

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

STUDY PAK 7B

1. From the destruction of Jerusalem in a) _____ B.C., until the exiles returned in b) _____ B.C., the historic passages of Scripture remain silent.
2. Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah are important books, revealing the record of the return from a) _____ and God's b) _____ of His people.
3. In particular, a) _____ and b) _____ show how God remembered and how He brought His children back from exile.
4. Prophets, such as a) _____ and b) _____ had foretold the captivity of the children of Israel.
5. For many generations, other prophets had warned the children of Judah about God's a) _____ upon a b) _____ nation.
6. Some of the exiles who realized that their captivity was a result of God's judgment upon their nation _____ (Psalm 137).
7. Yet a hope persisted among the Jews, for God had promised a a) _____ to the land after b) _____ of captivity.
8. The a) _____ kingdom's (Judah) restoration is a contrast to the b) _____ kingdom (Israel), which never returned from captivity and dispersion.
9. The prophet _____ very specifically pointed to God's promise of a 70-year captivity, and then a restoration of His relationship with His chosen people and their return to the Promised Land.
10. While that captivity would be for a period of 70 years, it was also prophesied that a) _____, the king of b) _____ would be God's tool to send the children of Israel back to the Promised Land.
11. Cyrus, in fulfilling God's a) _____, issued a written decree, urging the Jews to go back to the b) _____ and c) _____ the "house of the Lord God of Israel, which is in Jerusalem."

Post-Exile Jews

- ⌘ **Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther record the return from exile and God's protection of His people**
- ⌘ **Isaiah and Jeremiah had foretold the captivity**
- ⌘ **Jeremiah prophesied a return to the land after 70 years**
- ⌘ **Isaiah prophesied Cyrus would send the Jews back to the land**

12. From a historical point, a) _____ continues the narrative where b) _____, tracing both the histories of the return of the Jews from c) _____ in Babylon and the d) _____ of the temple.

Ezra

- ⌘ **Continues the narrative where 2 Chronicles ends**
- ☑ **Traces the return from exile and the rebuilding of the temple**
- ⌘ **Prepared his heart to seek, do, and teach the law of God**
- ⌘ **Formed a council of 120 men who formed the canon of the Old Testament**

3

13. Ezra was the type of man God could use, for he had prepared his a) _____ to b) _____, c) _____, and d) _____ the law of God.

14. Tradition also tells us that Ezra formed a a) _____ of 120 men who formed the b) _____.

15. He also helped to codify Israel's a) _____, instituted the b) _____ worship, and led c) _____ by teaching God's Word in Israel.

16. Ezra, who demonstrated the centrality of the a) _____ in Chronicles, continues showing that the temple was central to the b) _____ and c) _____ of the nation as God's people.

17. In reviewing the contents of the book of Ezra, it becomes clear that he only collected the material that showed how God a) _____ His people and b) _____ His promises to Israel.

Ezra

- ⌘ **Shows the centrality of the temple to the life and worship of the Jews**
- ⌘ **Reveals how God moves the heart of the king as rivers of water**
- ⌘ **Demonstrates how God makes all things work together for good to those that love Him**

4

18. It is significant to notice that the book of Ezra demonstrates how God moves the a) _____ of the b) _____ as rivers of water, disposing the king of Persia to order the rebuilding of the temple.

19. It also becomes evident, that in spite of all the plans of the a) _____ of God's people, they were used of God to help promote the b) _____ of the temple.

20. The word of prophets such as a) _____ and b) _____ was indispensable to the building of the temple.

21. Ezra 1-6 gives the account of the return of _____ with the Jews, and a brief account of what happened as the Jews attempted to rebuild the temple.

22. Many years passed from the decree to go forth and a) _____ the temple to the time the temple was b) _____.

23. The decree of Cyrus was a a) _____ of that which was given by Tiglath-pileser of Assyria in 745 B.C. to b) _____ conquered people.

