

# **“People of the Book”**

## ***Judah and the Babylonian Captivity***

**2 Kings 18-25; 2 Chronicles 29-36**

**Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel**

Prepared by Tim Parker and Jonathan Caldwell

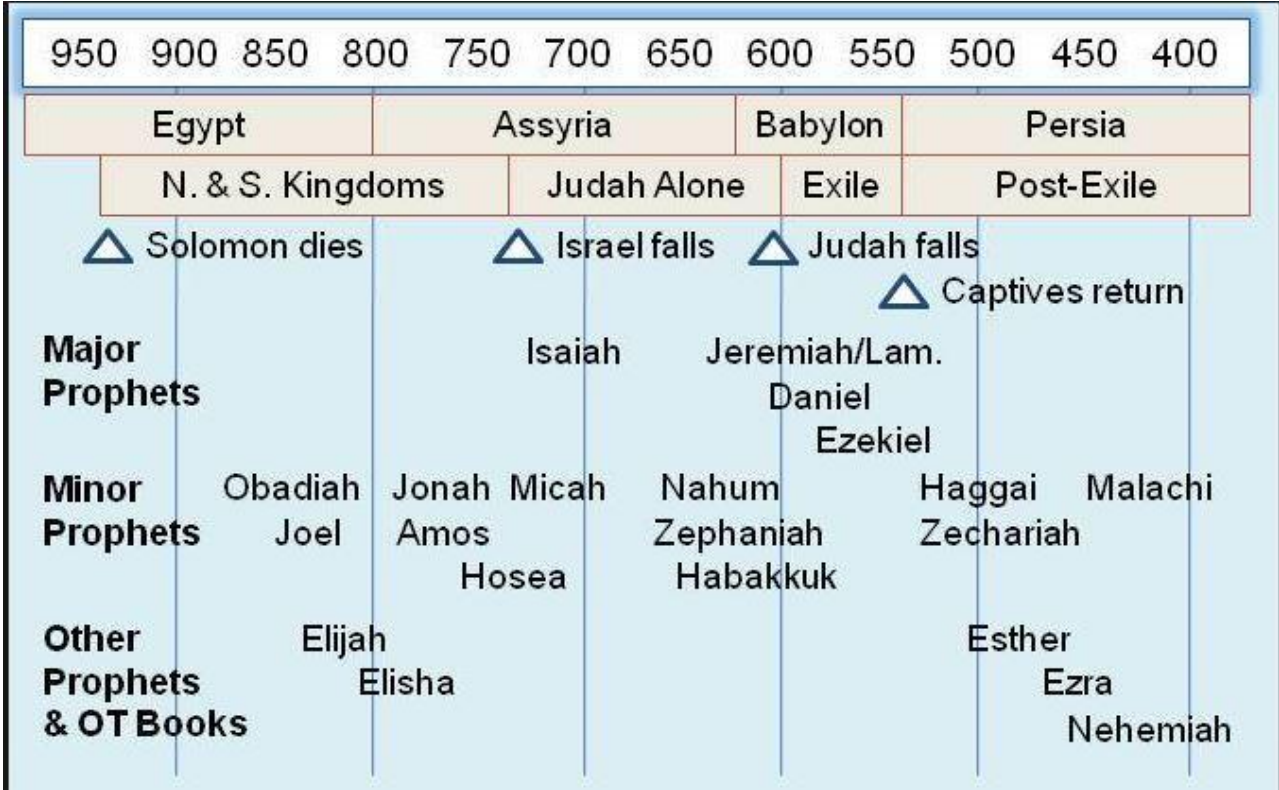
# Syllabus

Date	Lesson	Text
Sunday, July 1	1. Amos	Amos 1-9
Wednesday, July 4	2. Jonah	Jonah 1-4
Sunday, July 8	3. Hezekiah's Reforms	2 Kings 18:1-12; 20:1-21; 2 Chronicles 29-31
Wednesday, July 11	4. Hezekiah and Assyria	2 Kings 18:13 – 19:37; 2 Chronicles 32
Sunday, July 15	5. Nahum	Nahum 1-3
Wednesday, July 18	6. Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah	2 Kings 21:1 – 23:30; 2 Chronicles 33-35
Sunday, July 22	7. Zephaniah	Zephaniah 1-3
Wednesday, July 25	8. Habakkuk	Habakkuk 1-3
Sunday, July 29	9. Joel and Obadiah	Joel 1-3; Obadiah
Wednesday, August 1	10. Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, and the Fall of Jerusalem	2 Kings 23:31 – 25:30; 2 Chronicles 36
Sunday, August 5	11. Jeremiah (Part 1)	Jeremiah 1-15
Wednesday, August 8	12. Jeremiah (Part 2)	Jeremiah 16-29
Sunday, August 12	13. Jeremiah (Part 3)	Jeremiah 30-45
Wednesday, August 15	14. Jeremiah (Part 4)	Jeremiah 46-52
Sunday, August 19	15. Lamentations	Lamentations 1-5
Wednesday, August 22	16. Ezekiel (Part 1)	Ezekiel 1-11
Sunday, August 26	17. Ezekiel (Part 2)	Ezekiel 12-24
Wednesday, August 29	18. Ezekiel (Part 3)	Ezekiel 25-32
Sunday, September 2	19. Ezekiel (Part 4)	Ezekiel 33-48
Wednesday, September 5	20. Daniel and His Friends	Daniel 1, 3
Sunday, September 9	21. Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar	Daniel 2, 4
Wednesday, September 12	22. Handwriting on the Wall and the Lion's Den	Daniel 5-6
Sunday, September 16	23. Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts	Daniel 7
Wednesday, September 19	24. Daniel's Vision of the Ram and the Goat	Daniel 8
Sunday, September 22	25. Daniel's Prayer and Vision of a Man	Daniel 9-10
Wednesday, September 26	26. Coming Kings	Daniel 11
Sunday, September 29	27. "How Long Shall It Be?"	Daniel 12
Wednesday, October 3	28. Review of the Captivity	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel

