

## Session 17 | The Kingdoms' Fall

Before reading Chapter 17, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1<sup>st</sup>, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Q	1 <sup>st</sup> Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> Time
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- Which of the following is a good description of Manasseh?
  - Manasseh shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem.
  - Manasseh sacrificed his son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists.
  - Manasseh humbled himself and knew that the Lord is God.
  - All of the above
- Who is described as the “weeping prophet”?
  - Ezekiel
  - Jeremiah
  - Josiah
  - Manasseh
- Why did Zedekiah ask for one more inquiry of the Lord?
  - He was hoping for the Lord to perform wonders as in times past.
  - He was trying to determine the timing of their attack.
  - He wanted to know with certainty the plans the Lord had given him.
  - This was Zedekiah’s normal practice prior to entering a battle.
- In one of Ezekiel’s final prophecies, what was he called to prophesy?
  - A broken spear.
  - A ruined temple.
  - A valley of dry bones.
  - An empty tomb.

What are the traits and practices you see in the kings who did evil before the Lord? What are the common traits and practices in the kings who did good in God’s sight?

What would it be like to have a vision or experience similar to Ezekiel’s encounter with God described on page 235?

Read Jeremiah’s prophecy on pages 238-240. What was the message he was trying to deliver to Jerusalem?

What are ways the reign of the last king, Zedekiah, served as the final straw for the people of Jerusalem? How did it end for them?

## Session 18 | Daniel in Exile

Before reading Chapter 18, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1<sup>st</sup>, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Q	1 <sup>st</sup> Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> Time
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- What special diet does Daniel request from the king's chief official?
  - Royal meat and wine
  - Fruits and vegetables.
  - Vegetables and water.
  - Manna and quail.
- What amazed the officials when Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace??
  - Not a hair on their heads was singed.
  - Their robes were not scorched.
  - They did not smell like smoke.
  - All of the above.
- Why was Daniel thrown into the den of lions?
  - He refused to bow down to the golden idol of the king.
  - He prayed to his God three times a day.
  - Jealous enemies brought false accusations to the king.
  - All of the above.
- Which prophet predicted the return of the Israelites from captivity?
  - Jeremiah
  - Hezekiah
  - Ezekiel
  - Hosea

Did you have a new discovery from your reading and study this week? If so, what was it?

Is there something you need to do based on what you learned?

Who can you tell about what you learned? Make a plan right now to share with that person.

## CHAPTER 19 | The Return Home

*"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them." Hosea 14:4*

Last week we looked at the story of the divided kingdom. Perhaps you were challenged in seeing how the kingdom fell apart when kings did not follow the Lord with all their hearts.

Before reading Chapter 15, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1<sup>st</sup>, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Q	1 <sup>st</sup> Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> Time
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- Who made the proclamation to rebuild the temple?
  - The king of the Israelites
  - Cyrus, king of Persia
  - Daniel
  - Zechariah
- What prophet did God send to encourage the Israelites to continue building?
  - Haggai
  - Jonah
  - Daniel
  - Isaiah
- What prophetic message did Zechariah share with the people?
  - Israel will crush and drive out her enemies.
  - You will be punished for the sins of your fathers in this land.
  - A greater day for Jerusalem is coming in the future.
  - All of the above.
- Who issued the second proclamation helping to pay for all the building expenses?
  - Cyrus
  - Haggai
  - Zechariah
  - Darius

How did the Lord use Cyrus to further his plans? How does he sometimes use unlikely leaders (then and now) to further his plans for his people?

Why did Haggai need to speak a prophetic message of encouragement to the people?

What hope do you see in Zechariah's words to the people?

How did God use opposition to the building of the temple to do an even greater work of provision for this people?

## Session 20 | The Queen of Beauty and Courage

Before reading Chapter 20, answer the questions below to test your knowledge. Enter your answers in the column marked 1<sup>st</sup>, read the chapter, then enter your answers in the column marked 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Q	1 <sup>st</sup> Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> Time
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1. How did Esther become queen?
  - a. The old queen was banished for disobeying the king.
  - b. She was chosen by a search through the kingdom for beautiful girls.
  - c. She please the king.
  - d. All of the above.
2. Who plans to bring the destruction the Jews?
  - a. Xerxes
  - b. Haman
  - c. Mordecai
  - d. Vashti
3. How did Haman come to destruction?
  - a. The king cut off his head for treason.
  - b. He was killed in battles outside of Susa
  - c. He was impaled on a pole he had prepared for Mordecai's death
  - d. Mordecai stabbed him with a sword.
4. What Jewish celebration continues to this day from the story of Esther?
  - a. Purim
  - b. The Feast of Tabernacles
  - c. Passover
  - d. Pentecost

How do you see the Lord working through Esther's circumstances and character in the process of becoming queen?

How would you describe Mordecai based on his actions and words toward Haman, God and Esther?

What are some of the ironies found in the downfall of Haman?

How did the Lord deliver his people even when the king's edict was not revoked?

