

Studying God's Word Book F

A Chronological Study

of the Old Testament from

First Samuel to Malachi

Darrel A. Trulson

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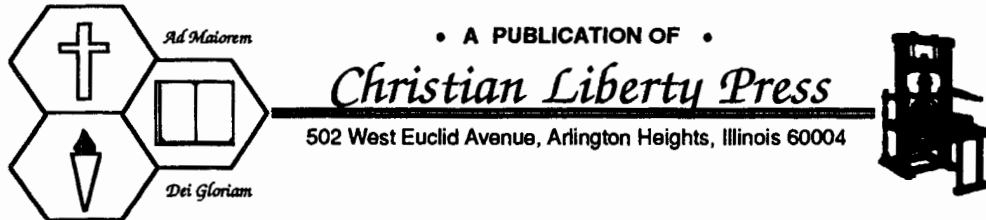


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Preface

One of the primary goals of the *Studying God's Word* series is to encourage students to conform their thinking to the standard of God's revealed Word. When students begin to bring every one of their thoughts into captivity to God's Word, they begin to realize the joy of being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

In this series, a strong emphasis is placed on the need for young people to develop strong Christian character traits. Students are not only presented with important facts and truths from the Bible, they are also provided with a wealth of personal examples from the lives of God's people that illustrate the truths they need to comprehend.

In addition, this series utilizes a chronological approach to Bible study so young people can better understand the timing and order of the key events listed throughout the Bible. This approach permits students to gain an accurate understanding of the flow of events contained in the Bible.

It has often been said that these are the times that try men's souls. Modern American culture is confronting God's people, both young and old alike, with many challenging trials and temptations. More than ever before, young people need to be equipped with the whole armor of God's Word so they can withstand the fiery darts of the wicked one. May the Lord use this Bible Study series to equip his children with the spiritual weapons that they need to fight the good fight of faith.

Michael J. McHugh
Curriculum Director

Dr. Paul D. Lindstrom
Superintendent of Schools

How To Use This Book

If you are like most people, you forget to read the instructions or directions for something until you are half finished with it and then discover you did something wrong. In order to understand this book and learn the most from it, **Please read this section first!**

There are several types of learning tools woven into this book; each has a specific intention and purpose. The main body of the book consists of Bible lessons. These are taken from the second half of the Old Testament. Each lesson begins with a time line and the words "You Are Here" indicating the approximate historical location of the story taught in the lesson. The time line is presented in an effort to tie together the events that take place within the Bible. A complete presentation of the time line is given in Appendix A. Within the time line, significant Biblical characters are given a date line which represents their life span. The boxes within the time line signify specific individuals and the number of years they ruled the Israelites. When a box has been shaded, this indicates that the ruler did not follow the principles of God's Word.

Following the time line, the lesson will contain the goal, memory verse, and background text. The student is to read the background text before continuing with the lesson. It is up to the individual teacher to decide if the verse is to be memorized for each lesson. All memory verses, lessons, and questions are written to be used with the King James Version of the Bible.

Each lesson will contain a few paragraphs where the author suggests a few principles from the text and applications for the student. This is followed by several questions covering the background reading, thought questions, and lesson review questions. Some lessons will have supplemental exercises for the student to do.

Each Old Testament book will have a background section that will explain the individual characteristics of the book. Although there are no questions in this section, they need to be studied and understood to receive a complete understanding of the Old Testament. The lesson review will ask questions on the background sections.

Additional sections of this book will contain Map Studies, Unit Tests and special information. Unit Tests should be taken without the help of this book, your Bible, or any outside source. The questions in the Unit Test will be a sampling of the questions already asked in the lessons. Each Unit Test will cover only the subject matter presented in that unit.

Introduction to the Chronological Method of Bible Study

Welcome to one of the most important discoveries you will ever make, the discovery of God's Word. Throughout your life, you will have the opportunity to study the Bible. Each time you do, the Holy Spirit will be there to guide and direct your thoughts to help you to learn and grow in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the hope and prayer of everyone involved in producing this book that through your study you will grow in the wisdom and understanding of God (Ephesians 1:17-19).

In order to make studying the Bible more interesting and profitable, this book is written to follow the Old Testament in a Historical - Chronological pattern. For example, greater emphasis is given to the book of I Kings because it is a historical narrative and spans several hundred years, instead of Zephaniah, which was a short message to the people of Judah.

We believe it is of utmost importance to you, as the student, that when you study the Bible, you understand how all the separate stories and books fit together. Imagine a large jigsaw puzzle of a beautiful mountain village. If you were to take a few pieces from different points and study them individually, could you understand what the complete picture was? Of course not. You need to see all the pieces in the correct pattern in order to understand the "big picture." The Bible is the same way. If all we do is read one story here and another one there, we will not understand the true meaning of God's Word. We have to look at the Bible completely and study it as one unit in order to understand the "big picture."

Throughout this book, besides studying significant stories of Old Testament people and events, there will also be background information to each of the books as they appear in chronological order. This background information is available as helpful material, so you can further understand the events that happen within the Bible itself.

