OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

Intro: The Old Testament was written for our learning, Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Yet, many do not know the Old Testament in such a manner as to be able to learn from it. In the next few lessons I would like us to go through the Old Testament periods and learn a couple of lessons from each one of the periods, with the hope that it will give you a basis to study the Old Testament.

I. ANTE-DILUVIAN PERIOD.

A. Time
1. Gen. 1:-8:
2. From the creation to the flood.
3. Using Bishop Ussher’s time: 1600 years (4004-2348)

B. Personalities
1. Adam and Eve
2. Cain, Abel, and Seth
3. Enoch, Methuselah
4. Lamech

C. Events
1. The creation
2. The Fall
3. The flood

D. Lessons
1. We are the creation of God.
   a. We are the likeness of God.
      (1) Gen. 1:26-27 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”
      (2) Gen. 5:1 “This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;”
      (3) 1 Cor. 11:7 “For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.”
      (4) Jam. 3:9 “Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.”
   b. We have not ascended from the apes, but have come from God.
   c. This should create within man a respect for life.
      (1) We must not murder and we must oppose it.
      (2) Respect for life is the key to opposing abortion, active euthanasia, infanticide, etc.
   d. Being the creation of God we should live godly lives.
2. God instituted the marriage relationship.
   a. Gen. 2:18, 22-24 “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.... 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and
flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.  

b. God’s plan for marriage is for one man and one woman to live together for life.

(1) God allows one exception to this plan.

(2) If one commits fornication then the innocent spouse can put the fornicator away.

(a) Mat. 5:32 “But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

(b) Mat. 19:9 “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

c. The three classes that are eligible for marriage.

(1) The person who has never married; 1 Cor. 7

(2) The person who has had a spouse die; Rom. 7:1-3 “Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.”

(3) The person who has put away their spouse for fornication.

II. POST-DILUVIAN PERIOD.

A. Time

1. Gen. 8-11

2. From the flood to the call of Abraham.

3. Ussher: 420 years (2348-1921)

B. Personalities

1. Noah

2. Shem, Ham, Japheth

   a. Shem - brown or Semitic people; also is the people through whom Christ came.

   b. Ham - black or Turanian people.

   c. Japheth - White or Aryan people.

3. Terah (father of Abraham)

C. Events

1. End of the flood

2. The overspreading of the world with people.

3. The tower of Babel.

D. Lessons.

1. The way of man is sin.

   a. Gen. 8:21 “And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.”

   b. There is within man the propensity to sin.

      (1) Through the lust of the flesh
(2) As a result all men sin.
   (a) Psa. 53:3 “Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”
   (b) Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
   (c) Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”

c. God must punish that sin.
   (1) God is holy
      (a) Psa. 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”
      (b) Isa. 6:3 “And one [a seraphim] cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”
      (c) 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
   (2) Being holy he cannot associate with sin.
      (a) Hab. 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”
      (b) 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
   (3) God is righteous and must punish the transgressor.

d. God is also love.
   (1) 1 John 4:8, 16 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.... 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”
   (2) He thus redeems man to Himself by Jesus.
      (a) John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
      (b) Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
      (c) 2 Cor. 5:18-21 “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

2. Unity
   a. Gen. 11:1-9 “And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called
Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”

b. They were:
   (1) of one speech
   (2) Performing the same action
   (3) Thus, nothing could be restrained from them.

c. We are to be united.
   (1) John 17:20-21 “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; \(^{21}\) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
   (2) 1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

d. To be united we must:
   (1) Speak the same thing.
      (a) 1 Pet. 4:11 “If any man speak, \textit{let him speak} as the oracles of God; if any man minister, \textit{let him do it} as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
      (b) Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. \textit{He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   (2) Be performing the same actions.
      (a) Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, \textit{which is} your reasonable service. \textit{And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
      (b) Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, \textit{do} all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
   (3) Then, we will be a powerful force that nothing will be able to stop.

