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## Memory Challenge



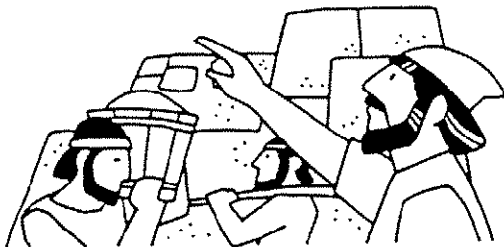
**Ezra 9:8**

"And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give up a peg in his Holy Place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage."



**Daniel 2:44**

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. . . and it shall stand forever."



**Nehemiah 4:6**

"So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."



**Esther 4:14**

"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

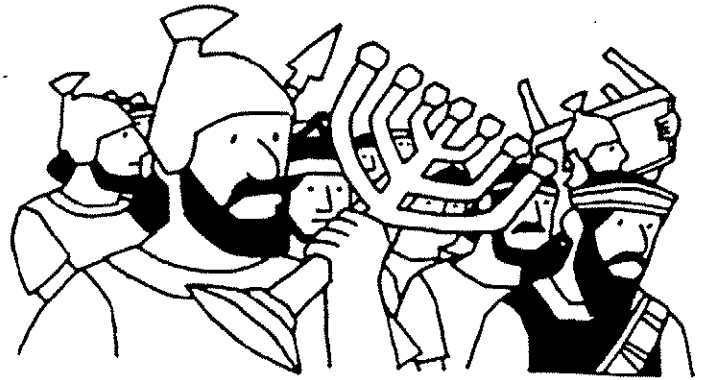
"...But his delight is in the law of the Lord  
and on His law he meditates day and night."



## Lesson 1

# ***The First Captives Are Taken to Babylon***

II Kings 24,  
Daniel 1, Ezekiel 1



**Read II Kings 23:36-24:20**

1. Who was the king in **Judah** at this time? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What had Jehoiakim become for Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the Lord send against **Judah**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the Lord allow **Judah** to be attacked? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. After Jehoiakim died, who became king? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What happened to Jehoiachin when the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did the Babylonians take from the temple? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When they captured the city, which people did they leave behind? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What kind of people did they take captive? Why do you think they took these people and left the poor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Who did Nebuchadnezzar make king in Jerusalem after he had captured most of the people? \_\_\_\_\_

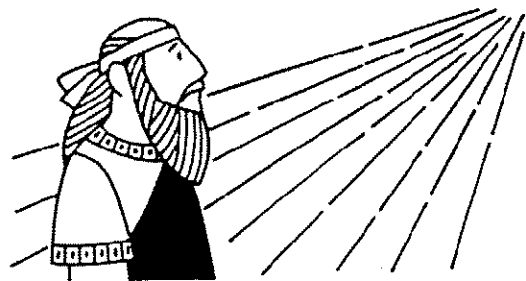


### **Read Daniel 1:1-21**

Check the correct answer:

1. This book talks about the same King Jeholakim who was  
\_\_\_\_\_ following God's laws.  
\_\_\_\_\_ taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.
2. The king had commanded that they bring with the captives  
several young men who were  
\_\_\_\_\_ good and intelligent.  
\_\_\_\_\_ uneducated so they could teach them.
3. The king would give them  
\_\_\_\_\_ many hard jobs to do.  
\_\_\_\_\_ daily food from the king's table.
4. After three years of training, these young men would  
\_\_\_\_\_ serve before the king.  
\_\_\_\_\_ return to Judah.
5. Daniel and his three friends were  
\_\_\_\_\_ given Babylonian names.  
\_\_\_\_\_ treated poorly.
6. Daniel and his friends refused to  
\_\_\_\_\_ eat the king's delicacies or drink his wine.  
\_\_\_\_\_ obey the king's officers.
7. After a trial period of ten days, Daniel and his friends looked  
\_\_\_\_\_ ill and starving.  
\_\_\_\_\_ better and fatter.
8. The Lord gave these four young men  
\_\_\_\_\_ the courage to stand up against the king.  
\_\_\_\_\_ knowledge and wisdom.
9. When they were brought before the king, these men were  
\_\_\_\_\_ ten times better than his magicians and wise men.  
\_\_\_\_\_ thrown into prison.

