?

Do we misjudge the kindness of others? If so, when? Why?

What does this say about us?

Lesson 6: David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12)

Introduction: David was "a man after God's own heart". In this lesson, however, we will see how sin almost destroyed him.

I. David Sins With Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11:2-5)

- A. David saw a beautiful woman bathing.
- B. He inquired about her.
- C. He was told that she was Uriah's wife.
- D. David took her and committed adultery with her.
- E. Bathsheba conceived and told David

Principles:

- 1. Evil thoughts will produce evil deeds (Phil. 4:8; Jas. 1:14-15).**
- 2. Even "a man after God's own heart" can sin.**

II. David Dealt With Uriah (2 Sam. 11:6-25)

- A. David sent for Uriah under a pretext of intelligence.
- B. David sent Uriah home with a gift to follow.
- C. Uriah did not enter his house.
- D. David kept Uriah an additional two days and made him intoxicated.
- E. Uriah still did not enter his house.
- F. David instructed Joab to get Uriah killed.
- G. Joab made sure Uriah was killed and notified David.
- H. David encouraged Joab.

Principle:

- 1. When being mistreated, it is possible to retain integrity (11:10-11).**
- 2. People will go to great lengths to cover their sins.**

III. David Married Bathsheba (11:26-27)

- A. Bathsheba mourned her husband.
- B. She became David's wife.
- C. She bore their son.

IV. Nathan Confronted David (2 Sam. 12:1-15)

- A. Nathan told the story of a rich shepherd stealing from a poor shepherd.

- B. David pronounced judgment on the rich shepherd.
- C. Nathan said, "You are the man."
- D. David said, "I have sinned."

Principles:

- 1. We easily see sin in others, but not in ourselves.**
- 2. Our sins will find us out.**
- 3. We must admit our guilt if we want to repent (Psa. 51).**

V. David's Son Died (2 Sam. 12:15-23)

- A. The Lord struck "Uriah's widow".
- B. David humbled himself. He fasted and prayed to God.
- C. On the seventh day, the child died.
- D. David worshiped the Lord and broke his fast.

Principles:

- 1. We should worship God in joy and in sorrow (2 Sam. 12:19-20).**
- 2. We should always seek God's help.**

VI. Solomon Was Born (2 Sam. 12:24-25)

- A. David had relations with "his wife", Bathsheba.
- B. Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon.

Questions: Lesson 6

1. When tempted, what are two ways to avoid sin (1 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 6:10-13)?
2. What is one way to minimize temptations like the one David faced (Isa. 33:15; Prov. 6:25; Mat. 5:28)?
3. As David plotted against Uriah, he made statements that appeared to be routine, even kind. In reality, however, they were statements to promote evil intentions. Discuss the two statements below. Why do they sound kind and routine? Why were they evil?
 - a. "Go down to your house and wash your feet" (11:8).
 - b. "Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him" (11:25).
4. How did David respond to the story of the rich farmer (12:5)? What does this say about seeing sin in others? In ourselves?
5. Which of the following describes Nathan's confrontation of David?
 - a. Nathan: "She had no business out there."
David: "I think she did it on purpose. She knew she could get to me like that."
 - b. Nathan: "Look, that law about adultery is 500 years old anyway."
David: "Yeah, but some of our people expect us to live in the stone age."
 - c. Nathan: "You are the man."
David: "I have sinned."
 - d. Nathan: "Lighten up. Anyone in your sandals would have done the same thing."
David: "I know. I think I'm a perfectly normal man."

6. The statements above (a through d in the previous question) are typical responses to sin. What type of attitude does each statement reflect?

a. "I think she did it on purpose to get to me."

b. "Some expect us to live in the stone age."

c. "I have sinned."

d. "I'm a perfectly normal man."

Lesson 7: Amnon and Tamar (2 Samuel 13)

Introduction: After David sinned with Bathsheba, Nathan told him that his family would be involved in murder, insurrection, and sexual immorality. Soon afterwards, his sons began fulfilling that prophecy. The first recorded incident is the topic of this lesson.

I. Amnon Desires Tamar (2 Sam. 13:1-6)

- A. Tamar is described as beautiful.
- B. Amnon fell in love with her, so much that it made him sick.
- C. He confided in Jonadab, his cousin.
- D. Jonadab advised Amnon how to reach Tamar.
- E. Amnon pretended to be ill and asked David for Tamar's care.

Principles:

1. Men can have unlawful desires even when women remain modest.
2. If we have evil thoughts, we can usually find someone else who will be eager to hear them.
3. Our evil intentions can be encouraged by others.

II. Amnon Violated Tamar (2 Sam. 13:7-14)

- A. David asked Tamar to care for Amnon.
- B. Tamar went to Amnon's house and cooked for him.
- C. Amnon violated Tamar.

Principle: We may be abused while doing good.

III. Amnon Hated Tamar (2 Sam. 13:15-19)

- A. Amnon hated Tamar more than he loved her originally.
- B. He had her thrown out of his house.
- C. Tamar left in humility.

Principle: We may be hated for no apparent reason.

IV. Absalom Killed Amnon (2 Sam. 13:20-29)

- A. Absalom learned the truth but kept silent.
- B. David became angry.
- C. Absalom did not speak to Amnon because of hate.
- D. Absalom persuaded David to let Amnon travel with him.

- E. Absalom commanded his servants to wait for Amnon, and then to get him drunk and kill him.
- F. All of David's sons fled.

Principles:

- 1. Problems cannot be worked out by remaining silent.**
- 2. Hate will produce evil thoughts and actions.**

V. David Heard Of The Event And Absalom Fled (2 Sam. 13:30-39).

- A. The first report inaccurately claimed that Absalom had killed all of David's sons.
- B. David reacted.
- C. Jonadab told David that Absalom had killed Amnon only.
- D. Absalom fled.
- E. The sons returned and wept with David.
- F. Absalom remained in Geshur for three years.
- G. David longed for Absalom

Principles:

- 1. A parent continues to love his children, regardless of their deeds.**
- 2. "Yes Men" have existed since ancient times.**

Questions : Lesson 7

1. Describe Amnon's feelings toward Tamar. At first, did he show self-control? Why or why not?
2. How would you describe Jonadab (13:3-5; 32-35)? Does the Bible portray him as a bearer of bad news?
3. How did Jonadab influence Amnon?
4. What does the Bible say about the influence of others (1 Cor. 15:33)?
5. Was Tamar mistreated because she was being punished by the Lord? What does the Bible teach about misfortune (Jn. 9:1-3)?
6. Each of the verses below relate how Absalom dealt with the incident. What did he do?
 - a. 13:20 --
 - b. 13:22 --
 - c. 13:24, 28 --
7. What were David's feelings toward Amnon (13:21, 36)?
8. How did David feel about Absalom (13:37-39)?

9. Discuss verse 13:22.

a. Did Absalom have a right to be upset?

b. How did he feel toward Amnon?

c. What did he avoid doing with Amnon?

10. After Tamar was violated, how many years passed before Absalom killed Amnon?

Lesson 8: Absalom (2 Samuel 14-18)

Introduction: After Absalom killed Amnon, he fled and avoided David for several years. When he returned, he encouraged rebellion among the people.

I. Absalom Returned To Jerusalem (2 Sam. 14:1-33)

- A. A woman and Joab plead for Absalom's return (vss. 1-20).
- B. Absalom returned (vss. 21-23).
- C. Absalom was sent to his house without seeing David's face (vs. 24).
- D. He continued cutting hair (200 shekels of hair each year) (vs. 26).
- E. Absalom burned Joab's field to get attention (vss. 28-32).
- F. He finally had an audience with the king (vs. 33).

II. Absalom Revolted (2 Sam. 15:1-15)

- A. Absalom elevated himself and criticized the king (vss. 1-4).
- B. He was honored among the people, and stole their hearts (vss. 5-6).
- C. Absalom conspired to overthrow David under the pretence of serving God (vss. 7-11).

Principles:

- 1. People elevate themselves by criticizing others.**
- 2. People are often led astray by the persuasion of others.**
- 3. "Religion" is an effective cover for evil.**

III. David Fled Jerusalem (2 Sam. 15:14-16:14)

- A. David left 10 concubines (15:16).
- B. 600 men accompanied him (vs. 18).
- C. Ittai was loyal to David (vss. 19-22).
- D. The country wept as David crossed the Kidron (vs. 23).
- E. Zadok and company brought the ark of the covenant with David (vs. 24).
- F. David asked them to return to Jerusalem (vss. 25-30).
- G. Ahithophel openly sided with Absalom (vs. 31).
- H. Hushai offered to join David (vs. 32).
- I. David asked Hushai to spy in Jerusalem (vss. 33-37).
- J. Ziba met David and slandered Mephibosheth (16:1-4).
- K. Shimei cursed and threw rocks at David (vss. 5-14).

Principles:

- 1. Loyalty involves a selfless heart (2 Sam. 15:21).**

2. Loyalty results in service (2 Sam. 15:29, 37).

IV. Hushai And Ahithophel Gave Counsel To Absalom (2 Sam. 16:15-17:23).

- A. Hushai feigned loyalty to Absalom (16:15-19).
- B. Ahithophel advised Absalom to take David's concubines (vss. 20-23).
- C. Ahithophel obtained support as he requested an army to pursue David (17:1-4).
- D. Hushai undermined Ahithophel by offering conflicting counsel (vss. 5-13).
- E. Absalom and Israel accepted Hushai's advice and rejected Ahithophel's (vs. 14).
- F. Hushai used the Levites to inform David of the plan (vss. 15-21).
- G. David's army reacted to Hushai's advice by crossing the Jordan (vs. 22).
- H. Ahithophel committed suicide (vs. 23).

Principles:

- 1. God executes His sentences (2 Sam. 12:11-12; 16:20-23).**
- 2. People can be hurt when others express their disapproval (2 Sam. 17:7, 14, 23).**

V. The Battle In Ephraim (2 Sam. 17:24-18:17)

- A. David went to Mahanaim; Absalom camped in Gilead, across the Jordan (17:24-26).
- B. Shobi the Ammonite brought food to David in the wilderness (vss. 27-29).
- C. David appointed Joab, Abishai, and Ittai as commanders (18:1-2).
- D. David instructed the commanders to be gentle to Absalom (vs. 5).
- E. David's army was victorious, killing 20,000 of Absalom's men (vss. 6-8).
- F. Absalom's hair became entangled in an oak tree (vs. 9).
- G. Joab heard of it and rebuked the messengers for not killing Absalom (vss. 10-13).
- H. Joab and 10 men killed Absalom (vss. 14-15).
- I. Joab halted the attack; the people buried Absalom (vss. 16-18).

VI. David Learned About The Events (2 Sam. 18:19-33)

- A. Ahimaaz and the Cushite ran to bring David the news (vss. 19-23).
- B. David heard that they were coming and expected good news (vss. 24-27).
- C. Ahimaaz told only of the victory (vss. 28-29).
- D. The Cushite told David all the news (vss. 30-32).
- E. David wept (vs. 33).

Principles:

- 1. Telling good news is easy, and people love to do it.**
- 2. Parents love their children, even when their children sin.**

Questions: Lesson 8

1. Discuss the events recorded in 2 Sam. 15:1-6

What was Absalom saying (vss. 1-4)?

