

YEAR 3 BOOK 2

JUNIOR 2

Student Workbook



THEME:

Prophets in the Old Testament

Student Devotional—Spiritual Battles!

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:12)



In order to keep ourselves pure and fight the spiritual battles, we too need to have this daring attitude—to stand out, to be different, and to uphold God’s principles.

In order to cling to our Christian identity, we need to break with the norm and even make some sacrifices.

It definitely isn’t easy upholding our beliefs in a crooked world, but with the power of God, we can uphold the truth and stand our ground!

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

2 Timothy 4:7

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1. Jer 1-5
2. Isa 6, 9, 12
3. Isa 40-41, 53, 55, 65-66
4. Ob 1; Joel 1, 2; Amos 8, 9
5. Jonah 1-3; Hos 1,6; Mic 4
6. Nah 1; Zeph 1, 3; Hab 3
7. Jer 1-2, 16-17
8. Jer 45-46, Lem 1-4
9. Ezek 1-3, 18
10. Ezek 34, 37, 47
11. Dan 1-7
12. Hag 1, 2; Zech 1-3; Mal 3, 4

YEAR 3 BOOK 2

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Prophets in the Old Testament

UNIT THEMES:

unit 1:

The Prophets of Today

The Old Testament prophets were ordinary men and women handpicked by God to declare His messages to a stubborn and rebellious nation. In this unit, students will learn about the qualities, the mission and the messages of these prophets. Among the messages preached was the coming of the Messiah, the perfect servant of God. The Lord Jesus Christ will come to be the light of the world and liberate the captives. Our students will learn that we are the prophets of today. God has called us to be His spokesmen to an unbelieving and corrupt generation and to shine the light of the gospel in this dark world.

unit 2:

Preparing to Meet Our Lord

Despite the many warnings given by the prophets concerning the Day of the Lord, that great and terrible day when God would pour down His wrath upon His people, the Israelites refused to turn back to God. Just as God's punishment and devastation came at a time the Israelites least expected, the Lord's Second Coming will be like a thief in the night. In this unit, students will learn about preparing themselves to meet the Lord and recognizing the signs of the times. From the book of Jonah, students will also learn that they have to rise above their preoccupations to see the true needs of a pitiful world.

unit 3:

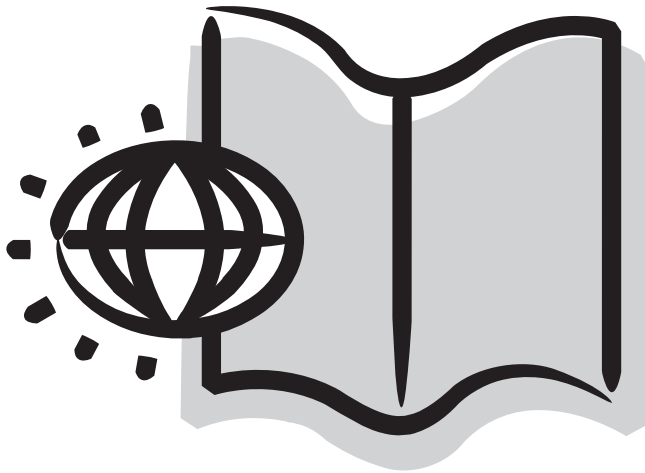
The Perfect Temple

In this unit, students will learn about the captivity and the destruction of Jerusalem, and how the Israelites had learned a very harsh and difficult lesson. God's abidance did not lie in the structural temple but rather in meeting the exact standards and holiness of God. In the books of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, the people had returned from captivity. Their goal now was to rebuild the temple, the city walls and revive their faith. Just as how the Israelites returned to build the physical temple, our students will learn that we need to build the spiritual temple of God; the church and our own faith. To do this, we rely not on might, nor power, but on the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSES FOR DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY



1. *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear." (Deut 18:15)*
2. *"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Is 9:6)*
3. *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." (Is 61:1)*
4. *"On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old." (Amos 9:11)*
5. *"He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Mic 6:8)*
6. *"Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." (Hab 3:17-18)*
7. *"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord." (Jer 31:31-32)*
8. *"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (Lam 3:22-23)*
9. *"Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God." (Ezek 11:19-20)*
10. *"Also He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army." (Ezek 37:9-10)*
11. *"This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men." (Dan 4:17)*
12. *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." (Zech 4:6)*



Prophets Before Entering Canaan

Abraham Gen 20:7
Moses Deut 18:15,18
Miriam Exo 15:20
Balaam Num 22:9,11

Prophets in the time of the Judges

Deborah Judges 4:4
Samuel 1 Sam 3:20

Prophets in the time of the united monarchy

David Acts 2:30
Gad 1 Sam 22:5
Nathan 2 Sam 7:2

Prophets during the divided monarchy (Israel)

Ahijah the Shilonite 1 Kgs 11:29
Ido the seer 2 Chron 9:29
Jehu the son of Hanani 1 Kgs 6:1,7
Elijah 1 Kgs 17:2
Micaiah the son of Imlah 1 Kgs 22:7,8
Elisha 1 Kgs 19:16
Oded 2 Chron 28:9

Prophets during the divided Monarch (Judah)

Shemaiah the prophet 2 Chron 12:5,15
Azariah the son of Oded
2 Chron 15:1,8
Hanani the seer 2 Chron 16:7,10
Jahaziel the son of Zechariah 2 Chron 20:14
Huldah the prophetess 2 Kgs 22:14
Urijah the son of Shemaiah Jer 26:20
Asaph the seer 2 Chron 29:30

Overview of the Prophetic Books: Bible Background





Prophet	Approximate Dates	Prophet of...	Kings of Judah	Connected Verses	Kings of Israel	Connected Bible Verses
Obadiah	845		Joram	2 Kgs 8 2 Chron 21	Jehora	2 Kgs 8-9 2 Chron 22
Joel	840-830	Judah	Joash	2 Kgs 11-13 2 Chron 22-24	Jehu	2 Kgs 9-10 2 Chron 22
Jonah	790-770	Israel	Amaziah and Uzziah (coregency Assyrian king: Shalmaneser IV)	2 Kgs 14 2 Chron 25-26	Jeroboam II	2 Kgs 14-15
Hosea	760-720	Israel	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah	2 Kgs 15-16 2 Chron 27-32	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	2 Kgs 15-17
Amos	780-740	Israel	Uzziah	2 Chron 26	Jeroboam II	2 Kgs 14-15
Isaiah	745-695	Judah	Uzziah, Jotham Ahaz, Hezekiah Manasseh	2 Kgs 18-21 2 Chron 27-32	Pekah, Hoshea	2 Kgs 15-17
Micah	740-700	Judah	Jotham Ahaz, Hezekiah	2 Kgs 18-20 2 Chron 27-32	Pekah, Hoshea	2 Kgs 15-17

Chronology of the Prophets Before the Fall of Samaria 722/1 B.C.





Prophet	Approximate Dates	Prophet of...	Kings of Judah	Foreign Kings	Connected Bible Verses
Nahum	630-610	Judah	Manasseh	Assyria: Ashurbanipal	2 Kgs 21 2 Chron 33
Zephaniah	739-608	Judah	Josiah		2 Kgs 22-23 2 Chron 34-35
Jeremiah	626-586	Judah	Josiah	Jehoahaz, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah Exile Governor: Gedaliah	2 Kgs 22-25 2 Chron 34-36
Habakkuk	606-596	Judah	Jehoiakim	Babylon: Nabopolassar	2 Kgs 24 2 Chron 36
Daniel	606-534	Judah	Jehoiakim	Jehoiachin, Zedekiah Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar, Neriglissar, Labashi-marduk Evil-Merodach, Nabonidas Medo-Persia: Cyrus	2 Kgs 24-26 2 Chron 36
Ezekiel	592-570	Judah	Zedekiah	Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar	2 Kgs 25 2 Chron 36
Haggai	520-516	Judah	Governor: Zerrubbabel	Medo-Persia: Darius I	Book of Ezra
Zechariah	520-516	Judah	Governor: Zerrubbabel	Medo-Persia: Darius I	Book of Ezra
Malachi	450-400	Judah	Governor: Nehemiah	Medo-Persia: Darius II	Book of Nehemiah

Chronology of the Prophets After the Fall of Samaria 722/1 B.C.



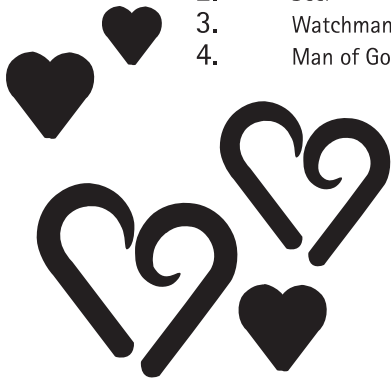


A)

Prophets Before the Exile				Exile Prophets		Post-Exilic Prophets
To Israel	To Nineveh	To Edom	To Judah	To Jews in Babylon	To the Babylonians	To the returned remnants
Amos, Hosea	Jonah, Nahum	Obadiah, Malachi	Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah	Ezekiel	Daniel	Haggai, Zechariah

B) The Names for the Prophets

1. Prophet
2. Seer
3. Watchman
4. Man of God



C)

The Responsibilities of a Prophet

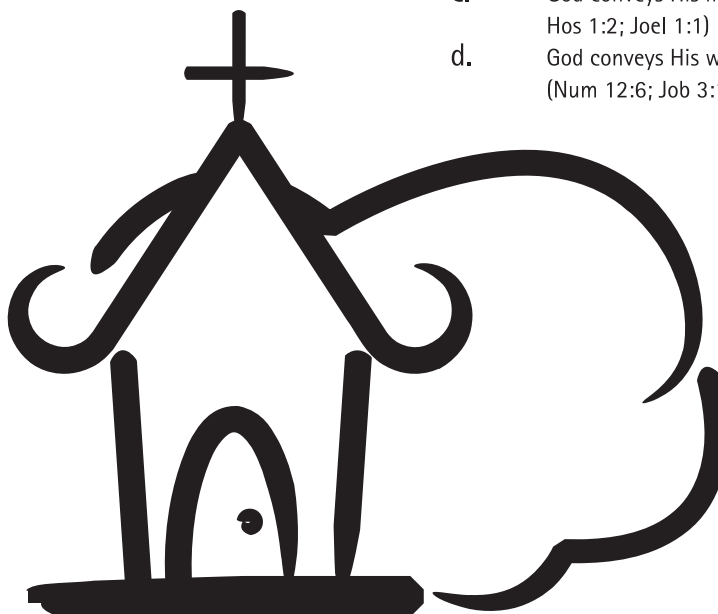
- a. Show the people of God "their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins" (Is 58:1; Ezek 22:2; 43:10; Mic 3:8).
- b. Call the people to repentance and obedience to God.
- c. Warn the people of impending divine judgment and disasters (2 Sam 24:11-13; Jer 25:8-12).
- d. Prophesy about the future of individuals and nations (1 Kgs 11:29-31; Jer 29:10; 1 Kgs 17:1).
- e. Convey the message of consolation and pardon (Is 40:1-2).
- f. Bless (2 Kgs 4:8-16).
- g. Intercede for others (Gen 20:7,17).
- h. Anoint and advise kings and guide state affairs (1 Kgs 19:15; 2 Kgs 9:1-3; 2 Kgs 3).
- i. Prophesy concerning the birth, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension of the Messiah.