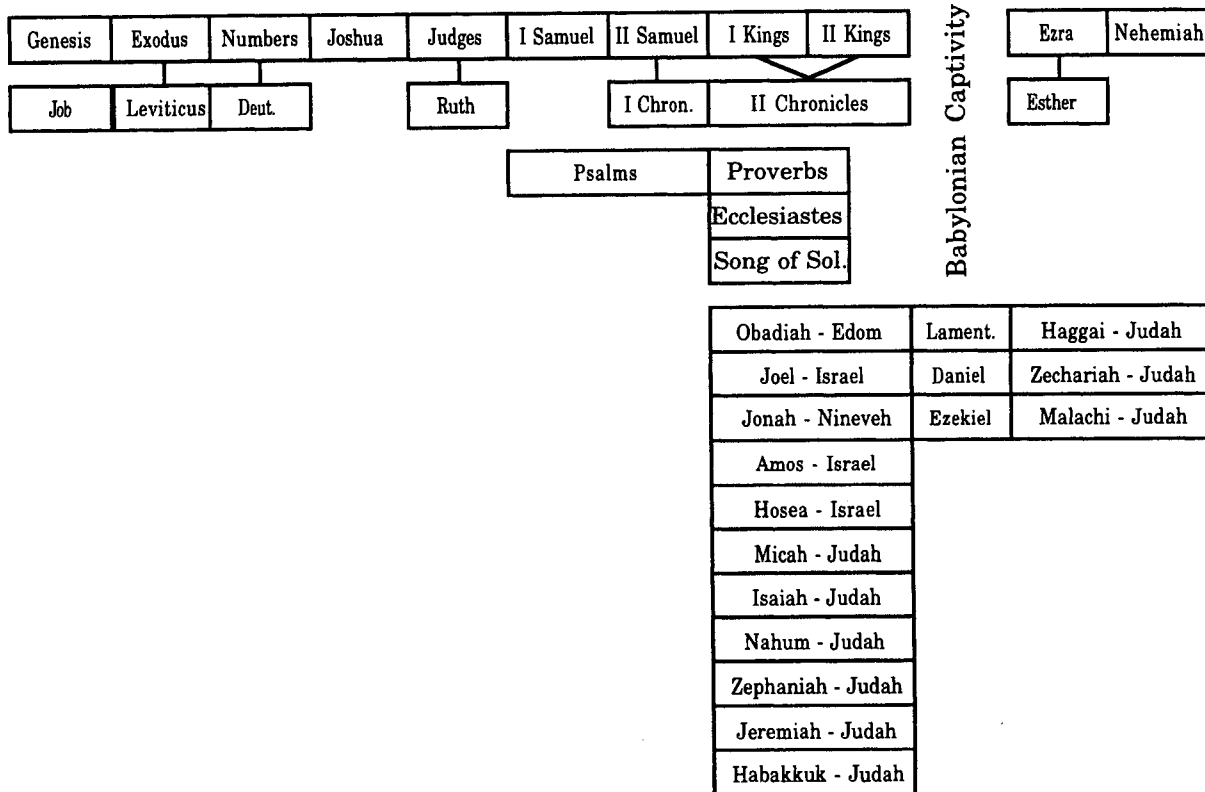
The next page is a complete listing of the Old Testament books in chronological order. Please study and memorize this chart so you can later complete the blanks when a particular section is being reviewed.

As you can see, the top line of blocks contain the eleven main books of the Old Testament which include most of the stories and themes presented. Although the focus of our study will be in these eleven books, the other twenty-eight books will be mentioned and included to give you a true feeling for the flow of history within the Bible.

Regrettably, time and space do not allow us to cover the complete Old Testament in this book. The second half of the Old Testament from I Samuel to Malachi is reviewed in this study. The first half of the Old Testament is covered in *Studying God's Word Book E*.

The goal and purpose of this book comes directly from Joshua 1:8: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." May the Lord grant you good success and wisdom as you study His Word through this book.

Chronological Listing of the Old Testament Books



I & II Samuel Background

Author of I & II Samuel: Samuel. Jewish tradition also supports Nathan and Gad as possible authors. (I Chronicles 29:29; I Samuel 10:25)

Date of Writing: The narrative of Samuel spans three to four generations. Several individuals combined to write the book around 1000 B.C.

Purpose of I & II Samuel: To tell the continuing history of Israel from the time of the Judges to the death of David.