III. PATRIARCHAL PERIOD.

A. Time
   1. Gen. 12-50
   2. Do not confuse this period with the Patriarchal Dispensation.
   3. From the call of Abraham to the going down into Egypt.
   4. Ussher: 215 years (1921-1706)

B. Personalities
   1. Abraham, Sarah
   2. Lot
   3. Hagar, and her son Ishmael
   4. Isaac and Rebekah
   5. Jacob, Rachel, Leah, Bilhah (Rachel’s) Zilpah (Leah’s)
   6. Esau
7. the twelve sons of Jacob
   a. from Leah: Reuben (1), Simeon (2), Levi (3), Judah (4), Issachar (9), Zebulon (10)
   b. from Rachel: Joseph (11), Benjamin (12)
   c. from Bilhah: Dan (5), Naphtali (6)
   d. from Zilpah: Gad (7), Asher (8)

C. Events
1. The call of Abraham
2. Abraham going to Egypt
3. Abraham and Lot separate
4. The Birth of Ishmael
5. Rite of circumcision enjoined
6. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
8. Trial of Abraham’s faith in the sacrifice of Isaac.
9. Isaac gets Rebekah for a wife
10. Birth of Esau and Jacob
11. Esau sells his birthright
12. Jacob serves Laban 14 years for Rachel.
13. Jacob’s name changed to Israel.
14. Joseph sold by his brothers
15. Joseph refuses the advances of Potiphar’s wife; put in prison.
17. Israel and his children go down into Egypt.

D. Lessons
1. Great Faith
   a. Abraham was a man of great faith
      (1) Rom. 4:3 “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”
      (2) Gal. 3:6-9 “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”
      (3) Gen. 15:4 “And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.”
      (4) Heb. 11:8-11, 17-19 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.... 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”
(5) Jam. 2:21-23 “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”

b. Examples of:
(1) Left his home not knowing where he was to go.
(2) In the promise of a son through Sarah
(3) In offering up Isaac.
(4) In worship
   (a) Gen. 12:7-8 “And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. 8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.”
   (b) Gen. 13:18 “Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.”
   (c) Gen. 22:
(5) In prayers
(6) In unselfishness.
   (a) allowing Lot to chose the land he wanted.
   (b) making intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah.
(7) In giving; Gen. 14:20 “And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”
(8) In obedience; Gen. 26:5 “Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

c. Abraham is, thus, the father of the faithful.
(1) Rom. 4:16 “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,”
(2) Gal. 3:7, 29 “Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham....29 And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
(3) How we need to have a great trusting faith, as Abraham did.

2. Discouragement
a. Joseph: if anyone had a right to be discouraged it must have been Joseph. Notice some of the things that happened to him.
(1) His brothers are jealous of him, throw him into a pit, and plan to kill him.
(2) Instead of killing him they sell him into slavery, where he finally ends up in Potiphar’s house.
(3) After reaching a place of respectability, Potiphar’s wife lies about him so that he is cast into prison.
(4) He interprets a couple of dreams, but the one who is restored forgets about him.
(5) It would have been very easy to give up hope, and become discouraged; but Joseph did not.
b. Satan uses discouragement to try to overcome us.
   (1) Definition of discourage.
      (a) To deprive of spirit and confidence, dishearten, instill hesitation or doubt into.
      (b) (effect on persons) to attempt to dissuade from doing something.
      (c) (effect on action) to attempt to prevent, thwart, to put obstacles in the way of.
   (2) We must not allow ourselves to become discouraged but continue to strive for the good things of God, remembering that what we have is greater than Satan.
      (a) 1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”
      (b) Heb. 13:5-6 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

IV. PERIOD OF BONDAGE

A. Time
   1. Ex. 1-14
   2. From the going down into Egypt to the exodus from Egypt.
   3. Ussher: 215 years (1706-1491)

B. Personalities
   1. Moses, Aaron
   2. Pharaoh (Many think Amenhotep II to be the Pharaoh of the exodus, others think Merneptah to be the Pharaoh).

