

# PEOPLE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

| 13 Weeks | 6 Weeks |   |
|----------|---------|---|
|          | 1       | <b>Creation, Flood, and the Patriarchs</b>      |
| 1        |         | Adam<br>Noah                                    |
| 2        |         | Job<br>Abraham                                  |
|          | 2       | <b>Egypt and the Law</b>                        |
| 3        |         | Jacob<br>Joseph                                 |
| 4        |         | Moses<br>Feasts, Sacrifices, and the Tabernacle |
|          | 3       | <b>Judges and the Promised Land</b>             |
| 5        |         | Joshua<br>Deborah                               |
| 6        |         | Gideon<br>Samson                                |
| 7        |         | Ruth<br>Samuel                                  |
|          | 4       | <b>United Kingdom</b>                           |
| 8        |         | Saul<br>David                                   |
| 9        |         | Solomon<br>Psalms, Proverbs, and other works    |
|          | 5       | <b>Prophets before captivity</b>                |
| 10       |         | The story of 40 kings<br>Elijah                 |
| 11       |         | Jonah<br>Isaiah                                 |
|          | 6       | <b>Prophets after captivity</b>                 |
| 12       |         | Jeremiah<br>Daniel                              |
| 13       |         | Esther<br>Nehemiah, Ezra, Malachi               |

Material for this class was taken from the following resources: Quest NIV Study Bible, Life Application (NIV) Bible, Thomson Chain Reference NIV Bible, Halley's Bible Handbook, What the Bible is All About by Henrietta C. Mears, Beginnings in the Old Testament by Howard F. Vos, and Training for Service - A Survey of the Bible by Orrin Root.

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This work is dedicated to Sheila Smith, my wife.

William S. Smith

|                                      |  | Books of Old Testament                        |                                      |   |                                      |                |   | Date BC  | World Powers         |              |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|----------------------|--------------|--|
|                                      |  | Law   | History                              | Poetry  | Major Prophets                       | Minor Prophets | People  | Remember   | Date BC              | World Powers |  |
| P<br>r<br>o<br>m<br>i<br>s<br>e<br>s | P<br>a<br>t<br>r<br>i<br>s<br>c<br>h<br>e<br>s | Genesis                                       |                                      |   |                                      |                | Adam  | Creation, Eve, Sin<br>Cain & Abel, Sacrifices  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      |                | Noah  | Flood  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      | Job   |                                      |                | Job   | Sufferings of Job  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      |                | Abraham   | Lot, Sarah & Hagar<br>Father Abraham   | 2000                 |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Jacob          | 12 sons (12 Tribes)   | 1900   |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Joseph         | Sold as Slave by brothers<br>Rises to Power in Egypt                      | 1800   |                      |              |  |
| L<br>A<br>W                          | D<br>e<br>s<br>c<br>r<br>i<br>p<br>t           | Exodus<br>Leviticus<br>Numbers<br>Deuteronomy |                                      |   |                                      |                | Moses   | Plagues (Passover)<br>Escape from Egypt<br>Aaron & Jethro<br>40 years in the Wilderness<br>10 Commandments<br>Ark & Tabernacle | 1,446<br>1,445       | Egypt        |  |
|                                      |  |   | C<br>o<br>n<br>q<br>u<br>e<br>s<br>t | Joshua  |                                      |                |   | Joshua   | Promised Land        | 1,400        |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      | Judges  |                                      |                |   | Deborah  | Israel's Woman Judge | 1,200        |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      |                |   | Gideon   | Reluctant Warrior    | 1,150        |  |
|                                      | Ruth   |   |                                      |   |                                      | Samson         | Great Strength  | 1,065  |                      |              |  |
|                                      | 1st Samuel                                     |   |                                      |   | Ruth                                 | Ruth & Naomi   | 1,150   |  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Samuel         | Priest  | 1,100  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Saul           | The 1st King  | 1,050  |                      |              |  |
|                                      | P<br>o<br>w<br>e<br>r                          |   | 2nd Samuel<br>1st Chronicles         | Psalms  |                                      |                | David   | Kills Goliath<br>The Great King  | 1,025<br>1,010       | Israel       |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      |                | Solomon   | The Wise King<br>Builds Temple   | 960                  |              |  |
| D<br>e<br>c<br>l<br>i<br>n<br>e      |  | 2nd Kings                                     |                                      |   | Joel<br>Amos<br>Obadiah<br>Jonah     | Elijah         | Division of kingdom<br>Jezebel the wicked queen<br>Elisha followed Elijah | 930<br>870   |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Jonah          | Whale   | 785  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      | Isaiah  | Hosea<br>Micah<br>Nahum<br>Zephaniah | Isaiah         | Gospel Prophet<br>Israel Captivity  | 722  | Assyria              |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      | Jeremiah<br>Lamentations<br>Ezekiel<br>Daniel | Habakkuk                             | Jeremiah       | Weeping Prophet<br>Jerusalem Destroyed<br>Judah Captivity                 | 586  | Babylon              |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Daniel         | Lions Den   | 539  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   | Haggai<br>Zechariah                  |                | Return<br>Temple rebuilt  | 538<br>516   | Persia               |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Esther         | Became Queen of Persia  | 479  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   | Malachi                              | Nehemiah       | Walls Rebuilt   | 445  |                      |              |  |
| Greece                               |  |   |                                      |   |                                      |                |   |  |                      |              |  |
|                                      |  |   |                                      |   |                                      |                | Temple restored   |  |                      |              |  |
| Grace                                |  |   |                                      |   |                                      | Christ         | Salvation   |  | Rome                 |              |  |

# ADAM

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| STORY FOUND                   | Genesis <b>1:26 - 5:5</b> .  |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | 1 Chronicles <b>1:1</b> ; Luke <b>3:38</b> ; Romans <b>5:14</b> ; 1 Corinthians <b>15:22, 45</b> ;<br>1 Timothy <b>2:13,14</b>   |
| SELECTED VERSES               | Genesis <b>1:26</b> ; <b>2:19-24</b> ; <b>3:8-19</b> ; <b>4:1-8</b> ; <b>5:4</b>   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | Sin entered the world through the actions of Adam and Eve. This broke the harmony that had existed between God and man.  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | The story of Adam pre-dates the Hebrew Nation. It was Abraham (one of Adam's descendants) that God promised to build a nation from (Genesis 12:1-3).   |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>God created the universe. The Creation story is found in Genesis. God also created man. The bible tells us that God created man in his own image . This means that we have a soul, a personality, a will, and the ability for righteousness and holiness, and other things as well. God set man to rule over the fish, the birds, the livestock, and all the earth, and all the creatures that move along the ground.</p> <p>Initially, Adam had a harmonious relationship with God. God set him in the Garden of Eden, and God told him to work and take care of it. God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.</p> <p>God saw that Adam needed a companion to complete him, and so God created Eve from a rib taken from Adam's side. This was not to show women as inferior or subservient to men, but to show interdependence.</p> <p>Satan enticed Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Eve then enticed Adam to eat as well. Because of their act of disobedience, God cast them from the garden, and told them of the consequences of their act (see Genesis <b>3:14-19</b>). With the entrance of sin into the world, mankind became separated from the right relationship with God. To restore this relationship would require God to send his own Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. But God did not reveal His full plan at this point.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | First man, father of the human race.   |
| WEAKNESSES                    | Disobeyed God, blamed his wife.  |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | Sons Cain, Abel, Seth (Cain killed Abel)   |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Sacrifices at this time were used as acts of worship to God. (Genesis <b>4:4</b> ), Marriage was introduced (Genesis <b>2:24</b> ), food was seed bearing plants and fruit (Genesis <b>1:29</b> ).   |