Outline of I & II Samuel:

- I. Samuel -- The Last Judge (I Sam. 1-7)
 - A. His Birth (I Sam. 1)
 - B. His Growth (I Sam. 2, 3)
 - C. His Office (I Sam. 4-7)

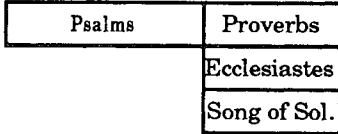
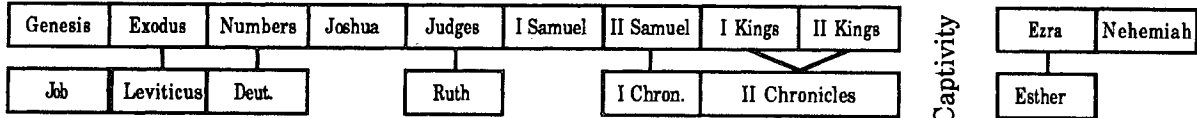
- II. Saul -- The First King (I Sam. 8-15)
 - A. His Rise (I Sam. 8-12)
 - B. His Fall (I Sam. 13, 14)
 - C. His Failure (I Sam. 15)

- III. David -- The Greatest King (I Sam. 16 - II Sam. 24)
 - A. David the Warrior (I Sam. 16-31)
 1. Replacement for Saul (I Sam. 16)
 2. Rise to Prominence (I Sam. 17, 18)
 3. Rejection by Saul (I Sam. 19-31)
 - B. David the King (II Sam. 1-24)
 1. His Triumphs (II Sam. 1-10)
 2. His Troubles (II Sam. 11-24)

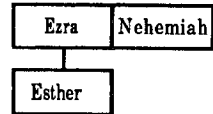
Big Idea of I & II Samuel: I & II Samuel were originally written as one book, but later divided into two. The book centers around three men: Samuel, Saul, and David. These individuals helped to form and develop Israel's early monarchy. Until this time, the nation of Israel had been ruled by judges. When the people asked for a king, God directed Samuel to anoint Saul first, then later anoint David as king.

The accounts within the book span about 160 years of history. Samuel explains to his readers the effects of sin and holiness in relation to the people and their kings. The people of Israel were taught, just as they were in the books of Joshua and Judges, that in order to be successful as a nation, they had to obey God's commandments and lead righteous lives.

I & II Samuel Background



Babylonian Captivity

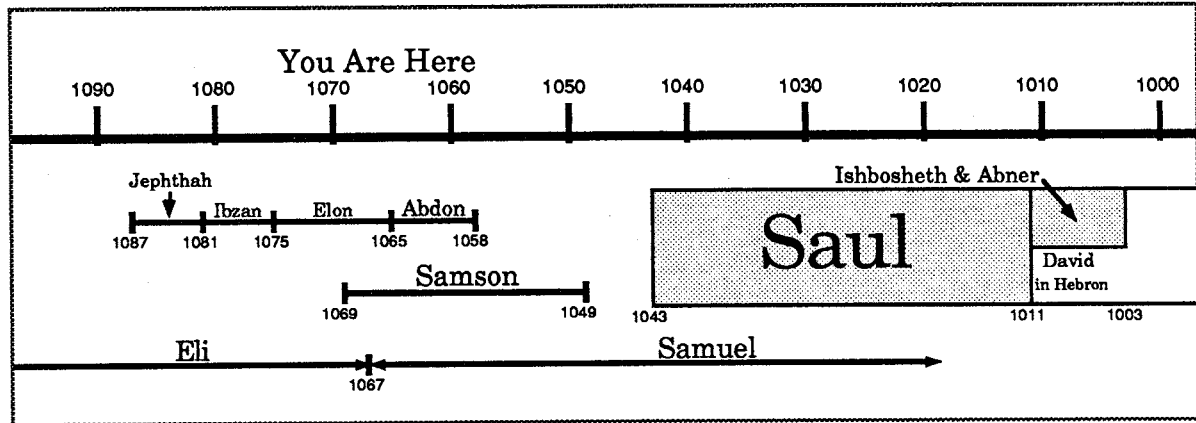


Obadiah - Edom	Lament.	Haggai - Judah
Joel - Israel	Daniel	Zechariah - Judah
Jonah - Nineveh	Ezekiel	Malachi - Judah
Amos - Israel		
Hosea - Israel		
Micah - Judah		
Isaiah - Judah		
Nahum - Judah		
Zephaniah - Judah		
Jeremiah - Judah		
Habakkuk - Judah		



The Birth of Samuel

Lesson #1



Lesson Goal: To understand how God hears and answers our prayers.

Background Text: I Samuel 1

Memory Verse: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

In Scripture we find the following principle; parents who love the Lord generally have children who grow up to love the Lord. As children, where would we be without our parents? We need them to supply so many of our basic needs. If you did not have your parents or guardians, where would you live? How would you eat? Who would love and take care of you? God gives parents to love and take care of us, and He also gives us parents to guide and direct our actions. Part of this guidance is spiritual direction. It is the Biblical role of the parents to guide and direct their children into a strong and loving relationship with their heavenly Father.

Samuel had parents who loved God, but their level of commitment to God was first tested. More than anything else in the whole world, Hannah wanted a child. Year after year she would go with her husband Elkanah to the tabernacle in Shiloh and would ask God for a child. But, each year would pass and she was not given a child. Was God hearing her prayer? Did He answer her request?