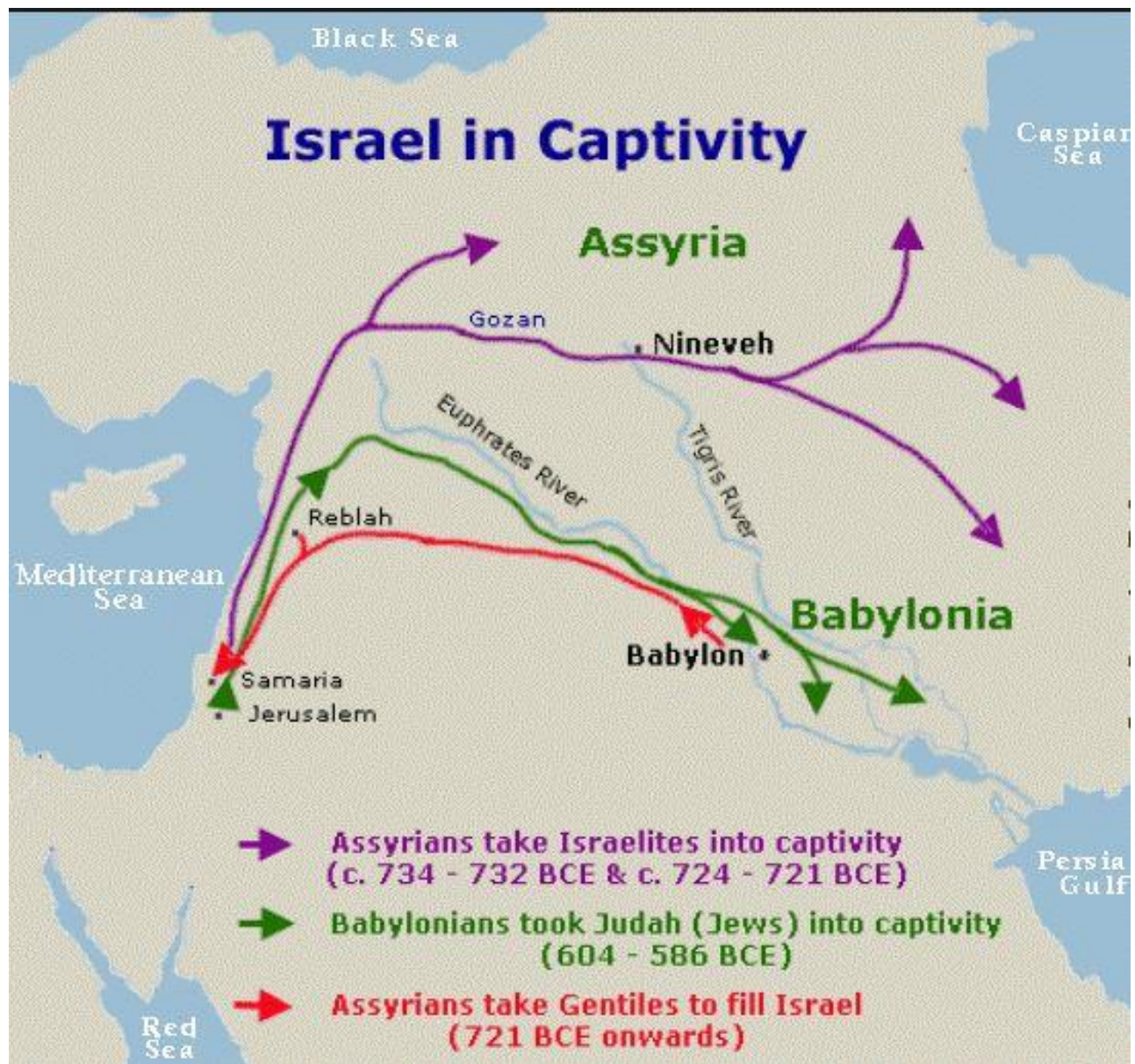
# 17 Periods of Bible History

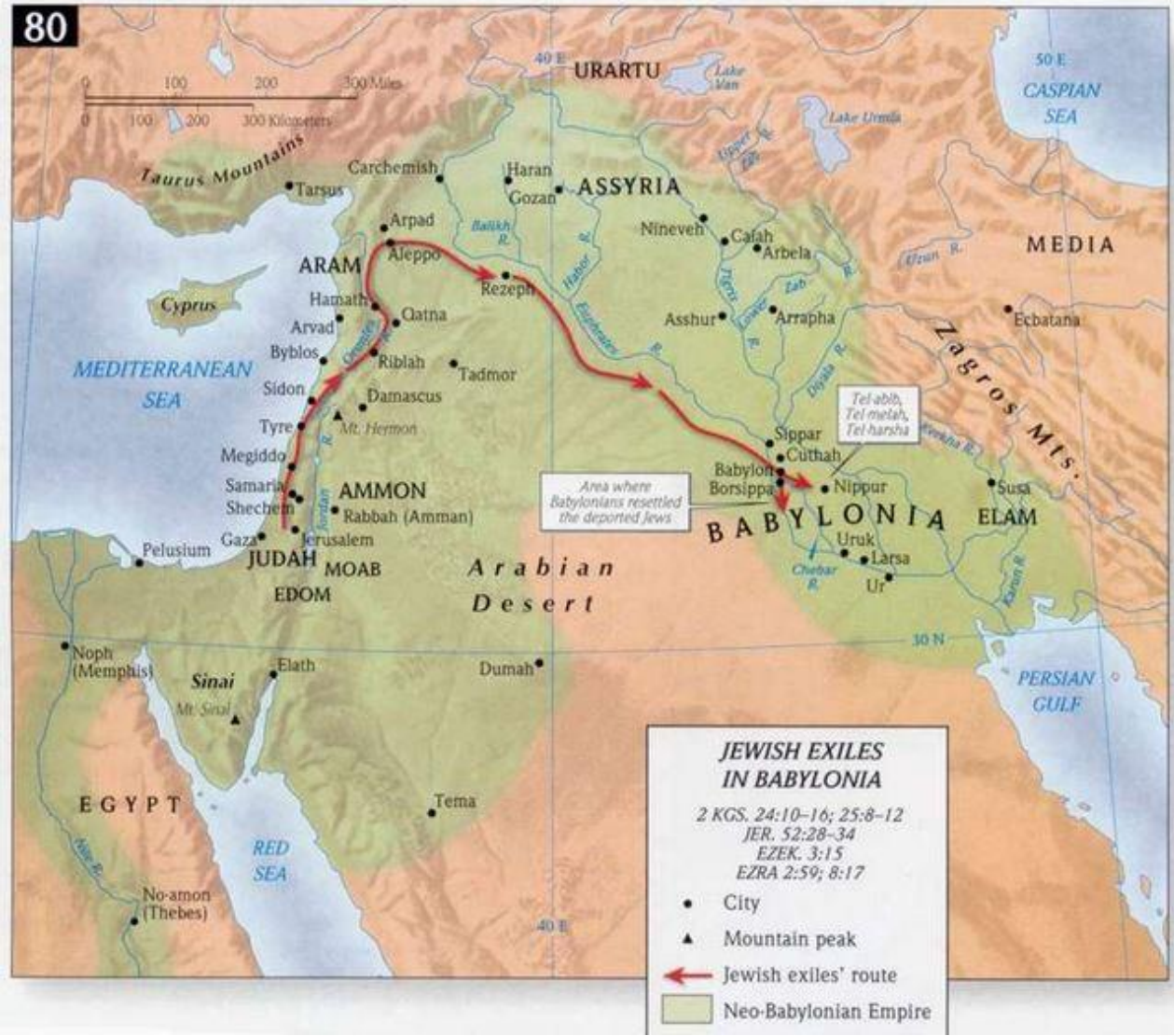
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1. Before The Flood	Genesis 1-5
2. The Flood	Genesis 6-10
3. The Scattering of the People	Genesis 11
4. The Patriarchs	Genesis 12-50
5. The Exodus	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers 1-13
6. Wandering in the Wilderness	Numbers 14-36, Deuteronomy, Joshua 1-5
7. Invasion and Conquest	Joshua 6-24
8. The Judges	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
9. The United Kingdom	
Saul	1 Samuel 8-31, 1 Chronicles 10
David	2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles 11-29
Solomon	1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9
10. The Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 10-30*
11. Judah Alone	2 Kings 18-25, 2 Chronicles 30*-36
12. Captivity	Ezekiel, Daniel
13. Return from Captivity	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
14. Years of Silence	(Prophesy in Amos 8:11)
15. Life of Christ	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
16. The Early Church	Acts
17. Letters to the Christians	Romans - Revelation