C. Events
   1. The killing of the children of Israel.
   2. Moses birth
   3. Moses fleeing to Midian from Egypt.
   4. God appears to Moses in the burning bush.
   5. The ten plagues.
      a. water to blood
      b. frogs
      c. lice
      d. flies (Hebrews separated)
      e. Murrain
      f. Boils
      g. Hail
      h. Locust
      i. Darkness
      j. Death of Firstborn
   6. The exodus
D. Lessons

1. Hardness of heart
   a. Pharaoh hardened his heart so that he disobeyed God.
      (1) Pharaoh had the chance to obey God but refused God’s word.
      (2) As a result Pharaoh suffered the consequences.
   b. It is possible that this can happen to us.
      (1) 1 Cor. 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”
      (2) Mat. 13:15 “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”
      (3) Eph. 4:18-19 “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”
      (4) 2 The. 2:10-12 “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
      (5) 1 Tim. 4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”
      (6) Heb. 3:13 “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
   c. Let us keep our heart tender to submit to God’s word.

2. Excuses
   a. When God appeared to Moses, Moses made excuses for not obeying God.
      (1) Moses’ excuses.
         (a) I am not good enough (Who am I); Exo. 3:11 “And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”
         (b) They will not believe me; Exo. 4:1 “And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.”
         (c) I can not talk good; Exo. 4:10 “And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”
         (d) Send someone else; Exo. 4:13 “And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.”
      (2) God’s response: Exo. 4:14 “And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.”
   b. God would not accept Moses’ excuses, and God will not accept any excuses we might offer.
   c. Instead of making excuses, let us get to the work God has for us.
V. Period of Wilderness Wanderings

A. Time
2. From the exodus from Egypt to the going into Canaan.
3. Ussher: 40 years (1491-1451)

B. Personalities
1. Moses and Zipporah (Moses’ wife)
2. Aaron, Mirian (sister of Moses and Aaron)
3. Amram and Jochebed (parents of Moses and Aaron)
4. Jethro (father of Zipporah)
5. Nadab, Abihu, Eleazer, Ithamar (sons of Aaron)
6. Gershom, Eliezer (Moses children)
7. Balaam and Balak
8. Korah, Dathan, Abiram

C. Events
1. The giving of the Law of Moses. There are 6 sections given at three places.
   a. At Sinai: Four sections.
      (1) Exo. 19:1-9 similar to our Preamble or pledge.
      (2) Exo. 20:1-17 the ten commandments.
      (3) Exo. 20:21-23:33 the three major feast days.
      (4) Lev. 1-Num.10:10 the various offerings.
   b. During the wilderness wanderings. The fifth section but divided into four divisions.
      (1) Num. 13-36
      (2) Occurred at Kadesh-Barnea, and on the Plain of Moab.
   c. On the Plain of Moab at the banks of the Jordan River.
      (1) These are a summary of all the other laws put into a smaller space.
      (2) Deu. 5:1-26:19
      (3) This comprises the sixth section.
2. Building the tabernacle.
3. Nadab and Abihu offering strange fire to God.
4. God feeding His people. (manna, quail, water)
5. The spies sent to report on the land.
6. Rebellions of Korah, Dathan, Abiram
7. Balak hires Balaam to curse Israel for him.
8. The death of Moses.

D. Lessons
1. Holiness from Leviticus.
   a. The terms found in Leviticus.
      (1) holy or one of its forms is found 87 times.
      (2) sin or one of its forms is found 194 times.
      (3) blood as a means of cleansing is found 89 times.
   b. The major teaching of the book is that God is holy and man is sinful.
      (1) God can maintain His holiness even though the exposes man’s sinfulness.
(2) God demands that His people be holy, for He is holy.
(3) Thus, God gives man laws, sacrifices, offerings, etc. so that he can be holy.
(4) Those laws draw men closer to God when obeyed and separate men from God when they are disobeyed. Submission to the laws make men like their Maker; Lev. 20:26 “And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.”
c. The way holy is used.
(1) Of God’s divine purity and perfection.
(2) It is applied to whatever is set apart and dedicated to God. When used this way it signifies separation, not only from sinful but also from common use, and describes both ceremonial and moral purity.
d. 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