24. Thus it was that thousands of Jewish exiles left Babylon, loaded with the _____ which had been taken by Nebuchadnezzar.

25. In 538 B.C., approximately _____ Jews made the long journey back to Jerusalem.

26. Among them was
a) _____, a grandson of King Jehoiachin of the line of David, and
b) _____ (Joshua) the high priest.

27. Upon their return to Jerusalem, Jeshua immediately built the _____ so the burnt offerings could again be made (for 70 years there was no sacrifice given for the children of Israel).

28. They began celebrating the _____ God had given them, starting with the Feast of Tabernacles.

29. They also began a system of a) _____ to raise money to rebuild the temple, setting aside money for b) _____, to provide c) _____ for the workers, and hire d) _____ for rebuilding the temple.

30. The laying of the _____ was accompanied by the playing of instruments, singing, and a great shout of joy.

31. At the same time of a) _____, there were many that remembered the glory of Solomon's temple and b) _____ with a loud noise.

The 18 Year Delay

⌘ **The Samaritans began by asking the Jews to compromise and allow them to help build the temple**

⌘ **When the Jews refused, they became hostile, writing to Artaxerxes to stop the building**

⌘ **Haggai and Zechariah's preaching stirred up the Jews to rebuild**

☑ **The enemies wrote to Darius, who confirmed the order to rebuild**

Cyrus Decree

⌘ **Resulted in 50,000 Jews being deported back to Israel with the temple vessels**

⌘ **Zerubbabel, grandson of King Jehoiachin, led them**

⌘ **Jeshua the high priest rebuilt the altar and instituted the feasts**

⌘ **Money was set aside to rebuild the temple**

5

32. While the people were enthusiastic in their beginnings, they were delayed for _____ by the enemies from the north.

33. The Samaritans began by asking the Jews to a) _____ with them, allowing them to b) _____ in the building of the temple.

34. The Samaritans said, "...we a) _____ your

God, as ye do: and we do b) _____ unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither:".

35. Zerubbabel and Jeshua along with the fathers of Israel told them, "Ye have _____ to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the Lord God of Israel..."
36. The Samaritans were not the descendents of the a) _____ which had gone into captivity in Assyria, but were b) _____ who included Jehovah as c) _____ of their many gods.
37. Their attitude was a) _____ toward the Jews, particularly since some of them may have been b) _____ by the return of the Jews after the 70-year captivity.
38. When they were denied participation in building the temple, the a) _____ became even more hostile, writing to b) _____ to stop the building.
39. Because they originated from the heathen nations, they had a certain amount of _____ before the Persian king.
40. They pointed out that Jerusalem had been a hotbed of a) _____ and filled with b) _____ against the king of Babylon.
41. When the return letter from the king a) _____ the building of the temple, they immediately went to Jerusalem, reading the letter, and b) _____ them to stop building until 520 B.C.
42. In the second year of Darius, the new ruler in Persia, a) _____ and b) _____ began prophesying, stirring up the people to again c) _____ the temple.
43. King Darius' letter came back, not only a) _____ the order to rebuild, but ordering them not to b) _____ with the work, and that the c) _____ should be paid for from the king's goods.
44. After the temple was completed, the Jews dedicated the new temple, setting the a) _____ and b) _____ in their courses for their service to God.
45. The Jews then began to keep all the _____, starting with the Feast of the Passover.
46. Only about a) _____ Jews returned from exile, while the vast b) _____ of them stayed transplanted in the nations to which they were dispersed.
47. This explains why when Paul went to preach the Gospel among the a) _____, he almost always ran into the b) _____, preaching to the Jew first, then also the Greek.

48. The book of Esther takes place between Ezra a) _____, between the first return of the exiles led by b) _____ and the second which was later led by c) _____.