# Lesson 1: The Prophecies of Amos

**Text:** Amos 1-9

**Objectives:**

- Identify who Amos was and when he prophesied.
- Notes the major themes in the book.

**Questions:**

1. When did Amos prophesy?
2. What nations are condemned in chapters 1-2?
3. In chapter 4, God says that the bad things that were happening were from Him. What was the point of these disasters?
4. What were some of the sins Amos condemns?
5. According to Amos 7:14-15, who and what was Amos?
6. The book ends with several visions. Identify the symbol of judgement in each.  
7:1-3:  
7:4-6:  
7:7-9:  
8:1-3:  
9:1-4:

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Does God want correct practice or love and justice?  
Cf. Amos 5:23-25

## Lesson 2: The Prophet Jonah

**Text:** Jonah 1-4

**Objectives:**

- Identify who Jonah was and when he prophesied.
- Note the purpose of Jonah's story.

**Questions:**

1. Find Nineveh, Joppa, and Tarshish on a map.
2. Was the great fish Jonah's punishment or salvation? Note the prayer of chapter 2.
3. What was Jonah's sermon?
4. What was the response?
5. How did God respond?
6. How did Jonah respond?
7. Why did Jonah run in the first place?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

What other prophet discusses Nineveh and ends his book with a question?



## Lesson 3: Hezekiah's Reforms

**Text:** 2 Kings 18:1-12; 20:1-21; 2 Chronicles 29-31; 32:24-33

**Objectives:** Note Hezekiah's work as a reformer.

**Questions:**

1. What had been an item of temptation and idolatry since the time of Moses?
2. What statement shows that Hezekiah was unique as King of Judah?
3. What happened to Israel during Hezekiah's reign in Judah?
4. What made Hezekiah sick? What was the spiritual reason?
5. What foolish thing did Hezekiah do with the envoys from Babylon?
6. Note the encouragement and emphasis placed on purifying the temple in 2 Chronicles 29.
7. How often was the Passover to be celebrated? How often was it actually celebrated?
8. Hezekiah's reforms extended to what cities?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What is the difference  
between sin and impurity?

## Lesson 4: Hezekiah and Assyria

**Text:** 2 Kings 18:13-19:37; 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

**Objectives:**

- Note Hezekiah's response to political trouble.
- Note the arrogance of God's enemies.