2. Murmuring
a. The children of Israel from the time they left Egypt murmured.
   (1) This is the key word in the book of Numbers.
   (2) It is also a key word and concept in the book of Exodus.
b. Murmuring is equated with unbelief.
   (1) Psa. 106:12, 24-25 “Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.... 24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word: 25 But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.”
   (2) God had done great things for the Israelites and always provided for them.
   (3) When a crisis, or need arose at a given moment, they would forget God’s past goodness.
   (4) They failed to grasp the truth that God’s mercies in the past were pledges for the future.
   (5) Thus, when they murmured it showed their unbelief.
c. 1 Cor. 10:10 “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”; Phi.2:14-15 “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”

VI. PERIOD OF CONQUEST.

A. Time
1. Book of Joshua
2. From the crossing of the Jordan to the death of Joshua.
3. Ussher: 1451-1443 B.C.

B. Personalities
1. Joshua
2. Caleb
3. Rahab
4. Achan

C. Events (are best seen within the division of the book)
1. Preparation for the conquest (Jos. 1-5)
   a. God’s charge to Joshua.
b. Rahab protects the spies.
c. Crossing the Jordan on dry ground.

2. The conquest itself (Jos. 6-12)
   a. Taking of Jericho.
   b. Defeat at Ai because of Achan’s sin.
   c. While battling the Amorites Joshua commands the sun and moon to stand still.

3. The dividing of the land (Jos. 13-22)

4. The closing events of the life of Joshua (Jos. 23-24)

D. Lessons

1. Active Faith
   a. Jos. 6:2 “And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.”
   (1) God affirms that He is giving them the city of Jericho.
   (2) The question is, did they have a part to play in taking the city.
   (a) Jos. 6:3-5 “And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams’ horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.”
   (b) In order to receive the city they had to do their part.
   (3) Heb. 11:30

b. God gave the Israelites the land, but they had to go in and possess the land.
   (1) Jos. 1:3, 13 “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.... Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.”
   (2) They had to go in and possess it; Jos. 1:11 “Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.”
   (3) Until they went in the land was an unpossessed possession; like a man receiving an inheritance but cannot find the man.

c. Jam. 2:17-18, 20, 24, 26 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.... But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

d. An acrostic of Faith. Forsaking All I Trust Him.

2. God fulfills His promises.
   a. Joshua 23:5, 15 “And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.... Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.”
   b. God promised to give the land to them, He fulfilled His promise.
c. 2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

d. God is faithful to his promises.
   (1) 1 Th. 5:24 “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”
   (2) Heb. 6:18 “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”
   (3) Heb. 10:23 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised:)”

e. This gives us assurance that God will perform what He says.
   (1) Concerning heaven.
   (2) Concerning hell.

VII. PERIOD OF JUDGES

A. Time
   1. Judges, Ruth, I Sam. 1-10
   2. From the death of Joshua to the anointing of Saul as King.
   3. Ussher: 1443-1095

B. Personalities
   1. The fifteen judges and their oppressors.
      a. Othniel Mesopotamites
      b. Ehud Moabites
      c. Shamgar Philistines
      d. Deborah Canaanites
      e. Gideon Midianites
      f. Abinelech internal strife
      g. Tola ?
      h. Jair ?
      i. Jephthah Ammonites
      j. Ibzan ?
      k. Elon ?
      l. Abdon ?
      m. Samson Philistines
      n. Eli Philistines
      o. Samuel Philistines
   2. Hannah (wife of Elkanah, mother of Samuel, prayed for a man child)
   3. Ruth, and Naomi (Ruth’s mother-in-law)
   4. Boaz
   5. Obed (Ruth and Boaz son, grandfather of David)