# NOAH

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| STORY FOUND                   | Genesis <b>5:29 - 10:32</b>  |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | 1 Chronicles <b>1:3,4</b> ; Isaiah <b>54:9</b> ; Ezekiel <b>14:14,20</b> ; Matthew <b>24:37,38</b> ; Luke <b>3:36, 17:26, 27</b> ; Hebrews <b>11:7</b> ; 1 Peter <b>3:20</b> ; 2 Peter <b>2:5</b>  |
| SELECTED VERSES               | Genesis <b>5:29</b> ; <b>6:9-18,22</b> ; <b>7:1-3,17</b> ; <b>8:1,20</b> ; <b>9:1-5,12-15</b>  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | Noah's family being saved in the ark is a type (OT event foreshadowing NT truth) pointing towards our being saved through baptism. (See 1 Peter <b>3:20-21</b> )   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Like Adam, Noah precedes the Hebrew nation. Abraham was a descendent of Noah's son Shem (Genesis <b>11:10-27</b> ).  |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>Man was increasing in numbers on the earth. The Lord saw how evil man had become and decided to wipe mankind out. But one man found favor in the Lord's eyes - Noah. Noah was a righteous man and he walked with God. God instructed Noah to build an ark (ship). He gave him instructions on size, materials, and layout. He told Noah to take into the ark his wife, sons, and their wives; along with 7 pairs of every clean animal, one pair of every unclean animal, and seven pairs of every kind of bird; along with food for him, for his family, and for the animals. Noah did everything just as God had commanded him.</p> <p>God then made it rain for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters rose and every living thing on the earth was destroyed except for those in the ark. After the rains stopped, it took about a year before Noah and his family were able to permanently leave the ark.</p> <p>Noah built an altar and made a sacrifice to God. God made a covenant that He would never again destroy all life with a flood. As a sign of His covenant (promise) God set a rainbow in the clouds. God made this covenant between Himself and all life on the earth (man and animals).</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God." (Genesis <b>6:9</b> ). Also Noah was a man of faith who did what God commanded him.  |
| WEAKNESSES                    | Became drunk (only mentioned once, so may not have been a habit).  |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | Son's were Ham, Shem, and Japheth. Noah's line included Adam, Seth, Noah's great-grandfather Enoch (who walked with God), and Noah's grand-father Methuselah.  |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Food now included fish, animals, birds - but not with blood still in it (Genesis <b>9:3-4</b> ). God prohibited man killing fellow man (Genesis <b>9:5</b> ) Man's lifespan set to average of 120 years (Genesis <b>6:3</b> ). Prior to this we see records of 600-900 years. Tower of Babel story occurs here (Genesis <b>11:1-9</b> ) right before description of Shem's line leading to Abraham.  |

# JOB

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| STORY FOUND                   | Job  |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Ezekiel 14:14, 20; James 5:11  |
| SELECTED VERSES               | Job 2:3. Some favorite passages from Job are Job 1:21; 5:17; 13:15; 14:14; 16:21; 19:23-27; 23:10; 26:7-14; 28:12-28 and 42:1-6.   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | While Job does not bear directly on God's plan of Salvation, his story does deal with an issue that bothers most of us at one time or another - Why does God allow the righteous and the innocent to suffer pain and heartache?  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Job lived during the times of the patriarchs. He was most likely not a descendent of Abraham's, but probably lived either shortly before or shortly after Abraham (at any rate, Job definitely lived before Moses).  |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>Job was a Godly man, a good father. He was the most powerful man in his area and he owned several thousand sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys. His household included a large number of servants. Satan comes before God and tells God that Job is a Godly man because of the great benefits that he receives from God. God allows Satan to test Job. In one day Job suffers greatly. His livestock is stolen, his servants killed by enemies, and his children killed when a great wind destroyed the house they were staying at. Despite all of this, Job remained steadfast in his devotion to God.</p> <p>Then Satan was allowed to afflict Job with sores over his entire body. Job's wife advised him to curse God and die - but Job remained steadfast. Job's three friends come to comfort him and to offer such explanations as God is almighty and just, that no human is entirely innocent and that Job's suffering must be in retribution for some wrong-doing. Job declares himself to be innocent of any wrong-doing which would deserve this treatment and demands to speak to God directly to answer any charges.</p> <p>When God does intervene, He doesn't offer any explanations - but instead points to His own greatness, glory and power. The story of Job ends with the Lord blessing the latter part of Job's life more than the first.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | God described Job as "blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." (Job 1:8).   |
| WEAKNESSES                    | One we probably all share. When so many things had gone wrong in his life, Job wanted to question God as to why these things had happened.   |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | His wife is not named. His three friends are Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.  |
| SIDE NOTES                    | The book of Job contains one of the earliest (chronologically) descriptions of sacrifices as atonement that I am aware of. Job offered burnt sacrifices for his children in case they had sinned, and the book closes with God telling Job's friends that they are to sacrifice a burnt offering for themselves.   |

# ABRAHAM

## STORY FOUND

Genesis **11:26 - 25:11**

## OTHER REFERENCES

Exodus **2:24**; Acts **7:2-8**; Romans **4**; Galatians **3**; Hebrews **2,6,7,11**

## SELECTED VERSES

Genesis **12:1-3**; **13:1,12**; **14:14-20**; **15:4-5**; **16:3**; **17:9-16**; **18:10**; **21:2-3**; **22:1-2,12-13**

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

This is where it starts. God promised that Abraham would be the father of a mighty nation through whom all peoples of the world would be blessed.

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Abraham was the person God chose to be the father of the Hebrew nation. This promise was repeated to his son and grandson, and no one else.

## BASIC STORY

God told Abraham to leave his country, his people, and his father's household and to go to the land that God would show him. God promised that He would make Abraham into a great nation and that all of the peoples on earth would be blessed through Abraham. 75 years old, Abraham did as God had commanded him, taking his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot, and all of their possessions and servants. When Abraham arrived in Canaan, God promised that He would give Abraham's offspring the land of Canaan.

Later there was a famine, and he took his family to Egypt where he passed his wife off as his sister. After returning to Canaan the Lord promised him that that Abraham would have many offspring - too many to be counted. He also promised that Abraham would have a son. Sarah, who had been childless decided to have Abraham have a child through her hand-maiden Hagar. Hagar provided him with his first son - Ishmael.

13 years later, God appeared to Abraham and instructed him, along with all of his descendants to be circumcised as a sign of God's covenant with them. God promised that the whole land of Canaan would be theirs and that He would be their God. He also promised that Sarah would bear a son to be named Isaac and to whom the covenant would be passed. At age 90, Sarah bore 100 year old Abraham his 2nd son - Isaac.

Abraham faced one final test from God. He was ordered to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham prepared to do as ordered, and at the last moment God intervened, and provided a ram instead.

## STRENGTHS

Great faith in God. Built many altars to God during his travels.

## WEAKNESSES

Abraham lied, calling his wife his sister because it was easier to do that than to risk the danger of being killed because of his wife's beauty.

## OTHER PEOPLE

Abraham rescued Lot who had been taken prisoner. Melchizedek, a priest of God blessed Abraham, and Abraham gave him a tithe. After Sarah's death Abraham married Keturah and had six more sons. Problems arose between Sarah and Hagar, and Hagar and her son Ishmael were sent away. (When Abraham died, Ishmael and Isaac buried him).

## SIDE NOTES

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is described in Genesis **18-19**.

# JACOB

## STORY FOUND

Genesis **25-50**

## OTHER REFERENCES

Hosea **12:2-5**; Matthew **1:2**; **22:32**; Acts **3:13**;**7:46**; Romans **9:11-13**;  
**11:26** and Hebrews **11:9,20,20**

## SELECTED VERSES

Genesis **25:24-34**; **27:6,30**; **28:1,13-15**; **29:18**; **30:25**; **32:24-28**; **33:4**

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

God elected (chose) to pass over Jacob's older brother Esau and to continue His covenant through Jacob.

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham had 12 sons. These 12 sons' descendants became the 12 tribes of Israel.

## BASIC STORY

Isaac's wife Rebekah bore him twins - Jacob and Esau, Esau being the first-born twin. Esau became a hunter preferring the open country while Jacob preferred to stay at home. Esau sold Jacob his (first-born) birthright for some bread and stew. Later when Rebekah put him up to it, Jacob deceived his father and received Esau's blessing. Because of this Esau planned to kill Jacob after Isaac's death. To avoid this, and to insure that Jacob did not marry a local pagan wife, his parents sent him to his mother's family to take a wife from one of his uncle's daughters.

On the way there Jacob dreams of a stairs from earth to heaven with angels going up and down and the Lord at the top. God reaffirms the promise. Jacob continues on his way and arrives at his uncle Laban's. He works 7 years to earn the right to marry Laban's daughter Rachel. But he is deceived and given the older daughter Leah. Laban agrees that he can also marry Rachel, and he works another 7 years and begins his family.

20 years after arriving, Jacob takes his family and returns home. He hears that Esau is coming to meet him (with 400 men). He prays to God, and that night he wrestles with God, and God changed his name from Jacob to Israel. He sent gifts ahead to Esau, and all is forgiven.

## STRENGTHS

Hard worker, flocks prospered under his care.

## WEAKNESSES

Like his father, he played favorites among his children.

## OTHER PEOPLE

The story of Jacob's father Isaac is told in Genesis **17:15-35:29**. The story of Jacob's mother Rebekah is told in Genesis **24-49**. Jacob had twelve sons. 2 from Leah's maidservant, 6 from Leah, 2 from Rachel's maidservant, and 2 from Rachel. He also had 1 daughter from Leah.