**Questions:**

1. What is Hezekiah's first act to appease the King of Assyria?
2. What did Hezekiah do to prepare for the arrival of the Assyrian army?
3. Search online for pictures of "Hezekiah's tunnel."
4. Who was the Rabshakeh and what was he trying to do?
5. In the moment of fear and distress, on whom does Hezekiah call?
6. How many Assyrians did the angel of the Lord kill?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What is the connection between preparation and prayer?

## Lesson 5: Nahum

**Text:** Nahum 1-3

**Objectives:**

- Contrast Nahum's prophecy and the story of Jonah.
- Note the relief of God's people at the defeat of God's enemies.

**Questions:**

1. Nahum begins with a description of God's anger. What happens to the earth in God's wrath?
2. Why is the destruction of Nineveh good news to the people of Judah?
3. Chapter two is a mock "call to arms." Why is it foolish to man the ramparts when God is the approaching enemy?
4. When God goes to war and judgment, His anger is most often likened to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What are the sins of Nineveh?
6. The destruction of Assyria is not just good news to Judah. Who else will rejoice?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

Jonah and Nahum show two characteristics of God: mercy and judgment. How so?

## Lesson 6: Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah

**Text:** 2 Kings 21:1-23:30; 2 Chronicles 33-35

### **Objectives:**

- Note the abominations of Manasseh.
- Note the extent of Josiah's reforms.

### **Questions:**

1. How is Manasseh worse than the kings before him?
2. What does 2 Chronicles 33 tell us about Manasseh?
3. Who succeeded Manasseh? How long did his reign?
4. What great thing is said of Josiah?
5. What was Josiah's response to the discovery of the book of the Law? What was every king supposed to do with it?
6. Note the extent of Josiah's reforms. What about this section is surprising?
7. God still planned to destroy Judah because of which king? See also Jeremiah 15:4.
8. How does Josiah die?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

If God forgave Manasseh, then why does Jeremiah blame him for Judah's destruction?



## Lesson 7: Zephaniah

**Text:** Zephaniah 1-3

**Objectives:**

- Identify when Zephaniah prophesied.
- Note the similarities between Zephaniah's prophecy and Huldah's (cf. 2 Kings 22:14-20).
- Note the Zephaniah's Messianic prophecies.

**Questions:**

1. When did Zephaniah prophesy?
2. To whom is Zephaniah related?
3. Why is judgment coming?
4. What is the "day of the LORD"?
5. The only hope is for what kind of people?
6. What is wrong with the officials, prophets, and priests?
7. There is always a promise of a remnant. What kind of heart do the people of the remnant have? See 3:9.

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What are the Messianic promises of Zephaniah 3?

## Lesson 8: Habakkuk

**Text:** Habakkuk 1-3

**Objectives:**

- Review the conversation between Habakkuk and God.
- Note Habakkuk's use in the New Testament.

**Questions:**

1. What is Habakkuk's first complaint?
2. How does God respond?
3. What is Habakkuk's second complaint?
4. How does God respond?
5. How many "woes" are pronounced on Babylon?
6. Habakkuk 3 is a prayer or a Psalm. Notice verse 1. Compare to Psalm 77.
7. What provides comfort in the midst of chaos and destruction?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

Where is Habakkuk 2:4 quotes in the New Testament?

## Lesson 9: Joel and Obadiah

**Text:** Joel 1-3; Obadiah

**Objectives:**

- Discuss when these prophets prophesied.
- Note the use of Joel 2 in Acts 2.

**Questions:**

1. In Joel, the coming destruction would be so bad, how many generations would hear of it?
2. What might happen if the people repented?
3. What does that repentance look like?
4. What are some common descriptions and cosmic signs of the “Day of the Lord”?
5. How does Peter use Joel 2?
6. In Obadiah, what were the Edomites actually doing?
7. Why was this so offensive to God?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

Do you think the locust plague was literal or figurative?

## Lesson 10: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, and the Fall of Jerusalem

**Text:** 2 Kings 23:31-25:30; 2 Chronicles 36

### **Objectives:**

- Note the rapid decline of the southern kingdom.
- Review the similarities with Israel's fall.