D)

How God reveals His will to His Prophet

- a. The prophets spoke through the movement of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:20, 21).
- b. God spoke face to face with the prophets (Ex 33:11).
- c. God conveys His message verbally (1 Sam 3:4; Jer 1:4, 2:1; Hos 1:2; Joel 1:1)
- d. God conveys His will and plan through dreams and visions (Num 12:6; Job 3:15-17; Ps 89:19; Ezek 1:1; Dan 7:1).

Part 1





A) The Qualities of a Prophet

- 1. Loved and obeyed God
- 2. Carried out their mission courageously
- 3. Cautious in word and deed
- 4. Served with true sincerity and love

Part 2



Questions:

Who are the present day prophets?

What kinds of responsibilities did Old Testament prophets have?

Does the church today bear similar responsibilities?

What are some of the merits the prophets possessed?

Check for Understanding



In Alexander Irvine's novel *My Lady of the Chimney Corner*, an old woman went to comfort a neighbor whose boy lay dead. She laid her hand on her friend's head and said, "Ah woman. God isn't a printed book to be carried aroun' by a man in fine clothes, nor a cross danglin' at the watch chain of a priest. God takes a hand wherever He can find it. Sometimes He takes a bishop's hand and lays it on a child's hand in benediction, the hand of a doctor to relieve pain, the hand of a mother to guide a child, and sometimes He takes the hand of a poor woman like me to give comfort to a neighbor. But they're all hands touched by His Spirit, and His Spirit is everywhere lookin' for His hands to use."

In each generation, God looks for hands, bodies and minds with which to make a difference and fulfill His divine mission. He looks for people just like you and I. The men and women that God chose were not perfect in any sense of the word. In fact they had their doubts, fears, inadequacies and weaknesses. But for the most part, each rose to meet God's challenge. God can use anyone no matter how insignificant s/he feels. God uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary work.

Here I am! Send me



God's response:
With each question that Moses asked,
God gave an answer.

Reaction to God's calling:

A) Moses *Bible Reference: Exodus 3:7-4:16*
Mission: To lead Israel out of bondage to the Promised Land

In the following exercise, look up the Bible references and write in your own words (in the bubble provided) the different responses of those whom God chose to carry out His important missions. Consider how their responses relate to us today.



C) Jeremiah *Bible Reference: Jeremiah 1:1-10; 17-19*

Mission: To warn the kings, false prophets and people of Judah before the captivity.

God's response:

Reaction to God's calling:

God's response:

Reaction to God's calling:

B) Isaiah *Bible Reference: Is 1:1; 6:1-8*

Mission: To call the nation of Judah back to God

**D) Jonah** *Bible Reference: Jonah 1:1-3,4,17; 3:1-3*

Mission: To go to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian empire and call its people to repentance

God's response:

Reaction to God's calling:

Reaction to God's calling:

E) Mary *Bible Reference: Luke 1:26-38*

Mission: To be the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ



F) What do you think might your response be if God asked you to be a prophet for this generation? (Check those that apply)

- Shock and disbelief
 - Honored
 - Feel totally incapable
 - Reject the work
 - Unwilling, but compelled
 - Give all kinds of excuses to get out of it
 - Suggest someone else
 - Other: please specify
-

If God asked you to serve Him, what things would prevent you from saying, "Here am I! Send me"? (Check those that apply)

- Hard to deny own will
 - Less pay
 - Hardship
 - Being away from the family
 - Can't enjoy the things of the world
 - Less freedom to do what I enjoy doing
 - Too much responsibility
 - Having to pray and read the Bible too often
 - Other: please specify
-

How can we prepare ourselves for God's calling?

God wants us to serve Him where we are and with what we have. What simple things can we do to make a difference in the lives of those around us?

**A)**

Author

The author of this book is Isaiah, son of Amoz (1:1).

B)

Date and Place of Work

Isaiah's long ministry ranged from 745–695 B.C.

C)

Historical Background

Despite the agricultural, commercial and military successes in both the northern and southern kingdoms, the kings, priests and people departed from God and indulged in sin.

D)

Theme and Characteristics

- The Book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters. The entire Bible consists of 66 books.
- The Bible is divided into the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testament consists of 39 books and the New Testament consists of 27 books. The book of Isaiah is divided into two parts. The first section consists of 39 chapters and the second section consists of 27 chapters.
- The Old Testament centers on the divine justice of God. The first part of Isaiah (chapters 1–39) also conveys God's message of justice and judgement upon the sinful nation, culminating with a promise of redemption.
- The entire Bible concerns the salvation of God and the establishment of the kingdom of God. The overall theme of this book is found in Isaiah's name, which means "salvation is of the Lord." The word "salvation" appears twenty-six times in Isaiah but only seven times in all the other prophetic books combined. Throughout this book, Isaiah unfolds God's promise of future blessings through the Messiah.
- The first Book of the Old Testament discusses how sin came into the world and God's redemptive plan. The first chapter of the Book of Isaiah discusses the sins of the Israelites and the promise of redemption and restoration.
- The last chapters of the Book of Revelation speak of the new heaven and new earth. The final chapters of Isaiah also speak of the new heaven and new earth.

E)

Teachings from the Book of Isaiah

1. The Holy God of Israel
 - a. Through visions of God's glory
 - b. Through judgment
 - c. Through refinement and purification
2. The Compassionate God
 - a. Restored the Israelites to their homeland
 - b. A highway for the returned exiles

■ Isaiah (1)



A) The Sovereignty of God

1. Lord of all
 - a. God controls the destiny of individuals
 - b. God controls the nations to fulfill His purpose
 - c. God's will cannot be shaken

2. The omniscient God

- a. Prophecies fulfilled in Isaiah's lifetime
 - Judah's delivery (7:4-7,16)
 - Destruction of Syria and Israel (8:4;17:1-14)
 - Assyria's invasion of Judah (8:7-8)
 - Philistines subjugated (14:28-43)
 - Moab plundered (15 & 16)
 - Egypt and Ethiopia conquered by Assyria (20:4)
 - Arabia pillaged (21:13-17)
 - Tyre subdued (23:1-12)
 - Jerusalem delivered from Assyria (36)
 - Hezekiah's life extended 15 years (35:8)
- b. Prophecies fulfilled after Isaiah's lifetime
 - Babylonian captivity (39:5-7)
 - Babylon overthrown by Cyrus (46:11)
 - The Medes and Elamites (13:17; 21:2; 48:14)
 - Babylon's perpetual desolation (13:20-22)
 - Cyrus called by name (44:28; 45:1,4)
 - Cyrus's conquest of the world (41:2-3)
 - Cyrus liberated the captives (45:13)
 - Cyrus rebuilt Jerusalem (44:28; 45:13)
 - Israel restored (27:12-13; 48:20; 51:14)
 - Israel's religion to permeate Egypt and Assyria (19:18-25)
 - Israel's religion to spread over the whole world (27:2-6)
 - Tyre's captivity and restoration (23:13-18)
 - Edom's perpetual desolation (34:5-17)

✓ Questions:

What are the two main themes of the Book of Isaiah?

How does God manifest His holiness and love in the Book of Isaiah?

Check for Understanding

Part 1



Name of prophet	
Meaning of prophet's name	
When and where the prophet worked	
Whom the prophet was speaking to	
What was happening historically	
Some of the key messages	

For each lesson, have students fill out the worksheet for each prophet:



How Great Thou Art!

Saints of old have written down their reflections as they meditate on the power and almightiness of God. Read the following Bible passages to see what they thought:

- *Job 26:1-14; Job 38*
- *Ps 135:6-7*
- *Isaiah 40:12-17, 21-31*

What things can we give thanks and praise to the Lord for?
Write a psalm to the Lord for all His marvelous doings.



Part 1

A)

The Servant of God

1. King Cyrus
2. Israel
3. The Messiah, the Servant of God

B)

Prophecies Concerning the Servant of God, the Messiah

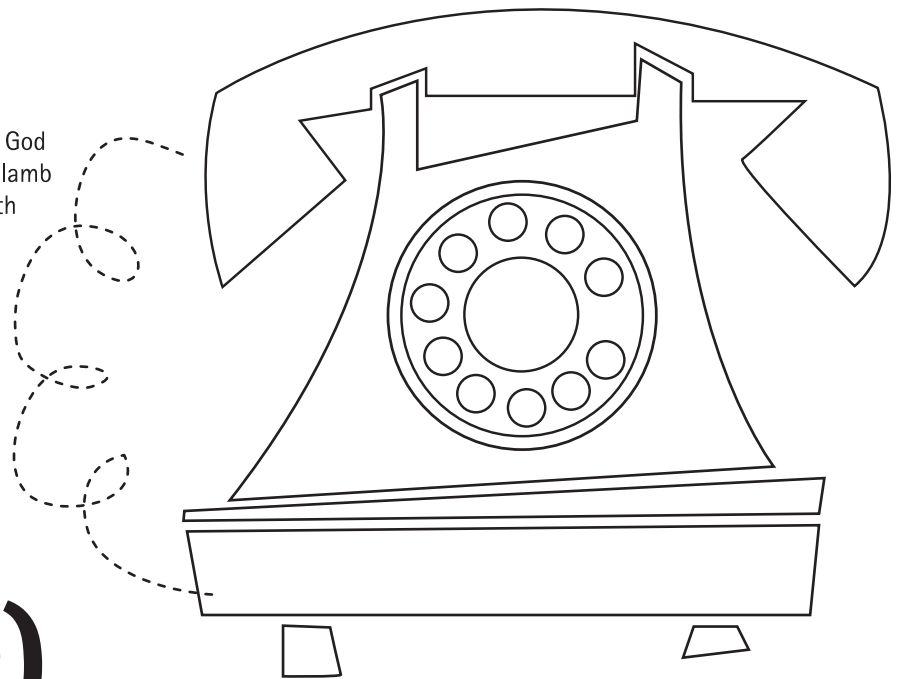
1. Prophecies concerning the Servant's birth
 - His advent (40:3-5)
 - His virgin birth (7:14)
 - A branch from Jesse (11:1)
2. Prophecies concerning the Servant's attributes
 - Might and gentleness of His reign (40:10-11)
 - Righteousness and beneficence of His reign (32:1-8; 61:1-3)
 - His justice and kindness (42:3-4, 7)
3. Prophecies concerning the Servant's ministry:
 - Galilee to be the scene of His ministry (9:1-2)
 - His rule over the Gentiles (2:2-3; 42:1, 6; 49:6; 55:4-5; 56:6; 60:3-5)
 - He will bring forth justice to the nations (42:1,4)
4. Prophecies concerning the Servant's suffering, death and burial
 - His sufferings (53)
 - Death with the wicked (53:9)
 - Burial with the rich (53:9)

Part 2

A)

The Characteristics of the Kingdom of God

1. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb
2. The new heaven and new earth
3. A spiritual feast will be held



■ Isaiah (2)



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.
 He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty.
 Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.
 He never wrote a book.
 He never held an office.
 He never had a family or owned a house.
 He didn't go to college.
 He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born.
 He did not do things one usually associates with greatness.
 He had no credentials but himself.
 He was only 33 when public opinion turned against him.
 His friends ran away.
 He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.
 He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.
 When he was dying, his executioners gambled away his clothing, the only property he had on earth.
 When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today, He is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, all these put together, have not affected the life of man as much as that One Solitary Life.