Ezekiel was a prophet who was taken captive with the other people of **Judah**. He will be called to speak to God's people that are living in Babylonian captivity. He used many stories or parables to teach the people God's messages.



**Read Ezekiel 1:1-28**

Make a list of three or four things which Ezekiel saw in his vision of God:

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After several warnings of judgment on the unrighteous of **Judah** and other nations, Ezekiel gives the people of **Judah** the good news that even though they are prisoners now, eventually, they will return to their land in Israel.



**Read the following verses and match them to Ezekiel's message of hope:**

- |                     |       |   |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Ezekiel 34:13    | _____ | I will multiply the house of Israel, the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. |
| 2. Ezekiel 36:10    | _____ | I will take the children of Israel and make them one nation.                              |
| 3. Ezekiel 36:28    | _____ | I will gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land.                   |
| 4. Ezekiel 37:21-22 | _____ | You will dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers.                                   |

Ezekiel also spoke of a time when they would even have a new king.



**Read Ezekiel 37:24-25**

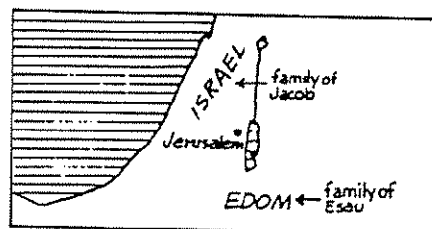
Who do you think this king would be? \_\_\_\_\_

**Obadiah** was another prophet during this time, but he was sent to give God's message to the people of Edom. The Edomites were the family of Esau, the brother of Jacob.

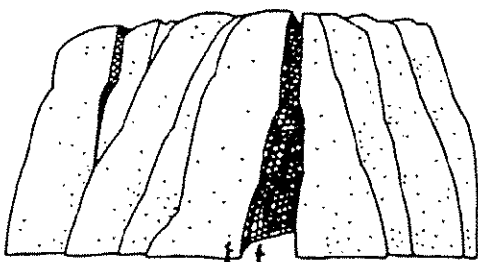


1. Can you remember any of the reasons Jacob and Esau had been enemies of each other? \_\_\_\_\_

Even when the two brothers had made peace with each other, their families could not live together, so they had decided to live apart.



2. What happened with Edom in Numbers 20? \_\_\_\_\_



The capitol city of Edom was a place called "Petra". The only entrance to the great city was through a narrow passage between tall cliffs. Since the city could easily be defended, the Edomites became very proud. They never forgot their hatred toward the Israelites and were eager to help any other nation trying to attack Israel.

Because of this longtime hatred of God's people, **Obadiah** was sent to tell what God's judgment would be on the nation of Edom.



**Read these two verses and write what Obadiah said would happen:**

Obadiah 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Obadiah 1:18 \_\_\_\_\_

The Edomites were driven from their rocky home by the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, about five years after Jerusalem was destroyed. By the time of Christ, the Edomites completely disappeared from history, just as Obadiah had said.



## Lesson 2

# Jeremiah Predicts Jerusalem's Destruction

Jeremiah 34-37  
II Kings 25  
Lentations

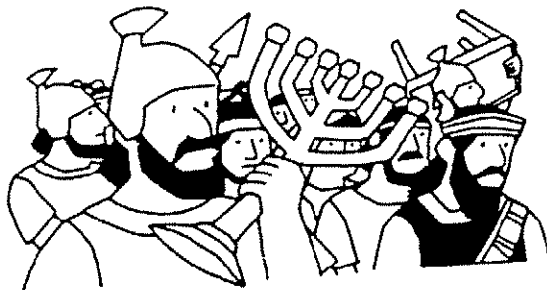


**Jeremiah** was another prophet during the time when the people of **Judah** were taken prisoners to Babylon. He has spoken earlier of the judgment God would send on His people for their disobedience. He is called the "weeping prophet" because he was deeply sad for his people even though they got what they deserved. Jeremiah lived to see many of his words (prophecies) come true.