### **Questions:**

1. What was the relationship between Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim?
2. On whom does the author place the blame for the condition of Judah?
3. Who was Zedekiah's father?
4. Who did Nebuchadnezzar take to Babylon?
5. Consider 2 Kings 25:12. Who was part of this group?
6. Who was Gedaliah?
7. How long is the gap between 2 Kings 25:26 and 2 Kings 25:27?
8. Why did the land need to "enjoy its Sabbaths"?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Why does 2 Kings end with such a strange note about Jehoiachin?



## Lesson 11: Jeremiah (Part 1)

**Text:** Jeremiah 1-15

**Objectives:**

- Review the reason for the coming destruction of Judah.

**Questions:**

1. When did Jeremiah prophesy?
2. What excuse did Jeremiah give for not wanting to do the work God was giving him?
3. In 3:1, what point is God making about the people and their idolatry?
4. How could the people prevent destruction? (see 4:1-4)
5. According to 5:19, why is all this happening?
6. What are the “ancient paths”?
7. How was the phrase “This is the temple of the LORD” deceptive?
8. Why is Jeremiah called “the weeping prophet”?
9. What complaint does Jeremiah have for God?
10. What did the loincloth of chapter 13 represent?
11. What were the false prophets prophesying?

## Lesson 12: Jeremiah (Part 2)

**Text:** Jeremiah 16-29

**Objectives:**

- Note Jeremiah's main challenges.

**Questions:**

1. The wives of the prophets often have a role in the work of their husbands. What about Jeremiah?
2. Compare Jeremiah 17:7-8 with Psalm 1.
3. How do the Jew go from one extreme with the Sabbath in Jeremiah 17 to the other during the time of Jesus?
4. What was Jeremiah to do with the clay flask? What did this represent?
5. Who was Pashhur and what did he do?
6. What is the "righteous branch" and what is its connection to Jesus' birth?
7. What did the vision of the figs mean?
8. Is the book of Jeremiah chronological? (see 25:1)
9. How long would the Babylonian captivity last?
10. What other prophets are mentioned in Jeremiah 26?
11. What did Hananiah prophesy?
12. What message did Jeremiah send to the exiles? How did Shemaiah respond?

## Lesson 13: Jeremiah (Part 3)

**Text:** Jeremiah 30-45

**Objectives:**

- Note the response of various groups to the word of God
- Note the Biblical theme of returning to Egypt.

**Questions:**

1. What are some of the characteristics of the new covenant prophesied about in Jeremiah 31?
2. What was the significance of Jeremiah buying a piece of land?
3. What rules did the Rechabites have for their family?
4. Who was Baruch?
5. What did Jehoiakim do to Jeremiah's scroll?
6. How did the officials imprison Jeremiah?
7. What happened to Zedekiah after his sons were executed?
8. Who was Gedaliah? What happened to him?
9. Why do the people ask Jeremiah to talk to God? Do they listen?
10. God had to protect His reputation. The people were offering sacrifices while doing what else?

## Lesson 14: Jeremiah (Part 4)

**Text:** Jeremiah 46-52

**Objectives:**

- Review the sins of Ahab and Jezebel.
- Note Jehu's objective and obedience.

**Questions:**

1. Who would God use to punish Egypt?
2. Who would God use to punish the Philistines?
3. Who was the god of Moab?
4. Who was the god of the Ammonites?
5. Who were the Edomites?
6. Damascus was the capital of what country?
7. Who would God use to punish Kedar and Hazor?
8. Where is Elam?
9. Who would God use to punish Babylon?
10. Consider Jeremiah 52. Could this chapter give us an indication of the author of 1 and 2 Kings?



## Lesson 15: Lamentations

**Text:** Lamentations 1-5

**Objectives:**

- Note the author of Lamentations.
- Note the structure of Lamentations.

**Questions:**

1. What does nakedness represent?
2. Lamentations 1:18 provides a confession on behalf of the nation. What was the main form of rebellion in Israel/Judah?
3. Who are the “lovers” of Lamentations 1:19?
4. What does it mean that God was willing to destroy His own people, nation, and temple?
5. Consider Lamentations 3. Even though all these bad things have happened, how does the author characterize God?
6. The destruction of Jerusalem was so bad that mothers were forced to do what?
7. God had withdrawn Himself from the people. The author recognizes that God’s actions were just. In Lamentations 5, what does the author ask of God?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Could anyone ever say that God was unjust in how He dealt with Israel and Judah?