And because of that one solitary life...

John Newton, author of the all-time favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace", was once a slave trader who transported shiploads of African slaves to the New World where they were traded for goods. One time, he found a book, *Imitation of Christ*, on board which sowed the seeds of his conversion. He left the sea for good and for the last 43 years of his life he preached the gospel. At 82, Newton said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."

St. Augustine did not start out the way he ended. His mother had taught him Christianity carefully, but during his teenage years, he threw away his faith to follow heresies. For nine years, he went on to live a life of immorality until one day he heard a voice telling him to take up the Bible and read. It was turned open at Romans 13:13-14, "... But put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." After this, Saint Augustine went on to change the course of the history of Christianity.

John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrims Progress* and *Grace Abounding*, said of his former life, "It was my delight to be taken captive by the devil at his will." He was the ringleader of all things unholy and delighted in the freedom of sin. Cursing, swearing, and lying were second nature to him. However, this same man who said to God, "Depart from me, for I desire not the knowledge of thy ways," was to be captured by God and His words. Of his conversion he says, "I began to look into the Bible with new eyes, and read as I never did before; I was then never out of the Bible, either by reading or meditation; still crying out to God, that I might know the truth, and the way to heaven and glory."

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), author of more than 8,000 and 9,000 gospel songs and hymns, such as "To God be the Glory", "Tell me the story of Jesus," "Pass me not, O Gentle Savior" and others, was blinded at six weeks through improper medical treatment. And yet, in more than 85 years Crosby had not once felt a spark of resentment against God but believed this to be the means by which God called her. Early in life she began memorizing the Bible and eventually could repeat by rote the entire Pentateuch, all four Gospels, many of the psalms, all of Proverbs as well as the entire books of Ruth and Song of Solomon. She stated at the close of her life that "the Holy Book has nurtured my entire life."

In the space below, write a prayer to God on what His coming means to you.

How could your existence make a difference in the lives of those around you?

■ One Solitary Life

Date **B)**

Since the book includes no explicit time references, it cannot be dated with certainty. However, it has been traditionally dated at c. 835 B.C., when the young King Joash ruled and Jehoiada the priest served as his mentor (2 Kgs 11;12).

Themes **C)**

The book begins by describing a terrible plague of locusts that will come upon the nation. These locusts will cover the land and devour the crops, creating a total devastation. The plague of locusts was but a foretaste of the coming Day of the Lord.

A) Author

Although there are several other Joels in the Bible, the prophet Joel is known only from this book.

The Book of Joel

Part 2

B) Date

There are two commonly accepted dates for the prophecies of Obadiah:

1. Between 840–830 B.C. when King Jehoram and Jerusalem were attacked by a Philistine/Arab coalition (2 Chron 21:16ff).
2. 586 B.C. when Jerusalem was completely destroyed by the Babylonians (2 Kgs 25; 2 Chron 36).

C) Themes

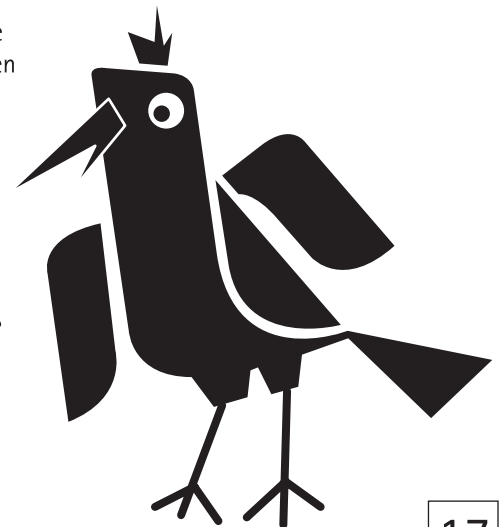
The books of Obadiah and Nahum announce the doom of two separate nations who were enemies of Israel.

D) Teachings from the Book of Obadiah

1. Edom's pride
 - a. Proud of their heritage
 - b. Proud of their knowledge
 - c. Proud of their mighty men
 - d. Proud of their allies
2. Brothers should love one another
3. The kingdom shall be the Lord's

A) Author

The author of this book is Obadiah the prophet, whose name means "worshiper of Yahweh" or "servant of Yahweh."



The Book of Obadiah

Part 1



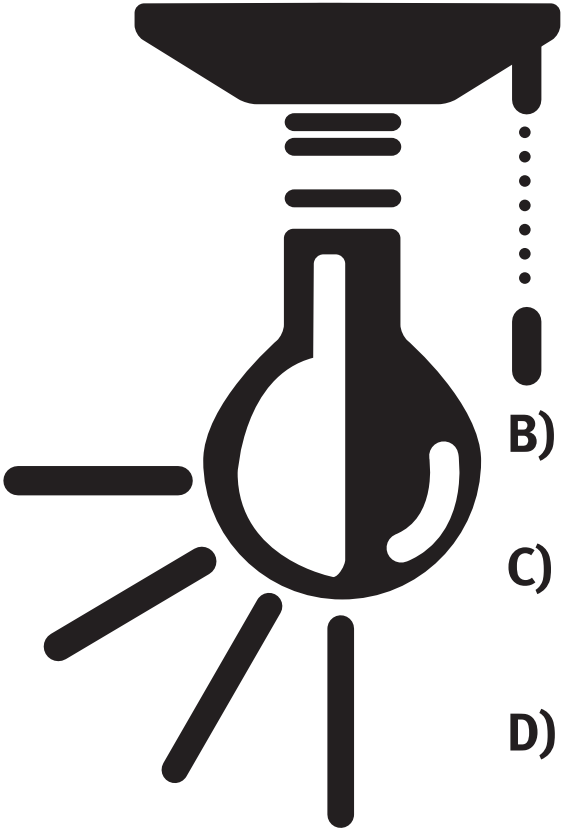
Description of the Day of the Lord	Events in the Last Days
<p>Before the Day of the Lord, God will cause the captives of Judah and Jerusalem to return from Babylon (3:1).</p> <p>The Lord will gather all the nations to the valley of Jehoshaphat (3:2) where they will be judged for the violence upon Judah.</p> <p>There will be a worldwide battle in the valley of decision (3:9-12).</p> <p>The earth will quake and the celestial lights will darken (2:10-11).</p> <p>On that day, the Lord will take vengeance upon the wicked (3:4-7, 21) and judge the nations (3:12).</p> <p>Egypt and Edom will become desolate while Judah will be inhabited forever.</p> <p>In that day, the mountains will flow sweet wine, milk and water. A fountain shall come forth from the house of God (3:18-19).</p>	<p>In the end times, the Israelites will be called and chosen by the Lord (Is 11:11-12; Ezek 39:28; Cf. Mt 24:32).</p> <p>In the Last Day, God will gather the nations before His throne and He will execute judgment. The enemies of Judah represent all those who oppose and persecute the followers of the Lord. When Christ returns, such people will face judgment (2 Thess 1:6-10).</p> <p>Before the Judgment Day, there will be a worldwide battle at Armageddon (Cf Rev 16:13-16; 19:19; 20:7-8).</p> <p>These are the signs of the last days (Mt 24:29; Rev 6:12-13).</p> <p>God's wrath will burst forth and the powers of heaven will be shaken and there will be great disasters (Lk 21:26; Rev 16:17-20; Is 13:13).</p> <p>In the Great Judgment, all men will know that the Lord is God. He will judge and repay every man for what s/he has done. The wicked will be condemned forever, while the righteous will enjoy eternal rest.</p> <p>This is a prefiguration of the true church. In the last days, the Holy Spirit will be poured down and establish the spiritual Jerusalem which is the true church. Blessings and grace can be found in abundance to satisfy the thirsting and hungering souls of the world. The believers will bear much spiritual fruit. When the Lord comes, the church will be as a bride lifted up to meet her husband and will dwell with the Lord forever.</p>

D) Teachings from the Book of Joel

1. The plague of locusts
2. The promise of the Holy Spirit
3. The Day of the Lord
 - The locust plague refers to the coming Day of the Lord.
 - The Day of the Lord refers to the day when the Judahites will be taken into captivity.
 - The Day of the Lord refers to the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus, that great and dreadful day (2:11,31). This is the final period of history when God will judge all nations.

The Book of Joel

Part 2

**B)****Date**

According to 1:1, Amos prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, king of Judah and Jeroboam king of Israel.

C)**Themes**

During this period, both Israel and Judah were enjoying prosperity and freedom from external threats. But both Israel and Judah squandered the wealth that this period of peace brought them. The rich were becoming richer at the expense of the poor.

D)**Teachings from the Book of Amos**

Amos pronounces judgment on various groups of people for their sins:

1. The self-seeking leaders of Israel (Amos 6:1-7) and the arrogant women of influence (Amos 4:1-3)
2. The wicked who cheated and oppressed others (Amos 5:10-12; 8:4-7)
3. The religious hypocrites
 - a. Worshipped in illegitimate places
 - b. Their worship was empty
4. The five visions of judgment
 God showed Amos a series of five visions concerning His judgment on Israel.
 - The swarm of locusts (Amos 7:1-3)
 - Fire (Amos 7:4-6)
 - The plumb line (Amos 7:7-9)
 - The summer fruits (Amos 8:1ff)
 - God standing beside the altar (Amos 9:1ff)
5. Rebuilding the fallen booth of David (9:11-15)

A) Author

The author of this book is Amos, whose name means "one who bears heavy burden."

The Book of Amos

Part 3



What does the Lord's Second Coming mean to you?
 What are your thoughts when you see all these events happening?
 What are the indispensable provisions that we would need to prepare for His return?



a. Prepare a heart of watchfulness

Read Mt 25:1-13

What does oil represent?

How is taking enough oil significant to us?

Here are some of the ways I will prepare oil:

b. Prepare a heart to serve God faithfully

Read Mt 25:14-20

List some of the talents that God has given you.