What effect did this have (vss. 5-6)?

What does this say about Absalom? About the people?

2. What do the proverbs say about this type of behavior?

Prov. 24:1-4 --

Prov. 12:5-7 --

Prov. 6:16-19 --

3. How would you describe Ittai (2 Sam. 15:19-22)?

4. What did Nathan tell David to expect (2 Sam. 12:11-12)?

5. Did David see God's punishment executed (2 Sam. 15:13; 16:20-23)?

6. Why did Ahithophel commit suicide (2 Sam. 17:23)?

7. Who brought the news of battle to David (2 Sam. 18:19-33)?

Did these men obey Joab reluctantly? Why or why not?

8. What did David say when he learned about Absalom's death (2 Sam. 18:33)?

9. What does David's reaction tell about his heart?

Lesson 9: David - The Census (2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21, 29)

Introduction: 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 deal with the consequences of a great sin. A terrible three day plague killed 70,000 men. Josephus describes people falling dead even as they buried other family members. Others are described as lingering in great pain prior to death. What sin was so great that it demanded such a severe punishment? What could anger God so much that He would do this to His own chosen people, including David, the man after God's own heart?

I. David Numbered The People (2 Samuel 24:1-9; 1 Chron. 21:1-6)

- A. We are not told specifically why this was wrong. See Exodus 30:11-16. It may be that a census was only to be conducted at the command of the Lord, and only for a specific purpose: to glorify God, and to remind them that they owed their lives to God.
- B. We are not told why David ordered the census.
 - 1. Had David come to think of the children of Israel as his people instead of God's people (1 Chron. 21:3)?
 - 2. Was David trusting in his own military might rather than trusting God?
 - 3. Was it because of David's vanity and pride?
- C. The sin was not David's alone. God was angry with the whole nation of Israel (2 Sam. 24:1). Apparently, there was some other sin prior to this that demanded punishment. In any case, the people went along with the census without objection.

Principles:

- 1. **God will punish sin.**
- 2. **God's judgments are righteous and just.**
- 3. **God will chastise His children (Heb. 12:3-11).**

II. Choice Of Punishment (2 Sam. 24:10-14)

- A. Joab objected, knowing the census was wrong, but was overruled by King David (vs. 3).
- B. David recognized his sin 9 months into the census.
- C. David was given a choice of punishment.
 - 1. Seven years of famine
 - 2. Three months fleeing before enemies
 - 3. Three day's plague
- D. David chose to throw himself on the mercy of the Lord (vs. 14).

III. The Angel Of The Lord (1 Chron. 21:15-18)

- A. Jerusalem was to be destroyed, but God had mercy and stopped the plague. However, the sword of the angel remained drawn (1 Chron. 21:15-16).
- B. David confessed his guilt and pleaded for the people.

C. David was commanded to erect an altar to the Lord (1 Chron. 21:18).

IV. The Sacrifice (1 Chron. 21:19-30)

- A. Ornan offered to provide the threshing floor, oxen, wood and wheat for the grain offering (vss. 19-23).
- B. David refused to offer to the Lord that which cost him nothing (vss. 24-26).
- C. The offering was made, and then the sword of the angel was sheathed (vs. 27).
- D. David offered sacrifices here instead of the altar Moses had built in Gibeon because he was afraid of the angel (vss. 29-30).

Principles:

- 1. By definition, a sacrifice has to cost us something.**
- 2. Repentance, proper worship, and obedience restores our relationship with God.**
- 3. The mercy of God endures forever.**

V. The Death Of David (1 Chron. 29)

- A. Before David died, he gathered materials for the construction of the temple. He knew that he would not be allowed to build the temple, so he instructed the people to help his son Solomon (1 Chron. 22:17; 29:1-9).
- B. David had to deal with his son, Adonijah, who tried to take the throne. Solomon was made king according to the promise made to David in 2 Sam. 7:12-17 (1 Chron. 21:21-25).
- C. David died "in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor" (2 Chron. 29:28).

Questions: Lesson 9

1. What are the wages of sin? How are they to be paid? How do the following passages relate to these questions? 1 Pet. 2:21-24; 1 Jn. 2:1, 2; Rom. 3:24-26
2. Does God chastise His people today? How? What do we learn from the chastisement of God?
3. Read Psalms 30 and 103. Some have suggested that these psalms were sung after the plague ended. What can we learn to pray or sing about from these psalms? What can you find in the Bible regarding God's mercy? Why is God's mercy referred to as everlasting?
4. Compare the sin of David's census with the sin of Adam and Eve. How was Satan involved? Why was God so angry with Israel and with David?
5. List sacrifices we are to make. In each case, what price do we pay? For example, singing is compared to a great animal sacrifice in Ps. 69:30,31. What price does singing cost?
6. What is necessary for us to be in close relationship with our God? What destroys that relationship?
7. How old was David when he died (2 Sam. 5:4)? What was his physical condition in his old age, and how is that important in understanding Adonijah's attempt to become king? Why did Adonijah have a right to the throne (2 Sam. 3:4; 1 Kgs. 1:22)? Why did he not become king (Deut. 17:15; 2 Sam. 12:24-25)?
8. Read 1 Kings 1 and 2. What important people supported Adonijah? What important people did not support him? Before he died, what did David do to make Solomon king?

9. How does 2 Sam. 7:11-17 relate to 1 Kgs. 2:1-12? In verse 12, the throne is referred to as David's, but in 1 Chron. 29:23 it is referred to as Jehovah's. How can it be both?

Lesson 10: Solomon - Wisdom, Prosperity, Temple

Introduction: When we hear the name Solomon, we immediately think of wisdom, wealth, and the temple. He is also remembered for his unfaithfulness. In the next three lessons we will study this important character in Bible history.

I. Solomon Established As King (1 Kgs. 2 & 3)

- A. Adonijah's plot fell apart, his support evaporated, and he was left pleading for his life (1 Kgs. 1:1-53).
- B. Solomon spared him, but Adonijah still coveted the throne. He asked for the hand of Abishag the Shunamite in marriage.
- C. This plan failed also and he was executed (2:13-25).
- D. Joab and Shimei were also executed, and Abiathar was exiled (2:26-46).
- E. Solomon made an alliance with Egypt and married Pharaoh's daughter (3:1).

II. The Request For Wisdom (1 Kgs. 3)

- A. Solomon loved the Lord and offered sacrifices at Gibeon, one of the great high places.
- B. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask! What shall I give the?"
- C. In asking for wisdom, Solomon showed his concern for serving God first. Therefore, God blessed him with power, wealth, and long life if he remained faithful (3:14).
- D. Now, instead of sacrificing at Gibeon (a high place), Solomon offered sacrifices in Jerusalem before the ark of the covenant.

III. Solomon's Wisdom Displayed (1 Kgs. 3:16-28)

- A. Solomon displayed his wisdom in revealing the true mother of the living child.
- B. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the Egyptians and was known world-wide.

Principles:

- 1. Our priorities should be to serve God first, others second, and ourselves last.**
- 2. We should worship as God commands.**
- 3. God gives wisdom and prosperity.**

IV. Solomon's Prosperity (1 Kgs. 4:20-28)

- A. Judah and Israel prospered.
- B. Solomon's reign extended over a wide area (4:21).
- C. Gold was imported by the shipload, and silver was so common that it had no worth (2 Chron. 9:13-28).
- D. God blessed Israel with prosperity through the wisdom of Solomon.

V. Solomon Builds The Temple (1 Kgs. 5 & 6)

- A. Before he died, David instructed Solomon to build the temple.
- B. Solomon had close ties with Hiram, King of Tyre, as had his father before him.
- C. A labor force out of Israel went to Lebanon in shifts of 10,000.
- D. 70,000 carried burdens, 80,000 quarried stone, and 3,300 supervised (5:13-18).
- E. Promise of God during the building of the temple (6:11-13). Compare 2 Sam. 7:12-16.

VI. The Temple (1 Kgs. 6)

- A. The building
 - 1. Date: 480 years after the exodus (vs. 1)
 - 2. Length: 60 cubits; width: 20 cubits; height: 30 cubits (vs. 2)
 - 3. Porch: 20 x 10 cubits (vs. 3)
 - 4. Windows (vs. 4)
 - 5. Three stories of compartments outside the walls of the temple proper (vss. 5-6)
 - 6. House built of stone (vs. 7)
 - 7. Door to side-chambers, and stairs (vs. 8)
 - 8. House covered with beams and planks of cedar (vs. 9)
 - 9. Stories: each 5 cubits high (vs. 10)
- B. Internal arrangements of the temple building
 - 1. Walls of cedar, floors of fir (or cypress) (vs. 15)
 - 2. The inner sanctuary - "the most holy place" - 20 cubits (vs. 16)
 - 3. In front of the sanctuary - the holy place - 40 cubits (vs. 17)
 - 4. Cedar walls - ornamentation (vs. 18)
 - 5. Most Holy Place - place for the ark of the covenant (vs. 19)
 - 6. Most Holy Place - a perfect cube, overlaid with gold (vs. 20)
 - 7. Inside of house overlaid with gold, chains of gold before sanctuary (vs. 21)
 - 8. Altar overlaid with gold (vs. 22)
 - 9. Two cherubim in the inner sanctuary (vss. 23-28)
 - 10. The walls, floors, and doors - and their ornamentation (vss. 29-35)
- C. Completion of the temple (vs. 37-38)

Questions: Lesson 10

1. Why was Gibeon called the "great high place" (2 Chron. 1:3; 1 Chron. 21:29)?
2. What attitudes did Solomon's prayer reflect? Describe God's response.
3. How is 1 Kgs. 4:20 related to Gen. 22:17; 32:12? How is 1 Kgs. 4:21 related to Gen. 15:18-21?
4. Why was Adonijah's request for Abishag the Shunammite a threat to Solomon's authority?
5. Why was Joab executed (2 Sam. 3:22-30; 20:8-12; 1 Kgs. 1:7), Shimei told to stay in Jerusalem (1 Kgs. 2:8-9; 2 Sam. 16:5-14), and Abiathar exiled? How was this a fulfillment of God's word (1 Sam. 2:31-36)?
6. Comment on wisdom as it relates to the following passages. Job 28; Prov. 1:20-2:22; 1 Cor. 1:19-21; Js. 1:5.
7. How was Jesus greater than Solomon (Mt. 12:42)?
8. Jesus said, "...it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 19:23-24). How does wealth affect us? Comment on Prov. 30:7-9; Lk. 12:13-21; Mk. 12:43-44.
9. What was the significance of the temple (1 Kgs. 8:13; 27-30; 9:3)?
10. Describe Israel's worship in the early years of Solomon's reign. What were the "high places"? Compare 1 Kgs. 3:2 with Lev. 17:1-9 and Deut. 12:2-5, 13-14. Some people feel that they can worship God anywhere. Does it matter to God how or where we worship? Is it important to assemble with the saints to worship?

Lesson 11: Solomon - Speech, Prayer, Blessing, Dedication

Introduction: 1 Kings 8 and 9 deal with the events surrounding the completion of the temple. We should understand the nature of a temple and its implications. It is interesting that the surrounding nations had similar buildings for their temples (i.e. a room like the Most Holy Place etc.). However, the Israelites had no idol in the inner sanctuary, only a box - the ark of the covenant..