## SIDE NOTES

Abraham sent a servant to find a wife for his son Isaac from Abraham's original country. If Jacob's mother had come from the area of Canaan, she would have had a pagan background. Read about it in Genesis **24**. The Israelites didn't eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon when he wrestled with God. (Genesis **32:22-31**). One of Esau's wives was the daughter of Ishmael (Genesis **28:9**).

# JOSEPH

## STORY FOUND

Genesis **30-50**

## OTHER REFERENCES

Hebrews **11:22**

## SELECTED VERSES

Genesis **37:2-4,28; 39:1-2; 40:1-3; 41:25,29-30,39, 42:7; 44:1-2; 45:1; 46:2-4**

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

God needed to keep the Hebrew nation from inter-marrying with the people around them while they developed into a nation.

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Joseph was one of Jacob's twelve sons, and his descendants became one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

## BASIC STORY

Joseph was his father's favorite. His father gave him a multi-colored coat, which seemed to indicate that Joseph would receive the birthright. Joseph had dreams which showed that his brothers, and even his father and mother would someday bow down to him. Joseph's brothers hated him.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to see how his brothers were doing. His brothers decided to kill him. But Reuben (one of his brothers) convinced the others that they should not shed his blood, but should put him down a cistern instead. Reuben planned to come back later and free Joseph. But before he could do so, the other brothers sold Joseph to a caravan headed to Egypt. They put goat's blood on the coat, and took it to Jacob who believed that a wild animal had killed his son.

Joseph was sold to Potiphar one of Pharaoh's officials where he prospered until Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to have sex with her. Joseph refused, and to get even Potiphar's wife lied and said Joseph had tried to rape her. Joseph was thrown in prison where he made friends with two other prisoners - the Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. He interpreted dreams for them. Later the cupbearer had been freed and returned to his duties. Pharaoh had dreams which no one could interpret, and the cupbearer told Pharaoh of Joseph. Pharaoh sent for Joseph and told him of his dreams. Joseph told Pharaoh that Egypt would have 7 years of abundance followed by 7 years of famine. Joseph suggested that grain be stored in preparation for the famine. Pharaoh agreed and put Joseph in charge of Egypt.

When the famine struck, Jacob's family moved to Egypt, where the Pharaoh made them welcome because of Joseph. God promised they'd return.

## STRENGTHS

Integrity

## WEAKNESSES

Pride (as a young man)

## OTHER PEOPLE

Read about Joseph's reunion with his brothers and trick he played on them in Genesis **42-45**.

## SIDE NOTES

Egypt became wealthy selling the grain to other countries during the famine. In Egypt, people sold their land to Pharaoh to buy food.

# MOSES

## STORY FOUND

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Exodus tells of the escape from Egypt and receiving the 10 Commandments. Leviticus discusses the priesthood, sacrifices, and feasts. Numbers talks of censuses and 40 years of wandering in the desert. Deuteronomy contains Moses farewell speeches, a repeat of the law, and final preparations to entering Canaan.

## OTHER REFERENCES

Acts 7:20-44; Hebrews 11:23-29; Matthew 17:3;

## SELECTED VERSES

Exodus 2:1-2,10; 3:2,10-11; 12:21; 14:21; 19:20; 20:1-17; Numbers 20:9-12; Deuteronomy 34:5-6

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

God enters into a covenant with the Israel nation. He gives them the Law to follow, and they are to remain true to him. Many types are introduced - Passover, Tabernacle, Priesthood, etc.

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Moses was one of Israel's greatest leaders. He brought 2,000,000 people out of Egypt and organized them into the nation of Israel.

## BASIC STORY

About 350 years have gone by since Jacob's family entered Egypt. The Israelites are in bondage, and all male babies are to be killed! Baby Moses, hidden in a basket, is adopted and raised by Pharaoh's daughter. When he grows up, he identifies himself with Israel. He kills an Egyptian and flees to Midian, marries, and lives in relative obscurity for 40 years.

God, speaking from a burning bush, calls Moses to return to Egypt and free the Israelites. Moses makes several excuses, but God promises to aid him. God send 10 plagues against Egypt, the worse being the death of all 1st born males, people and animals alike. Only the Israelites are spared, through the blood of the Passover Lamb. Pharaoh frees the Israelites, but then pursues them. The Israelites win deliverance crossing the divided waters of the Red Sea which rejoins to drown the pursuing Egyptians.

The people complain because there is no water and no food. God sends them manna and water from a rock. Jethro brings Moses wife and family to join him, and offers organizational advice. They arrive at Mt. Sinai, and God gives them the 10 Commandments. Preparing to enter the Promised Land, they send forth 12 spies. They bring back discouraging news, and only Caleb and Joshua say to trust God. God punishes the Israelites by having them wander in the desert for 40 years until all of the adults have died except the faithful. Moses is not allowed to enter the Promised Land. He gives his farewell address and dies. God buries him.

## STRENGTHS

Great Leader.

## WEAKNESSES

Became exasperated with the people's complaints.

## OTHER PEOPLE

Sister Miriam, brother Aaron, Wife Zipporah, Father-in-Law Jethro (Midanite - descended from Abraham's 2nd wife Keturah), Joshua, Caleb.

## SIDE NOTES

Atonement sacrifices spelled out, clean and unclean food spelled out.

| S<br>A<br>C<br>R<br>I<br>F<br>I<br>C<br>E<br>S | TYPES      | PURPOSE  | OFFERINGS  |
|--|------------|--|--|
|  | Burnt      | Make payment for sins in general.                          | Bull or ram without blemish (defect). (Poor people could substitute dove or pigeon).   |
|  | Grain      | Show honor and respect to God.                             | Grain.   |
|  | Fellowship | Express thanks to God.                                     | An animal without blemish (defect) taken from herd or flock.   |
|  | Sin        | Make payment for unintentional kinds of sin.               | For individuals a female goat or lamb. (Poor people could substitute dove or pigeon; or small portion of flour for very poor). |
|  | Guilt      | Make payment for sins against God and sins against others. | Ram or lamb. Also required restitution to injured party.   |

| F<br>E<br>A<br>S<br>T<br>S |  | FEAST                         | Approx Month |   |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
|                            | MAJOR<br>(Jerusalem)<br><br>See<br>Deuteronomy<br><b>16:16</b> | Passover and Unleavened Bread | April        | Commemorated escape from Egypt. Passover was 1 day, followed by 7 days (Unleavened Bread). Main event of Passover was eating Pascal Lamb. |
|                            |  | Pentecost                     | June         | Lasted 1 day, main feature was offering two loaves which represented the first fruits of wheat. Came 7 weeks after Passover feast.        |
|                            |  | Tabernacles                   | October      | Commemorated life in the wilderness. Lasted 1 week, main feature was living in booths.  |
|                            | MINOR<br>(Anywhere)  | Trumpets                      | October      | Ushered in the civil year.  |
|                            |  | Dedication                    | December     | Introduced between OT and NT. Lasted 8 days, celebrated purification and rededication of Temple.  |
|                            |  | Purim                         | March        | 2 day celebration commemorating Queen Esther's rescue of the Israelites.  |
|                            | OTHER  | Day of Atonement              | October      | A Sabbath of Rest. 1 day when atonement sacrifice would be made for them by priests.  |
|                            |  | Sabbath                       | every        | Day of rest on the 7th day of every week (Saturday).  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| T<br>A<br>B<br>E<br>R<br>N<br>A<br>C<br>L<br>E | The <b>court</b> or yard around the tabernacle measured 150 feet by 75 feet. This symbolized the world.   |
|  | As you entered the court, you would come upon the <b>altar for burnt offerings</b> .  |
|  | Just in front of the tabernacle was a <b>laver</b> or large wash basin. The priests would wash their hands before entering into the tabernacle.   |
|  | The tabernacle itself was divided into two parts - the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Altogether it measured 45 by 15 feet. The <b>Holy Place</b> was 30 by 15, and the Most Holy Place was 15 by 15. It was covered on top as well. When you first entered the Tabernacle, you entered into the Holy Place. To your right would be the <b>table of shewbread</b> , to your left would be a lamp stand (the <b>candlestick</b> ) holding 7 lamps. Straight ahead was an <b>altar where incense burned</b> . Behind the altar was a <b>veil</b> or curtain separating the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place. Only the priest would enter into the Holy Place. |
|  | The <b>Most Holy Place</b> contained the <b>Ark of the Covenant</b> - a chest containing the Ten Commandments, a dish of manna, and Aaron's rod. Only entered into by the High Priest.  |