What will you do with the talents God has given you to prepare for His coming?

c. Prepare a heart of love for others

Read Mt 25:31-46

The ways I can:

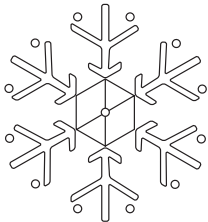
Feed the hungry and quench the thirsty _____

Take in strangers _____

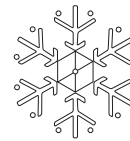
Clothe the naked _____

Visit the sick _____

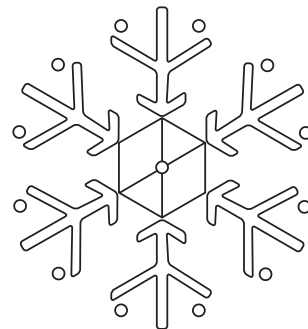
Go to those in prison _____



*Usual times have come and gone
 Since I first heard it told
 How Jesus would come again some day
 If back then it seemed so real
 Then I just can't help but feel
 How much closer His coming is today*



*Wars and strife from every land
 And violence fills our land
 Still some people doubt He'll come again
 But the Word of God is true
 He'll redeem His chosen few
 Don't lose hope, soon Christ Jesus will descend*



Redemption Draweth Nigh

Chorus:

*Signs of the times are everywhere
 And there's a brand new feeling in the air
 Lift your eyes upon the eastern sky
 Lift up your hands redemption draweth nigh.*





- B)** Date
The book was written approximately between 785–760 B.C.
- C)** Themes
God commissioned the Hebrew prophet Jonah to proclaim a message of repentance to the Assyrians.
- D)** Teachings from the Book of Jonah
1. God is sovereign
 2. True repentance averts disasters
 3. God does not desire anyone to perish
 - a. God corrects Jonah's prejudice
 - b. God corrects Jonah's values

✓ Questions:

- Was there any time in your life when you knew you had to obey, but deliberately set out to go against it? What were your lessons? Did you regret that decision?
- When have you “run away” from God?
- What “storms” then and now, bring you back?
- What things in our lives has God used to bring about His purpose?
- How do you respond when things do not go your way?
- In what ways can you identify with Jonah's anger?
- In what ways are we sometimes more concerned with petty things (as Jonah was when the plant withered) than about those things under God's judgement?
- In the end, do you think Jonah understood God's attitude toward Nineveh? Why or why not?
- In what area of your life might you be resistant to seeing things from God's perspective?
- What can we do to begin seeing things more from God's perspective?

Check for Understanding

A) Author

The book of Jonah has no stated author, though tradition ascribes it to Jonah, a prophet of the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the eighth century B.C.

■ The Book of Jonah

Part 1



**B) Date**

Hosea's ministry stretched for about 40 years from c.755–710 B.C.

C) Themes

The book of Hosea was written to a northern kingdom of Israel on the brink of disaster.

D) Teachings from the Book of Hosea

1. Spiritual infidelity
 - a. Israel trusted in men
 - b. Turned to idols
2. Lack of Knowledge of God
3. God's steadfast love and faithfulness

**Questions:**

- How does the Book of Hosea illustrate spiritual unfaithfulness?
- How might we be unfaithful to God?
- What does the Book of Hosea teach us about God's love? Is there a limit?
- The Israelites professed to know God but their deeds belied them. What does truly knowing God mean?
- What are the ways that we can get to know God better?

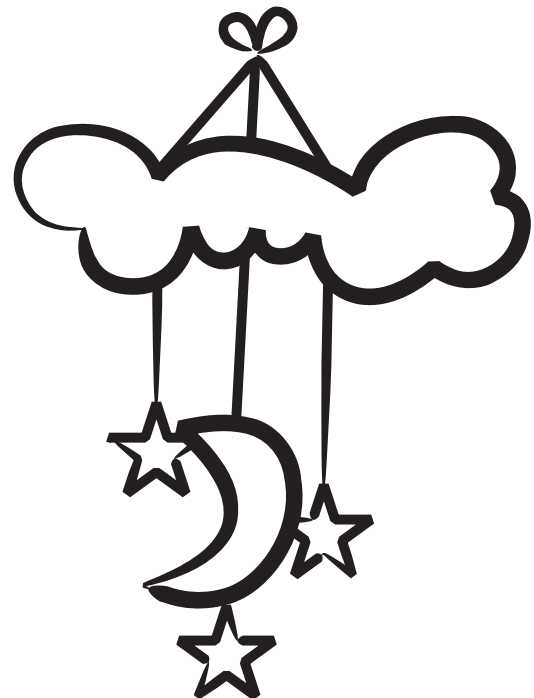
Check for Understanding

A) Author

Little is known of the life of the prophet Hosea.

■ The Book of Hosea

Part 2





- B)** Date
Micah prophesied in the days of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
- C)** Themes
The book of Micah is somewhat difficult to analyze because of its loose organization. Nevertheless, certain important themes are clearly evident. Samaria's doom is certain and Judah's is not far behind.
- D)** Teachings from the Book of Micah
1. True worship
 2. The mountain of the Lord shall be the highest of the mountains

A) Author

Besides Micah 1:1 and the Book of Jeremiah 26:18, there are no other biblical references concerning Micah's background.

■ The Book of Micah

Part 3



Look up the following Bible verses to see what love truly is:

- Jn 14:15, 21, 24
- Rom 5:8
- Rom 13:8-10
- 1 Jn 2:5
- 1 Jn 3:17; 3:18; 4:8; 4:20
- Eph 2:4-7

Now let's look at a famous Bible passage on love – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

As you read, list the seven characteristics of what love is and the eight that it is not (1 Cor 13:4-7). Rewrite each of the "Love is..." qualities to show what love looks like in their specific situation, at home, work, church. Examine yourself and think of real situations in life where you have failed to practice these aspects of love. The first is done as an example.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7
Love is patient

Areas where I have failed to love
*I screamed and yelled at my brother
to get off the computer
after chatting on line for hours*

Love in action
*I need to let
him know kindly*



Discussion:

- Which aspect(s) of love do you feel you need to work on most?
- How can we love others when we really don't "feel" like it?
- How can we love others who are unlovable?
- How does this passage enhance your understanding of what true love is?

Several years ago, Gary visited Russia at the dawn of the new republic. On one of his free afternoons he visited historical Red Square just outside the Kremlin. As he began to take in the incredible splendor, he noticed a crowd gathering in front of one of its monuments. The monument turned out to be Lenin's tomb. The crowd had gathered to watch the famous changing of the guards. Gary found himself surrounded by a crowd of Russian-speaking spectators. Since Gary did not speak Russian, the sound was all a blur.

*As the replacement guards began to march to the tomb, the spectators began taking pictures, pointing at the scene unfolding before them. Suddenly, to Gary's left, he heard a familiar sound.
"Hey, Larry! Come over here. You can get a great picture."*

Instantly, Gary tuned in. Why? Because someone was speaking his native language. No one else turned toward the other two Americans for one obvious reason: They didn't speak English. And while they quickly realized another language was being spoken, they could not relate to it.

While the crowd at the tomb craned to see the event, Gary accidentally bumped into the man standing behind him. Gary turned his head and said "Excuse me". Although those words came to him spontaneously, he realized the person he spoke to had no idea what he just said. While English was Gary's primary language and the one he would naturally speak, it did not make sense to his neighbor.

What does love look like to God? What does love look like to you?

Aspects of Love



B) Date
Zephaniah fixes the time of his prophecy on the days of Josiah, son of Amon, king of Judah who reigned from 640 to 609 B.C.

C) Themes
On the whole, Zephaniah is a grim book of warning about the coming day of the Lord.

D) Teachings from the Book of Zephaniah

1. The Day of the Lord is at hand
 - a. Those who will be judged (1:4-13)
 - b. Those who can avoid punishment
 - The humble (2:1-3)
 - Those who seek the Lord
 - Those who obey His commands
 - Those who seek righteousness

2. An invitation to repentance and restoration

A) Author

The author of this book is the prophet Zephaniah.

The Book of Zephaniah

Part 0²

B) Date
Like Jonah, Nahum's message speaks of the destruction of the city of Nineveh.

C) Themes
In contrast to his predecessor Jonah, whose ministry resulted in the repentance of the Ninevites, the prophet Nahum proclaims the ultimate downfall of the great Assyrian city of Nineveh.

D) Teachings from the Book of Nahum

1. God is just and avenging
2. The destruction and shame of Nineveh

A) Author

The name Nahum means "comfort" or "consolation".

The Book of Nahum

Part 0¹



**B)**

Date

Although the book of Habakkuk includes no reference to the reign of a king, internal evidence indicates a date between the death of King Josiah (609 BC) and the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity.

C)

Themes

While other prophetic books brought God's words to men, the book of Habakkuk is unique in that it is a dialogue between God and the prophet.

D)

Teachings from the Book of Habakkuk

1. Habakkuk's Perplexity
2. Habakkuk deals with the problem
 - a. He brought his problems before God
 - b. He waited for God in silence
 - c. He kept on believing
3. God Answers Habakkuk
 - a. The good and evil shall be repaid
 - b. The righteous shall live by faith

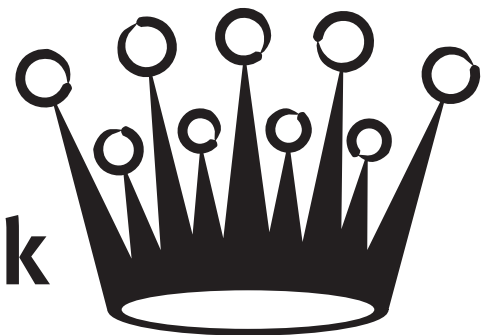
**Questions:**

- How do you deal with injustice in your life?
- Are there situations or problems in your life that cause you to be confused and question God's almightiness and control of the situation?
- Do we feel a sense of injustice towards those who do evil? Do we feel injustice because of our own personal benefits, or because of the sake of God's law and righteousness?
- Share an experience where you trusted in God although you did not understand at the time. What lessons did you learn?

Check for Understanding

A) Author

The author of this book is the prophet Habakkuk.



■ The Book of Habakkuk

Part 3



Look up the passages to see how the people in the Bible dealt with similar situations.

1. Read 1 Kgs 21:1-19 and 2 Kgs 9:30-36 to see what we should do.
2. What would you do when faced with such injustice?

1. Read Gen 26:17-25 to see how the Bible speaks about a similar issue.
2. Write down how you would respond to such an injustice.

1. Read Ps 73 to find out how the psalmist dealt with this.
2. How would you respond in such a situation?

1. Read Gen 37:21-28 and 44:1-8 to see what the Bible says.
2. How would you respond to see someone you cherish suffer helplessly?

1. Read James 1:1 to see how we should handle such a situation.
2. How would you react to such a situation?

LIFE IS NOT FAIR!

Injustices happen the world over. It happened in the Bible, and it happens around us each day. We see events that go contrary to Bible principles, our ideals, and our expectations of life. Do we become angry because we have no control over it? Are there times when we feel angry even at God? Why does God allow such things to happen? What should we do in situations like these? How should we handle our feelings? Christians are not exempt from such feelings and even the spiritually mature can encounter such experiences.

**B)**

Date

According to Jeremiah 36:1-3, the writing of portions of Jeremiah may be dated with precision to the fourth year of Jehoiakim (605 BC) when Jeremiah was commanded by God to write down the prophetic messages he had delivered to the people over the previous twenty years.