**Read Jeremiah 34:1-7**

1. What did God tell Jeremiah to say to King Zedekiah? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Jeremiah say that Zedekiah would die? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the only fortified cities remaining in Judah except for Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

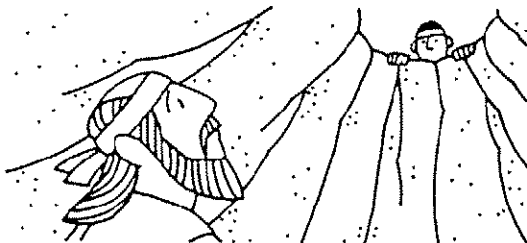
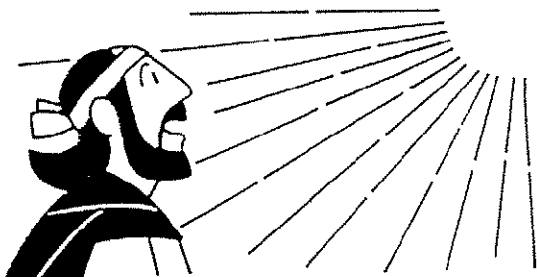




### **Read Jeremiah 37:1-21**

True/False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. After the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, had made Zedekiah the king, the people turned to the Lord.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Zedekiah wanted Jeremiah to pray to God for the people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jeremiah said that the Chaldeans (Babylonians) would fight against Jerusalem and burn it with fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When Jeremiah tried to leave Jerusalem, he was arrested.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Jeremiah was accused of joining the side of the Chaldeans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Jeremiah was thrown into a dungeon for many days.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When King Zedekiah brought Jeremiah out of the prison, Jeremiah said that the Chaldeans would now leave them alone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Jeremiah begged the king not to put him back in the prison dungeon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The king had Jeremiah placed in the court of the prison.



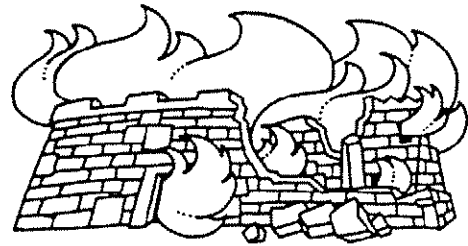
### **Read Jeremiah 38:1-16**

Number these sentences in the correct order:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah was brought out of the dungeon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Zedekiah wanted to know what he should do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The princes wanted to put Jeremiah to death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Finally, Jeremiah was allowed to live in the court.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah was again thrown into a dungeon for speaking what the Lord had told him.



**Read II Kings 25:1-21**



1. What did the king of Babylon do to Jerusalem?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What happens when a city is besieged? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Did the city eventually run out of food? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the men of war decide that they would do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What had King Zedekiah done? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What happened when the Chaldeans (Babylonians) discovered that King Zedekiah was trying to escape? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What three things were done to Zedekiah when he was brought before the king of Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did the king's officers do when he came to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who was left in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What happened to the priests, officers and friends of the king? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What's the Meaning?**

seige \_\_\_\_\_

**Lamentations** is the saddest book in the Bible. It was probably written by Jeremiah as he witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem, just as he had warned the people for the past forty years. The title, "Lamentations" means to cry out aloud.



**Read the following verses and write the words that describe Jeremiah's sorrow:**

Lamentations 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Lamentations 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Lamentations 1:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Lamentations 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Despite Jeremiah's deep sorrow over Jerusalem and Judah, he remains faithful to God and continues to put his trust in Him.