Esther

⌘ Takes place between Ezra 6 and 7

⌘ Does not mention the name of God

⌘ Demonstrates the providence of God in caring for His children

⌘ Tells how God used a beautiful Jewish girl to become the queen and preserve His people

⌘ The Feast of Purim was first celebrated in Esther

7

49. Historically, Esther is identified with the reign of a) _____ or b) _____, king of Persia (485-465 B.C.).

50. While the a) _____ of God is not mentioned in Esther, the b) _____ of God in caring for His chosen people is very clear.

51. When the kings of the earth a) _____ God and the rulers tried to b) _____

of His chosen people, God c) _____ in a marvelous way.

52. While the a) _____ of God is not mentioned, the b) _____ of God is evident.

53. a) _____ tells the story of a beautiful Jewish girl whom King Zerxes of Persia chose to be his b) _____ after becoming displeased with his previous queen.

54. In the story, she was cared for by her uncle, _____, who uncovered a plot in which two guards conspired to take the king's life.

55. When Esther reported these plans, Mordecai's actions to protect the king were a) _____, and he was given credit for saving the king's b) _____.

56. a) _____, a Persian official, was advanced by the king to be b) _____ than any of the other princes in the nation.

57. Everyone greatly a) _____ him, except b) _____, who refused to bow down to Haman.

58. In the course of time, Haman discovered Mordecai was a a) _____, and plotted to destroy the Jewish b) _____ with the king's endorsement.

59. Mordecai alerted the Jewish people to the a) _____ to destroy them, asking them to b) _____ and c) _____.

60. He then prevailed upon Esther to go to the king and _____ on behalf of the Jewish people.

61. He asked her, Esther 4:14, "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and a) _____ arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be b) _____: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."
62. As a result, Esther invited the a) _____ and b) _____ to dine with her on two successive days, making her c) _____ on behalf of the Jewish people known on the second day.
63. During the night after the first dinner, the king, unable to a) _____ ordered the b) _____ to be read to him.
64. He discovered that a) _____, who had saved his life, had never been b) _____ for what he had done.
65. When a) _____ appeared at the king's court in the morning to request the right to hang Mordecai on b) _____ he had prepared, the king asked him, "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?"
66. Haman was a) _____ when he discovered that the man to be honored was b) _____, and that he was to lead Mordecai through the streets declaring, "Thus shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to c) _____."
67. That same afternoon, at her banquet for Haman and the king, Esther risked her life to point out to the king that someone had sold her people to be a) _____ and b) _____.
68. When the king asked who did so, _____ was pointed to as the culprit.
69. In his wrath, the king had Haman _____ on the gallows he had built for Mordecai.
70. He authorized the Jews to a) _____ their enemies, resulting in the deaths of b) _____ of gentiles.
71. a) _____ was restored for the Jews, and they celebrated their deliverance with the Feast of b) _____, which is still observed annually.
72. God, who promised to a) _____ His people, was once again proven to be b) _____ to His promises.
73. The activities of a) _____, who returned to Jerusalem in b) _____ B.C., are recorded in the last 4 chapters of the book of Ezra.

74. God's a) _____ was upon him, and as a scribe, the king granted him a b) _____ to lead a group of Jews back to the province of c) _____.

Ezra the Reformer

⌘ **In 457 BC, Ezra was given a commission by the king to lead a group of Jews back to the land**

⌘ **The king commanded that everything be given to Ezra, so God's wrath would not be upon the king and his sons**

⌘ **Ezra confronted the people their sin in intermarrying with the heathen**

75. Ezra prepared by planning what he would need in advance, not only for the a) _____ to Jerusalem, but also to purchase b) _____, to return the c) _____ to the house of the Lord, and whatever he would need for the house of the Lord.

76. He also received authorization that whatever he would need beyond the "river" from the _____ would be received speedily.

77. The king's decree stated, "Whatsoever is commanded by the a) _____, let it be b) _____ done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the c) _____ and his d) _____?"

78. Ezra took with him generous royal a) _____, b) _____ contributed by the exiles, and c) _____ for sacred use in the temple.