C)

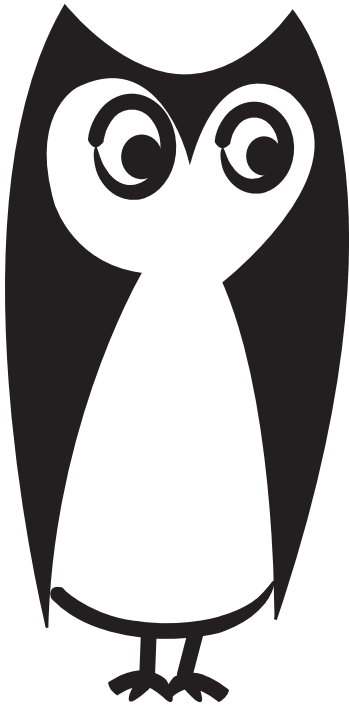
Themes

When Jeremiah became a prophet, the northern kingdom of Israel had already been destroyed. Judah meanwhile was immersed in sin and moving head-on towards destruction. Jeremiah's passionate pleas to the rebellious nation were only met with hatred and persecution.

D)

Teachings from the Book of Jeremiah

1. The sins of the people
 - a. They worshipped idols
 - b. They relied on foreign powers
 - c. Their faith had become a formality
2. The sins of the leaders
 - a. The sins of the priests
 - b. The sins of the prophets
3. The prophecies of warning and punishment to Judah
 - a. The Rod of Almond (1:11-12)
 - b. The Boiling Pot (1:13-14)
 - c. The Ruined Loincloth (13:1-11)
 - d. The Potter and the Clay (18:1-12)
 - e. The Broken Vessel (19:1-26)
 - f. The Two Baskets of Figs (24:1-10)
 - g. The Cup of Wrath (25:15-38)
 - h. The Iron Yoke (27:1-28:17)
4. Promise of Restoration and Return
 - a. Their sins will be wiped away (33:8-9)
 - b. They will have a shepherd (33:12)
 - c. God will establish an everlasting covenant (31:1-40)

**A) Author**

The author of this book was Jeremiah (1:1), who dictated all his prophecies to his secretary Baruch. Only chapter 52, a supplement which is almost identical to 2 Kings 24:18-25:30, was evidently not written by Jeremiah.

■ The Book of Jeremiah

Part 0¹



Three knights sat at a table and listened as their prince spoke.

"My father, the king, will give the hand of my sister to the first of you who can prove himself worthy."

The prince paused to let the men take in the news. He looked at their faces—each weathered from miles and scarred from battles. The three had much in common. They were the strongest warriors in the kingdom and they each wanted to marry the daughter of the king. The king had promised each a chance—a test to see which was worthy of his daughter. And now the time for the test had arrived.

"The test is a journey," the prince explained, "a journey to the king's castle by way of Hemlock."

"The forest?" one knight quickly inquired.

"The forest," answered the prince.

There was silence as the knights thought about the words. Each felt a stab of fear.

They knew the danger of Hemlock, a dark and deadly place. Parts of it were so thick with trees that the sunlight never found the ground.

It was home of the Hopenots—small, sly creatures with yellow eyes. Hopenots were not strong, but they were clever, and they were many. Some people believed the Hopenots were lost travelers changed by the darkness. But no one really knew for sure.

"Will we travel alone?" Carlisle spoke—a strange question to come from the strongest of the three knights. His fierce sword was known throughout the kingdom. But even this steely soldier knew better than to travel Hemlock alone. "You may each choose one person to travel with you all the way to the castle."

"But the forest is dark. The trees make the sky black. How will we find the castle?" This time it was Alon who spoke. He was not as strong as Carlisle but much quicker. He was famous for his speed. Alon left trails of confused enemies. He had escaped them by ducking into trees or scampering over walls. But quickness is worthless if you have no direction. So Alon asked, "How can we find the way?"

The prince nodded, reached into his sack, and pulled out an ivory flute. "There are only two of these," he explained. "This one and another in the possession of the king." He put the instrument to his lips and played a soft, sweet song. Never had the knights heard such soothing music.

"My father's flute plays the same song. His song will guide you to the castle."

"How is that?" Alon asked.

"Three times a day the king will play from the castle wall. Early in the morning, at noon, and again in the evening. Listen for him. Follow his song and you will find the castle."

"There is only one other flute like this one?"

"Only one."

"And you and your father play the same music?"

"Yes."

It was Cassidon who was asking. Cassidon was known for his alertness. He saw what others missed. He knew the home of a traveler by the dirt on his boot. He knew the truth of a story by the eyes of the teller. He could tell the size of a marching army by the number of scattered birds in flight.

■ *The King's Song*





Carlisle and Alon wondered why he asked about the flute. It wouldn't be very long before they found out.

"Consider the danger of Hemlock and wisely choose the one who will be with you on your journey," the prince cautioned.

And so they did. The next morning the three knights mounted their horses and entered Hemlock. Beside each rode the chosen companion. For the people in the king's castle, the days of waiting passed slowly. All knew of the test. All wondered which knight would win the princess. Three times a day the king sent his song soaring into the trees of Hemlock. And three times a day the people stopped their work to listen.

After many days and countless songs, a watchman spotted two figures stumbling out of the forest. No one could tell who they were. They were too far from the castle. The men had no horses, weapons, or armor.

"Hurry," the king commanded his guards, "Bring them in. Give them medical treatment and food, but don't tell anyone who they are. Dress the knight as a prince, and we will see their faces tonight at the banquet." He then dismissed the crowds and told them to prepare for the feast.

That evening a joyful spirit filled the banquet hall. At every table the people tried to guess which knight had survived Hemlock Forest.

Finally, the moment came to preset the winner. At the king's signal the people became quiet, and he began to play the flute. Once again the ivory instrument sang. The people turned to see who would enter. Many thought it would be Carlisle, the strongest. Others felt it would be Alon, the swiftest.

But it was neither. The knight who survived the journey was Cassidon, the wisest. He strode quickly across the floor, following the sound of the flute one final time, and bowed before the king.

"Tell us of your journey," he was instructed. The people leaned forward to listen.

"The Hopenots were crafty," Cassidon began. "They attacked, but we fought back. They took our horses, but we continued. What nearly destroyed us, though, was something far worse."

"What was that?" asked the princess.

"They imitated."

"They imitated?" asked the king.

"Yes, my king. They imitated. Each time the song of your flute would enter the forest, a hundred flutes would begin to play. All around us we heard music – songs from every direction."

"I do not know what became of Carlisle and Alon," he continued, "but I know that strength and speed will not help one hear the right flute."

The king asked the question that was on everyone's lips. "Then how did you hear my song?"

"I chose the right companion," he asked as he motioned for his fellow traveler to enter. The people gasped. It was the prince. In his hand he carried the flute.

"I knew there was only one who could play your song exactly like you," Cassidon explained. "There is no one else I would have trusted to be with me all they way. So I asked him to travel with me. As we journeyed, he played your song. I learned it so well that though a thousand false flutes tried to hide your music, I could hear your song above them all. It was with me all the way."

And with that, the celebration began.



■ *The King's Song*



Below are some statements. Read them carefully and consider whether the the statements are true or false. After everyone has completed the exercise, go through each each statement one at a time. Discuss why you believe that the statement is true or false.

1. God is so great so there really is no one way to be saved. All religions are true because we are all worshipping God. T/F
2. It is all right to hug and kiss during dating, so long as we don't step over the line. It is a way of developing a meaningful relationship and to see whether we're compatible or not. T/F
3. God does not control us. He would rather we obey Him because we want to and not because we have to. Therefore, it is alright not to do certain things that God asks because we do not want to. T/F
4. We should not judge others because God says "Do not judge." Rather, we should forgive and love others; after all we are not perfect ourselves. T/F
5. As believers, we have the freedom to marry believers and non-believers alike. The Bible does not say that we cannot marry outside of the faith. It is a great way of bringing people to the faith and if our unbelieving spouse accepts the faith, it is evidence of God's choosing. T/F
6. If we look at the churches around us, we wonder why they are thriving, while very few enter the TJC. It's time to make the truth more palatable and less harsh. We could start by praying more using words of understanding rather than in tongues because in this way, more people would not be scared off so soon. T/F



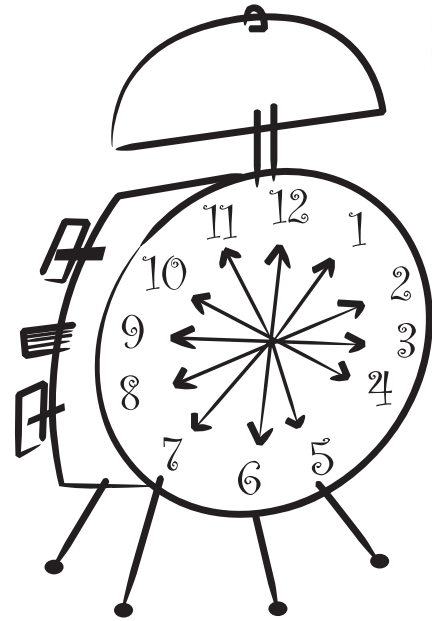
■ *True and False*



Part 1

A) Jeremiah the prophet

1. The calling of Jeremiah
2. The trials of Jeremiah
 - a. Jeremiah's physical trials
 - b. Jeremiah's inner trials
3. The sacrifice of Jeremiah
 - a. Jeremiah was not to marry
 - b. Jeremiah was prohibited from entering the house of mourning or to the house of feasting
4. Jeremiah's merits
 - a. He prayed for his enemies
 - b. Faithful spokesman of God
 - c. He did not emphasize on the results



Part 2

A) The Lamentations of Jeremiah

Although Jeremiah is not named in the text, the book of Lamentations has traditionally been attributed to him.

B) Date

According to tradition, Lamentations was composed shortly after the destruction of the Holy City and the temple, between 586–587 B.C.

C) Themes

While the Book of Jeremiah predicts the destruction of Jerusalem, Lamentations looks back on it.

D) Teachings from the Book of Lamentations

1. The effects of sin
2. God's faithfulness
3. Hope amidst despair

Jeremiah (2) and Lamentations



In the history of Israel, sin was always the cause of her downfall. The prophet Isaiah pointed out to the people why God seemed so distant from them: "Your iniquities have separated you from your God" (Is 59:2). Our fellowship with God can likewise suffer as a result of our sins. If we do nothing about our sins, our hearts become hardened and we turn away from the living God. Therefore, the Lord offered the Israelites a way to restore their relationship with Him. God cried out to them, "Return to me, and I will return to you." In our daily lives we constantly commit sins in our thoughts, speech and actions. We may repent, but find that our relationship with God is not as sweet as it was. In the exercise below, we will examine what true repentance is.