**Read Lamentations 3:24-26**

Fill in the blanks:

"The \_\_\_\_\_ is my \_\_\_\_\_."

"Therefore I \_\_\_\_\_ in Him."

"The \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ to those who \_\_\_\_\_ for Him."

"To the \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ Him."

"It is \_\_\_\_\_ that one should \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ quietly."

"For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."

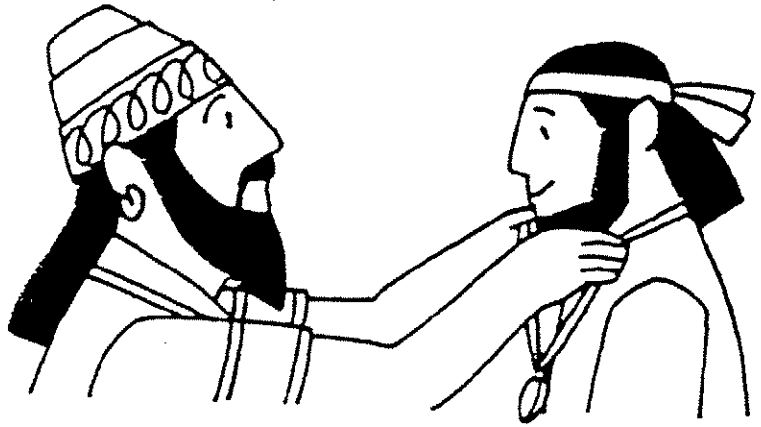
### **What Do You Think?**

1. Why do you think Jeremiah was so sad that Jerusalem had been destroyed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What can you learn from Jeremiah's faith in God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Can we trust God like Jeremiah did? \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 3

# Daniel's Life In Babylon

Daniel 1-6



As a young man, Daniel was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon in the first group of captives. Even though he was a captive, he rose to be a prime minister of Babylon. He would not go against God or His commandments. Daniel lived to be over 90 years old. He saw the Babylonian kingdom fall and the Medo-Persian kingdom established. He held high positions under kings Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus.



Nebuchadnezzar



Belshazzar



Darius

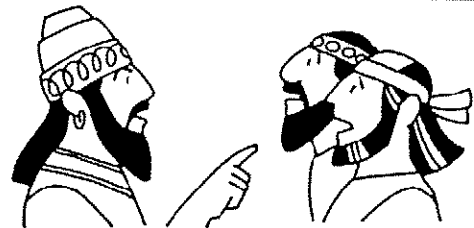


Cyrus



**Read Daniel 2:1-13**

Put these sentences in the correct order:

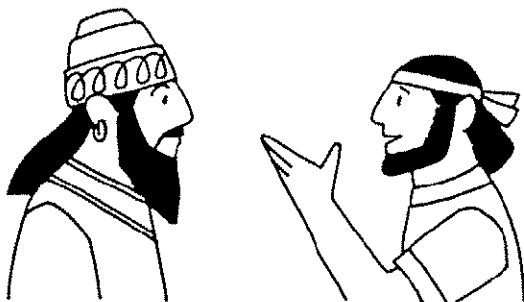


- \_\_\_\_\_ The magicians said they couldn't interpret the king's dream unless he could tell them what the dream was.
- \_\_\_\_\_ King Nebuchadnezzar was having dreams and he was so worried that he could not sleep.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The king was furious with the magicians and ordered that they all be killed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They sought Daniel and his companions to kill them, too.
- \_\_\_\_\_ King Nebuchadnezzar called for all the magicians and the sorcerers to tell him what he dreamed and what it meant.