# JOSHUA

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| STORY FOUND                   | Exodus <b>17:9-14; 24:13; 32:17; 33:11</b> ; Numbers <b>11:28; 13; 14; 26:65; 27:18-23; 32:11-12,28; 34:17</b> ; Deuteronomy <b>1:38; 3:21,28; 31:3,7,14,23; 34:9</b> , book of Joshua.  |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Judges <b>2:6-9</b> ; 1 Kings <b>16:34</b>   |
| SELECTED VERSES               | Exodus <b>17:9-10; 24:13</b> ; Numbers <b>13:16; 14:5-7; 27:22-23; 32:11-13</b> ; Deuteronomy <b>1:37-38; 3:21-22; 31:7</b> ; Joshua <b>1:1-2; 2:1; 4:15-18; 6:15,20; 10:12-14;11:23; 23:14; 24:1,14-16,31</b> .   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | God had promised to return the Israelites to the Promised Land. But to inherit it, they would first need to conquer it.  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Joshua became leader after Moses. Led the Israelites into the promised land conquering 31 kings and divided the land among the tribes.   |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>Joshua was a valued aide to Moses. Joshua led the fight against the Amalekites. He accompanied Moses up Mt. Sinai when Moses received the 10 Commandments. He was one of the twelve spies sent into Canaan. He and Caleb were the only two spies who felt the Israelites should trust God. They were the only two adults of that generation who were permitted to enter the Promised Land.</p> <p>God chose him to succeed Moses. After Moses death, God encouraged him, and Joshua organized the Israelites to begin the conquest of Canaan. As a sign of God's support, the flood waters of the river Jordan divide and the Israelites cross over into the Promised Land.</p> <p>At Jericho, Joshua follows God's instructions (delivered by an angel) and they march around the city of Jericho for seven days. On the seventh day the walls come tumbling down. At the battle of Gibeon, Joshua prayed to the Lord to have the sun and moon stand still until the battle was over. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and didn't set for a full day. Joshua proceeds to conquer thirty-one kings, conquering the majority of the land. He then proceeds to divide the land up among the tribes.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | Obedied God, lead the conquest of promised land.   |
| WEAKNESSES                    |  |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | Rahab the harlot helped the two Israelite spies escape from Jericho. When Jericho was destroyed, her life was spared. She later married an Israelite. One of her descendants was Boaz who married Ruth. And their descendant was King David, one of Christ's ancestors.  |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Read Joshua's farewell speech in Joshua <b>23-24</b> . <b>24:15</b> contains the "...choose for yourselves this day who you will serve...my household will serve the Lord". Joshua <b>24:31</b> tells us that Israel served the Lord during the lifetime of Joshua and the elders who had witnessed all that God had done for them.  |

# DEBORAH

STORY FOUND

Judges 4-5

OTHER REFERENCES

SELECTED VERSES

Judges 4:1-4, 6-10, 15-17, 18-21

RELATIONSHIP  
TO GOD'S PLAN

God uses both men and women to accomplish His will. God doesn't care whether we are male or female, but what is in our hearts.

RELATIONSHIP  
TO HEBREW NATION

The only female judge of Israel.

BASIC STORY

Whenever Israel turned away from the Lord, they had problems. Like all us, they would often turn to the Lord in times of trouble. When they repented (turned back), God would come to their aid. This was such a time. Sisera, with 900 chariots had been oppressing the Israelites for twenty years. Finally, the Israelites called to the Lord for help.

Deborah sent for Barak, and told him that God wanted him to take 10,000 men to Mount Tabor; and that God would lure Sisera to the Kishon River and deliver him into Barak's hands. Barak agreed to go - but only if Deborah would accompany him. Deborah told him that she would go, but that because Barak had insisted that she go, Barak would not receive the honor for killing Sisera. The honor, in fact, would go to a woman.

Sisera was told that Barak had gone up to Mount Tabor, and so he gathered his 900 chariots and all of his men and went to the Kishon River. Deborah told Barak to "Go" for this was the day the Lord had given Sisera into Barak's hands. Barak advanced, and the Lord routed Sisera. All of Sisera's men were killed.

Sisera fled and went to hide in the tent of Heber the Kenite (Judges 4:17 tells us that Heber the Kenite was an ally with Sisera's king). But Heber was also a descendant of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law. Sisera instructed Heber's wife Jael to stand guard for him while he took a nap. While he was napping, Jael drove a tent peg through Sisera's temple and he died.

STRENGTHS

Deborah was a prophetess, and respected by the Israelites. They came to her to have their disputes decided. She trusted the Lord.

WEAKNESSES

OTHER PEOPLE

SIDE NOTES

Read Judges 2 to find out why God didn't drive out all of Israel's enemies.

# GIDEON

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| STORY FOUND                   | Judges <b>6-8</b>   |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Hebrew <b>11:32</b>   |
| SELECTED VERSES               | Judges <b>6:1-3,11-16,27,36-40; 7:7; 8:27</b>   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | God uses common people to achieve his ends. Gideon is one of the people God used to build Israel into a mighty nation.  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Many of the judges were what we would call military heroes. Gideon was one of the military heroes - though a reluctant one.   |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress (hoping to conceal it from the Midianites) when an angel of the Lord appeared to him and addressed him as "mighty warrior". Gideon asked for a sign and received it, and that night he destroyed the altar to Baal. Then Gideon asked for a 2nd and 3rd sign to prove that God really wanted him to save Israel. He put fleece on the threshing floor and asked that it be covered with dew, but the ground dry. It was. He then put fleece down again, asking that this time the ground be covered with dew and the fleece left dry. It was.</p> <p>So Gideon and all his men went to do battle. But the Lord said there was too many, and to send home any who feared for their lives. 22,000 men went back home leaving only 10,000. This was still too many. God intended to prove His hand in this. So the Lord told Gideon to take the men down to drink water. Any who lapped water like a dog were to be sent home, and only those who drank the water from cupped hands were to be kept. This left Gideon and 300 men. That night they covered torches with jars and took trumpets and surrounded the enemies camp. They then blew their trumpets, broke the jars, and shouted. The Midianites jumped up in confusion, fought each other, and fled. The Israelites wanted to make Gideon king, but he said that the Lord should rule over them.</p> <p>Gideon's biggest mistake was making some gold rings into a garment which was later worshipped by the Israelites.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | Acted on his convictions, good military strategist  |
| WEAKNESSES                    | Didn't trust God enough (wanted proof signs)  |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | Gideon's concubine bore him a son named Abimelech who declared himself to be king and had 69 of his 70 half brothers killed.  |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Read about another judge (Jephthah) and his rash vow in Judges <b>11:30-40</b> . He vowed that if the Lord would give him victory, he would sacrifice the first thing that came out of his house. He expected an animal to come out, but the first thing that came out of his house was his daughter. Some people think it is biblical to ask God for signs to help them make decisions (putting out fleece), but Gideon knew what God wanted him to do, his request for signs showed his lack of faith and trust.  |

# SAMSON

STORY FOUND

Judges **13-16**

OTHER REFERENCES

Hebrew **11:32**

SELECTED VERSES

Judges **13:1-5,24; 14:1-3,19; 15:7-8; 16:4-5,15-17,28-30**

RELATIONSHIP  
TO GOD'S PLAN

The problem with free will is that we're allowed to make our own choices; and like Samson we often make the wrong ones. Samson used his strength for personal revenge rather than for freeing his people.

RELATIONSHIP  
TO HEBREW NATION

Before birth, Samson was appointed by God to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. Because of bad choices he failed until his death.

BASIC STORY

Zorah and Manoah were childless. Then one day an angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah and told her that she was going to have a son. He told her not to drink any wine, and not to eat any unclean food. Her son was never to have a razor used on his head, but to be a Nazirite, set aside to God from birth; and he would deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. When her son was born, Manoah named him Samson.

Samson saw a young Philistine woman and decided to marry her, in spite of his parents' objections. Later the Philistines killed his wife; and Samson attacked them in turn. The Philistines took him prisoner, and God came on him in power and Samson killed a thousand men using the jawbone of a donkey. One day he went to Gaza and decided to spend the night with a prostitute. The people decided to kill him. Samson tore down the gates of the city and escaped.

Some time later he fell in love with Delilah. The Philistines told her that they would pay her if she could discover the secret of Samson's strength. After much nagging, Samson finally told her that his secret lied in never having his head shaved. Delilah told the Philistines, and they cut off Samson's hair while he was sleeping. They blinded him, shackled him, and made him grind grain in the prison. And his hair began to grow again.

During a celebration, the Philistines brought Samson out to mock. Samson asked to be placed by the pillars that supported the temple. He prayed to God to give him strength one final time. God answered his prayer and Samson pushed the pillars down. The temple came down and the Philistine rulers and all the people in it were killed.

STRENGTHS

Dedicated to God as a Nazirite, Great strength

WEAKNESSES

Violated God's laws, confided in wrong people

OTHER PEOPLE

Samuel was another person whose Nazirite vow was made by his parents.