C. Events
   1. The events are summarized in a cycle of occurrences seen in Jud. 3:5-11 “And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.” And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their
God, and served Baalim and the groves. 8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years. 9 And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother. 10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim. 11 And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.”

a. Israel’s departure from God, Jud. 3:6-7  
b. God’s anger arises against Israel, denied by God, Jud. 3:8  
c. Israel under oppression (despair, Jud. 3:9a), repents and cries out to God (show dependance on God Jud. 3:9b).  
d. God raises up a judge to deliver Israel, Jud. 3:9c.  
e. A period of peace follows, thus Israel delights Jud. 3:10-11.

2. The story of Ruth.

D. Lessons

1. The possibility of apostasy.
   a. This is seen throughout the book of Judges.
   b. This is seen all through the New Testament.
      (1) 1 Cor. 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”
      (2) Gal. 5:4 “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”
      (3) 1 Tim. 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”
      (4) 2 Tim. 4:4 “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
      (5) 2 Pet. 2:20-22; 3:17 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire... 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.”
   c. Thus, God admonishes man to remain stedfast in order to receive the crown of life.
      (1) 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
      (2) Gal. 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

2. Man doing what is right in his own eyes.
   a. Judges 17:6; 21:25 “In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes... 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”
   b. Man does this today.
(1) In the world.
   (a) This is what the philosophy of the world boils down to when one rejects God.
   (b) This is what accounts for most of the problems in the world today.

(2) In religion.
   (a) This is why we have more than a thousand religions in the world today; man wants to do what is right in his own eyes.
   (b) We must do what God commands, submitting to Him.
      i) Jam. 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
      ii) Mat. 6:10 “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

   c. Man’s way is not the right way.
      (1) Isa. 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
      (2) Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
      (3) Isa. 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
      (4) Jer. 10:23 “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

   d. Thus, let us follow God’s way.

VIII. PERIOD OF UNITED KINGDOM

A. Time
   1. 1 Sam. 11-31; 2 Sam. 1 Kings 1-11; 1 Chr. 2 Chr. 1-9:
   2. From the anointing of Saul to the death of Solomon.
   3. Ussher: 1095-975

B. Personalities
   1. Samuel
   2. Saul
   3. Jonathan (Saul’s son and David’s friend)
   4. Jesse (David’s father)
   5. David
   6. Goliath
   7. Mephibosheth (Jonathan’s son whom David showed kindness to)
   8. Absalom (killed his half brother, Amnon, after he raped his sister, Tamar. He was exiled then allowed to come back, but kept from the court. Led a revolt against David.)
   9. Bathsheba
   10. Nathan
   11. Solomon
   12. Hiram (King of Tyre, provided lumber and workmen for the building of the temple)
   13. Queen of Sheba
C. Events (associated with the Kings)

1. Saul
   a. Anointed king by Samuel.
   b. Offered sacrifices on the altar at Gilgal, thus rejected by God.
   c. Does not slay all the Amalekites.

2. David
   a. Anointed king by Samuel.
   b. Slays Goliath
   c. Flee’s from the wrath of Saul.
   d. Spares Saul’s life twice.
   e. Brings the ark back to Jerusalem.
   f. The promise given to Abraham renewed to David, of the tribe of Judah.
   g. His sin with Bathsheba, and murder of Uriah.
   h. Rebellion of Absalom.
   i. Numbers the people, and the pestilence; David buys the threshingfloor of Araunah to stay the pestilence.
   j. Has Solomon anointed king.

3. Solomon
   a. Solomon’s choice of wisdom to God’s offer of whatever he wanted.
   b. Solomon builds the temple.
   c. Queen of Sheba’s visit.
   d. Solomon’s wives turn his heart from God, thus his kingdom to be divided.