## Lesson 16: Ezekiel (Part 1)

**Text:** Ezekiel 1-11

**Objectives:**

- Note the setting of Ezekiel's prophecy.
- Review other theophanies in scripture.

**Questions:**

1. Where is Ezekiel?
2. What was Ezekiel?
3. What is Ezekiel describing in chapter 1?
4. Why is Ezekiel told to be stubborn?
5. Why was Ezekiel told to lay on his side? What did it symbolize?
6. What was Ezekiel told to do with the hair he shaved off?
7. In chapter 8, what did Ezekiel see inside the temple?
8. Who was to be marked and what would happen to them?
9. Why does the glory of the Lord leave the temple?
10. How does the new heart compare to the old heart?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Where is Daniel and Jeremiah during the captivity?

## Lesson 17: Ezekiel (Part 2)

**Text:** Ezekiel 12-24

**Objectives:**

- Note the graphic language God uses to describe Israel's rebellion.

**Questions:**

1. Why was Ezekiel told to pack a bag? What else was he to do?
2. From where do false prophets receive their prophecies?
3. Why did the elders approach Ezekiel?
4. God likens the people to what kind of wood?
5. What is Ezekiel describing in chapter 16? (WARNING: IT IS GRAPHIC)
6. What is the message of the parable of the two eagles?
7. What was the proverb of 18:2 and why is it not accurate?
8. Why does God have a sword in chapter 21?
9. Who are Oholah and Oholibah?
10. How does Ezekiel's wife come into the story?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

Why does God use such graphic language in chapters 16 and 23?

## Lesson 18: Ezekiel (Part 3)

**Text:** Ezekiel 25-32

**Objectives:**

- Note the external focus of these chapters.
- Review the relationship between these various nations and Israel.

**Questions:**

1. Why was God going to punish Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, and Tyre?
2. Why does Ezekiel spend so much time prophesying about Tyre?
3. What promise does God make at the end of chapter 28?
4. What are some reasons given for the coming judgment of Egypt?
5. Who would God use to judge Egypt?
6. Egypt is likened to what other, previously powerful nation? What was their downfall?
7. Every powerful nation and king seems to have what problem?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

If the Old Testament is about God's relationship with His people, why spend so much time talking about the nations?



## Lesson 19: Ezekiel (Part 4)

**Text:** Ezekiel 33-48

**Objectives:**

- Note the failure of the leaders in Israel.
- Note the images of hope in the final chapters of Ezekiel.

**Questions:**

1. What was the job of the watchman? Who was to blame if he did not do his job?
2. Who are the “shepherds of Israel” and what are they guilty of doing?
3. Where is Mt. Seir?
4. What was God going to “replace” in His people?
5. What happened in the valley of bones?
6. What is Gog? What is Magog?
7. What is measured in the last chapters of Ezekiel?
8. What wonderful thing happens in chapter 43?
9. What flowed from the temple?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

Why does Ezekiel spend 9 chapters talking about the temple?

## Lesson 20: Daniel and His Friends

**Text:** Daniel 1 and 3

### **Objectives:**

- Review the setting for the book of Daniel
- Note the structure of the book of Daniel.
- Review the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

### **Questions:**

1. There were three deportations of captives from Judah to Babylon. Which one was Daniel a part?
2. What were the Hebrew names of Daniel and his friends? What were their Babylonian names?
3. How would Daniel have defiled himself with the king's food?
4. What "test" did Daniel arrange with the steward?
5. What blessings did God give Daniel and his friends?
6. Describe the image Nebuchadnezzar made. Where was it located?
7. What was the punishment for not obeying the king?
8. What was the response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego to the king?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

How might we be tempted like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego?

## Lesson 21: Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar

**Text:** Daniel 2 and 4

**Objectives:**

- Review Daniel’s interactions with Nebuchadnezzar.
- Note the emphasis on God’s control.
- Discuss the coming Kingdom of God.

**Questions:**

1. Why wouldn’t Nebuchadnezzar tell what was in the dream?
2. What sentence did the king pass on the wise men?
3. How does Daniel “evangelize” to Nebuchadnezzar?
4. What was the dream? What was its meaning?
5. What did the king do for Daniel and his friends?
6. What was Nebuchadnezzar’s second dream? What was its meaning?
7. What was Nebuchadnezzar’s problem? What was God’s solution?
8. What lesson did Nebuchadnezzar need to learn?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Notice Nebuchadnezzar’s increasing knowledge of God in chapters 2-4.