	Bible Passage	Sin	Action Taken	Consequences
2 Sam 12:1-15				
Mt 27:3				
Lk 19:1-10				
Lk 18:10				

- a. What happens to our hearts if we do nothing about our sins?
- b. What is your understanding of true repentance?
- c. Think of a time that God has called you to repentance. How did He do it? What was your response?
- d. Fill in the following:

Benefits of repenting

Consequences of not repenting

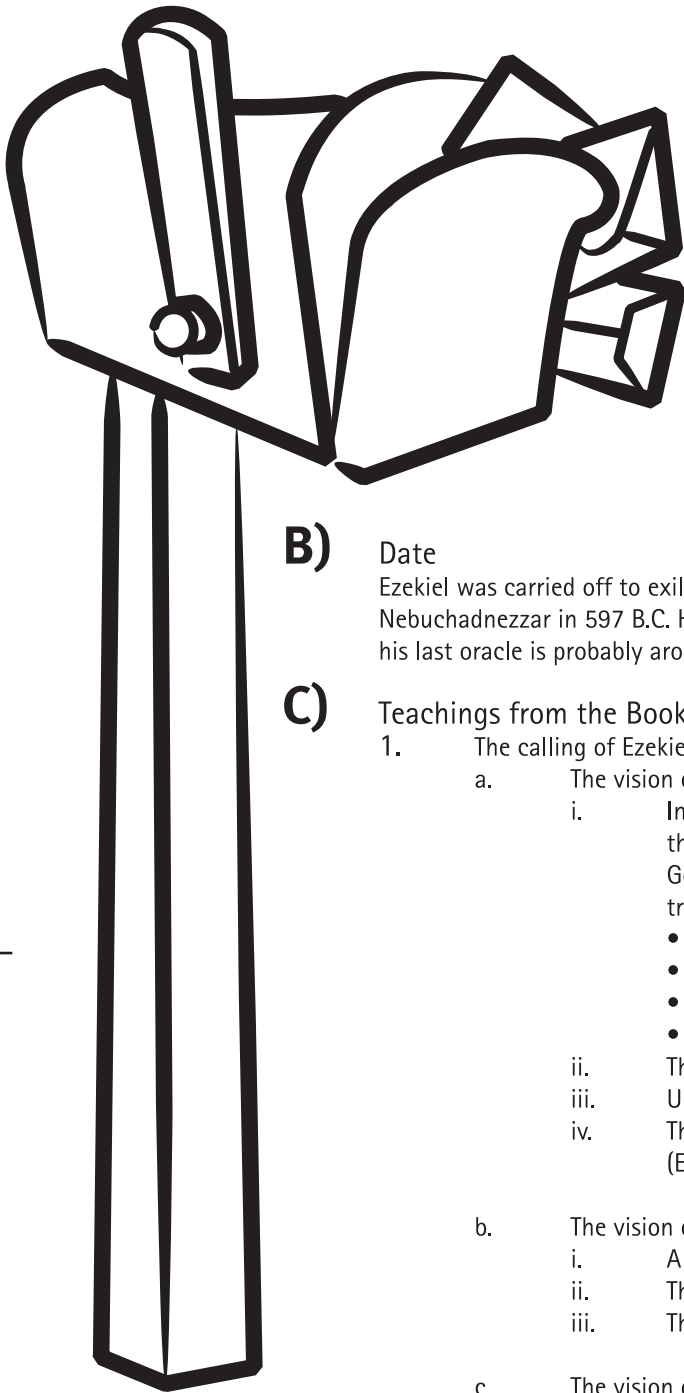
Things that can prevent me

Ways that I can overcome them from repenting

- f. Action Steps:
Make a short list of some of the areas in your life that need repenting (i.e., what you could improve upon or change your mind and actions about).

Things that need repenting /Actions that I will take

■ RETURN TO ME

**B)****Date**

Ezekiel was carried off to exile in Babylon after the city fell a second time to Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. His first vision dated around 593-92 BC and the date given for his last oracle is probably around 571-70 B.C.

C)**Teachings from the Book of Ezekiel**

1. The calling of Ezekiel
 - a. The vision of the four living creatures (Ezek 1:5-11)
 - i. In this first vision, Ezekiel sees four living creatures, each having the face of a man, lion, ox and eagle. These four faces symbolize God's perfect nature and the attributes a servant of God and a true believer should possess.
 - The face of a man
 - The face of a lion
 - The face of an ox
 - The face of an eagle
 - ii. They had four wings (Ezek 1:6,11)
 - iii. Under their wings they had four hands (Ezek 1:8)
 - iv. Their legs were straight and they had the sole of a calf's foot (Ezek 1:7)
 - b. The vision of the four wheels (Ezek 1:15-21)
 - i. A wheel within a wheel (Ezek 1:16)
 - ii. The spirit of the creatures were in the wheels (Ezek 1:19-20)
 - iii. The wheels were full of eyes (Ezek 1:18)
 - c. The vision of the glory of God (Ezek 1:22-28)

A) Author

The author of this book was Ezekiel, the son of Buzi, a Zadokite priest.

■ Ezekiel (1)

Part 1



A) The Prophecies Concerning the Destruction of Jerusalem

1. Each person will be judged according to his/her deeds (14:14, 18:11, 22, 30)
2. God would send His people to exile (Ezek 12:1-20, 17:1-21).
 - a. Using a brick, a map of Jerusalem, and an iron plate, Ezekiel enacted the coming siege and fall of Jerusalem (Ezek 4:1ff).
 - b. Ezekiel was instructed to lay on his left side for 390 days and 40 days on his right side to show Israel the years of punishment that will befall Israel and Judah (Ezek 4:4-6).
 - c. The prophet followed specific cooking instructions (4:9-17). The amount of food he was allowed to eat was the normal ration provided to those living in a city under siege by enemy armies. The food cooked over cow dung was a symbol of Judah's spiritual uncleanness and Ezekiel's restricted movement illustrates how the people of Jerusalem would be imprisoned within the walls of the city.
 - d. Ezekiel was directed to shave his head and beard, and then to divide the hair into three parts (Ezek 5:1-4). This represents how the Israelites would die of famine, pestilence and the sword.
 - e. God asked Ezekiel to prepare an exile's baggage, eat bread with quaking and drink water with trembling and fear because the Lord would send His people into exile. This sign was fulfilled 5 years later—the Babylonians invaded the city for a final time and the last king of Judah joined the exiles already in Babylon (Ezek 12:2-7; Jer 52:7).
 - f. Ezekiel sang a death dirge to show Judah that there was no hope for a quick return from exile and no escape from the approaching Babylonian armies (Ezek 19:1ff).
 - g. In the parable of the cooking pot (Ezek 24:1-14), Ezekiel was to put some choice meat in a pot and boil it well in the fire. The people in Judah thought they were the choice meat because they had not been taken into captivity in 597 BC when the Babylonians last invaded the land. Ezekiel used this illustration to show that though the people thought they were safe and secure inside the pot, this pot would actually be the place of their destruction. This message was given to the exiles in Babylon the very day the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem, beginning a siege that lasted over 2 years and resulted in the city's destruction.
 - h. God instructed Ezekiel that He was going to take away his wife, but the prophet was not allowed to mourn, bare his head or feet, or accept the food brought to him (Ezek 24:20-24). Ezekiel showed his fellow exiles that this would be the scene when Jerusalem is besieged.
3. God's glory departs from Jerusalem
 - The glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherubim on which it rested to the threshold of the house (9:3, 10:4). He left the cherubim, guarding the mercy seat.
 - The glory of the Lord went from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim (10:18).
 - The glory of God mounted up from the earth and stood at the door of the east gate of the house of the Lord (10:19)
 - The glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city (Mt of Olives) (11:22-23).
 - The glory of the Lord left the temple, the holy city and the earth (11:24).

■ Ezekiel (1) Part 2

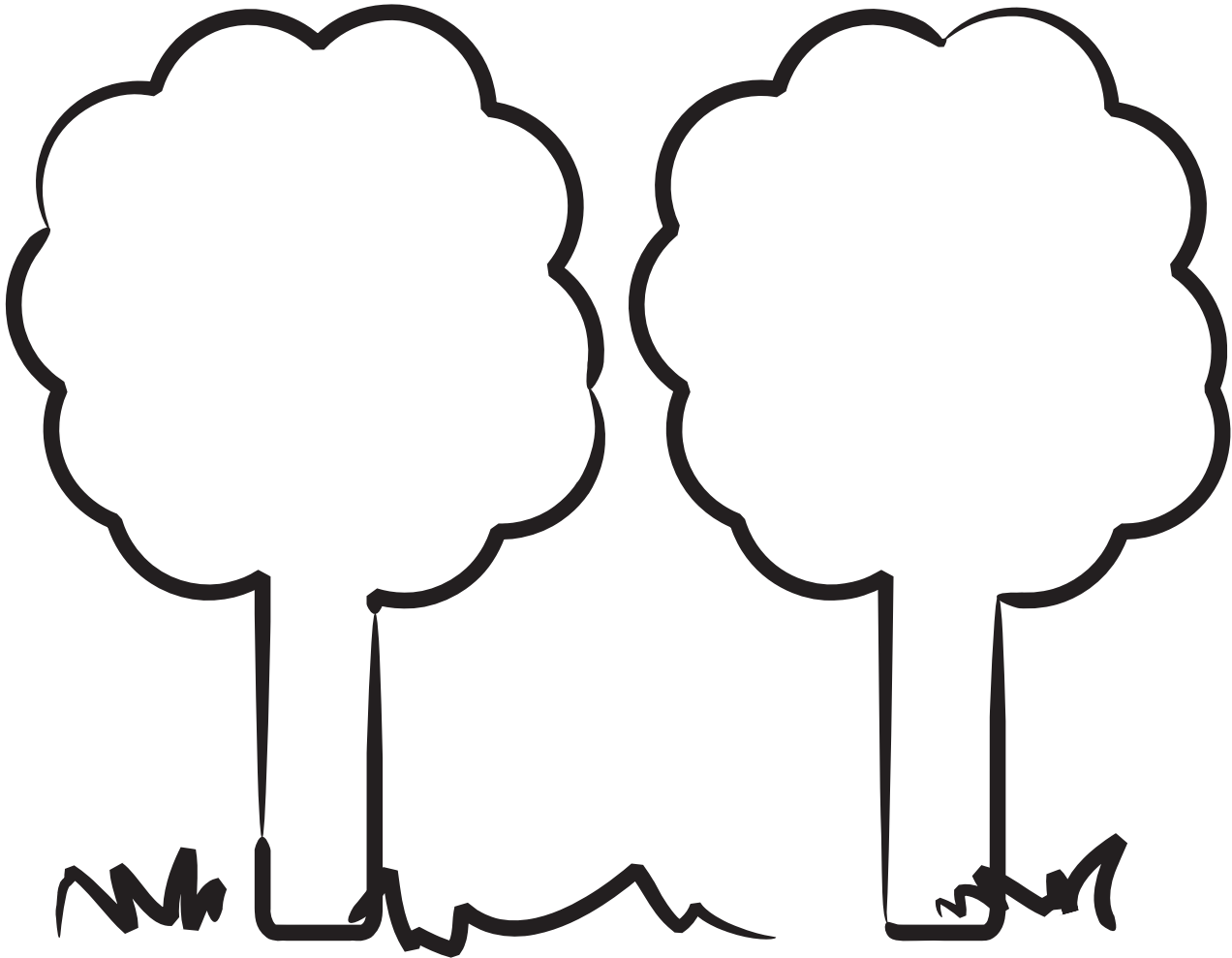


Just as a farmer uses various methods to ensure that his fruit trees bear abundant fruit, our Heavenly Father uses different ways and means to bring His children back when they stray so that they might bear good fruit.