SIDE NOTES

The Nazirite vow could either be for life (like Samson), or for a specified period of time. Samson's vow was made by his parents, but it was often a voluntary vow. Read about the Nazirite vow in chapter 6 of Numbers.

# RUTH

## STORY FOUND

Book of Ruth

## OTHER REFERENCES

Matthew 1:5

## SELECTED VERSES

Ruth 1:3-5,14-17; 2:5-7,23; 3:5; 4:13,16

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Ruth was a foreigner who became one of Christ's ancestors.

## BASIC STORY

Naomi and her husband and their two sons went to live in Moab where the two sons married Moabite women. Naomi's husband died, and ten years later her two sons died as well. Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, and she encouraged her daughters-in-law to remain in their homeland. But Ruth told her that she would stay with her - and that her people would become her people. So Ruth accompanied Naomi back to Bethlehem.

To help feed her mother and herself, Ruth gleaned in the fields. She just happened to go to the a field belonging to Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's dead husband. Boaz noticed her, and inquired who she was. He then told Ruth not to go elsewhere to glean, but to stay with his servant girls. He told his men to be sure to leave her alone. Ruth asked why he was showing her such favor and he replied the it was because of what Ruth was doing for her mother-in-law. When Ruth told Naomi about it, Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was a close relative who showed kindness to others. Naomi set her daughter-in-law up with Boaz.

Boaz went to the closest relative whose duty it really was to marry Ruth, and asked if the man intended to marry Ruth. The man declined, and so Boaz, next in line announced that he would marry Ruth.

So Boaz married Ruth, and she gave birth to a son.

## STRENGTHS

Commitment and dedication to her mother-in-law

## WEAKNESSES

## OTHER PEOPLE

Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David, one of Christ's royal ancestors.

## SIDE NOTES

Boaz was a descendant of Rahab (Refer back to Joshua). So we have Ruth, a foreign woman and Boaz who was a descendant of a foreign woman as ancestors to Christ. This may be a type pointing towards the inclusion of Gentiles in God's plan of salvation.

# SAMUEL

## STORY FOUND

1 Samuel **1-28**

## OTHER REFERENCES

Psalm **99:6**; Jeremiah **15:1**; Acts **3:24**; **13:20**; Hebrews **11:32**

## SELECTED VERSES

1 Samuel **1:11,20**; **2:11,26**; **3:1,19-20**; **4:1**; **7:3-15**; **8:6,21**; **9:15-16**;  
**12:19-23**; **16:1**

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Samuel was the last of the Judges. He anointed the first Kings (Saul and David) of Israel. He was also a prophet and priest.

## BASIC STORY

Hannah promised God that if she could have a son, she would give him to the Lord for the days of his life. Eli, the priest thought she was drunk. When he learned she was not drunk, but had been praying he sent her off with a blessing. Hannah gave birth to a son - Samuel. Remembering her promise to the Lord, as soon as Samuel was weaned he was taken to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. He was given to Eli to raise. Eli's own sons were wicked men with no regard for the Lord, but Samuel grew in stature and favor with the Lord and with men. Each year his mother brought him a new robe when she and his father came to offer the annual sacrifice.

One night the Lord called to Samuel in his sleep. Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, and would go in and ask Eli what he wanted. After several times Eli realized it was the Lord calling Samuel - so he told Samuel to answer "Speak, for your servant is listening". The Lord told Samuel that he was going to judge Eli because Eli had not acted to stop his sons.

The Philistines captured the Ark. But God sent plagues against them until they returned the Ark. Finally the Israelites mourned and sought after the Lord. Samuel told them that they needed to rid themselves of foreign gods and commit themselves to the Lord. Throughout Samuel's lifetime the Lord's hand was against the Philistines. Samuel would go throughout the land acting as judge. When Samuel grew old he appointed his sons as judges. But his sons were dishonest and accepted bribes. The people didn't want his sons as judges; instead they wanted Samuel to appoint a king. Samuel tried to talk them out of it, but they insisted. God told him to go ahead, and God chose Saul to be Israel's first king.

## STRENGTHS

One of most effective judges, a man of prayer.

## WEAKNESSES

His two sons

## OTHER PEOPLE

Saul disobeyed God's commands and God rejected him and had Samuel secretly anoint David to be the next king.

## SIDE NOTES

Prior to it's capture by the Philistines, the Ark of the Covenant resided at Shiloh. When recaptured it was not returned to Shiloh, and Shiloh stopped being a place of any importance.

# SAUL

## STORY FOUND

1 Samuel **8 - 31**

## OTHER REFERENCES

Acts **13:21**

## SELECTED VERSES

1 Samuel **8:1-5; 19-20; 9:1-2, 14-17, 21; 10: 5-7; 11: 5-8; 13:1, 3-4, 8-14; 14:49-51; 15:1-3, 7-11; 16:14-23; 18:28-29; 19:18-20; 24:8-11; 31:1-6**

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

First King of Israel

## BASIC STORY

The people of Israel wanted a king. Samuel tried to talk them out of it - but they insisted. God told Samuel to let them have a king. God chose Saul to be that person. Saul came from a family of good standing. He himself was described as being "an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites - a head taller than any of the others."

The Ammonites besieged Jabesh Gilead. When Saul heard the news, he cut a pair of oxen into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout all of Israel with the message that anyone who didn't follow Saul would suffer the same fate. Saul mustered 330,000 men and defeated the Ammonites. Afterwards, the people confirmed Saul as their king.

Saul failed to follow God's commands. On one occasion he didn't wait for Samuel to come and offer a sacrifice - but offered it himself. On another occasion he was told to destroy all of the enemy's belongings - but he allowed his men to keep the best animals.

David joined Saul as a musician, brought to play and soothed Saul. David became good friends with Saul's son Jonathan, and David married Saul's daughter Michal. But as David became popular, Saul became jealous of David and tried to kill him. Saul was never able to kill David, but David had several opportunities to kill Saul - but David refused to kill God's anointed king. Finally, Saul lost a battle, and killed himself.

## STRENGTHS

Saul started off on the right foot - a spirit of humility.

## WEAKNESSES

Saul was impatient - and didn't wait on the Lord. He also took credit for what others had done.

## OTHER PEOPLE

## SIDE NOTES

Saul consulted a witch (medium) in order to talk to the spirit of Samuel (1 Samuel 28). Samuel's spirit told him "Why do you consult me, now that the Lord has turned away from you?". People sometimes like to experiment with such things - but God has clearly told us to avoid astrology, spirit mediums, etc. (Deuteronomy 18: 9-14 and Galatians 5:19-21).

# DAVID

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| STORY FOUND                   | 1 Samuel <b>16</b> - 1 Kings <b>2</b> (Include 2 Samuel)  |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Amos <b>6:5</b> ; Matthew <b>1:1,6</b> ; <b>22:43-45</b> ; Luke <b>1:32</b> ; Acts <b>13:22</b> , Romans <b>1:3</b> ; Hebrews <b>11:32</b>  |
| SELECTED VERSES               | 1 Samuel <b>13:11-14</b> ; <b>16:1,13, 21-23</b> ; <b>17:14,50</b> ; <b>18:1,28-29</b> ; <b>24:8-11</b> ; <b>27:1-6</b> ;<br>2 Samuel <b>5:3</b> ; <b>7:11-16</b> ; <b>11:2-5</b> ; <b>24:24</b>  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | Royal ancestor of Christ. God promised to establish the throne of David's kingdom forever - pointing to Jesus' reign.   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Greatest King of Israel   |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>God rejected Saul because Saul had not followed God's commands. God chose David, the youngest of 8 brothers to be the new king. David was an accomplished harp player, and played for Saul. David's music soothed Saul, and Saul made David one of his armor-bearers.</p> <p>The Philistines had a champion named Goliath, a giant over nine feet tall. David was visiting his three older brothers one day when he heard Goliath challenge the Israelites. David decided to accept. Saul did not want to send a boy to fight a trained fighter, but David said that the Lord would deliver him, just as the Lord had delivered him from a lion and a bear while David had tended sheep. Saul let David fight the giant. David took his staff, and five smooth stones and his sling and went to face Goliath. As Goliath moved in to attack him, David used his sling and killed him.</p> <p>David became very close friends with Saul's son Jonathan; and Saul's daughter Michal fell in love with David, and they married. Saul became jealous of David and spent the rest of his life trying to find and kill him. David had several chances to kill Saul, but would not take the life of God's anointed king. Finally Saul died in a battle. David became king, and had the ark brought to Jerusalem, which he had made his capital. He went on to defeat the Philistines and to conquer the surrounding nations.</p> <p>One day David happened to see Bathsheba as she was bathing. He slept with her and she became pregnant. Uriah, her husband was off to war. David arranged to put him in danger so that he would be killed, and then married Bathsheba. She bore him a son named Solomon.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | God said that David was a man after his own heart   |
| WEAKNESSES                    | Adultery, murder, disobeyed God   |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | One of David's sons (Absalom) tried to steal the throne from David. Nathan the prophet rebuked David for his actions connected with Bathsheba.  |
| SIDE NOTES                    | David wrote most of the Psalms. The best know is the 23 psalm. God would not allow David to build a temple for God.   |