I. The Ark Was Brought Into The Temple (1 Kgs. 8:1-11)

- A. Feast in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month
- B. So many sacrifices were made that they could not be numbered.
- C. The ark was placed in the inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.
- D. "The cloud filled the house of the Lord."

II. Solomon's Speech (1 Kgs. 8:12-21)

- A. The nature of the temple is defined.
- B. Solomon reminded Israel of David's wish to build a temple (1 Chron. 28:5, 6).
- C. Solomon reminded them of Egypt.
- D. They are also reminded of God's promise. (See also 2 Sam. 7:11-16.)

Principles:

- 1. A temple is a prepared place for God to dwell.**
- 2. Sacrifices are made to prepare the dwelling place of God.**
- 3. God promised that He would live there.**

III. Solomon's Prayer (1 Kgs. 8:22-53)

- A. Prayer offered before the altar, in public
- B. Solomon prayed on his knees on a scaffold built for the purpose. (Compare 1 Kgs. 8:22, 54; 2 Chron. 6:12-13.)
- C. Promises of God were emphasized.
- D. Solomon petitioned God to hear the prayers of His people for mercy and forgiveness.
- E. Some of the characteristics of God are outlined in this prayer.

Principles:

- 1. We should pray together as God's people.**
- 2. Forgiveness is always conditional.**

IV. Blessing Of The Congregation (1 Kgs. 8:54-61)

- A. God's promises were fulfilled.
- B. Therefore, Solomon prayed for God's continued presence.
- C. He also prayed for faithfulness of the people.
- D. All people of the earth were to know that the Lord is God because of Israel's relationship with God.
- E. Therefore, they were to keep God's commandments.

V. Dedication Of The Temple (1 Kgs. 8:62-66)

- A. Peace offering of 22,000 bulls and 120,000 sheep
- B. On the same day, Solomon offered burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.
- C. The court in front of the house of the Lord was used.
- D. Solomon and all of Israel feasted. On the eighth day, the people returned to their tents, thankful for what God had done for them.

Principles:

- 1. As God's people, we have no greater blessing than God's continuing presence.**
- 2. The world should be able to see that the Lord is God because of the relationship we have with God.**
- 3. Our worship should overflow. We should never think "it is enough."**

VI. God Appeared To Solomon (1 Kgs. 9:1-9)

- A. God's promise to dwell in the temple (vs. 3).
- B. Conditions of the covenant were restated.

Questions: Lesson 11

1. Compare the accounts of the bringing of the ark to Jerusalem in 2 Sam. 6:12-19 and 1 Chron. 15-16.
2. On what occasion was the ark brought into the temple (1 Kgs. 8:2; Lev. 23:34)?
3. What was the most important part of the temple? Explain.
4. What were the contents of the ark (1 Kgs. 8:9; Heb. 9:4; Ex. 16:32-34; 25:16, 21; 31:18; 32:15-16; 34:1-4, 27-28; Deut. 9:9-11; 10:1-5; Num. 17:10)?
5. How did God show His approval of the temple (1 Kgs. 8:10-11; compare Ex. 40:34-38)?
6. What was the temple (1 Kgs. 8:13)? How do other statements in this chapter modify this statement?
7. What is God's temple today (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:1-5)?
8. What promises did Solomon say were fulfilled (2 Sam. 7:11-16)?
9. What characteristic of God was especially prominent in Solomon's prayer (1 Kgs. 8:22-26)? Notice the influence of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

10. What important spiritual insight did Solomon express in 1 Kgs. 8:27?

11. What was Solomon's view toward foreigners (1 Kgs. 8:41-43; 59, 60). What was Israel's mission in the world?

12. What unusual measure was taken due to the abundance of animals sacrificed (1 Kgs. 8:62-64)? Why were the people "joyful and glad of heart" as they returned to their homes?

13. Was God's commitment to "put His name there forever" (1 Kgs. 9:3) conditional or unconditional? Note also the reference in 1 Kgs. 9:1-9 to 2 Sam. 7:11-16.

Lesson 12: Solomon - Queen of Sheba, Wealth, Wives

Introduction: 1 Kings 10 and 11 complete our study of Solomon. We read again of his wisdom and wealth toward the end of his reign. We read of his great apostasy. We also begin to see that perhaps not all of Solomon's subjects are as happy as the Queen of Sheba would think. In our next lessons, we will see how discontent led to a divided kingdom.

I. Visit Of The Queen Of Sheba (1 Kgs. 10:1-13)

- A. The queen came to test Solomon with hard questions.
- B. She spoke with him about all that was in her heart, and there was nothing that Solomon could not explain.
- C. She came with a great retinue that was designed to impress, but she was the one who was amazed at the wealth and wisdom of Solomon.
- D. They exchanged gifts, but it appears that Solomon gave even more to the queen than he received from her.
- E. The queen noted how happy Solomon's servants must have been (1 Kgs. 10:8).

II. Solomon's Wealth (1 Kgs. 10:14-29)

- A. Solomon received 666 talents of gold yearly. A talent is equal to 75.5 pounds, so Solomon yearly received over 50,000 pounds of gold!
- B. There was also the income from traders who went to the kings of Arabia.
- C. Solomon's throne was made of ivory and then covered with gold.
- D. Notice the elaborate construction in vs. 19-20.
- E. Everything was of gold, since silver was counted as worthless in the days of Solomon.
- F. Solomon's wealth surpassed all the kings of the earth.
- G. Remember the elaborate furnishings of the temple (1 Kgs. 7:13-51). Many references state that the temple was not as large as many similar structures in the world or even Solomon's palace, but it was known for its intricate detail and craftsmanship.

Principles:

1. **God fulfills his promises.**
2. **God is able to bless us beyond expectation.**
3. **Blessings are conditional. Remember 1 Kgs. 9:4-7.**

IV. Solomon's Wives (1 Kgs. 11:1-13)

- A. Solomon had already married Pharaoh's daughter (1 Kgs. 3:1).
- B. He continued marrying foreign women (11: 1-3).
- C. His wives' influence turned him away from God (11:4).
- D. Solomon built high places for the gods of his foreign wives (11:5-8).
- E. God had specifically told Solomon not to go after other gods (11:9-10).

Principles:

- 1. The decision of marriage will affect the rest of our lives, and especially, our service to God.**
- 2. God warns us well in advance of false teaching and the possibility of falling away.**

V. Consequences Of Solomon's Sin (1 Kgs. 11:11-43)

- A. His kingdom would be torn away during the reign of his son (11: 11-13).
- B. The Lord raised up an adversary in Edom.
- C. Rezon and his men took Damascus and reigned over Syria.
- D. Jereboam was chosen to rule over 10 tribes (11:14-43).
- E. Solomon sought to kill Jereboam.

Principles:

- 1. God keeps His promises of punishment as surely as His promises of blessing.**
- 2. God remained true to His promise to establish David's throne, and He remains true to that promise today.**

VI. The Death Of Solomon (1 Kgs. 11:41-43)

- A. Solomon reigned 40 years.
- B. He was buried with his fathers in Jerusalem.
- C. Rehoboam reigned in his place.

Questions: Lesson 12

1. Why did the Queen of Sheba visit Solomon? What two characteristics of Solomon did she witness. See also 2 Chron. 9:1-12.
2. Describe Solomon's wealth in modern terms. What uses were made of the gold?
3. Were all of Solomon's subjects as happy as the Queen of Sheba presumed (1 Kgs. 5:13-18; 1 Sam. 8:16-18; 1 Kgs. 12:1-4).
4. How does the value of silver help you to understand Solomon's wealth?
5. List the important characteristics and achievements of Solomon's reign.
6. What was the cause of Solomon's apostasy? How can we profit from this example?
7. Did Solomon live up to the ideals of Deut. 17:14-20? In what ways did he fail?
8. Why did Solomon's wisdom not prevent his apostasy. Discuss 1 Cor. 1:20, 25, 26; Eccl. 7:16; Rom. 12:16; Jer. 9:23.
9. Why was Solomon without excuse (1 Kgs. 11:9-10)?

10. What were two consequences of Solomon's apostasy?

11. How does 2 Sam. 7:11-16 relate to 1 Kgs. 11:31-40?

12. Was Pharaoh's daughter Solomon's first wife (1 Kgs. 11:42-43; 14:21)? Were all marriages to foreign women forbidden to Israelites (Ex. 34:16; Deut. 7:3; 21:10-14)?

Lesson 13: Rehoboam - Jeroboam, The Divided Kingdom

Introduction: After the death of Solomon in 930 B.C., the kingdom divided. The northern tribes rebelled against the house of David; they were called Israel. The southern kingdom continued to acknowledge the authority of the house of David; they were called Judah.

I. The Division of the Kingdom Had Been Prophesied.

- A. God told Solomon this would happen if he became unfaithful (2 Chron. 7:12-22).
- B. Ahijah prophesied to Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:29-40).
 - 1. The kingdom was to be divided.
 - 2. Jeroboam was to be king over 10 tribes.
 - 3. One tribe was to be left to David's seed (compare 2 Sam. 7:11-16).
 - a. Judah (1 Kgs. 12:20)
 - b. Benjamin also (1 Kgs. 12:21)
 - c. Judah and Benjamin (2 Chron. 11:3,23)
 - 4. If Jeroboam would be faithful to God, his kingdom would be made a sure house.

Principles:

- 1. God's promises are conditional.**
- 2. God remained true to His promise to establish David's throne, and He has remained true to that promise today.**

II. The Conflict Between Israel and Judah Was Not New.

- A. Ephraim, the main tribe in Israel, was upset when Gideon did not call them to battle (Judges 8:1-3).
- B. Ephraim was again upset when it was not called to battle (Jud. 12:1-4).
- C. David was king over Judah for seven and a half years while Israel recognized Ishbosheth as king (2 Sam. 2:10-11).

III. The Immediate Causes of the Division (1 Kgs. 12)

- A. The people became discontented with the burdens Solomon had placed on them (1 Kgs. 12:1-5).
- B. Rehoboam followed bad advice and increased the burdens.
 - 1. The old men advised reducing the burdens (1 Kgs. 12:6-8).
 - 2. The young men advised increasing the burdens (1 Kgs. 12:9-11).
- C. Israel rebelled and made Jeroboam king (1 Kgs. 12:16-20).

IV. The Ultimate Cause of the Division Was Solomon's Apostasy (1 Kgs. 11:9-13)

V. The Immediate Consequences of the Division.

- A. Two independent kingdoms were formed.
 - 1. Jeroboam was king over Israel (10 tribes) in the North (1 Kgs. 12:20).
 - 2. Rehoboam was king over Judah and Benjamin in the South (1 Kgs. 12:21).
- B. The innovation of Jeroboam began.

VI. The Innovations of Jeroboam.

- A. He set up golden calves in Dan and Bethel (1 Kgs. 12:26-30).
 - 1. This was not total abandonment of the worship of Jehovah, but it was a corruption of true worship.
 - 2. This was a religion of compromise and convenience.
- B. He appointed priests who were not Levites (1 Kgs. 12:31).
- C. Jeroboam established a feast at a time he devised in his own heart (1 Kgs. 12:32-33).
- D. Future kings in Israel will be said to have walked after the sins of Jeroboam.