My view on discipline

In the tree below list some of the things a farmer might do to improve the size, quality and productivity of his fruit trees.

In the next tree, list the ways our Heavenly Father might prune and discipline us so that we can bear fruits of righteousness.



- Share an experience where you were disciplined by God.
- What were your feelings or thoughts throughout that time?
- What good things have resulted in your life from God's discipline?

■ The Lord's Pruning



Testimony 1

One truthseeker received the Holy Spirit upon coming to the True Jesus Church. Reluctant to take the next step in getting baptized she prayed to God to show her what she should do. The first time the Lord answered her prayers was during one Sabbath service. During the sermon, the elder quoted from Acts 16:22: "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." The truthseeker stared with astonishment at the speaker and wondered if this was truly God speaking to her.

That same evening while making a final prayer for the day, the truthseeker asked the Lord a second time about whether she should get baptized, if this was the right time to be baptized or if she should wait for her husband who was still an atheist. As she prayed in this way, the Holy Spirit came down upon her mightily. Her tongue began to roll very fluently and her entire body vibrated greatly. The entire room shook; the bed vibrated and even the windows rattled loudly. Her non-believing husband was stunned to witness such a scene. Still, the truthseeker was not fully convinced.

The next evening she asked God a third time. This time, the Lord answered her question through a dream. In her dream she saw two people engaged in conversation, in a place that was filled with glory and light. Both were wearing white robes. She noticed that she was one of them and the other was the Lord Jesus. In the conversation, the sister asked the Lord about getting baptized and about her concerns. The Lord had a very soft, kind and smiling demeanor and He listened attentively and patiently. The more the truthseeker spoke, the more emotional and agitated she grew, and the larger her body gestures became.

As the truthseeker continued in this manner, the Lord suddenly raised His hand and slapped the truthseeker on the face. This woke the truthseeker up from her sleep. Even though it was a dream her face felt painful and stung from the slap. Feeling extremely hurt and angry, she said to God, "I only asked You whether I needed to be baptized, why did You need to go and slap my face?" She turned in her bed and decided there and then that she would not get baptized.

During the following two weeks the truthseeker refused to read the Bible. One day while sitting on the sofa in her living room, she noticed her Bible lying on the coffee table. She picked it up and began to flick through the pages when her eyes fell on the words recorded in Hebrews 12:5 and 12:6. She read the words to herself: "And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by Him. For the Lord disciplines him whom He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives."

After the truthseeker read the passage, the hurt, anger and sorrow that she harbored inside subsided immediately. She was greatly moved by God's love for her. In her heart she heard the Lord say to her, "Your Father disciplined you for your own good." The truthseeker decided then to receive baptism.

■ Testimony



Testimony 2

Brother N was baptized into the True Jesus Church only a couple of days after he was born. Although he grew up in a Christian family, he was not interested in church. He would much rather gamble and have fun. He'd use his lunch money to play the slot machines in the arcades, and instead of going to church on the Sabbath, he would go out with friends. Lying, stealing and getting into fights became his way of life. No matter what his mother said or did, brother N would not change. At times when his mother used a bamboo stick to discipline him, he would beg for mercy and apologize to his mother. But as soon as the beating was over, he would go back to his old habits. In a desperate search for a solution, his mother sent him to the United States to study in the hope that a change of environment would change her son. At the age of 11, brother N departed for San Diego where he was to stay with his aunt and her family who were atheists. Over time, he began to lose his faith. He stopped going to church and lived a life pursuing worldly things. Gradually, he stopped believing in the existence of God and forgot how to pray.

At the age of 17, something happened that was to change brother N for life. One night, when he was alone in the house, he suddenly heard a soft and kind voice telling him, "Go to pray." He became scared and quickly looked around the living room to see if anyone was there. There was no one. Thinking that it was probably his own imagination playing tricks on him, he returned to his own room. He closed the door behind him immediately and turned on the light. Just when he felt safe, he heard the voice again saying to him, "Go to pray." This time he knew it was not his imagination. It was a kind and tender male voice, the likes that could never be heard on this earth. Brother N knew instantly that it was the Lord Jesus calling him. He felt he could not refuse to pray and he was afraid that if he did not pray, God might discipline him the way his mother did many years ago. Without realizing it, brother N knelt down, clasped his hands, and said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus I pray, Hallelujah praise the Lord Jesus, Hallelujah praise the Lord Jesus.... " Less than five minutes later, tears streamed down his face, and he began to cry bitterly. Suddenly, God opened his eyes to see a vision. In the vision, brother N saw thousands of small TV screens. Each screen displayed all the bad things that he had done since childhood, deeds done in secret and deeds done in public. God later showed him the consequences of his deeds; his deeds incurred anger, loss, injury and sorrow to the people around him. He could not deny any of it.

One scene showed an incident that occurred when brother N was still in Taiwan. Curious about deflating a tire, brother N placed a handful of tacks underneath one of the tires of his neighbor's taxi. Hiding behind a bush he watched to see what would happen. To his disappointment, the taxi driver simply drove off. In the vision, however, God revealed to brother N the consequences of his actions. He saw an angry taxi driver staring at a deflated wheel that had been punctured by the tacks. Another scene that brother N saw was one of his mother. He saw his mother praying alone for her lost son. The air was heavy with sadness and sorrow. And in the light of the moon, he could see teardrops flowing down his mother's face. For seven years his mother had prayed unceasingly for her son to return to God. Upon witnessing these scenes, brother N realized that he was a sinner and repented bitterly of all the evil things that he had committed. He resolved to change his ways and to make the Lord Jesus His Savior and God.

■ Testimony



Testimony 3

One summer, two brothers planned a day of fishing. A few days prior to this, they logged onto the Internet to check the fish count. Seeing that there was plenty of fish, they decided to go. They decided to go for only half a day, thinking that if there were a lot of fish, then they would be able to catch plenty and save on boat fare at the same time. At five in the morning, the brothers set out with eager anticipation of catching a lot of fish. But during the whole morning, they did not catch a single bite. They returned to the shore full of disappointment. They comforted each other with the thought that there was probably no fish that day. Even the captain of the boat was puzzled that there was no catch. To have absolute zero counts was extremely rare, particularly when it was a good fishing season. Since this was the case, brother X then asked brother Y if he would come with him to church to help plant a tree. It was only then that brother Y realized that brother X was responsible for planting a tree at church but he had set aside his responsibilities to go fishing instead. The reason why they could not catch any fish that morning was because brother X had not finished the work he had promised to do. The next day, brother X again logged onto the Internet to check the fish count. He learned that the boat that the brothers had gone out on that morning had zero count. But what surprised him was that the other boats that went out that same morning had all returned with great catches.

Testimony 4

One evening, a newly converted sister had a desire to watch an X-rated movie. Although she realized it was wrong, the temptation was too hard to resist. Justifying herself, she said to God, "This would be the last time" and without further thought, she sat and watched the entire movie. Not long afterwards, a sty developed in her eye. It swelled to such an extent that when she went to the doctors, they commented that this was one of the worst cases they had ever seen. Besides the swelling, there was a secretion of pus and blood. The only thing the doctors could do was to prescribe her some medication. That night at 2 am, the sister drove around town looking for an open pharmacy. The cost of the entire treatment set her back about \$500-600. The sister understood that this was a lesson from God. In her prayers, she repented of her actions and about a week later, the swelling subsided.

■ Testimony



Part 1 A)

God's Judgment upon the Nations

1. Judgment on Ammon (Ezek 25:1-7)
2. Judgment on Moab (Ezek 25:8-11)
3. Judgment on Edom (Ezek 25:12-14)
4. Judgment on Philistia (Ezek 25:15-17)
5. Tyre (Ezek 26-28:19)
6. Sidon (Ezek 28:20-26)
7. Egypt (Ezek 29-32)

	Bible verse	Nation	Pronounced Judgment
Ezek 25:1-7			
Ezek 25:8-11			
Ezek 25:12-14			
Ezek 25:15-17			
Ezek 26-28:19			
Ezek 28:10-26			
Ezek 29-32			

Part 2 A)

The Prophecies Concerning the Restoration of Israel

1. To remove a heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh
2. The resurrection of the dry bones
3. The restoration of the temple
4. Water from the temple

Characteristics of the river:

- a. In this vision, the angel of God measures the river three times.
- b. The stagnant waters will become fresh
- c. The waters will teem with living creatures and many fish
- d. Many trees grow on the banks of the river
- e. The swamps and marshes will remain unchanged



■ Ezekiel (2)



The cartoon illustrates a common belief amongst many believers today: "I am baptized, I have the Holy Spirit, I am saved." But in actuality, we are not quite there yet. Like the butterfly, we need to break out of our shell—go through a spiritual metamorphosis, as it were. The Bible calls this process, sanctification.



My understanding of sanctification is

Why do I need to be sanctified?

How can I pursue sanctification?

What are some of the obstacles that I have faced in my pursuit to be more holy?



■ The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit



How Do I Measure?

1. You have planned something with your friends that evening, but unexpectedly, your parents tell you that you have to cancel your plans because they have an important engagement. What would your immediate reaction to this be? I would...
2. You're hanging out with your friends and the topic turns to dirty jokes. What do you do? I would...
3. It's the big sale, and you've been in line to pay for an item for about ten minutes. Someone has cut into the line in front of you. You tell them that they should get in line, but they don't get the message and continue to stand in front of you. How do you react? I would...
4. You have a close friend in church whom you do everything with. It seems, however, that s/he gets noticed and praised more than you do even though you both do more or less the same things. How would you feel? I would feel...
5. Your friend has invited you over for dinner with his/her family. His/her mom has cooked a meal that is not to your liking. They ask you how you like it. How would you answer them? I would...
6. Your membership at the wholesale computer store has expired, but you discover that they have a sale on some items that you've been eyeing for some time. You don't want to renew your membership because it's too costly, but the items would be a real deal. What would you do? I would...
7. You hear a very ugly rumor about a person you don't like very much. How do you feel and respond? I would...
8. You have grown up believing that people of a certain race are basically inferior to yours. When a person of that race enters the church, what would you do? I would...
9. Your friends have stopped by the store and picked up a couple of lottery tickets. They say, "It's okay. You could win. But even if you lose, a portion of your dollar goes to fund education and cancer research. It is for a good cause." What would you do? I would...

Taking Action:

- From the exercise above, make a short list of some the things that you find you have to improve upon.
- Find some Bible verses or stories that point to the area you picked, then study what the Bible teaches in those verses/stories.
- Write out the verses, or the stories in outline form.
- If possible commit the verses/stories to memory.
- The most important thing is to remember the teachings found in the verses/stories.
- Over a period of time, evaluate yourself on whether you have improved upon your chosen are. Whenever you encounter a challenging situation that calls for application in defeating your weakness, try to mentally run through all ten or so verses and to ask God to give us the strength to overcome our weaknesses.