God knows and understands everything. Further, He only desires the best for His people who love and serve Him. God, therefore, answers our prayers in three different ways. Sometimes God says "No" to what we request, because He knows it would not be good for us to have the thing we desire. Other times, God says "Yes" because the thing we are requesting is in His purpose and will. Finally, there are times when God waits to answer our prayers. He is building our

The Birth of Samuel

patience so we may learn to trust Him. This was what God was first telling Hannah when she was praying for a child. God wanted Hannah to wait before He gave her a child.

Eventually, God answered Hannah's request with a "Yes," and she was blest with a very special son. This story is a beautiful example of the wonderful God we serve. As humans, it is difficult to patiently wait for God's answer to our prayers. But we can have confidence that God's will is perfect. We will never be truly contented unless we are following God's will and direction for our lives. God does not hold back any good thing from His children, but He desires that we love and worship Him completely. (Psalms 84:11).

Questions: Match the correct answer with the proper question.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. ____ Who was Elkanah's father? (1:1) | a. Bullock |
| 2. ____ Who were Elkanah's wives? (1:2) | b. In her heart |
| 3. ____ Who were Eli's sons? (1:3) | c. Portions |
| 4. ____ What did Elkanah give to his sons and daughters? (1:4) | d. Weaned |
| 5. ____ What did Hannah request from the Lord? (1:11) | e. Hophni and Phinehas |
| 6. ____ Where did Hannah speak? (1:13) | f. Male child |
| 7. ____ What did Eli think was wrong with Hannah? (1:14) | g. Peninah and Hannah |
| 8. ____ What did Hannah name her son? (1:20) | h. Jeroham |
| 9. ____ What needed to be done to Samuel before he was brought to the temple? (1:24) | i. She was drunk |
| 10. ____ What did Hannah slay? (1:25) | j. Samuel |

Thought Questions:

1. What prayer requests have you had that God answered with a "yes"? How did that make you feel? _____

2. What requests has God answered with a "no"? How did that make you feel?

3. What requests did God answer by having you wait a while? How did that make you feel? _____

Lesson Review:

1. Around what three men does the book of Samuel center? (Samuel Background)

2. When was Samuel most likely written? (Samuel Background) _____

Supplemental Exercise: Complete the crossword with the missing words from the passages below.

I Samuel 1:12-15

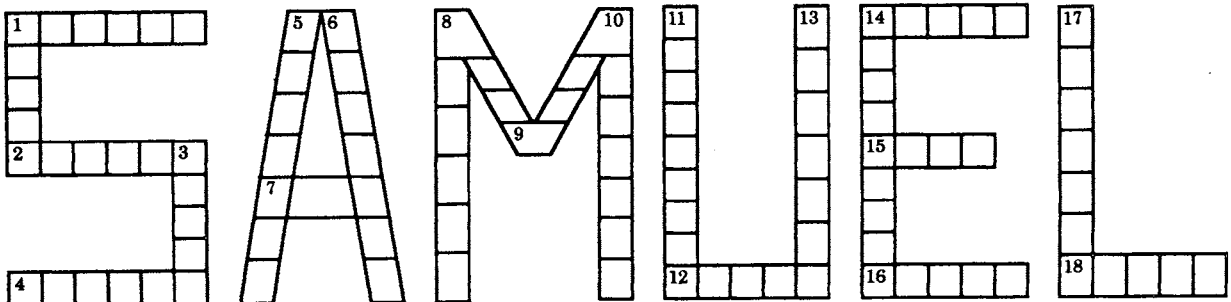
And it came to pass, as she continued 6-D before the LORD, that Eli marked her 1-D. Now 2-A, she spake in her 3-D; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful 4-A: I have drunk neither 9-A nor strong 14-A, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

I Samuel 2:18-21

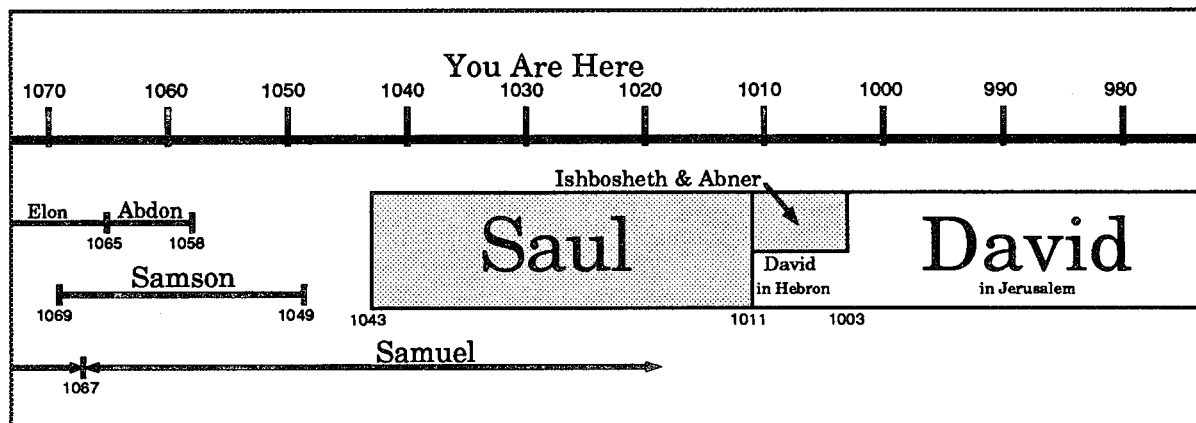
But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, 8-D with a linen 12-A. Moreover his 1-A made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her 13-D to offer the yearly 11-D. And Eli blessed 10-D and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the Lord. And they went unto their own 15-A. And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two 14-D. And the child Samuel 8-A before the LORD.