D. Lessons

1. Desire to be like the nations around them.
   a. 1 Sam. 8:5, 19-20 “And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”
   b. When God brought Israel out of Egypt He made them to be a holy (set apart) nation, with Him being king.
      (1) Exo. 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”
      (2) Deu. 7:6 “For thou art an holy people unto the L ORD thy God: the L ORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”
      (3) Their asking for a king was a rejection of God as being king. cf. 1 Sam. 8:7 “And the L ORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”
   c. The church is now the holy nation.
      (1) 1 Pet. 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”
(2) Col. 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"

(3) We have Christ as our king.

(4) Yet, today we see many who are trying to be like the nations (world) around them.

2. Respect for government

a. David’s respect for Saul.

(1) Even when Saul had been rejected as king.

(2) 1 Sam. 24:5-6, 10 “And it came to pass afterward, that David’s heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul’s skirt. And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD’S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD. Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD’S anointed.”

(3) 1 Sam. 26:9-11 “And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD’S anointed, and be guiltless? David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD’S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.”

(4) When a man came and told David that he had killed Saul, David put him to death; 2 Sam. 1:14-16 “And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD’S anointed? And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD’S anointed.”

b. God requires that we respect the civil authorities today.

(1) Rom. 13:1-7 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.”

(2) 1 Pet. 2:13-17 “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

(3) Yet, how often do we ridicule, and make jokes of those in authority?
IX. DIVIDED KINGDOM

A. Time
1. 1 Kings 12-22; 2 Kings 1-17; Hosea; Joel; Amos; Jonah; parts of Isaiah and Micah;
2. From the death of Solomon to the fall of Samaria.
3. Ussher: 975-722

B. Personalities
1. The prominent people are the kings and prophets.
2. This chart will aid in these.

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<td>Joahohaz (17)</td>
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Jehoash (16)

Amaziah (29)

Jeroboam ll (41)    Jonah, Amos, Hosea

Isaiah

Uzziah (52)

Zachariah (6 mo.)

Shallum (1 mo.)

Menahem (10)

Pekahiah (2)

Pekah (20)    Oded

Michah

Jotham (16)

Ahaz (16)

Hoshea (9)

Hezekiah (29)

In the sixth year of Hezekiah Israel is carried away by Assyria.

3. Jezebel (wife of Ahab)
4. Widow of Zerephath (provided for Elijah, he raised her son from the dead.)
5. Shunammite woman (provided room and board for Elisha, he raised her son from the dead.)
6. Naaman (cured of leprosy by Elisha)

C. Events (the major events are associated with the kings and prophets, and are to numerous to mention at this time.)

D. Lessons
1. Following foolish council
   a. 1 Kings 12:3-20
      (1) The people came to the Rehoboam, wanting him to ease their burden.
      (2) He went to the older men to seek council, not liking theirs, he goes to the young men.
      (3) He tells the people that he is going to make their burden harder.
      (4) They rebel and the kingdom divides.
b. We need to follow the council of those who are older and wiser.
   (1) The Bible teaches us to respect those who are older.
      (a) Lev. 19:32 “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old
          man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.”
      (b) Pro. 16:31 “The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of
          righteousness.”
      (c) 1 Pet. 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you
          be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud,
          and giveth grace to the humble.”
   (2) That is why the overseers of the church are to be elders, they should have the
       wisdom needed to make the proper decisions.

c. We need to follow the council given by God in the Bible.
   (1) God is all wise.
      (a) Job 42:2 “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be
          withheld from thee.”
      (b) 1 John 3:20 “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and
          knoweth all things.”
   (2) His council is right, and that council is revealed in the scriptures.

2. Watch our influence.
   a. Jeroboam
      (1) After ascending to the throne established idol worship.
      (2) Thereafter he is referred to as Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel
          to sin.
      (3) Because of his influence he caused Israel to sin.
   b. We must guard our influence.
      (1) 2 Cor. 3:2 “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:”
      (2) 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in
          word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
      (3) Tit. 2:7 “In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing
          uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity;”

X. JUDAH ALONE
   A. Time
      1. 2 Kings 17-25; 2 Chr. 32-36; parts of Isa. and Micah, Jer., Lam., Ezek. Obadiah,
         Nahum, Hab., Zeph.
      2. From the fall of Samaria to the fall of Jerusalem.