Principles:

- 1. God has given us instructions concerning the structure, work, and worship of the church.**
- 2. Anything more or anything less than God's instructions is a corruption.**

Questions: Lesson 13

1. Name at least two promises of God to us today and list the conditions He places on them.
2. Can anything be more sure than a promise of God? Name one promise of God which has failed.
3. Where do the following verses say we should go for counsel?
 - a. Ps. 1:1-2
 - b. Ps. 33:11
 - c. Ps. 73:24
 - d. Ps. 107:8-12
 - e. Prov. 8:14
 - f. Prov. 19:20-21
4. What promise of punishment has God made that has yet to be fulfilled? How sure is that promise? How can that punishment be avoided?
5. Of what importance is the word of God in the following verses?
 - a. Gal. 1:6-9
 - b. 2 John 9
 - c. John 17:17
6. Under the Law of Moses, why was it wrong for someone other than a Levite to be a priest?
7. According to 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, what type of person is to be appointed as an elder? Who then is excluded from being an elder? How is this similar to Jeroboam's innovations?
8. Under the New Testament, how is the church instructed to raise money (1 Cor. 16:1-2)? What can be said of church organized bake sales, rummage sales, or car washes? Does the fact that they

are done for God change the issue? How is this similar to Jeroboam's innovation?

9. Upon what day do we have the example of the Lord's Supper being observed (Acts 20:7)? What can be said of observing it on any other day? Does the fact that it is still worship to God, regardless of the day, change the issue? How is this similar to Jeroboam's innovation?

10. What happened to Jeroboam as a result of his innovations? What will happen to those who engage in modern day innovations? How do the following passages relate to this question?

- a. Mat. 7:21-23
- b. 2 John 9
- c. Luke 6:46
- d. Mat. 15:9

Lesson 14: Rehoboam - Jeroboam (Continued)

Introduction: In this lesson we will continue to examine the history of the divided kingdom under the leadership of Rehoboam and Jeroboam. We will see how they led their respective nations into apostasy.

I. A Man Of God Is Sent To Jeroboam.

- A. The man of God cried against the altar at Bethel (1 Kgs. 13:1-2).
- B. He delivered a prophecy of priests being offered on this altar.
 - 1. Josiah, of the seed of David, would offer these priests (1 Kgs. 13:2).
 - 2. The specificity of the prophecy was noted by naming Josiah.
 - 3. This prophecy was fulfilled 350 years later (2 Kgs. 23:15-20).
- C. He was given specific instructions by God not to eat or drink and to return another way (1 Kgs. 13:7-10).
- D. He disobeyed God (1 Kgs. 13:11-32).
 - 1. The old prophet said that an angel had spoken to him.
 - 2. The young prophet chose to accept the supposed word of an angel, as told by a man, instead of what he knew God had told him.
 - 3. The young prophet was killed.

Principles:

- 1. **The prophecies of God are specific and unmistakable.**
- 2. **The fulfillment of God's prophecy is sure.**
- 3. **We are subject to being deceived.**
- 4. **In determining truth, nothing is more important than God's word.**
- 5. **A stubborn faith in God's word will prevent deception.**
- 6. **Therefore, we must take time to learn God's word.**

II. The Wages Of Jeroboam's Sins

- A. Jeroboam's son became sick (1 Kgs. 14:1).
- B. Jeroboam sent his disguised wife to Ahijah the prophet (14:1-4).
- C. Ahijah's prophecy
 - 1. The house of Jeroboam would be cut off because of his sins (14:7-11).
 - 2. The sick child would die (14:12).
 - 3. Israel would be scattered (14:15-16).
- D. The fulfillment of Ahijah's prophecy
 - 1. Jeroboam's descendants were killed (1 Kgs. 15:27-30).
 - 2. The sick child died (1 Kgs. 14:17-18).
 - 3. Israel was carried off into Assyrian captivity and never returned (2 Kgs. 17:20-23).

III. Rehoboam Was Strong During His First Three Years.

- A. He obeyed when God told him not to try to reclaim Israel after their rebellion (2 Chron.

- 11:1-4).
- B. He began to fortify Judah in preparation for an expected conflict with Israel (2 Chron. 11:5-12).
 - C. Judah was strengthened by an influx of people from Israel (2 Chron. 11:13-17).
 - 1. The priests and Levites came out of Israel.
 - 2. Those who "set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel" also came out of Israel.

Principles:

- 1. **We must set our hearts to seek God.**
- 2. **In seeking God, it may be necessary to leave our homes, families, jobs, friends, or recreational interests.**

IV. Rehoboam's Decline

- A. He forsook God in times of prosperity and strength (2 Chron. 12:1).
 - 1. When the kingdom first divided and the outlook was dim, he followed God (2 Chron. 11:4).
 - 2. When he became strong, he forsook God (2 Chron. 12:1).
- B. God chastised Rehoboam and Judah.
 - 1. Shishak of Egypt oppressed Judah (2 Chron. 12:2-4).
 - 2. Rehoboam and Judah humbled themselves (12:5-7).
 - 3. God delivered Jerusalem from Shishak (12:7).
 - 4. Shishak took treasures from the house of God and from the king's house (2 Chron 12:9).

V. Rehoboam's Reign

- A. He did evil because he did not set his heart to seek God (2 Chron.12:14).
- B. He reigned 17 years and then died.
- C. Abijah (Abijam in 1 Kings), his son, reigned in his stead (2 Chron.12:16).

Principles:

- 1. **There is a tendency for us to abandon God in times of prosperity.**
- 2. **In order to prevent this tendency, we must daily remember our total dependence on God.**
- 3. **"In my hand no price I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling" (Rock of Ages).**

Questions: Lesson 14

1. What does Is. 55:10-11 say about the power of God's word? How does that relate to God's prophecies in the Old Testament and to His promises to us today?

2. What do the following verses say about deception?
 - a. Gal. 6:7
 - b. 1 John 1:8
 - c. 1 Cor. 6:9-10

3. What do the following verses say about how to determine truth today?
 - a. Prov. 14:12
 - b. Gal. 1:6-9
 - c. John 17:17

4. Rank the following in the order of priority they take in your life: job, recreation, friends, family, God, material possessions. Is God pleased with your order of priorities? If not, how should you change them?

5. In the following passages what does God say would be worth giving up in order to go to heaven?
 - a. Mat. 6:19-20
 - b. Mat. 10:34-37
 - c. Mk. 10:29-30
 - d. Mk. 9:43-48
 - e. Mk. 10:39

6. Read Prov. 30:7-9. What does this passage say about poverty and wealth? What is the writer's request of God? How does this passage apply to us today?

7. Give some examples of people who turned to God in bad times, then forsook Him during good

times. Then, give some examples of people who remained faithful to God, regardless of their situation. What can we learn today from these examples?

8. How do we prepare our hearts to seek God today?

9. Have you prepared your heart to seek God? If so, list five changes that this preparation has brought about in your life. Now, list changes you have not made but which you know you should make. Now, write out objectives and goals, with a set time period, showing how you will accomplish these changes.

10. How often do you think about God during the day? How many times a day do you pray to God? How much time do you spend per day reading and studying God's word? Answer these questions honestly for yourself. Then, read Psalm 119 carefully and answer these same questions for the writer of that Psalm. How do you compare?

Lesson 15: Kings of Judah and Israel

Introduction: After the kingdom divided, both Israel and Judah had a succession of kings. Some of the kings in Judah followed and served God. None of the kings in Israel followed God. This lesson will cover two kings in Judah and five in Israel.

I. Abijah (Abijam in 1 Kings)

- A. He was the son of Rehoboam and reigned for about three years in Judah (1 Kgs. 14:31-15:2).
- B. His reign continued the promises to David (2 Sam. 7:11-16; 1 Kgs. 15:3-5).
- C. He fought against Jeroboam even though he was outnumbered.
 - 1. 400,000 in Judah's army (2 Chron. 13:2-3).
 - 2. 800,000 in Israel's army.
- D. He made a speech to Jeroboam and Israel before the battle (2 Chron. 13:4-12).
 - 1. God made a covenant with David (vs. 5).
 - 2. Jeroboam has rebelled against God and against His anointed king (vss. 6-8).
 - 3. Israel has forsaken God by worshipping the golden calves and casting out the priests (vss. 8-9).
 - 4. Judah is worshipping properly, and God is with Judah (vss. 10-12).
 - 5. Therefore, Israel is warned not to attack, because they would be fighting a hopeless battle against God (vs. 12).
- E. Jeroboam attacks despite Abijah's warning and 500,000 of Israel's army were killed (2 Chron. 13:13-20).
- F. Judah was victorious because they relied on God (2 Chron. 13:18).
- G. In general, however, Abijah was not a follower of God (1 Kgs. 15:2-3).

Principles:

- 1. **God remained true to His promise to establish David's throne, and He remains true to that promise today.**
- 2. **With God on our side, there is always the possibility of success, even against overwhelming odds.**

II. Asa

- A. He was Abijah's son and reigned for 41 years in Judah (1 Kgs. 15:8-10).
- B. His reign continued the promise to David (2 Sam. 7:11-16).
- C. His reforms are notable (2 Chron. 14:1-7).
 - 1. He removed the altars and idols (vss. 2-3).
 - 2. He turned the people back to God (vs. 4).
 - 3. Judah had peace for ten years (vss. 1,5).
 - 4. He fortified cities (vss. 6-7).
- D. Zerah the Ethiopian invaded Judah (2 Chron. 14:9-15).
 - 1. Asa and Judah faced a superior army (vss. 9-11).

2. Asa prayed to God for help (vs. 11).
 3. Judah was victorious (vss. 12-15).
- E. He instituted further reforms (2 Chron. 15).
1. Prophets encouraged continued faithfulness (vss. 1-8).
 2. The covenant to serve God was renewed (vss. 8-15).
 3. Even Asa's mother was not spared in these reforms (vs. 16).
 4. Peace continued until the 35th year of his reign (vs. 19).
- F. He turned away from God in his last years (2 Chron. 16).
1. War with Israel began (vs. 1).
 2. Asa turned to Syria for help, but not to God (vss. 2-6).
 3. Hanani rebuked Asa for not relying on God (vss. 7-10).
 4. Asa imprisoned Hanani and oppressed others (vs. 10).
 5. Asa turned to men instead of God during illness (vs. 12).
 6. Asa died (vss. 13-14).

PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Those who rebel against God will ultimately suffer.**
- 2. Those who rely on God and obey Him will be blessed.**
- 3. When we stray from God's will, we need to repent.**
- 4. Repentance includes stopping sinful practices.**
- 5. Compromise leads to a weak faith.**

- III. Nadab** (1 Kings 15:25-27). He was Jeroboam's son, walked in the sins of his father, reigned two years and was assassinated.
- IV. Baasha** (1 Kings 15:27-16:7). He assassinated Nadab, killed all the descendents of Jeroboam as Ahijah had prophesied, followed in the sins of Jeroboam, Jehu prophesied of the destruction of Baasha's household, reigned 24 years.
- V. Elah** (1 Kings 16:6-10). He was Baasha's son, reigned for 2 years, was assassinated.
- VI. Zimri** (1 Kings 16:8-20). He assassinated Elah, killed all the descendents of Baasha fulfilling the prophecy of Jehu, reigned 7 days.
- VII. Omri** (1 Kings 16:16-28). He led the rebellion against Zimri, had a brief rivalry against Tibni, built Samaria, followed in the sins of Jeroboam, and reigned 12 years.