I Samuel 3:8-10

And the LORD called Samuel again the 18-A time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore 7-A said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, 16-A, LORD; for thy servant 5-D. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, speak; for thy 17-D heareth.



The Meaning of Friendship Lesson #6



Lesson Goal: To understand the true meaning of friendship.

Background Text: I Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:1-42

Memory Verse: A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24

Do you have a best friend? Good friends are wonderful people. We tell them our secrets; we play with them; we share our lives with them. When we think of friendship, we often remember David and Jonathan and the love they shared. Jonathan was a great warrior and had proven himself in battle (I Samuel 14:6-15). When David killed Goliath, Jonathan saw the courage David displayed and he became his friend. Jonathan understood the true character of David by his confidence and trust in God. This shared belief in God's power helped their relationship grow stronger. From the examples of Jonathan and David, we can learn some very important principles regarding friendship.

If we want to be a good friend, we must first learn to make sacrifices (I Samuel 18:1-4). Jonathan gave David some of his most cherished items as a sign of his commitment to him. This was a sacrifice for Jonathan to make, but he did this because he loved David.

Friendship also takes commitment (I Samuel 19:1-7). Saul was about to kill David, but Jonathan convinced him not to do it. Jonathan risked his own life for David's because he was committed to take care of him.

The commitment we have to our friends may be at different levels. Depending upon how good a friend another person is, we may like them or even love them. To love a friend means that one would be willing to give up his life for that person.



Jonathan worshipped God and understood that David would be the King of Israel after Saul, even though he was next in line to receive the throne. Jonathan gave up his right to the throne because of his commitment to God and love for David. Jonathan did all he could to make certain that David was protected from the sinful desires of his father.

The Bible gives a specific warning concerning the friends we choose. We must be careful because friends will influence us to become like them. The people we choose to be our friends need to obey God so that we can follow their good example and can obey God also. This is what Jonathan did when he chose David as his friend.

Questions:

1. What was knit? (18:1) _____

2. What did Jonathan and David make? (18:3) _____
3. What did Jonathan give David? (18:4) _____

4. What did Saul tell Jonathan? (19:1) _____

5. What did Jonathan tell David to do? (19:2) _____

6. How much did Jonathan love David? (20:17) _____

The Meaning of Friendship

7. What excuse did Jonathan give Saul for David's absence at the King's table?
(20:28, 29) _____

8. What did Saul throw at Jonathan? (20:33) _____
9. What did Jonathan give the lad? (20:40) _____
10. What did Jonathan and David do when they saw each other? (20:41, 42) _____

Thought Questions:

1. Who is your best friend? _____

2. What are some things that you can do to demonstrate kindness to your friend?

3. How does your friend help you to love and to follow God's commands? _____

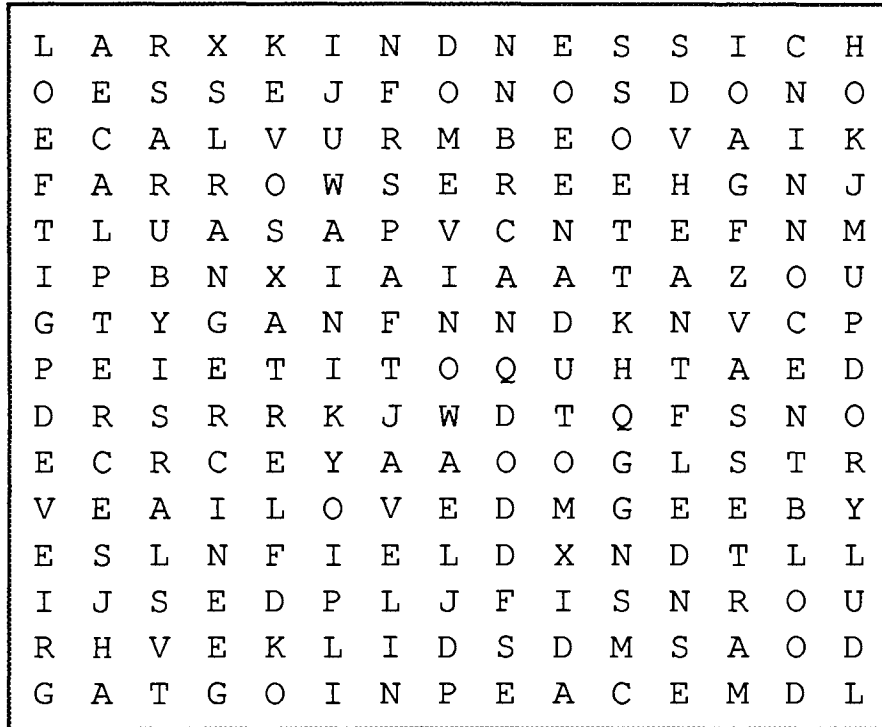
Lesson Review:

1. What major problem were the Israelites fighting? (Lesson #5) _____

2. Why was a king not to have many wives? (Lesson #4) _____

3. What was precious in the days of Samuel? (Lesson #2) _____

Supplemental Exercise: Find and circle the words listed in the word search puzzle. Words may be forward, backward, horizontal, vertical or diagonal.