Weakness to improve upon

Bible verses

How I can deal with it

■ The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit



Part 2

A) The Most High Rules in the Kingdom of Men

1. God is Lord over nations
 - a. The great image
 - b. The four beasts
 - c. The ram and the he-goat

	Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Chapter 8
Vision	Great Image	Four great beasts	Ram, he-goat
Babylon	Golden Head	Lion	---
Media/Persia	Silver Breast	Bear	Ram
Greece	Bronze Belly	Leopard	He-goat
Rome	Iron Legs	Beast	---
Nations of the end-time	Half iron and half clay feet	Ten horns and a little horn	Little horn
The 2nd coming of Christ	The stone smites the great image into pieces	The saints receive their kingdom	The little horn is destroyed

2. God is Lord over individual destiny

B) Date

Some believe that the book was written sometime between the latter part of the Babylonian empire and the rise of Medes (C.f. Dan 1:1-2; 10:1).

C) Theme

Daniel, the "Apocalypse of the Old Testament," presents a comprehensive sweep of prophetic history. The book also emphasizes being made separate, with Daniel as the ultimate example.

D) Teachings from the Book of Daniel

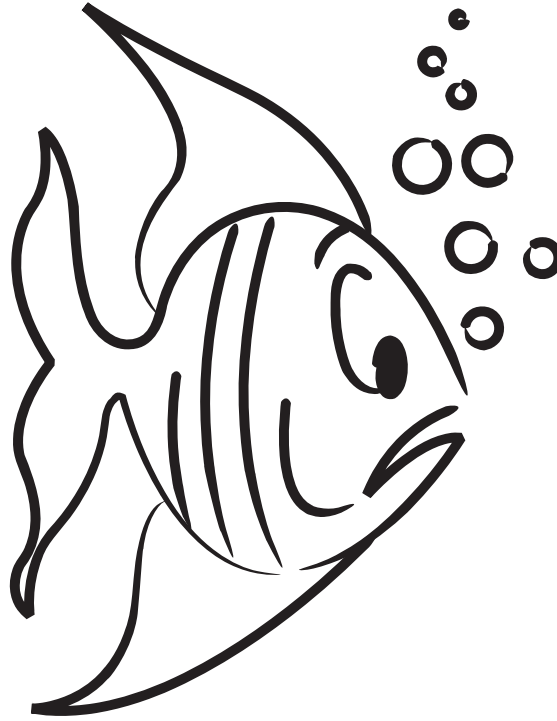
1. Leading a godly life in an ungodly world
 - a. He understood the God he worshipped
 - b. He worked at it
 - c. Through God's help
2. He prayed constantly
3. He was loyal to the king
4. Concerned with the matters of God

A) Author

Daniel claimed to write this book (Dan 12:4) and he used the autobiographical first person from Daniel 7:2 onward.

■ The Book of Daniel

Part 1



Meeting the challenges of an ever-changing world with values different from the Bible is not a battle we can fight on our own. Besides knowing himself well and having a close relationship with God, Daniel had a special bond with three of his closest friends. We may see each other in class every week, but how well do we know each other? How well do you know the person across the room? Do you know each other's fears, hopes or struggles? Do you recognize each other's strengths, or what each of us enjoys doing in our spare time? By developing deeper understanding and rapport between us, our journey of faith can be an easier and joyful one.

Rules:

1. Take turns moving your marker around the board.
2. When the marker falls on a certain colored space, the player draws a card from that category and shares an experience.
3. If two players land on the same block, the last player to land on the block can either send the first person back four spaces or draw another card and do what it says.
4. Players should spend no more than a minute to answer the questions.
5. The first person to move around the board once wins.

■ Do You Know Who I Am?



Categories:

You and Others

What is a characteristic in others that you admire?	Have you ever been pressured to doing something you feel you should not have?	Have you ever been teased? For what?	Where do you feel most comfortable? At church, at school, at work? Why?	Tell about the kids you grew up with.
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Tell of a person you know whose behavior changed noticeably after becoming a Christian.	Tell about a person who has influenced you in your life.	Do you and your friends ever talk about religion or what your faith means to you?	Tell about a time when you could have helped someone, and regret that you failed to do so.	It's a Saturday night. What do you and your friends do to relax?
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What characteristics would you look for in a friend?	Name something that someone did for you that touched you.	How many brothers/sisters do you have? Name something that you like about them.
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■ Do You Know Who I Am?

Categories:



About You

What is the best thing about being a teenager?	What is one of your greatest fears? Why?	If you were in an interview for a job and you were asked to describe yourself, what three qualities would you list?	What is something you would do with your time if you didn't watch television?	Describe a way that credit cards have affected your life.
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What was one of the most courageous things you ever did?	What effect do commercials have on you?	If you could change one thing about yourself what would it be?	Name the color that best describes you and why.	If your house was on fire and you only had enough time to save three material possessions, what would you choose?
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What is one thing you would like to do before you die? Why?	Describe one of your first experiences of living away from home.	What is one of your hobbies? What do you like about it?
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■ Do You Know Who I Am?



Categories:

You and God

<p>Who is your favorite Bible character and why?</p>	<p>Share an experience where you "let go, and let God".</p>	<p>Identify a teaching that you have struggled to keep. Why?</p>	<p>Tell about a prayer that was answered.</p>	<p>Did you ever go through a period of doubting God? Tell about it.</p>
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<p>Name a time where you had to stand up for your faith. What did you do?</p>	<p>What is one of your earliest memories about God?</p>	<p>Tell about a time when God seemed far away.</p>	<p>What is one of your favorite Bible passages? Why is it significant to you?</p>	<p>When during the day or night do you feel closest to God? Why?</p>
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<p>Name two things you are most grateful to God for.</p>	<p>In what situation would it be the most awkward for you to talk about your faith?</p>	<p>Did anyone ever make fun of you for what you believed? How did you feel about that?</p>
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■ Do You Know Who I Am?



Categories:

Alternatives

Move backward one space and choose another card	Give this card to someone else to answer	Miss a turn	Give this card to the person on your left
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Take another turn	Move to the very front	Go back to start	Move forward three spaces	Take a card from the middle of the pack
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Pick another card	Skip over 2 markers	Person after you misses a turn
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■ Do You Know Who I Am?

**B)****Date**

All five messages of Haggai are precisely dated in the year 520 BC, the second year of the reign of Darius I, king of Persia.

C)**Themes**

The basic theme of this book is the importance for the remnant to reorder their priorities and complete the temple before they can expect the blessings of God. Haggai also prophesies that the glory of the temple in the latter days will be greater than the former.

D)**Teachings from the Book of Haggai**

The book of Haggai is divided into 5 sections based on the messages that Haggai received.

1. First message (Hag 1:1-11)
2. Second message (Hag 1:12-15)
3. Third message (Hag 2:1-9)
4. Fourth message (Hag 2:10-19)
5. Fifth message (Hag 2:20-23)

**A) Author**

The author of this book is the prophet Haggai whose name means "festive." Besides what is written in this book and two references to him in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14, little else is known of Haggai's personal history.

The Book of Haggai

Part 1



**B)****Date**

The book of Zechariah consists of two distinct parts. The first section from chapters 1-8 was written from 520 to 518 B.C. The second section from chapters 9-14 was written 40 years later around 480 B.C.

C)**Themes**

Zechariah is one of the three post-exilic prophets, along with Haggai and Malachi, who ministered to the small remnant of Jews who had returned to Judah to rebuild the temple and their nation.

D)**Teachings from the Book of Zechariah**

1. Zechariah's eight visions
 - a. The horses among the myrtle trees
 - b. Four animal horns and four craftsmen
 - c. The man with the measuring line
 - d. Joshua the high priest
 - e. The golden lampstand and the olive trees
 - f. The flying scroll
 - g. The woman in the ephah
 - h. Four horses and chariots

**A) Author**

The author of this book is Zechariah, whose name means "Jehovah is renowned" or "Yahweh remembers."

The Book of Zechariah

Part 2

**B)**

Date

It is believed that Malachi worked as a prophet some 50 years after the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, between the years 434 and 415 B.C. He may have been a contemporary of Nehemiah working during the religious reformation.

C)

Themes

Under the encouragement of Haggai and Zechariah, the people arose to complete the construction of the temple.

D)

Teachings from the Book of Malachi

1. A dialogue between God and His people
Using a series of questions, Malachi directed God's message of judgment and warning to the Jews.
 - a. First Question
"I have loved you," says the Lord. But you say, "How hast thou loved us?" (Mal 1:2-5)
 - b. Second Question
"A son honors his father, and a servant his master... Where is my honor?... to you, O priests, who despise my name." You say, "How have we despised thy name?" (Mal 1:6-14)
 - c. Third Question
"You cover the Lord's altar with tears because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor at your hand". You ask, "Why does He not?" (Mal 2:13-16)
 - d. Fourth Question
You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" (Mal 2:17)
 - e. Fifth Question:
Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?" Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, "How are we robbing thee?" (Mal 3:6-12)
 - f. Sixth Question:
Your words have been stout against me, says the Lord. Yet you say, "How have we spoken against thee?" (Mal 3:13-15)

**A) Author**

The author of this book is the prophet Malachi, whose name means "My messenger" or "angel." Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets and the writer of the last book of the Old Testament. Nothing is known of him beyond what is contained in his book of prophecies.

The Book of Malachi

Part 3



Although Haggai served the shortest time of all the prophets (3 months and 24 days), he was successful in his work. Haggai walked the streets and alleys of Jerusalem urging the people to reorder their priorities and get back to doing God's work. His faithfulness and zeal was a catalyst for the people to complete the work on the temple. While Haggai became a faithful worker, the chosen people were content with beautifying their own homes and neglected the work of God. These two parties can represent the two different attitudes in doing church work. In the following activity, look up the listed Bible verses, then discuss and examine our own attitudes towards doing God's work.

1. Read Haggai 1:2-4

The prophet Haggai rebuked the people for excusing themselves by saying that the time had not yet come for rebuilding the temple of God. What attitude do we have towards church work? What is our immediate response when asked to help?

2. Read Haggai 1:6-9

The people hoped for more, but they received less. What can Christians do to be blessed?

3. Read Haggai 2:4

The Lord encouraged the people to be courageous and complete the work. God promised that He would be with them and nothing would be too hard for them. Share your experiences in this area.

4. Read Haggai 2:9

The glory of the latter temple will be greater than the former temple. Reflect on the situation of the church today compared with the promise of God. What are your thoughts?



■ Labor for Jesus

How do we try to find **joy** and **satisfaction** in our lives? Are we still looking for **happiness** in worldly pleasure, money, success or fame?



In order to be completely reliant on the Lord, it takes **3**
things on our part:

belief, giving over, and trust.

belief —we need to believe that God has the power to solve our problems (Heb 11:6)

giving over our worries —we need to make our requests known to Him through prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6-7)

trust —we need to trust that whatever God does (or doesn't do at the moment), it is the best thing for us (Rom 8:28)

*"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other."
(1as 5:16)*

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness."

2 Timothy 3:16

YEAR 3 BOOK 2

General Assembly of the True Jesus Church

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