   B. Personalities
      1. The major personalities are the kings and prophets of Judah.
KINGS PROPHETS

Hezekiah (29)

Mannasseh (55)

Amon (2)

Josiah (31) Huldah, Nahum, Zeph., Jer., Habbakuk

Jehoahaz (3 mo.)

Jehoiakim (11)

Jehoiachin (3 mo.)

Zedekiah (11) Ezek.

Judah taken into Babylonian captivity by Nebuchadnezzar.

2. Others would be in relation to other nations.
   a. Sennacherib of Assyria
   b. Pharaoh Necho of Egypt.
   c. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

C. Events (are to numerous to mention in this lesson.)

D. Lessons
   1. Restoration
      a. 2 Kings 22:
         (1) The people had apostatized from God under previous kings.
         (2) The book of the law is found in the temple.
         (3) There is a restoration of what was written in the book.
            (a) 2 Kings 22:18-19 “But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; 19 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou hearest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.”
            (b) 2 Kings 23:3, 21 “And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant....21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.”
            (c) Josiah does not try to reform the existing religions, but goes back to the original. This is restoration.
b. There was a great apostasy that took place after the first century.
   (1) 2 Thess. 2:3 “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”
   (2) 1 Tim. 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”
   (3) 2 Pet. 2:1 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”
   (4) The Roman Catholic Church came out of this apostasy.

c. Reformation or restoration.
   (1) We entered into a period where people tried to reform the errors of the Roman Catholic Church.
   (2) This led to the Protestant Denominations.
   (3) Then men from different denominations, at different times and places realized that it was useless to try to reform something that was not authorized in the first place. They realized the need to go back to the original, restore the original. This became the restoration movement.

2. The grace of God.
   a. Manasseh did evil in the sight of God.
      (1) 2 Chr. 33:2 “But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.”
      (2) This evil was such, that it was worse that the nations that God destroyed, 2 Chr. 33:9-10 “So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.”
   b. Yet when Manasseh humbled himself to God, God heard him, and blessed him.
   c. 2 Chr. 33:12-13 “And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.”
   d. No matter what we do, if we will humble ourselves under God, then God will exalt us.
      (1) Jam. 4:7-8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”
      (2) 1 Pet. 5:5-6 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”

XI. PERIOD OF EXILE
A. Time
   1. Daniel, Ezekiel, Lam.
   2. From the fall of Jerusalem to the decree of Cyrus.
   3. Ussher: 586-536
B. Personalities
1. Ezekiel
2. Daniel (Belteshazzar)
3. Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), Azariah (Abednego)
4. Nebuchadnezzar
5. Belshazzar

C. Events
1. Gedaliah appointed governor of Israel, but is killed, those who are left in Israel travel to Egypt.
2. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the image, and the interpretation given by Daniel.
3. The image whom Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship, and their being cast into the fiery furnace.
4. Belshazzar’s feast and the handwriting on the wall, interpreted by Daniel.
5. Babylon overtaken by Cyrus and the Medo-Persian empire.

D. Lessons
1. Protection of those who remain faithful to God.
   a. This is seen in the book of Daniel.
      (1) Dan. 1:8, 12-15 “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself....12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. 13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king’s meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. 14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. 15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat.”
      (2) Dan. 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego protected by God from the fiery furnace because they were faithful to God.
   b. This is true in the New Testament:
      (1) John 10:27-29 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”
      (2) Phi. 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”
      (3) Jude 1 “Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:”
      (4) 1 Pet. 1:5 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
         (a) Kept is a military term meaning to protect with a military guard, used here to suggest a band of soldiers thrown about the faithful to protect and guarantee their safety.
         (b) They must remain in the faith, it takes our effort.
         (c) It is possible to leave the protection with God gives, our faith to fail.
2. Man, if sufficiently sincere, can remain faithful to God under any circumstance.
   a. This is also seen in the book of Daniel.
      (1) Daniel and three friends
         (a) In captivity in Babylon, being taught the things of Babylon.
         (b) Yet they remained faithful to God.
      (2) Eze. 14:14-20 “Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should
deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God. 15 If I cause noisome
beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass
through because of the beasts: 16 Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord
God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land
shall be desolate. 17 Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the
land; so that I cut off man and beast from it: 18 Though these three men were in it, as I live,
saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall be
delivered themselves. 19 Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon
it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast: 20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as
I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver
their own souls by their righteousness.”
   b. We, too, can remain faithful to God under any and all circumstances.
      (1) Even if family, and friends forsake God and us.
      (2) Even if the whole world turns to the Devil.