## Lesson 22: Handwriting on the Wall and the Lion's Den

**Text:** Daniel 5-6

**Objectives:**

- Review the historical timeline of these events.
- Note the practical lessons of these chapters.

**Questions:**

1. Who is now king?
2. What profane thing does he do in the middle of his feast?
3. What appears? What happens?
4. What lesson should the king have learned from his father?
5. What was Daniel's interpretation of the events?
6. Who is king in chapter 6?
7. Why did the officials want to "find fault" with Daniel?
8. What decree did the king sign? How did this impact Daniel?
9. What did the king do to the officials after Daniel was found safe?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

What was the difference between the temptation of Daniel in chapter 6 and his friends in chapter 3?

## Lesson 23: Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts

**Text:** Daniel 7

**Objectives:**

- Note the change in the book of Daniel at this point.
- Review the concept of kingdom in Daniel and the other prophets.
- Note the point of Daniel's visions.

**Questions:**

1. Describe the first beast.
2. Describe the second beast.
3. Describe the third beast.
4. Describe the fourth beast.
5. Why is God called the "Ancient of Days"?
6. Who is the "son of man" that was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom?
7. What do the beasts represent?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

As you read the description of these beasts, where do your thoughts go?

## Lesson 24: Daniel's Vision of the Ram and Goat

**Text:** Daniel 8

**Objectives:**

- Review the historical timeline from the divided kingdom to the Roman Empire.
- Note the nature of Daniel's visions.
- Note the factual points of Daniel's prophetic visions.

**Questions:**

1. Describe the ram and its actions.
2. Describe the goat and its actions.
3. What happened after the goat's horn was broken?
4. What did the "little horn" do?
5. How long is 2,300 days?
6. Who/what does the ram represent?
7. Who/what does the goat represent?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

Why might some argue that Daniel was written after the Roman Empire took control?

## Lesson 25: Daniel's Prayer and Vision of a Man

**Text:** Daniel 9-10

### **Objectives:**

- Review the kings during the life of Daniel.
- Note the humility of Daniel's prayer.
- Review the various interpretations for the phrase "seventy weeks."
- Note the point of the vision in chapter 10.

### **Questions:**

1. Does Daniel understand why his people are being punished?
2. What does Daniel ask of God?
3. Who is Gabriel and where else do we see him in scripture?
4. How long is seventy weeks? What do "weeks" symbolize?
5. Who/what does Daniel see in chapter 10?
6. What impact does this vision have on Daniel?
7. What has Gabriel been doing? Who was helping him?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

Why is Daniel being shown these things?

## Lesson 26: Coming Kings

**Text:** Daniel 11

**Objectives:**

- Review the historical timeline between the testaments.
- Note the fulfillment of prophecies, especially during the Empire of the Greeks.

**Questions:**

1. How many more kings were to rule in Persia?
2. What would happen to the kingdom of the “mighty king”?
3. Make a simple timeline of the events in this chapter.
4. What would this king do to the temple?
5. God rules in the kingdoms of men. How do these prophecies prove this fact?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

When is all of this going to take place? What is the difference between Daniel and Revelation?



## Lesson 27: “How Long Shall It Be?”

**Text:** Daniel 12

**Objectives:**

- Review the previous visions and their impact on Daniel 12.
- Note the various interpretations of the phrase “the end.”

**Questions:**

1. Who is Michael?
2. Why is Daniel told to “seal up the words”?
3. What are “times, time, and half a time”?
4. Who else speaks of “the abomination of desolation”?
5. How long is 1,290 days?
6. What is the promise to Daniel at the end?
7. What is the job of those who trust in God?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

If God is in control, why do we have to endure the suffering we see in the world?

## Lesson 28: Review of the Captivity

**Text:** Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel

**Objectives:**

- Review the timeline of kings and prophets.
- Note the geography of the major nations and world powers.

**Questions:**

1. When was Daniel taken to Babylon? With whom did Daniel work?
2. When was Ezekiel taken to Babylon? With whom did Ezekiel work?
3. Where was Jeremiah? With whom did Jeremiah work?
4. What king destroyed Jerusalem?
5. What king released the Jews from captivity?
6. What characteristics of God do we see in the prophets?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
How does God rule in the kingdoms of men today?