Principle: God hates sin.

Questions: Lesson 15

1. How does God's fulfillment of His promise to establish David's throne give us strength and encouragement today?

2. How did Joshua and Caleb's report differ from the other spies? Why? How was David able to defeat Goliath? How was Gideon able to defeat the Midianites with such a small army?

3. What overwhelming odds do we face today, against which we can only be successful with God's help ?

4. We can name people who are wicked but are prospering. We can also name people who are righteous but suffering. How can this be reconciled with the Bible?

5. What is the promise of Mat. 6:33 for us today?

6. What is repentance?

7. In order to repent of the following sins, what would a person have to do?
 - a. Stealing:
 - b. Lying:
 - c. Homosexuality:
 - d. Adultery:

8. How does compromise weaken our faith? What can result if we compromise our convictions?

9. How bad is our sin in God's eyes?

10. What is God's attitude toward sin?

a. Prov. 6:16-19:

b. 1 Cor. 6:9-10:

c. Rom. 1:28-32:

Lesson 16: Ahab - Elijah

Introduction: Ahab was a king in Israel who led the people further away from God. God sent two prophets, Elijah and Elisha, to Israel during the time of Ahab. The next few lessons will discuss Ahab and his wife, Jezebel.

I. Ahab Became King In Israel.

- A. Ahab was the son of Omri (1 Kgs. 16:28).
- B. Omri was worse than all the kings that were before him (1 Kgs. 16:25-26).
- C. Ahab did more to provoke God than all the kings before him, including Omri (1 Kgs. 16:30,33).
 - 1. He walked in the sins of Jeroboam (vs. 31).
 - 2. He married a foreign woman, Jezebel (vs. 31).
 - 3. He served and worshipped the pagan god, Baal (vs. 31).
 - 4. He built an altar and house to Baal (vs. 32).
 - 5. He made the Asherah, a female idol (vs. 33).

II. Baal

- A. Baal was a god of fertility.
- B. Apparently, calf-worship in Israel was the worship of Jehovah in the image of a calf.
- C. Baal worship, however, was a total abandonment of the worship of Jehovah.

Principles:

- 1. **God hates sin.**
- 2. **Whom we choose to marry will influence every aspect of our lives, including our service to God.**
- 3. **Therefore, we should marry someone who will encourage and stimulate our spiritual growth.**
- 4. **God is longsuffering.**
- 5. **God did not tolerate idolatry in Israel, and He will not tolerate it today.**

III. Elijah and Ahab

- A. Elijah was a prophet of God sent to Israel during the time of Ahab (1 Kgs.17).
- B. Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain (James 5:17-18).
 - 1. This was not an arbitrary request, but one based on his knowledge of God's word.
 - 2. God had said that if Israel turned and served other gods, He would prevent rain (Deut.11:16-17).
 - 3. God answered Elijah's prayer, and it did not rain for three and a half years (James 5:17).

4. He presented himself to Ahab saying there would be no dew or rain again until he said so (1 Kgs. 17:1).
 5. This was a great challenge to Baal, the supposed god of fertility.
- C. God sustained Elijah during the drought (1 Kgs. 17:2-16).
1. God provided water from the brook Cherith and food by the ravens.
 2. He was then sent to Sidon, where God provided for him through a widow.

Principles:

- 1. Our prayers need to be based on a knowledge of God's word.**
- 2. God has promised to answer our prayers just like he answered Elijah's prayer (James 5:15-18).**
- 3. God promises to provide our material needs if we will put Him first.**

IV. Elijah And The Widow Of Zarephath (1 Kgs. 17:8-24).

- A. Following God's instruction, Elijah went to Zarephath and met the widow (vss.8- 10)
- B. He asked the widow for water and food (vss. 10-11).
- C. The widow explained that she had only enough food for one last meal for her and her son (vs. 12).
- D. The widow's faith was greatly tested (vss. 13-16).
 1. Elijah told her to use her last portion of food for him first, and if she did, God would not let her food or oil fail during the famine (vss. 13-14).
 2. The widow believed and followed Elijah's instructions (vs. 15).
 3. Her food and oil did not fail (vs. 16).
- E. The widow's faith was tested again (vss. 17-24).
 1. Her son died, Elijah prayed to God to restore the child's life, and God answered the prayer (vss. 17-23).
 2. This miracle confirmed to the widow that Elijah spoke the word of God (24).
- F. Jesus remembered the widow (Luke 4:24-26).

Principles:

- 1. We will be blessed if we follow God's instructions.**
- 2. During our lives, we may be asked to make sacrifices for God which seem unreasonable; but if we put Him first, He will provide for us.**
- 3. We should be hospitable to all.**
- 4. Miracles were used to confirm that a person was speaking for God.**

Questions: Lesson 16

1. What is the penalty for our sins? What great price was paid because of our sins? How then can we avoid the penalty we deserve?

2. For what type of person should we look when looking for a husband or a wife? Consider the following passages:
 - a. Deut. 7:1-8
 - b. Ezra 9:1-10:17
 - c. 2 Cor. 6:14-18
 - d. 1 Pet. 3:1-2

3. In the days of Noah, how long did God wait before bringing the flood? After the kingdoms divided, how long did He wait before destroying the northern kingdom of Israel? How long has he been waiting now, since Jesus ascended into heaven and promised to return? What does this say about God?

4. Are people engaged in idolatry today? In what ways might we be guilty of idolatry?

5. Hebrews 4:16 says we can "come boldly unto the throne of grace." Can you approach God boldly in your prayers? How can we improve our prayers?

6. How can Elijah's prayer for drought and rain be a good example of effective prayer for us today (James 5:15-18)? Was his prayer answered miraculously?

7. Does God perform miracles today? Support your answer with scripture.

8. Read Psalm 37:23-26 and Mat. 6:33. What do these passages say regarding a Christian and material needs?

9. What is faith? How is it demonstrated?

10. What would likely have happened to the widow of Zarephath had she refused to provide food and water for Elijah? How far should our hospitality extend (cf. Heb. 13:1-2)? How should we respond when someone asks us for help?

Lesson 17: Elijah Part 2

Introduction: Ahab, King of Israel, married Jezebel, a Phoenician princess. He allowed her to establish the worship of Baal and the Asherah as dominant religions in Israel. He also allowed the prophets of Jehovah to be persecuted and slain. This lesson covers the time from Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal to his departure from the earth.

I. Prophets Of Baal Confronted (I Kings 18:16-40)

- A. Elijah instructed Ahab to gather the false prophets for a confrontation on Mt. Carmel. Ahab did so.
 - 1. "How long will you falter between two opinions?" (1 Kgs. 18:21).
 - 2. "If the Lord is God follow him; but if Baal follow him" (1 Kgs. 18:21 cf. Josh. 23:15-16).
- B. Contest with the prophets of Baal
 - 1. Elijah's challenge-"The God who answers by fire, He is God".
 - 2. The 450 prophets of Baal called on Baal all day long with no response.
 - 3. Elijah called upon the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. The water-soaked offering, water, stones of the altar and dust were consumed by heavenly fire.
 - 4. The Israelites worshipped God and slew the prophets of Baal. Ahab did not interfere.

Principles:

- 1. **Only God has power to perform miracles.**
- 2. **God answers prayers.**
- 3. **The majority is not always right.**
- 4. **God will not accept a partial worship (18:21).**

II. The End Of The Three And One Half Years Drought

- A. With the destruction of the prophets of Baal, the drought ended.
- B. At the seventh look of Elijah's servant, a small cloud appeared over the Mediterranean Sea; Elijah informed Ahab that the drought was over.
- C. It began to rain, and Ahab returned to Jezreel.

Principle: The mighty of earth are humbled before God.

III. Jezebel's Enmity (I Kings 19)

- A. Jezebel vowed to kill Elijah for killing the prophets of Baal.
- B. Elijah fled, first to Judah, where an angel of the Lord sustained him, and then to Mt. Horeb, where God confronted Elijah's fears and sent him back to the wilderness of Damascus to:
 - 1. Anoint Hazael king over Syria.

2. Anoint Jehu king over Israel.
3. Anoint Elisha as prophet in Elijah' place.

Principle:

1. **God's will, will be done.**
2. **Man cannot escape God.**

IV. Ahaziah's Illness (II Kings 1)

- A. Ahaziah, son of Ahab, fell and became ill. He sent messengers to Baal-zebub, Lord of the flies, and God of Ekron, to see if he would live.
- B. God sent Elijah to intercept the messengers and to tell them to inform the idolatrous Ahaziah that he would die.
- C. Ahaziah sendt soldiers to bring Elijah.
 1. The first captain and 50 soldiers were consumed by fire.
 2. The second band was also consumed.
 3. The third captain begged for mercy and was spared
 4. God sent Elijah with the soldiers to personally inform Ahaziah that he would die.

Principle: The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

V. Elijah's Departure (II Kings 2:1-12)

- A. Elijah, having conditionally bestowed a double portion of his spirit upon Elisha, was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.
- B. Elijah next appeared on the mount of transfiguration (Matt. 17:2).
- C. Elijah is mentioned in Malachi 4:5 as the type of John the Baptist.

Questions: Lesson 17

1. Describe Ahab's nature.
2. Why did the prophets of Baal accept Elijah's challenge? Did they have faith in Baal?
3. What did Elijah do after his great victory over the prophets of Baal?
4. How did Ahab react to the destruction of the prophets of Baal?
5. Compare Elijah's and Jonah's flights. Is there a comparison? What was God's reaction?
6. Describe Elijah's faith when he told Ahab that the drought was ended.
7. Was Elijah alone in Israel in his worship of God (I Kings 19:18)? Which of the apostles did God reassure in a similar manner (Acts 18:10)?
8. How is Elijah compared to John the Baptist (Mal 4:5; Matt. 11:11-14)?

9. Why did Elisha liken Elijah to "the chariot of Israel and its horsemen" (II Kings 2:12)? Of what other prophet is the exact thing said (II Kings 13:14)?

10. Did Elisha anoint Jehu as King of Israel and Hazael as King of Syria as commanded (II Kings 9:2; 8:13-15)?

Lesson 18: Ahab (1 Kings 19-22)

Introduction: Ahab was a strong king and a weak person. He formed alliances with Phoenicia, Judah, and Syria and built Israel up as a nation. Yet, he allowed Jezebel to promote idolatry in Israel. This incurred the wrath of God and led to his downfall. He practiced idolatry, yet humbled himself before God on occasion. This lesson covers his reign from the start of the Syrian wars to his death in battle in 853 B.C.