79. Ezra's instructions indicated that provincial rulers must supply him with a) _____ and b) _____ so the royal family would not incur the wrath of Ezra's God.

80. In spite of planning ahead, Ezra did not ask the a) _____ for protection as they traveled, but asked the people to pray and fast, asking b) _____ aid as they left on their journey of nearly a thousand miles to Jerusalem.

81. Upon his arrival, Ezra found that many of the people had a) _____ God's commands to not b) _____ with the surrounding heathen.

82. He immediately called for a public a) _____ in the temple square and b) _____ the people with their disobedience.

83. After a three-month a) _____ of the guilty parties, Ezra made a sacrifice for their guilt offering with a pledge by the offenders to b) _____ their marriages.

84. Nehemiah, who is one of the most colorful figures in the post-exile period, came to Jerusalem in _____ B.C.

85. He grieved when he heard the a) _____ of God's people and the b) _____ of Jerusalem.

86. As a result, he a) _____ and b) _____
for his people, feeling a great burden.

87. He willingly forfeited his position as the
king's a) _____
in his court to serve his people by returning to
b) _____
Jerusalem's walls.

88. When the king saw his _____
(for his countenance had not been sad before
in the king's presence), he inquired of
Nehemiah as to what was causing it.

89. When Nehemiah revealed his cause of
sadness, the king a) _____
him to go to Jerusalem to serve as the
governor there, providing him the necessary b) _____ and
c) _____ of his armies in traveling.

90. Immediately upon his arrival in Jerusalem, Nehemiah took a a) _____
tour of the walls of the city to b) _____ them.

91. After appraising their condition, Nehemiah _____ the people
who responded enthusiastically to the idea of rebuilding the walls.

92. This sudden activity aroused the opposition of the a) _____, the
b) _____, and the c) _____, led by
Geshem, Tobiah, and Sanballat.

93. Nehemiah and the people not only a) _____, but they
b) _____ and c) _____ against attack as well.

94. Economically, because things were rough in Jerusalem, Nehemiah _____
all interest payments.

95. He also set an example, becoming their governor for 12 years without accepting
_____ for his work.

96. Although his enemies continually tried to a) _____ him, they
repeatedly b) _____.

97. Nehemiah continually looked to God for his _____ against
their schemes, and was able to counter every attempt against his life.

98. After a) _____, the enemies lost face when Nehemiah and the
Jews b) _____ the building of the walls of Jerusalem.

99. The surrounding nations realized that the a) _____
was upon Nehemiah, and the b) _____ of Jerusalem and the
Jews was restored.

Nehemiah, the Governor

⌘ Was the king's cupbearer

⌘ Grieved when he heard the walls
of Jerusalem were in disrepair

⌘ The king commissioned him to go
to Jerusalem as its governor

⌘ Came to Jerusalem in 444 BC

⌘ Took a nighttime tour of the walls

⌘ Built the walls in 52 days

100. Nehemiah then set up an organized system for a) _____
Jerusalem, for there were not enough b) _____
to have people on the wall at all points.

101. He called for a) _____ of all the citizens, and
b) _____ some for
settlement in the city.

Nehemiah the Governor

- ⌘ **Set up an organized system of defense for Jerusalem**
- ⌘ **Registered the people, moving 10% of them to live in Jerusalem, sending the remainder to the other cities of Judah**
- ⌘ **Marched around Jerusalem's walls in a thanksgiving service with Ezra**

10

102. Before he completed his plans, the people gathered in Jerusalem for the _____,
which took place in the seventh month.

103. There Nehemiah gave precedence to the reading of the a) _____, observing the b) _____, the c) _____ and the d) _____ under the leadership of Ezra.

104. After Nehemiah completed the a) _____ of the people, the leaders cast lots to bring b) _____ of the people to live in Jerusalem, and the others in the remaining cities.