XII. PERIOD OF RESTORATION
   A. Time
      1. Ezra, Neh., Esther, Haggai, Zech., Malachi, part of Daniel
      2. From the decree of Cyrus (return by Zerubbabel) to the end of Malachi.
      3. Ussher: 536-400
   B. Personalities
      1. Daniel
      2. Zerubbabel
      3. Ezra
      4. Nehemiah
      5. Haggai
      6. Zechariah
      7. Malachi
      8. Esther, Mordecai (cousin of Esther)
      9. Vashti
      10. Haman
   C. Events
      1. Return of Zerubbabel (536 B.C.), and the rebuilding of the Temple.
      2. Return of Ezra (458 B.C.)
      3. Return of Nehemiah (445 B.C.) and the rebuilding of the walls of the city.
   D. Lessons
      1. Providence of God
         a. With the words of Esther 4:14 “For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then
shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy
father’s house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for
“such a time as this?” Mordecai reminded Esther of the providential working of God in her life.

(1) Est. 1: Vashti refusal to unrobe before the eyes of drunken men and her removal as Queen.
(2) Est. 2: Selection of Esther as Queen.
(3) Est. 3: The disposition of the lot so that the execution of the Jews is put off till the eleventh month.
(4) Est. 5: The disposing of the king’s heart favorably to Esther when she appeared before him uninvited.
(5) Est. 6: The sleeplessness of the king leading to the honoring of Mordecai.
(6) “All these, quietly overruled so as to bring about deliverance of the Jews from a fearful doom, and to lead the Persians to a knowledge of the one living and true God, should teach us that God is above all, and through all, and that He is a very present help in time of trouble.” Isaac Errett

c. God working through natural means to carry out His purposes.

d. God still works today in the lives of people.
(1) Psa. 37:3 “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”
(2) Rom. 8:31, 32 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?... 32 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

2. Hindrances to the work of God.

a. The enemies of Nehemiah tried to prevent the work from being accomplished.
b. Notice the different hindrances and Nehemiah’s reply.
(1) Laughed to scorn; mocked
(a) Neh. 2:19; 4:1, 3 “But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?... 4 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.... 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.”
(b) Reply—Neh. 2:20; 4:4-6 “Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.... 4 Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity: 5 And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders. 6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”

(2) Prepared for battle
(a) Neh. 4:8 “And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.”
(b) Reply—Neh. 4:9, 12-13, 16-17 “Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.... 12 And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all
Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.... And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.”

(3) Divert from work by friendly meetings
(a) Neh. 6:2 “That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.”
(b) Reply—Neh. 6:3 “And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”

(4) Misrepresented motives
(a) Neh. 6:6-7 “Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words. And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.”
(b) Reply—Neh. 6:8-9 “Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.”

(5) Tried to lead into sin by fear and beguiling
(a) Neh. 6:10, 12-13 “Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.... And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me.”
(b) Reply—Neh. 6:11 “And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.”

C. The enemies of Christ still try to hinder the work today by these same means. Let us not forsake the work but as Nehemiah continue in the good work.

Conclusion: I hope that this study through the different periods of Old Testament history has given you the desire to study the Old Testament and the knowledge to build upon so that you can understand it.