I. Syrian Invasions Of Israel

A. First battle (1 Kgs. 20:1-21)

1. Ben-hadad, seeing the rising power of its vassal state, Israel, demanded an unacceptable tribute of "everything valuable in Israel."
2. Thus forced to fight, Ahab issued his famous reply, "Let not him who girds on his armor boast like him who takes it off." He did not seek God's help.
3. With the battle set to begin, God intervened so Israel would "know that I am the Lord." Ahab did as the prophet instructed him, and Syria was defeated.

B. Second Battle (1 Kgs. 20:22-43)

1. The Syrians attributed Israel's victory to their God. Deeming Him a God of the mountains only, they decided to attack Israel on the plains.
2. Ahab again prepared for battle without seeking God's help. God again intervened, because the Syrians thought Him "a god of the mountains only."
3. The Syrians were defeated with great losses. Ahab, relying on his own political judgment, spared Ben-hadad and made a covenant with him.
4. Angry with Ahab for sparing Ben-hadad, God foretold that in the next battle, Ben-hadad would triumph and Ahab would die. Ahab was "sullen and vexed" at God's reproach.

Principles:

1. **God must be given the glory He deserves.**
2. **Repentance is required for misdeeds.**

II. Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kgs. 21)

- A. Ahab desired Naboth's vineyard in Jezreel for a vegetable garden.
- B. Naboth refused Ahab's offer. Ahab became "sullen and vexed."
- C. Jezebel plotted to kill Naboth and his sons (2 Kgs. 9:26) using Deuteronomic law. Upon Naboth's death, Ahab took possession of his vineyard.
- D. God sent Elijah to prophesy against Ahab for his wickedness.
 1. Ahab's blood would be shed at the same place.
 2. Ahab's house would be destroyed.
 3. Dogs would eat Jezebel.

E. Ahab repented and God put off the destruction of his house until after his death.

Principles:

- 1. God's law's should be followed.**
- 2. God will repay evil.**

III. Israel And Judah Invaded Syrian Territory (1 Kgs. 22).

- A. Ahab requested Jehoshaphat to assist him in recapturing Ramoth-gilead.
- B. Jehoshaphat agreed to help Ahab but requested prophetic guidance from God. 400 false prophets predicted success. Micaiah, a true prophet of God, foretold defeat and was imprisoned.
- C. In the ensuing battle, the Syrians were victorious. Although disguised, Ahab was killed by a stray arrow.
- D. Ahab died bravely in the battle. The dogs licked up the blood from his chariot at he pool of Samaria.

Principle: God's word is true and should be obeyed.

Questions: Lesson 18

1. How did Jezebel affect Ahab and the nation of Israel (2 Kgs. 21:25)?
2. How did Jezebel, through her daughter Athaliah, affect the nation of Judah, Jehoram (2 Chron. 21:5-6), and Amaziah (2 Chron. 22:2-3)?
3. From the example of Jezebel what characteristics should Christians consider in selecting a spouse?
4. What was the policy of Ahab toward Ben-hadad?
5. Why did God react so strongly to Ahab's conduct in taking possession of Naboth's vineyard? What sins were committed (Ex. 20:13,15,16,17; Lev. 25:23-28; Num. 36:7)?
6. What does the outcome of accepting advice from 400 false prophets instead of from Micaiah show regarding God's word as opposed to the teachings of men?
7. Was Ahab's blood shed in the same place as Naboth's, as prophesied (1 Kgs. 22:38; 2 Kgs. 9:26)?
8. How can we give God glory?
9. How does God repay evil today?

10. What persecutions do we face today when we speak the truth?

Lesson 19: Elisha

Introduction: God selected Elisha as Elijah's successor (1 Kings 19:16). When Elijah was taken up to heaven, Elisha took up his mantle and began his ministry. He was given a double portion of Elijah's spirit, making him a mighty worker of miracles. Due to the large number of events from his ministry recorded in 2 Kings chapters 1-13, this lesson discusses only a few. The principle enemy of Israel during this time was Syria.

I. The Beginning Of Elisha's Ministry (2 Kings 2:1-18)

- A. Elijah, Elisha, and the sons of the prophets knew that Elijah's ministry was at an end (2:3-9).
- B. Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit; this was conditionally granted (2:10). After the two prophets were separated by horses and chariots of fire, Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind (2:11).
- C. As Elijah departed, his mantle fell, and Elisha used it to cross the Jordan miraculously. He was thereby accepted by the sons of the prophets as Elijah's successor (2:14,15).

II. The Shunammite Woman (2 Kings 4:8-37)

- A. The Shunammite woman, a devout and prominent lady, provided food and lodging for Elisha on his frequent trips by Shunem (4:8,9).
- B. When she refused Elisha's offer of worldly recognition, he informed her that her reward would be a son. Though she doubted as Sarah had (Gen. 18:14), the prophecy was fulfilled (4:16).
- C. When the son subsequently died, her great faith led her to travel the 25 miles to Mt. Carmel, bringing Elijah to heal her son (4:22-25).

Principles:

- 1. God's people show their devoutness by their works.**
- 2. God rewards His people on earth and in heaven.**
- 3. Great faith brings great rewards.**

III. Naaman The Leper (2 Kgs. 5:1-19)

- A. Naaman, captain of the Syrian army, was leprous. Due to the faith of an Israelite slave girl, he went to Israel to be healed, but mistakenly presented himself before the king of Israel. The king took this to be a pretext for war and was greatly distressed.
- B. Elisha, hearing of the King's distress, sent for Naaman so that "he would know that there is a prophet in Israel." Naaman was furious when Elisha did not personally cure him but sent his servant, Gehazi, to tell Naaman to wash in the "dirty" Jordan. Being well advised

by his servants, Naaman repented and did as he had been instructed. He was healed and believed in God.

Principle: God's word must be followed faithfully if one is to receive God's blessings.

IV. The Anointing of Hazael And Jehu (1 Kgs. 19:15-17; 2 Kgs. 8:7-15; 2 Kgs. 9:1-13)

- A. Ben-hadad, king of Syria, sent his servant Hazael to inquire of Elisha if he would recover from a sickness.
- B. Elisha replied that he would recover, but would certainly die.
- C. Hazael was ashamed when Elisha looked at him.
- D. Elisha told Hazael that he would be king over Syria.
- E. Hazael murdered Ben-hadad. Shalmaneser III, king of Assyria, stated in an inscription that Hazael, son of nobody, seized the throne of Syria.
- B. Jehu, a captain in Israel's army, was anointed by Elisha as king of Israel (2 Kgs. 9:1-13). He was responsible for the deaths of Joram, Ahaziah, Jezebel, and all the males of Ahab's household.

Principles:

- 1. God punishes the unrighteous.**
- 2. God's prophetic word is true.**

Questions: Lesson 19

1. What did Elisha mean when he requested a double portion of Elijah's power (2 Kgs. 2:9, Deut. 21:17)?
2. What instructions did Elijah give his servant concerning the Shunammite woman's dead son? What happened when Gehazi followed these instructions?
3. What role did faith have in Naaman's cure? Whose faith?
4. Why could Naaman not be cured in the "better rivers of Syria" rather than in the Jordan?
5. Why did Elisha fulfill Elijah's task of anointing Jehu?
6. Why was Hazael ashamed before Elisha?
7. Why did Jehu kill Ahaziah, king of Judah?
8. God to forecast future events such, as the kingships of Hazael and Jehu. What does this ability tell us about His knowledge and power?
9. How does God reward His people on earth?
10. God's word must be followed faithfully if one is to receive God's blessings. Cite scripture.

Lesson 20: Hezekiah/Isaiah

Introduction: This lesson concerns the reign of King Hezekiah and the related work of Isaiah. The Assyrian empire had overrun Syria and Israel. With the start of the reign of Sargon II, Syria had conquered Samaria, the capital of Israel. His son, Sennacherib, then attacked Judah. His campaign in 701 B.C. failed due to God's intervention. The righteousness of king Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet were instrumental in Sennacherib's downfall.

- I. Hezekiah's Early Reign** (II Kings 18:1-12). Following the evil reign of Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah, Judah had four good kings. However, they did not tear down their high places. The next king, Ahaz, who was Hezekiah's father, was evil; he even sacrificed children. Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and Judah prospered during his reign.
- A. He tore down the high places.
 - B. He destroyed Moses' bronze serpent.
 - C. God blessed him so that he was able to break the Assyrian domination and defeat the Philistines.

Principles:

1. God blesses those who obey him.
2. Righteousness exalts a nation (Prov 14:34).

- II. Sennacherib's Invasion** (701 B.C.) (II Kings 18:13-19; Isaiah 36 and 37.)
- A. When Sennacherib invaded Judah, Hezekiah paid tribute to him to avoid a siege of Jerusalem. (II Kings 18:14)
 - B. Sennacherib, however, sent a large army to besiege Jerusalem. He promised to deport the Jews to a "good" land, saying they had no hope since:
 1. Egypt could not help them.
 2. God would not help, since Hezekiah had torn down the high places.
 3. Judah could not ride war horses, even if Assyria provided them.
 4. God had sent the Assyrians to destroy Judah.
 5. They would starve during a siege.
 6. God could not save Jerusalem anymore than the gods of the other nations had saved their people
 - C. Hezekiah sought God's help. Isaiah prophesied that the Assyrians would hear that Pharaoh Tirhakah was going to fight the Assyrians and return to Assyria (II Kings 19:7-9). Assyrian records show that Sennacherib defeated Tirhakah at the battle of Eltekan in 701 B.C. Sennacherib subsequently sent a letter stating that God could not stop Assyria from conquering Jerusalem. Hezekiah "spread the letter before the Lord" and prayed for deliverance.
 - D. Isaiah then prophesied that the Assyrian army would be destroyed. The angel of the Lord struck the Assyrians that night, killing 185,000. As prophesied, Sennacherib returned to

Nineveh where he was killed by two of his sons; this happened 20 years later.

Principles:

- 1. God is the ruler of all nations.**
- 2. God loves and protects his people.**

III. Hezekiah's Illness (Isaiah 38)

- A. Hezekiah became mortally ill, and Isaiah prophesied that he would die.
- B. Hezekiah wept and prayed for recovery. God granted him an additional 15 years of life.
- C. Hezekiah requested a sign from the Lord. The shadow went back ten steps on the steps of Ahaz.

Principle: God hears the prayers of righteous people.

IV. Hezekiah's Foolishness (Isaiah 39)

- A. Hezekiah showed the treasures of his kingdom to Babylonian king envoys.
- B. God was displeased. Through Isaiah, God informed Hezekiah that his treasures would be carried to Babylon, along with some of his descendents.

Questions: Lesson 20

1. Like Josiah, it was said of Hezekiah that "after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him (2 Kgs. 18:5,23:25). How were they greater than the other kings of Judah?.
2. What was Sennacherib's great mistake?
3. Did God send the Assyrians as conquerors as Rabshekah said (2 Kgs. 18:25, Is. 10:5,6)?
4. If God sent the Assyrians to punish Israel and Judah, why did He destroy them (Is. 10:12)? Is this similar to the fates of Egypt and Babylon?
5. Does God exalt nations today?
6. Why did God test Hezekiah in the matter of the Babylonian envoys (II Chron 32:31)?
7. If our nation was threatened as Judah was, should we trust in our military might, in God, or in both? Who has the greater knowledge in the proper response, those in Hezekiah's day or we today?