# SOLOMON

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| STORY FOUND                   | 2 Samuel <b>12:24</b> - 1 Kings <b>11:43</b> ; 1 Chronicles <b>28, 29:2</b> ; 2 Chronicles <b>1-10</b>  |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Nehemiah <b>13:26</b> ; Psalm <b>72</b> , Matthew <b>6:29</b> ; <b>12:42</b>  |
| SELECTED VERSES               | 2 Samuel <b>12:24</b> ; 1 Kings <b>1:32-34</b> ; <b>3:10-14</b> , <b>27-28</b> ; <b>4:34</b> ; <b>6:37-38</b> ; <b>7:1</b> ; <b>10:1</b> ; <b>11:1-3,9-14,23,26</b> ; 1 Chronicles <b>28:2-3,11-12</b> ; 2 Chronicles <b>1:7-12</b> ; <b>5:7-10,13-14</b> ; <b>10:1-4</b>   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    |   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | The wisest king. Received tribute from many nations. Built the Temple.  |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>The first child born to David and Bathsheba (Uriah's wife) died. Solomon was either the next child born to them (2 Samuel <b>12:24</b>) or the 4th child (1 Chronicles <b>3:5</b>). When King David was very old, another of his sons tried to steal the crown - Adonijah. But David had Solomon crowned instead. God asked Solomon (during a dream) what he would like, and Solomon asked for discernment in governing and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong. God granted him his wish, and also promised him riches, honor, and long life.</p> <p>Solomon's wisdom is often described by his ruling on which of two mothers a child belonged to. He ordered the child cut in half, with each woman to receive half. The real mother asked that the child be given to the false mother. The false mother agreed to this ruling - neither would have the child. Solomon ordered the child given to the real mother. He taught on many subjects, and kings of all countries sent men to come and listen to Solomon's wisdom. Even the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon.</p> <p>God did not allow David to build the temple because David was a warrior and had shed blood. David gave his plans and instructions to Solomon. Solomon built the temple (7 years) and then built his palace (13 years).</p> <p>Solomon's first wife was the daughter of Pharaoh. In addition, he married many other foreign women - he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. His foreign wives lead him to worship other gods which angered the Lord. For the sake of his father David, God didn't take the kingdom from Solomon, but took it from his son instead. God did send many adversaries to cause Solomon problems however.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | Great wisdom  |
| WEAKNESSES                    | Many pagan wives, worshipped other gods, overly taxed his people.   |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | Read about Jeroboam's rebellion and God's promise to him (1 Kings <b>11:27-40</b> ).  |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Even the wisest of men can sin and follow other gods.   |

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|--------|--|
| PSALMS | <p>There are 150 Psalms. David wrote 73, and 51 are anonymous. These are a collection of songs and prayers. Here are a few notable ones:</p> <p>Psalm <b>22</b>: Read this and think about Christ's Death.</p> <p>Psalm <b>23</b>: The Lord is my Shepherd...he makes me to lie down in green pastures.</p> <p>Psalm <b>51</b>: David's plea for forgiveness</p> <p>Psalm <b>91</b>: God's protection.</p> <p>Psalm <b>119</b>: The wonderful word of God.</p> <p>Psalm <b>121</b>: Depend on God.</p> |
|--------|--|

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|----------|---|
| PROVERBS | <p>Written mostly by Solomon during the early years of his reign. Proverbs are collections of sayings, poems, reminders and warnings about how to govern our lives. Here are some to help guide you on your way:</p> <p>Proverbs <b>5:3-5</b> Avoid Adultery</p> <p>Proverbs <b>6:16-19</b> Six things the Lord hates</p> <p>Proverbs <b>11:28</b> Don't put your trust in riches which will fail</p> <p>Proverbs <b>13:24</b> Spare the rod and spoil the child</p> <p>Proverbs <b>14:23</b> Hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads to poverty</p> <p>Proverbs <b>21:20</b> Store up for the future - don't live from check to check</p> |
|----------|---|

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| ECCLESIASTES | <p>Written by Solomon late in his life. He looks back on his life, filled with mistakes which led him away from God, and he realizes that everything he had amounted to nothing when spent away from God. Be sure to read <b>3:1-8</b> which contains the famous "There is a time for everything...a time to be born and a time to die... a time to..."</p> <p>Though thought to be largely negative, listen to such conclusions as:</p> <p><b>3:22</b> There is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work</p> <p><b>4:1</b> Envy of others' is meaningless</p> <p><b>5:6</b> Don't let your mouth lead you into sin</p> <p><b>7:16-18</b> Don't go to extremes</p> <p><b>12:13-14</b> When all is said and done, fear God and keep His commandments.</p> |
|--------------|---|

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| SONG OF SONGS | <p>Written by Solomon, probably early in his life and before he had 700 wives. This is a wonderful love story where a man and woman share their feelings as they describe their love, courtship and marriage. If you decide to read this to your sweetheart, be sure to choose verses like <b>1:2</b> "Let him kiss me...for his love is more delightful than wine", or <b>6:10</b> "Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession". Don't choose those verses which meant more to those in Solomon's time such as <b>4:1-2</b> "Your hair is like a flock of goats...your teeth like a flock of sheep just shorn".</p> |
|---------------|--|

|               |  |  |   |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| THE 3 TEMPLES | Solomon's Temple   | Built in 960BC                         | Destroyed in 586BC at beginning of Babylon Captivity.                       |
|               | Zerubbabel's Temple  | Built in 516BC                         | Wasn't destroyed, but was remodeled. Ark of Covenant lost during captivity. |
|               | Herod's Temple   | Remodeling done between 20BC and AD64. | Destroyed AD70 by the Romans when Jerusalem destroyed.                      |
|               | <p>All three temples were built along the same lines. Proportions were similar to the Tabernacle, but double in size. Herod's temple looked something like this:<br/>         At the NW corner was access to a military stronghold (read about this in Acts).<br/>         Solomon's porch was along the east side. Booths and resting areas ran around the outside. The south half was the Court of Gentiles where anyone was welcome. Only men and women of Israel were allowed into the Court of Women.. Only the men could proceed into the Court of Israel. And only the priests could enter into the Court of Priests which contained the altar, laver, Holy Place, and Most Holy Place.</p> |  |   |

# THE STORY OF 40 KINGS

STORY FOUND

1 Kings **12** - 2 Kings **25**; 2 Chronicles **10** - **36**

OTHER REFERENCES

SELECTED VERSES

RELATIONSHIP  
TO GOD'S PLAN

RELATIONSHIP  
TO HEBREW NATION

The kingdom is split into two parts - the Northern kingdom (Israel), and the Southern kingdom (Judah).

BASIC STORY

Following Solomon's death, the nation was divided, 10 tribes forming Israel, the Northern kingdom, and 2 tribes forming Judah, the Southern kingdom. Each kingdom had 20 kings before going into captivity. Israel quickly turned from God, and most Levites moved to Judah (Jerusalem and the temple were part of Judah). This part of the OT story is best told by looking at the prophets. But first, a quick look at the two kingdoms and their kings.

## NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL)

17 out of Israel's 20 kings are described as doing evil in the eyes of the Lord. Of the remaining three, one was killed while getting drunk, one killed the prophets of Baal but didn't keep the law with all his heart, and the third assassinated the king before him and was killed one month later. The Northern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722BC.

## SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH)

The Southern kingdom fared better than the Northern kingdom. Judah's kings remained from the line of David. Eight of Judah's kings were good. Four - six of them were bad, and the remainder often started off on a good step, but wound up forgetting who was the real source of their success. So, like Israel, Judah often ended up worshipping idols and false gods. The Southern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Babylonians in 586BC.

STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES

OTHER PEOPLE

Ahijah was the prophet that said Israel would be divided into two nations.

SIDE NOTES

Jerusalem and the temple were in Judah. From the very start, the Northern kingdom encouraged local worship rather than going to Jerusalem. Remember the question the woman at the well asked Jesus (John 4:19-20).

Just five years after Solomon's death, God became angered with Judah's sins and allowed Shishak of Egypt to attack Jerusalem and carry off the treasures of the temple. (1 Kings **14:22-26**).