JONATHAN
 SECRET PLACE
 GO IN PEACE
 SACRIFICE
 SON OF JESSE
 INNOCENT BLOOD

DAVID
 SIN
 FLED
 KINDNESS
 JAVELIN

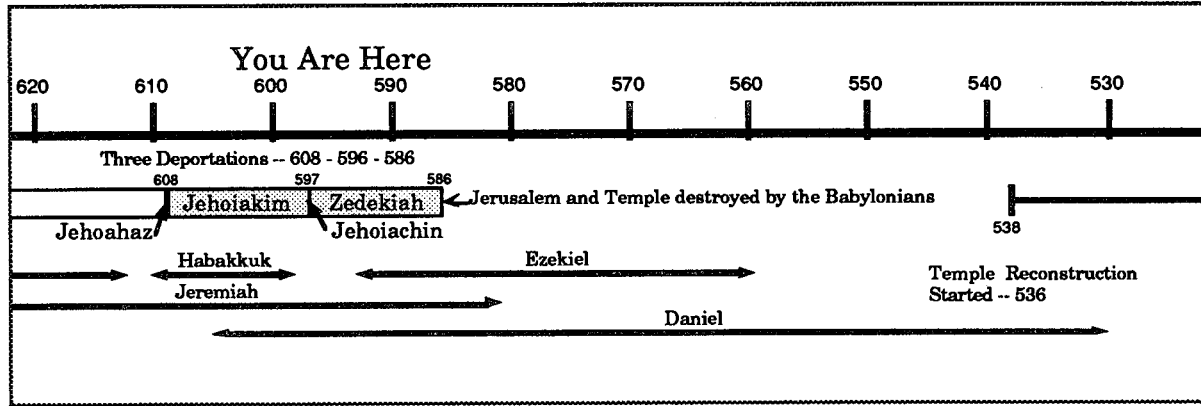
LOVED
 SERVANT
 DEATH
 ARROWS
 GRIEVED

SAUL
 COVENANT
 FIELD
 ANGER
 LORD GOD OF ISRAEL



The Fall of Judah

Lesson #35



Lesson Goal: To understand how we can be failures.

Background Text: II Kings 25

Memory Verse: Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and the like; of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

There will be people who, after studying God's Word, will not want to submit their lives to its teaching. They would rather follow the path that leads to destruction, than walk upon the way that leads to eternal life. Although these next few paragraphs are not to be taken seriously, if you are one of these people and want to be a spiritual failure, then follow these simple steps.

First, make something or someone other than Christ Jesus more important in your life. Make money, friends, clothes, power, popularity, yourself -- anything other than God -- the thing that you really care about. This is what the people of Judah did. They neglected God and placed their priorities upon their sinful desires.

Second, do not read the Bible. Ignore the principles of God's Word and follow after the teachings and philosophies of men. Suggested reading would be books written by Darwin, Marx, Dewey, Asimov, Barth, and men like them. The writings and teachings of these individuals will help you to deny the influence and existence of God in your life.

Third, do not listen to authority. Whether that would be your parents, the police,

your teachers, or employer, either ignore them or do the opposite of whatever they say. Consider the nation of Judah when the prophets told them to turn to God. Instead of following the prophet's warnings, they did the exact opposite and drifted further away from God. Their response to the prophets was either to reject them or kill them.

Finally, if you really want to be a failure and ruin your life, then do not be kind and considerate. Have you heard the sayings, "You have to look out for number one" and "You need to break a lot of backs to climb the ladder of success"? Then do what you can to hurt and mistreat the people around you. Act mean, fight, be grumpy, and talk behind people's backs. Be creative and try to break the golden rule in as many different ways as possible. The people of Judah oppressed the poor and needy. They tried to get rich at the expense of others. They stole from and cheated the people with whom they had occasion to do business.

I guarantee that if you practice these simple steps, you will become a failure and be miserable for the rest of your life.