Lesson 21: Manasseh and Josiah

Introduction: Manasseh was the embodiment of evil. During his reign, he sought to undo all the good his father Hezekiah had done. In contrast, Josiah was the last good king of Judah. He was devoted to God and initiated many reforms.

I. Manasseh's Sins (2 Kgs. 21:1-18; 2 Chron. 33:1-11)

- A. Manasseh did evil in the sight of the Lord like the abominations of the heathen (2 Chron. 33:2).
- B. He built again the high places which his father had broken down. He raised up altars for Baalim and made groves and worshipped and served all the host of heaven (2 Chron. 33:3).
- C. He built altars in the house of the Lord (33:4).
- D. He built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord (33:5).
- E. He caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom (33:6).
- F. He used enchantments, witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit (33:6).
- G. He set a carved image in the house of God (33:7).
- H. He made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err and do worse than the heathen (33:9).
- I. He shed innocent blood (2 Kgs. 21:16).
- J. The Lord brought upon them the captains of the host of the kings of Assyria. They took Manasseh among the thorns and bound him with fetters and carried him to Bablyon (2 Chron. 33:11).

Principles:

1. **God is longsuffering and merciful; but He will punish those who persist in evil.**
2. **God's judgments are righteous.**
3. **By example, we can influence others to be evil.**
4. **A good example can lead others to do right.**
5. **God is no respecter of persons.**

II. Manasseh Repents (2 Chron. 33:12-17)

- A. In affliction, Manasseh implored the Lord, and humbled himself (2 Chron. 33:12).
- B. God heard Manasseh's prayer and brought him back to Jerusalem (33:13).
- C. "Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God" (33:13).
- D. Manasseh fortified the cities of Judah (33:14).
- E. He took away the foreign gods and altars; he also repaired the altar of the Lord and

- offered peace and thanks offerings upon it (33:15-16).
F. The people still offered sacrifices on the high places, but only to the Lord (33:17).

Principles:

- 1. People turn to God in times of trouble.**
- 2. God is merciful and is ready to forgive, if people will repent.**

III. Josiah's Reform (2 Kgs. 22:1-23:27; 2 Chron. 34:1-35:19)

- In the eighth year of his reign, Josiah began to seek after the God of David (2 Chron. 34:3).
- In the twelfth year, he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the groves, the carved images, and the molten images (34:3).
- He broke down the altars of Baal (34:4).
- In the process of cleansing the temple, a copy of the law was found and read before Josiah. He caused the Word of God to be read before the people (34:14-30).
- The passover was observed with enthusiasm (2 Chron. 35).
- Josiah made a covenant to follow the Lord and to keep his commandments with all his heart and all his soul. All the people took their stand for the covenant (2 Kgs. 23:3).

Principles:

- 1. Those who heed God's Word will prosper.**
- 2. The young can be active in God's service.**
- 3. Regardless of our efforts, some will not accept the truth.**
- 4. God's Word is to be valued.**

IV. Josiah's Death (2 Kgs. 23:28-30; 2 Chron. 35:20-27)

- Necho, king of Egypt, came up by the Euphrates to fight against Carchemish; Josiah went out against him (2 Chron. 35:20).
- The archers shot king Josiah; the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded" (35:23).
- So he died and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah, Jerusalem and Jeremiah mourned for Josiah (2 Chron. 35:24-25).

Principles:

- 1. All men (righteous and unrighteous) will die. We need to be prepared to face the righteous judge.**
- 2. God keeps His promises, Josiah's eyes would not see the calamity that God would shortly bring upon Judah.**

Questions: Lesson 21

1. What is meant by the statement that Manasseh caused his children to "pass through the fire" (Lev. 18:21; 2 Chron. 28:3; 33:6; Ezek. 23:37)?
2. What were the "hosts of heaven" that Judah worshipped (Jer. 8:2)?
3. Is it possible for a child of God to be worse than the world (2 Chron. 33:9; 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; 1 Jn. 3:3-10; Rev. 3:15-16)?
4. How does the length of Manasseh's reign compare with the other kings of Judah?
5. God is longsuffering and merciful, but He will punish those who persist in evil. Cite scriptures that support this statement.
6. Who is the most famous descendent of Josiah (Mat. 1:16)?
7. Describe the conditions of Judah in Josiah's time (Jer. 5; 7; 8:1-12).
8. How old should a person be when he seeks the Lord (Eccl. 12:1)?
9. What is meant by "kill the passover" (2 Chron. 35:1,6,11)?
10. How can we be an example for good ? For evil?
11. God is no respecter of persons. Cite scriptures that support this statement.

Lesson 22: Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah

Introduction: The downward course of Judah, following the reforms of Josiah, concludes with the evil son of Josiah, Jehoahaz (reigned for 3 months), and the three kings which followed him. Jehoahaz was deposed by the king of Egypt, who appointed Jehoiakim king. Jehoiakim, after eleven years of evil, was carried away by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon. He was succeeded by Jehoiachin who also was an evil king. Jehoiachin was carried into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, and his uncle, Zedekiah, another evil king, was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah rebelled against the Babylonians and continued his evil ways for eleven years before he was carried away into captivity. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

I. **Jehoiakim** (also called Eliakim) 2 Kings 23:35-24:7; 2 Chron. 36:5-8

- A. Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim, the son of Josiah, king in place of Josiah. He also changed his name to Jehoiakim (2 Kgs. 23:34).
- B. Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh and taxed the land according to Pharaoh's command (23:35).
- C. Jehoiakim reigned eleven years in Jerusalem and did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord (23:36,37).
- D. Jehoiakim became the vassal of Nebuchadnezzar for three years, then rebelled against him (2 Kgs. 24:1).
- E. The Lord sent raiding troops of Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites against Judah to destroy it "according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken by his servants the prophets" (2 Kgs. 24:2; Jer. 25:4-11).
- F. Nebuchadnezzar carried Jehoiakim into captivity (2 Chron. 36:6).

II. **Jehoiachin** (also called Coniah and Jeconiah) 2 Kgs. 24:8-16; 2 Chron. 36:9,10

- A. "Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin reigned in his stead" (2 Kgs. 24:6).
- B. Jehoiachin did evil in the sight of the Lord according to all his father had done (2 Kgs. 24:9).
- C. It was prophesied that none of Jehoiachin's descendants would prosper sitting on the throne in David ruling anymore in Judah (Jer. 22:24-30).
 - 1. Jesus was a descendent of Jehoiachin (Mat. 1:11,12).
 - 2. Jesus would prosper sitting on the throne of David (Is. 9:6,7; 16:5; Ps.132:11,12; Luk. 1:32).
 - 3. Jesus would not reign in Judah. His was not an earthly kingdom (John 18:36). Premillennialists teach that Jesus will return to earth and reign and prosper on the throne of David in Judah for a 1000 years, but the Bible teaches Jesus is reigning now but will not return to reign on the earth.
- D. Jehoiachin was carried away into Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:15).

III. **Zedekiah** (also called Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle; 2 Kgs. 24:17) 2 Kgs. 24:17-25:7; 2

Chron. 36:11-14

- A. Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36:10).
- B. Zedekiah reigned eleven years and did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord (2 Kgs. 24:18-19).
- C. Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (2 Kgs. 24:20).
- D. Zedekiah did not humble himself before Jeremiah, the prophet of God (2 Chron. 36:12). He allowed others to put Jeremiah in prison (Jer. 38:5,6).
- E. The leaders of the priests and the people transgressed, according to all the abominations of the nations. They defiled the house of the Lord (2 Chron. 36:14).
- F. The people of Judah mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord rose against His people beyond remedy (2 Chron. 36:16).
- G. Zedekiah called for Jeremiah and asked his counsel (Jer. 38:14-23).
 - 1. Jeremiah told Zedekiah to surrender to the Babylonians and the city would not be destroyed and Zedekiah would escape.
 - 2. Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Please, obey the voice of the Lord which I speak to you, so it shall be well with you, and your soul shall live" (Jer. 38:20).
 - 3. Zedekiah refused to listen to Jeremiah.
- H. God brought against them the king of the Chaldeans (2 Chron. 36:17-20).
 - 1. The Chaldeans killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out his eyes and then bound him and carried him off to Babylon (2 Kgs. 25:7).
 - 2. Those who escaped the sword were carried away to Babylon (2 Kgs. 25:11; 2 Chron. 36:20).
 - 3. The treasures of the temple were taken to Babylon (2 Kgs. 25:13-17).
 - 4. The temple was burned and the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed (2 Chron. 36:19).

Principles:

- 1. The claim of God upon man is that man worship Him and keep His commandments.**
- 2. For those who persist in evil, divine retribution is inevitable (Chron. 36:17-21; Deut. 28:21,36,52; Jer. 5:19).**
- 3. God can raise up, at any moment, fitting instruments to do his will.**
- 4. It is not in man to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23).**

Questions: Lesson 22

1. The reigns of Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah were characterized by _____.
2. Jehoiakim was a vassal of what king? What is a vassal?
3. Why did God choose to remove Judah from His sight? Was Manasseh involved? Cite scripture.
4. Name the prophets who prophesied during the reigns of Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.
5. Jehoiachin was carried away into captivity during what year of his reign?
6. Zedekiah would not listen to Jeremiah. Why not? Cite scripture.
7. Describe in detail Nebuchadnezzar's treatment of Judah as prophesied in Jeremiah. Cite scriptures.
8. How did the king of Babylon punish Zedekiah?
9. It is not in man to direct his own steps. What does this mean and how can it be applied in our lives today?

10. God's people transgressed after the abominations of the heathen (2 Chron. 36:14). Explain this statement and list some present day abominations. What attitude should God's people have toward these things? Give New Testament scriptures.

Lesson 23: Ezra

Introduction: After seventy years of captivity, Cyrus issued a decree. A remnant of the Jews, under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua, returned to Jerusalem (536 B.C.). A second group of Jews under the leadership of Ezra came to Jerusalem in 458 B.C.

I. The First Return Under Zerubbabel

A. The decree of Cyrus: "All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.

Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel" (Ezra 1:1-3).

B. Returning exiles

1. "Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem" (Ezra 1:5).

2. "King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem" (Ezra 1:7).

3. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua, 42,360 Jews, besides servants and their maids, returned to Jerusalem (Ezra 2:64,65; 3:1).

C. Worship resumed and offerings were made to the Lord (Ezra 3:1-7).

D. The foundation of the temple was laid. "Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid" (Ezra 3:11).

E. Opposition

1. Adversaries of the Jews endeavored to hinder the work (Ezra 4:1-23)

2. The king of Persia issued a letter to cease work upon the city (4:21).

3. "Thus, the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem ceased, and it was discontinued until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia" (Ezra 4:24).

F. Resumption of building the temple

1. Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel (Ezra 5:1).

2. "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways" (Hag. 1:4-5).