# ELIJAH

## STORY FOUND

1 Kings **17**:1 - 2 Kings **2**:11; 2 Chronicles **21**:12-15

## OTHER REFERENCES

Malachi **4**:5-6; Matthew **11**:14; **16**:14; **17**:3-13; **27**:47-49; Luke **1**:17; **4**:25-26; John **1**:19-25; Romans **11**:2-4; James **5**:17-18

## SELECTED VERSES

1 Kings **17**:1-6,13-16,22; **18**:21,38-40; **19**:14-18; **21**:17-19; 2 Kings **2**:11

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

It has been about 60 years since Solomon's death and the division of the kingdom into the Northern (Israel) and Southern (Judah) kingdoms. Elijah was a prophet in Northern kingdom (Israel).

## BASIC STORY

Ahab, 8th king of the Northern kingdom is described as doing more evil than any of the kings before him. He and his wicked wife Jezebel built a temple and altar for Baal who they served and worshipped. Baal was considered to be a god who brought the rains needed for good harvests.

God sent His prophet Elijah to Ahab to say that there would be no rain during the next few years except at Elijah's word. God then told Elijah to hide near a brook and had ravens bring him food to eat. When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to a widow. She shared what she thought was her remaining food with him. But Elijah told her that her flour and oil would last until the rains returned. Her jar of flour and jar of oil never ran out until the rains returned. Later Elijah restores her son to life as well.

Elijah challenged the 450 false prophets of the false god Baal. He and they would each prepare a sacrifice to their god. The true god would be the one who sent fire to consume the sacrifice. Baal's prophets sang, prayed, and danced to Baal, but to no avail. Elijah then had 12 large jars of water poured on his sacrifice, after which he prayed to God who sent fire to consume his sacrifice. Elijah ordered Baal's prophets to be killed.

Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah who runs away in fear. God passes by in front of him - not as a wind, nor earthquake, nor fire; but as a quiet whisper. He tells God that he is the only prophet left. God promises that Elisha will become his successor. Elisha becomes Elijah's companion. Elijah doesn't die. As he and Elisha were walking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated them. Elijah then went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

## STRENGTHS

Great prophet of God

## WEAKNESSES

Fled for his life because of fear of Jezebel

## OTHER PEOPLE

Naboth - killed in a plot by Jezebel so that Ahab could have his vineyard.

## SIDE NOTES

Enoch (Genesis **5**:21-24) was the only other person in the Old Testament taken to heaven without dying.

# JONAH

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| STORY FOUND                   | Book of Jonah, 2 Kings <b>14:25</b>   |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Matthew <b>12:39; 16:4</b> ; Luke <b>11:29</b>  |
| SELECTED VERSES               | 2 Kings <b>14:25</b> ; Jonah <b>1:1-4, 10-12, 17; 2:10; 3:1-6, 10; 4:1-2, 5-8, 10-11</b>  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | Jonah shows that the message of salvation is for all people. Jonah is also considered a type of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Jonah was a prophet of the Northern kingdom (Israel). Nineveh (Assyria) was Israel's enemy.   |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>Jonah was one of God's prophets. One day God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against it. Instead of obeying God, Jonah ran away. He went down to Joppa and boarded a ship which was sailing to Tarshish. Jonah did not want to preach repentance to Nineveh because Nineveh was an enemy of Israel, and Jonah preferred to see God destroy Nineveh. He was afraid that Nineveh would repent and be spared.</p> <p>God sent a storm that threatened the ship. Jonah told the sailors that God would calm the storm if the sailors would throw Jonah overboard. The sailors threw Jonah overboard, and Jonah was then swallowed by a great fish (the bible does not say a whale) which God had sent. Jonah remained inside the fish for three days and three nights after which the fish vomited Jonah up onto dry land.</p> <p>God told Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh and preach there. This time Jonah went. Nineveh's king covered himself with sackcloth and decreed that everyone should fast and wear sackcloths. When God saw that they had turned from their evil ways, he had compassion on them and did not destroy them.</p> <p>Jonah became angry with God for saving Nineveh. Hoping that they would somehow be destroyed, Jonah made himself a shelter outside of the city and sat down to wait and see what would happen. God sent a vine to provide him with shade, and then the following day caused a worm to eat the vine. Jonah was angry with God. God told Jonah that he had no right to be angry about a vine which he had not tended or made to grow - and that Nineveh has over a 120,000 people in it.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | Jonah had courage to go to the main city of Israel's enemy.   |
| WEAKNESSES                    | His hatred of his enemies kept him from obeying God's command.  |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | Legend says that Jonah was the widow's son that Elijah brought to life.   |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Nineveh repented when Jonah brought them God's message, but later they again turned from God. The book of Nahum tells the story of God's judgment against Nineveh. God gave Jonah a second chance which he didn't deserve. We too sometimes sin, but God can still use us.  |

# ISAIAH

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| STORY FOUND                   | 2 Kings <b>19:2-20:19</b> ; 2 Chronicles <b>26:22; 32:20,32</b> ; book of Isaiah   |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Matthew <b>3:3; 8:17; 12:17-21</b> ; John <b>12:38-41</b> ; Romans <b>10:16,20-21</b>  |
| SELECTED VERSES               | 2 Kings <b>19:5-7; 20:1-6</b> ; 2 Chronicles <b>32:20-21</b> ; Isaiah <b>7:14; 50:6, 53:1-12</b>   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | "Messianic" prophecies foretold many of the events in Christ's life.   |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Prophet in Southern kingdom (Judah).   |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>The Northern kingdom was taken into exile by Assyria (2 Kings <b>17</b>). Judah was not taken into captivity, but did pay tribute to the Assyrians. Judah was ruled by King Hezekiah, a good king who trusted in the Lord (2 Kings <b>18:5-8</b>). Hezekiah decided to stop paying tribute, and the Assyrians attacked Jerusalem. Hezekiah sent a message to Isaiah. That night the angel of the Lord put to death a 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp.</p> <p>Isaiah is best known for his prophecies about the Messiah. The book of Isaiah and Psalms contain the majority of the Messianic prophecies. Here are some of the key ones found in the book of Isaiah:</p> <p><b>7:14</b> Christ would be born of a virgin.<br/><b>53:1,3</b> Christ would be rejected by his own people.<br/><b>53:8</b> Christ would be tried and condemned.<br/><b>53:7</b> Christ would remain silent before his accusers.<br/><b>50:6</b> Christ would be struck and spat on.<br/><b>53:12</b> Christ would pray for his enemies, and suffer beside criminals.<br/><b>53:5,6,8,10,11,12</b> Christ would die as a sacrifice for sin.</p> <p>Other prophecies by Isaiah warned Israel about it's coming judgment, warned about Jerusalem's coming problems, and foretold the return of a remnant from captivity. Isaiah <b>44:28 - 45:6</b> actually gives the name of a Persian king who will help rebuild Jerusalem 150 years later.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | Considered the greatest of OT prophets   |
| WEAKNESSES                    |  |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | King Hezekiah was given an extra 15 years of life (2 Kings <b>20:5-6</b> ). He was then one who made the pool and tunnel to bring water into Jerusalem so that the Assyrian's could not cut off the city's water supply. (2 Kings <b>20:20</b> and 2 Chronicles <b>32:22</b> ).  |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Some key Messianic prophecies from Psalms include Christ's rejection ( <b>118:22</b> ), Christ's betrayal by a follower ( <b>41:9</b> ), Christ's being mocked and insulted ( <b>22:7,8</b> ), Christ's death by crucifixion ( <b>22:14, 16, 17</b> ), Christ's being given vinegar and gall ( <b>69:21</b> ), the casting of lots for Christ's clothing ( <b>22:18</b> ), Christ's being raised from the dead ( <b>16:10</b> ).   |