Questions:

1. Who came to build forts against Jerusalem? (25:1) _____

2. Where did the Babylonian (Chaldees) army overtake King Zedekiah? (25:5) _____

3. Whom did they slay before the eyes of Zedekiah? (25:7) _____

4. What did the army of the Chaldeans break down? (25:10) _____

5. What did the captain leave the poor of the land to be? (25:12) _____

6. Who was the captain of the guard of Babylon? (25:20) _____

7. Whom did the King of Babylon appoint as governor over Judah? (25:23) _____

8. Who killed Gedaliah? (25:25) _____
9. After Gedaliah was killed, where did the people go in order to escape the Chaldeans? (25:26) _____

10. Who released Jehoiachin from prison and showed him kindness? (25:27) _____

The Fall of Judah

Thought Questions:

1. Why do you think some people refuse to obey God's Word? _____

2. What can you do to keep from becoming like them? _____

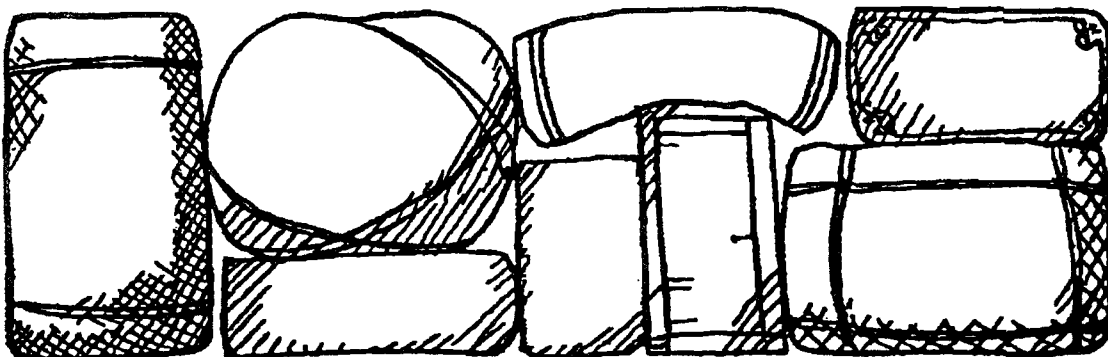
Lesson Review:

1. What was the purpose of the book of Jeremiah? (Jeremiah Background) _____

2. How long did Josiah reign in Jerusalem? (Lesson #34) _____

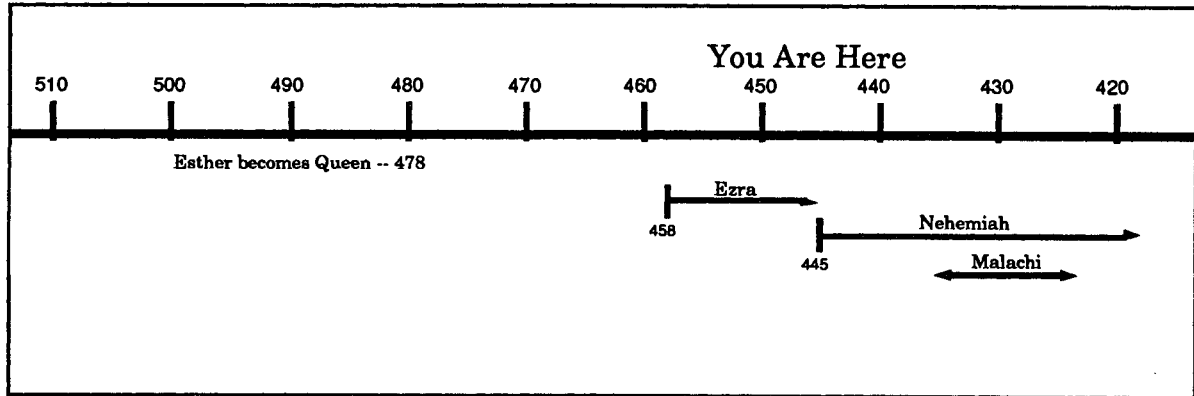
3. What tools should you use to help you in your Bible studies? (Lesson #34) _____

Supplemental Exercise: From II Kings 25:13-17 fill in the bundles with some of the items that were carried from Jerusalem.



The Reading of the Law

Lesson #46



Lesson Goal: To understand that the reading and studying of God's Word is a necessary part of our everyday life.

Background Text: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Memory Verse: This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:8

It is appropriate that the last lesson of our book focuses upon the reading and study of God's Word. Under the direction of Nehemiah and Ezra, the Levites read and taught the law to the people of Jerusalem. This led to a great revival in the hearts and minds of the Jews.

Hopefully after studying this book, you have learned a great many things about God's Word. More importantly, hopefully you have applied the truths of God's Word to your life and grown closer in your relationship with Christ Jesus.

We have stressed the necessity of God's Word and how it affects our everyday life and the world around us. Without the Word of God and the message of the gospel, we would have no hope or divine guidance in our daily walk with the Lord.

Ezra and Nehemiah recognized that the people needed the instruction of God's Word in order to reestablish their society after returning from Babylon. Without the proper teaching, the people would fall back into the same sin that caused them to go to Babylon in the first place. They appointed Levites as teachers to explain the law to the people.

The Reading of the Law

In your life, you will not always have your family, teachers, or pastors to help you make decisions or guide you. So what are you going to do? You will need to rely upon the truths of God's Word to guide and direct you. This reliance upon Godly direction happens when you are diligent in your study of the Bible.