**Read Daniel 2:14-49**

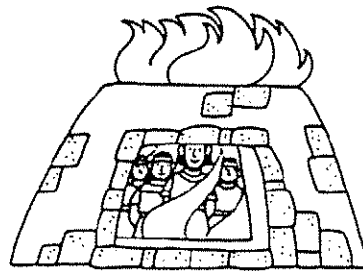
1. What did Daniel ask the king to do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the new names of his companions? (See chapter 1:7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Daniel and his companions do first? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When Daniel went before the king to give him the meaning of his dream, who did he say had made known the dream? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the king's dream? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What were the four parts of the image made of? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened when the stone struck the image? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which part did Daniel say represented King Nebuchadnezzar?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. After all of these kingdoms had been destroyed, who did Daniel say would set up a kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What kingdom to you think this would be? \_\_\_\_\_
11. After the king heard the meaning of his dream, what did he say about God? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What did the king do to Daniel and his friends? \_\_\_\_\_





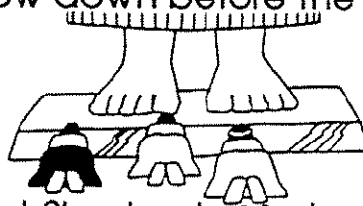
**Read Daniel 3:1-30**

Check the correct answer:



1. Nebuchadnezzar made a gold image and commanded that  
\_\_\_\_\_ everyone bow down to it when they heard music.  
\_\_\_\_\_ everyone give him money to pay for it.

2. He said that anyone who did not bow down before the image  
would be thrown into  
\_\_\_\_\_ prison.  
\_\_\_\_\_ a fiery furnace.



3. When Nebuchadnezzar was told that Shadrach, Meshach and  
Abed-Nego were not worshipping the image, he  
\_\_\_\_\_ was furious.  
\_\_\_\_\_ didn't pay any attention because they were Jews.

4. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego told the king that  
\_\_\_\_\_ they would try to remember to worship the image.  
\_\_\_\_\_ God would save them from the furnace, and even if  
he didn't, they would not bow down to the image.

5. Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he  
\_\_\_\_\_ had the furnace heated seven times hotter.  
\_\_\_\_\_ killed them himself.

6. When they were thrown into the furnace,  
\_\_\_\_\_ it wasn't as hot as it should have been.  
\_\_\_\_\_ it was so hot that it killed the guards as well.

7. King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed when  
\_\_\_\_\_ he saw four men walking in the furnace.  
\_\_\_\_\_ he realized how powerful he was.

8. When they were brought out of the furnace, Nebuchadnezzar  
\_\_\_\_\_ praised God.  
\_\_\_\_\_ put them into prison.



### Read Daniel 5:1-30

True/False

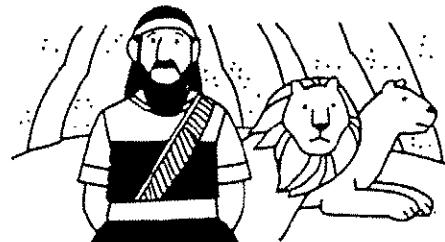


- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. After Nebuchadnezzar died, his son Belshazzar became king.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Belshazzar gave a great feast for his lords.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. During the feast, the fingers of a man's hand wrote words on the wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Belshazzar laughed at the writing on the wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Belshazzar promised great honors to anyone who could tell the meaning of the writing on the wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Daniel told Belshazzar that he had not humbled himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Daniel said that the writing meant that he would be king for a long time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. That very night, Belshazzar was killed.



### Read Daniel 6:1-28

Fill in the blanks:



- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I became king after Belshazzar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I was one of Darius's three governors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The king thought about setting me over the whole country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. We tried to find something against Daniel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I was persuaded to sign a decree that anyone caught praying to any god, would be thrown into a den of lions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I went home and opened my windows toward Jerusalem and prayed just like I always had done.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. These men told Darius that I was still praying to God three times a day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Even though I didn't want to do it, I commanded that Daniel be put into the den of lions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The next morning, the king came to the lion's den and asked if my God had saved me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I was sent to shut the mouths of the lions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. We killed the men who plotted against Daniel.