3. The temple was rebuilt.

a. opposition (Ezra 5)

b. approval of King Darius (Ezra 6)

c. celebration (Ezra 6:16-22)

Principles:

1. **The providence of God is all-controlling.**

2. **The fulfillment of God's prophecy is sure.**
3. **We are to give according to our ability. We are to give so that the Lord's work can be accomplished (Ezra 2:69).**
4. **Doing the work of the Lord brings joy.**
5. **Our service to God can be hindered by the efforts of others.**
6. **Our service to God can be hindered by our own selfishness.**

II. The Second Return Under Ezra

A. The decree of Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:12-26)

"I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you" (Ezra 7:13).

B. Ezra's response

"Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, Who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart,... So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me"(Ezra 7:27,28).

C. Mixed Marriages

"The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands,...they have taken some of their daughters as wives" (Ezra 9:1-2).

D. Ezra's Prayer (Ezra 9:6-15)

"O my God: I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift my face to you" (Ezra 9:6).

E. The people confessed, separated themselves from the people of the land, and put away their pagan wives (Ezra 10).

Principles:

1. **We should continually thank God for His blessings and mercy.**
2. **We should be thankful for the opportunity to serve God.**
3. **God's children must be separate from the world.**
4. **The faithful child of God is grieved when God's law is violated.**
5. **God must be obeyed, regardless of the cost.**

Questions: Lesson 23

1. God appealed to His people to repent. What do the following verses say about His appeals?
 - a. 2 Chron. 36:15-16:
 - b. Jeremiah 7:3-7:
 - c. Jeremiah 18:1-11:
 - d. Amos 5:14,15
2. Explain Haggai 1:3-7.
3. According to Jeremiah 29:10, how long was the captivity to last?
4. For how many years did the work on the temple cease?
5. We are to give according to our ability. Cite scriptures.
6. Give some examples of how selfishness can hinder our service to God.
7. How can we exhibit our thankfulness to God?
8. Explain, "God must be obeyed at all cost." Can you cite scriptures?
9. What was the basic accomplishment of each return (Zerubbabel's, Ezra's)?

Lesson 24: Nehemiah

Introduction: About twelve years elapsed between the reformation under Ezra and the coming of Nehemiah to Jerusalem. The book of Nehemiah, which is a natural sequel to the book Ezra, consists of two main parts. The first part deals with the reconstruction of the walls (1-6). The second part deals with the re-instructing of the people (7-13).

I. The Reconstruction Of The Wall (Neh. 1-6).

A. Nehemiah's intercession (Neh. 1:1-11)

1. Nehemiah heard that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and its gates were burned with fire. He wept and mourned for many days (1:3-4).
2. Nehemiah's prayer (1:5-11)
 - a. "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments"(1:5).
 - b. "Both my father's house and I have sinned" (1:6).
 - c. "O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man" (1:11).

B. Nehemiah's expedition (Neh. 2:1-16)

1. King Artaxerxes granted Nehemiah permission to return to the city of his father's to rebuild it (2:5-6).
2. Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem. The city lay in ruin and its gates were burned with fire (2:11,17).

C. Nehemiah's exhortation (2:17-20)

1. The people set their hands to do the good work of rebuilding the wall (2:18).
2. Nehemiah and the people are laughed to scorn and despised (2:19).
3. Nehemiah's answered, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build,.."(2:20).

D. Rebuilding attempted (3:1-32)

E. Rebuilding obstructed (ch. 4-6)

1. Sanballat mocked the Jews (4:1).
2. "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"(4:6).
3. Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites were very angry upon hearing that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored. They conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion (4:7-8).
4. Prayer was made to God (4:9).
5. The Jews with one hand worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon (4:17).
6. Internal difficulties (ch. 5)
 - a. "And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their

- Jewish brethren"(Neh 5:1).
- b. Nehemiah rebuked the nobles and rulers for exacting usury from their brothers. "What you are doing is not good" (5:7,9).
7. The wall was completed (6:15-19).

Principles:

- 1. God answers prayer.**
- 2. God keeps covenant and mercy with those who love Him and observe His commandments.**
- 3. All men have sinned.**
- 4. God rules over the nations.**
- 5. God's children will persevere, even when laughed to scorn and despised.**
- 6. We must have confidence in the Lord (2:20).**
- 7. Regardless of the circumstances, we must have a mind to work.**
- 8. Trust in God, adherence to His Word, and brotherly love are necessary if we are going to settle internal conflicts in the church.**
- 9. United in purpose and trusting in God, the work of God will be done.**

II. The Re-instructing Of The People (ch. 7-13)

A. Registration of the remnant (ch. 7)

B. Teaching the Law (ch. 8)

1. The people gathered together as one man to hear Ezra read to them from the Book of the Law (8:1-3).
2. Ezra and others "...helped the people to understand the Law and the people stood in their place. So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading" (8:7, 8).
3. The people wept when they heard the words of the Law (8:9).
4. Reading of and observing the feast of tabernacles (8:14-18)

C. Consecration of the people (ch. 9-10)

1. Confession of sins (ch. 9)

2. Sealing a covenant (ch. 10)

a. "They joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes" (10:29).

b. They would not give their daughters to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for their sons (10:30).

D. Dedication of the wall (12:27)

E. Separation - Reforms (ch. 13)

"So it was, when they had heard the Law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel" (Neh. 13:3).

Principles:

- 1. The Word of God must be revered.**
- 2. We should assist people in understanding God's Word.**
- 3. We should be moved to tears when reading God's Word.**
- 4. We must observe and do all the commandments of the Lord.**
- 5. God requires His children be separate from the world.**

Questions: Lesson 24

1. Name a prophet in the period of Nehemiah's return.
2. What were the accomplishments of Nehemiah? Please list.
3. Cite scriptures dealing with the importance of prayer.
4. With whom does God keep covenant?
5. All men have sinned. Cite scriptures.
6. "For the people had a mind to work." Explain.
7. Nehemiah rebuked the nobles and rulers for exacting usury from their brethren. Explain. List some ways that we can wrong our brothers in Christ.
8. How do we show our confidence in the Lord?
9. United in purpose and trusting in the Lord, the work of the Lord will be done. Explain.
10. Can we understand God's will? Cite scriptures.
11. Define consecration.
12. Define sanctification. How are we sanctified?

Lesson 25: Review I (Lessons 1-12)

Lesson 1: Saul, Israel's King

Why did the people desire a king to rule over them? What was wrong with this?

Lesson 2: Saul, Disobedience

Under what circumstances can we set aside the commandments of God. Give examples.

Lesson 3: David, Israel's New King

Why did David refuse to kill Saul in the cave, when he had a chance?

Lesson 4: David

How should we react to mistreatment? Consider Nabal's mistreatment of David.

Lesson 5: David

How was God's promise to David fulfilled (2 Sam. 7: 12-16)? How did David respond to this promise?

Lesson 6: David

How could David have avoided his involvement with Bathsheba? How can we avoid sin when tempted?

Lesson 7: Amnon and Tamar

How did Jonadab influence Amnon? How can we be influenced to sin?

Lesson 8: Absalom

What was David's response when he learned of Absalom's death (2 Sam. 18:31-33)? Why did he respond in this way?

Lesson 9: David

What happened to Israel as a result of David's census (2 Sam. 24)?

Lesson 10: Solomon

Why did God bless Solomon with great wealth, power, and a long life? Should we desire riches?

Lesson 11: Solomon

What did Solomon pray at the dedication of the temple (1 Kgs. 8:22-30)?

Lesson 12: Solomon

How well did Solomon handle his success? Explain.

Lesson 26: Review 2

Lesson 13: Rehoboam - Jeroboam, Divided Kingdom

- a. Does God make conditional promises to us?
- b. What promise of punishment has God made which has yet to be fulfilled?
- c. Under the Mosaic law, why was it wrong for anyone other than a Levite to be a priest.
- d. What happened to Jeroboam as a result of his innovations?

Lesson 14: Rehoboam - Jeroboam

- a. What happened to the man of God? Why?
- b. Why did Rehoboam do evil (2 Chron. 12:14)?
- c. How do we prepare our hearts to seek God today?
- d. How has following Christ changed your life?

Lesson 15: Abijam - Asa - Nadab - Baasha - Elah - Zimri - Omri

- a. According to 2 Chron. 13:18, why was Judah victorious?
- b. Does this apply to us today? How?
- c. How does compromise weaken our faith? What effect could it have on those who know us?
- d. In the light of Prov. 6:16-19, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, and Rom. 1:28-32, what is God's attitude to these in our lives?

Lesson 16: Ahab - Elijah

- a. How is Ahab described in 1 Kgs. 16?
- b. What lesson did you learn from the widow of Zarephath?
- c. Why did God take care of Elijah? The widow of Zarephath? Will He do the same for us today?

d. How are we to pray?

Lesson 17: Elijah

a. What brought about Elijah's challenge to King Ahab (1 Kgs. 18:16-19)?

b. How many prophets of Baal and the Asherah stood against Elijah? What happened to them (1 Kgs. 18:19)?

c. Why did Jezebel want Elijah dead?

d. What does Rom. 6:23 say? Applying this principle to our lives, how will it make us live?

Lesson 18: Ahab

a. What effect did Jezebel have on the nation of Israel? For how many generations? Who did these people directly influence?

b. What can be said about the importance of choosing a Christian mate in the light of Jezebel's influences on the nation of Israel through her husband Ahab?

c. God's word is true and should be obeyed. How is this brought out in the events surrounding Ahab's death.

d. How did Jezebel die? What happened to her body? What does this say about God's feelings toward her? Does He feel any different toward the wicked today?

Lesson 19: Elisha

a. Who was the principle enemy when Elisha became Elijah's successor? Why?

b. List some of Elisha's miracles as recorded in 2 Kgs. 4.

c. Why could Naaman not be cured in the "better rivers of Syria" rather than in the Jordan?

d. Why did Jehu kill Ahaziah, king of Judah?

Lesson 20: Hezekiah - Isaiah

a. What parts of Hezekiah's nature are good examples for us today?

- b. Sennacherib was defeated by the angel of the Lord. Why did this judgment come upon him? Are men guilty of this today?
- c. Do you feel that our nation has been exalting God?
- d. What was wrong with Hezekiah showing all he had to the Babylonian envoys (2 Kgs. 20:12-19; 2 Chron. 32:31)?

Lesson 21: Manasseh - Josiah

- a. Why was Manasseh so persistent in sin?
- b. What can we learn from Manasseh's life with regard to our influence on others today?
- c. At what time during one's life should he begin to seek the Lord (Eccl. 12:1)?
- d. God is no respecter of persons. Cite scriptures that support this statement.

Lesson 22: Jehoiakim - Jehoiachin - Zedekiah

- a. Jehoiakim was a vassal of what king? What is a vassal?
- b. What was prophesied regarding the descendants of Jehoiachin?
- c. What was Jeremiah's recommendation to Zedekiah?
- d. "It is not in man to direct his steps." Where is this passage located in the Bible? Do all religious leaders believe this?

Lesson 23: Ezra

- a. What can be said of the prophecy of God?
- b. What are some examples of how selfishness hinders our service to God?
- c. In what ways are we to be separate from the world?
- d. How do you exhibit your thankfulness to God?

Lesson 24: Nehemiah

- a. What was the people's response when hearing the word of God read?
- b. What is meant by "...the people had a mind to work?"
- c. Which commandment of the Lord are we to observe?
- d. God requires his children to be separate from the world. Explain.