Beginning now and continuing for the rest of your life, purpose in your heart to daily study God's Word. Read, memorize, and meditate upon the Scriptures in an attitude of reliance upon the Holy Spirit's guidance. This will provide you with the proper framework upon which to base your life and the decisions you make. Through this you will gain a deeper understanding of God and love Him with all your heart.

Questions:

1. What did the people ask Ezra to bring? (8:1) _____

2. Unto what were the ears of the people attentive? (8:3) _____
3. Upon what did Ezra stand? (8:4) _____
4. What did the people do after Ezra opened the law? (8:5) _____
5. With what did the people answer Ezra? (8:6) _____
6. What were the people told not to do? (8:9) _____
7. What did the people do when they heard the words of the law? (8:9) _____

8. What were the people to do for those who had nothing prepared? (8:10) _____

9. What was to be the people's strength? (8:10) _____
10. What had the people understood? (8:12) _____

Thought Questions:

1. Why do you believe it is important to read and study God's Word every day?

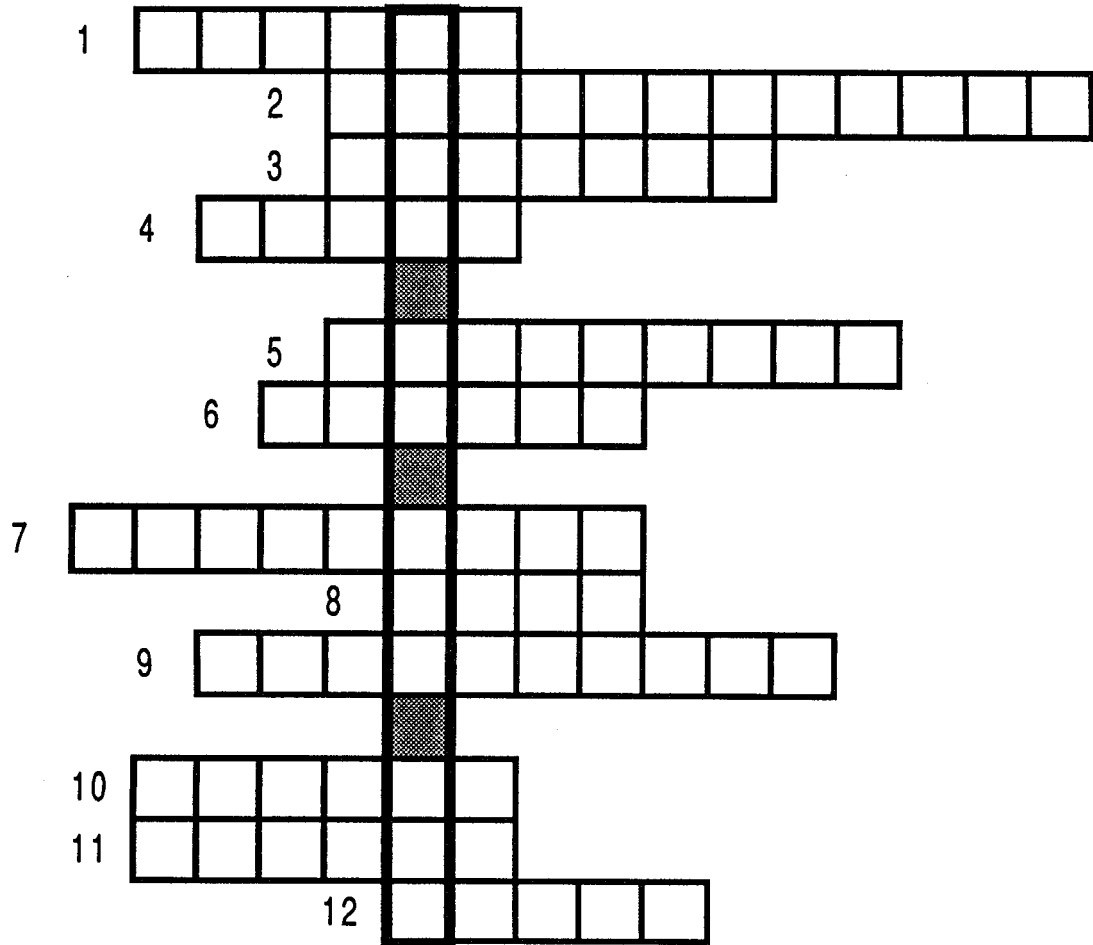
2. Why do you believe a proper understanding of God's Word will help you to make wise decisions? _____

Lesson Review:

1. How can our lives be compared to a diamond? (Lesson #45) _____

2. Who were the two individuals who plotted to kill King Ahasuerus? (Lesson #42) _____

Supplemental Exercise: Complete the puzzle and find the hidden phrase.



And all the [10] gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they [4] unto Ezra, the [1], to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had [5] to Israel.

And Ezra, the priest, brought the law before the [2] both of men and [12], and all that could [8] with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

And he read from it [6] the street that was before the water gate from the [3] until [11], before the men and the women, and those who could [9]; and the ears of all the people were [7] unto the book of the law.