105. The dedication of Jerusalem's a) _____ involved the whole province, with b) _____ and c) _____ leaders participating in two processions.

106. Headed by a) _____ and b) _____, one procession went to the right, the other to the left, marching around the city upon its walls.

107. When they met at the temple, a _____ service was held.

108. In 432 B.C., Nehemiah traveled briefly to _____, but returned again to Jerusalem.

109. Upon his return, he discovered that many a) _____ had taken place in allowing b) _____ into the city and failure to keep up the c) _____.

110. In the reading of the law, Nehemiah discovered that the a) _____ and the b) _____ should not come into the congregation of God forever because they did not provide Israel with c) _____ in the wilderness and because they hired d) _____ to curse them.

Nehemiah

- ⌘ **Traveled to Persia in 432 BC, then returned to Jerusalem**
- ⌘ **Found that strangers had been allowed into the city and a failure to keep the temple service**
- ⌘ **Read the law, finding that the Ammonite and Moabite should not come into the temple forever**
- ⌘ **Expelled Tobiah the Ammonite from the temple**

11

111. He then required that all the _____ of Israel be separated from the people.

112. The a) _____, Eliashib, had allied himself with Tobiah the Ammonite, and had given him a b) _____ in the temple as well as c) _____, which were to be given to the d) _____.

Nehemiah

⌘ Restored the tithe to the priests and Levites for their ministry

⌘ Required the Jews to keep the Sabbath and to close the city to merchants on the Sabbath

⌘ Stood upon God's truth, warning against mixed marriages

⌘ Expelled the grandson of the high priest for marrying a Samaritan

113. Nehemiah dealt boldly with the offenders, a) _____ Tobiah, the Ammonite and b) _____ the temple services.

114. Nehemiah then saw some of the Jews working their winepresses on the _____.

115. Nehemiah stood up for a) _____ the Sabbath and against allowing the Gentile merchants into the city to b) _____ on the Sabbath.

116. He warned the nobles that failure to keep the a) _____ was the sin that had precipitated Judah's b) _____ and the destruction of c) _____.

117. As a spiritual leader, Nehemiah stood upon God's _____.

118. God had warned Israel about the problem of _____.

119. He warned the Jews how Solomon's foreign wives had led him into a) _____ and b) _____.

120. When the grandson of Eliashib, the a) _____, married the daughter of Sanballat the governor of b) _____, he was c) _____ from Judah by Nehemiah.

121. Nehemiah concludes his account, " _____."

122. The reforms of Ezra and Nehemiah are reflected in the book of a) _____, who ministered from about b) _____ B. C.

123. Malachi, who was the last of the Old Testament messengers, points ahead to a terrible day of a) _____ which will be preceded by the merciful coming of b) " _____."

Malachi's Prophecies

- ⌘ **Malachi ministered about 450-400 BC, pointing ahead to the day of judgment**
- ⌘ **Prophesied the coming of "Elijah" before that terrible day**
- ⌘ **Reminds God's children that those who worship the true God are assured of God's eternal favor**

13

124. Malachi reminds the world that they should be concerned about the day of

a) _____, but that those who worship the true God are assured of God's eternal b) _____.

125. God's a) _____ rests on the wicked, but His b) _____ is given to the righteous.

126. The New Testament begins with the coming of "Elijah" in _____ - _____.

127. As the Old Testament concludes, we find that the a) _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ, the promised coming b) _____ again reflected.

128. This message was originally given to a) _____ and b) _____ in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

129. This _____ promise unfolded in the following generations.

130. These books conclude our study of Old Testament history, and leave a a) _____ period of silence until the New Testament opens with the coming of b) " _____ " and the birth of c) _____.

The Scarlet Thread

- ⌘ **The messianic promise was first given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15**
- ⌘ **The messianic promise unfolds even more through successive generations**
- ⌘ **A 400 year silence is followed by the New Testament appearance of "Elijah" and the birth of Christ**

14