# JEREMIAH

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| STORY FOUND                   | Book of Jeremiah  |
| OTHER REFERENCES              | Ezra 1:1; Daniel 9:2; Matthew 2:17; 16:14; 27:9   |
| SELECTED VERSES               | Jeremiah 1:6-8; 3:6-8; 7:12-15; 13:1-11; 20:1-6; 21:8-10; 23:3; 24:4-7; 25:8-12; 38:2-6; 40:1-6; 42:19; 43:4-7  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN    | Judah and Israel had begun to believe that they could do as they pleased, and that God would protect them because they were His people. God sent both kingdoms into exile. The remnants would return and rediscover God's words. This would prepare the way for Christ. Today, we still find many people saying that a loving God won't destroy/punish anyone.  |
| RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION | Prophet in Southern Kingdom (Judah)   |
| BASIC STORY                   | <p>Jeremiah began his ministry about 100 years after the Northern kingdom (Israel) had been taken into captivity by the Assyrians. He would live to see people like Daniel and Ezekiel taken into captivity by the Babylonians, and he would see the destruction of Jerusalem. Jeremiah is called the Weeping prophet. He had many reasons to weep - he wept for Jerusalem, he wept for people who would not heed God's warnings, and he wept for the destruction that God had promised to bring upon the people.</p> <p>Many of the prophets led hard unrewarding lives. Jeremiah was no exception. He was rejected by his family, his friends, and his neighbors. He was thrown into jail, beaten, left in a cistern to die (but was rescued), and after telling the remaining people that God did not want them to go to Egypt, he was forced by them to go with them to Egypt. Jeremiah prophesied about the coming destruction of Jerusalem, about the captivity, and about the ultimate doom that would fall on Babylon. False prophets were saying that the captivity would be a short one - Jeremiah prophesied that the captivity would last 70 years. Jeremiah had the opportunity to live an easy life in Babylon, but chose to remain behind in Judah.</p> <p>Jeremiah used many object lessons in his teachings. He buried a new linen belt to show how the people had become useless to God. He purchased a plot of land that was occupied by the enemy to show that God would return His people at a future time. He broke a clay jar to demonstrate how thoroughly God would destroy Judah. He wore a yoke to show how Judah would be yoked by Babylon.</p> |
| STRENGTHS                     | Didn't let his youth stop him from doing God's work. Obeyed God even in face of attempts on his life.   |
| WEAKNESSES                    |   |
| OTHER PEOPLE                  | Habakkuk, Ezekiel, and Daniel all lived at the same time as Jeremiah.   |
| SIDE NOTES                    | Generally speaking, it was the best people that were taken into captivity.  |

# DANIEL

## STORY FOUND

Book of Daniel

## OTHER REFERENCES

Matthew **24:15**, Ezekiel **28:2-3**

## SELECTED VERSES

Daniel **1:3-17**; **2:27-28**; **4:24-26**; **5:5,12,17,25-28**; **6:10-12,16,21-22**; **7:2**; **9:24-27**; **12:4**

## RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

More than any other prophet, Daniel tells us what will happen to the Gentile nations. His story is one of many visions - some of which have not come to pass yet.

## RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Daniel was alive at the time the Jews were allowed to return to their own country (Daniel **1:21** and Ezra **1:1**).

## BASIC STORY

Daniel was among the first captives sent to Babylon. He and some other young men were taken to be trained for service in the king's palace. Daniel resolved not to drink any wine or eat any food which would defile him. God rewarded Daniel and his friends by giving them knowledge and understanding in many areas. Daniel was given the ability to understand visions and dreams.

Among the visions and dreams that Daniel interpreted for others was King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a large statue made of various metals and materials (which told of coming kingdoms), and King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a tree (which told of his coming madness which would last until the king acknowledged God's power). When God caused a human hand to appear and write a message on the palace wall, Daniel told King Belshazzar that the message said that the king had been found wanting by God and that his kingdom would be given to the Medes and Persians. That very night the king was slain and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom. Daniel had visions himself. He had a dream of four beasts which told of four kingdoms. He had a vision of a ram and a goat, of a man, and of the seventy weeks (actually time periods). These, and several others are also recorded in the last six chapters of Daniel.

Read about Daniel in the Lion's den in the sixth chapter of Daniel.

## STRENGTHS

Loyal to his faith, man of prayer

## WEAKNESSES

## OTHER PEOPLE

While Daniel prophesied in the royal court. Ezekiel's ministry was to the captives living in exile. Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel used many object lessons. Don't miss the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace. It is found in Daniel **2:49 - 3:30**.

## SIDE NOTES

Daniel served under 4 kings and two empires. He may or may not have served under other kings who were in power for various amounts of time. Read the books of Ezekiel and Daniel and watch for the similar imagery used by them and by John in Revelation.

# ESTHER

## STORY FOUND

Book of Esther

## OTHER REFERENCES

### SELECTED VERSES

Esther **1**:10-12, 18,-20; **2**:2, 7-10, 17, 22-23; **3**:5-6 8-11, 13-14; **4**:7-8, 14-16; **5**:1-4, 8, 14; **6**:1-4, **7**:1-3, 6, 10; **8**:3-6, 11-13; **9**:1-4, 20-22

### RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PLAN

Through Esther, the lives of all the Jews were saved, and God's plan of sending Jesus continued on track.

### RELATIONSHIP TO HEBREW NATION

Esther's actions saved the Jews from being destroyed.

### BASIC STORY

Xerxes was the Persian king. He had deposed Queen Vashti and a search was made for a new queen. Esther, an orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai was chosen. Following Mordecai's advice she did not tell the king about her family or that she was a Jew. Later, Mordecai overheard a plot to assassinate the king. He told Esther, who reported it to the king. The plotters were put to death, and the events recorded in the court annals.

Later, King Xerxes made Haman his "prime minister". Everyone paid him homage except for Mordecai who would not kneel down (for religious purposes). Haman decided to kill all of the Jews living in the Persian empire. He got the king to issue a decree that all of the Jews were to be killed on a certain day. The decree went out to all provinces. Mordecai told Esther of the decree. Esther asked Mordecai to have all of the Jews fast for three days, after which she would attempt to speak to the King. The king received her and she invited the king and Haman to a banquet. She asked the king and Haman come again the next day, at which time she would tell the king what her request was. Haman and the king both looked forward to this event. Haman decided that this would be a good time to put Mordecai to death - so he had some gallows prepared. The king could not sleep that night, so he had the court annals read to him. This reminded him of how Mordecai had saved his life, and he discovered that Mordecai had never been rewarded. At the banquet Esther told the king of Haman's plot against her and her people. The king had Haman hung on the gallows. Mordecai was put in his place. A decree was issued allowing the Jews to defend themselves, and they were spared.

### STRENGTHS

Courage, open to advice, more concerned for others than for herself

### WEAKNESSES

### OTHER PEOPLE

Queen Vashti was deposed because she refused to go to King Xerxes and his friends who had been drinking (was in high spirits). He wanted to show off her beauty. Then acting on advice Xerxes deposed her so that wives everywhere would "respect" their husbands. Yes - men are dumb.

### SIDE NOTES

Esther's story occurs during the 60 year period between Ezra **6** and **7**. Some Jews had returned to Jerusalem, but many had stayed behind.

# THE END

## BASIC STORY

This last page is a summary of the return of the Jews from Captivity.

## DANIEL

Daniel tells us how the Persian commander Darius the Mede conquered Babylon. Darius was most likely appointed by Persian King Cyrus.

## EZRA

Ezra tells how Persian King Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and allowing them to rebuild the Temple (see Isaiah 44:28). About 50,000 Jews returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel. They built an altar and started to work rebuilding the Temple. Samaritans and others offered to help. But the Jews turned down the help. Those who had offered to help now became enemies and did everything possible to hinder the work. Darius followed Cyrus. Darius issued a decree that the work on the Temple was to be completed.

## ESTHER

Her story goes here. Xerxes has become the new Persian King.

## EZRA

Ezra continues. Artaxerxes is now the Persian King. The enemies of the Jews tell Artaxerxes how the Jews are rebuilding the city of Jerusalem. He temporarily orders the work stopped. But he notices Ezra, and respects Ezra's knowledge of the Jewish scriptures. He issues a decree allowing Ezra to take a 2nd group of exiles to Jerusalem - about 1500. Ezra finds that the Temple has been rebuilt. But he finds that many Jews have taken pagan wives. He asks them to send away their pagan wives.

## NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah's story takes up where Ezra's ends. Artaxerxes is still the current Persian King. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to him. Nehemiah's brother came from Jerusalem to visit Nehemiah, and told him how the walls of Jerusalem had fallen down and the gates had been burned. After prayer, Nehemiah asked the king for permission to go to Jerusalem to help rebuild it. The King gave him permission. (This can be thought of as the 3rd group of returnees). Nehemiah inspected the walls at night, and then quickly organized for action. He assigned people to work on the walls near where they lived. Enemies tried to stop and hinder him - but Nehemiah got the walls rebuilt in just 52 days. He had Ezra read the Laws to everyone. He stayed there for a total of 12 years before returning to Artaxerxes. Later, he was able to return to Jerusalem.

## MALACHI

Malachi is the last prophet of the Old Testament. His ministry started after Nehemiah's final return to Jerusalem. His book is the last book of the Old Testament. After him, there are 400 years of silence - when no prophets spoke any messages from God. Read Malachi 4:1-6 where God says that he will send the prophet Elijah before the day of the Lord. We believe that this refers to John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus.

## SIDE NOTES

It was during the time of captivity that Synagogues were introduced. This practice was brought back to Jerusalem. People usually credit either Ezekiel or Ezra as being the founder of Synagogues.