## Lesson 4

# ***The First Exiles Return to Jerusalem***

Ezra 1-2



***Read Jeremiah 29:10-15***

1. How long had Jeremiah said the people would remain in Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jeremiah say God wanted for His people? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What would the people do when they return to their own land?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the reason given that God would bring them back?  
\_\_\_\_\_



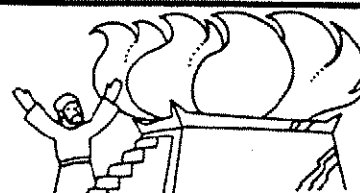
***Read Ezra 1:1-4***



1. Who was the ruler over the people of Judah now? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which prophet had predicted that the people of Judah would be allowed to return to their home? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which prophet had served in a high position under King Cyrus?  
(See Daniel 6:28) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think King Cyrus was so favorable to the people of Judah? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think that Daniel may have had an influence for good on the king? \_\_\_\_\_



**Read the following verses and match them with the correct sentences.**

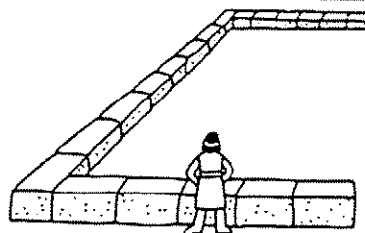


- |              |       |   |
|--------------|-------|---|
| 1. Ezra 1:2  | _____ | There were 43,360 people in this group that returned to Jerusalem.                  |
| 2. Ezra 1:6  | _____ | The people in Babylon gave the Israelites gifts as they left.                       |
| 3. Ezra 1:7  | _____ | They observed the Feast of Tabernacles when they returned.                          |
| 4. Ezra 2:2  | _____ | When they arrived in Jerusalem, they offered burnt offerings to God.                |
| 5. Ezra 2:64 | _____ | The leader of this group of Israelites was Zerubbabel.                              |
| 6. Ezra 3:2  | _____ | King Cyrus returned all the treasures of the temple which Nebuchadnezzar had taken. |
| 7. Ezra 3:4  | _____ | King Cyrus said that God had told him to build a house for Him.                     |



**Read Ezra 3:8-4:24**

True/False



- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. After they had been in the land about two years, Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the other men, began the work to rebuild the temple again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the foundation was laid, the people shouted and praised God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Some of the old priests wept when they saw the foundation because they had seen the first temple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Some of the enemies of Judah said they wanted to help with the building of the temple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Zerubbabel said he would be glad if they helped them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. These enemies sent letters to the king in Persia, saying that the temple would be beautiful when it was finished.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When the servants of the king heard the letter, they went to Jerusalem and forced them to stop the work of building the temple.

Now we will look at two prophets who prophesied to these people who had returned to Jerusalem after being in Babylonian captivity for seventy years. **Haggai** and **Zechariah** both encouraged the people to go back to working on the temple.



Haggai

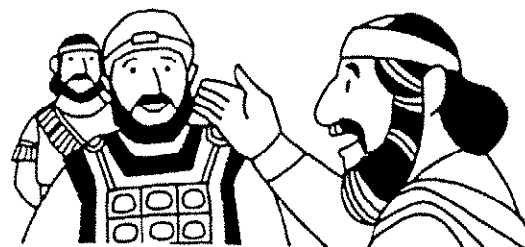


Zechariah

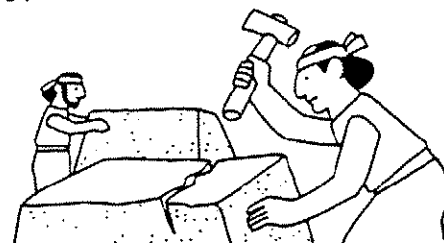


**Read Haggai 1:1-15**

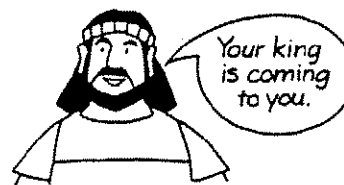
Check the correct answer:




1. Haggai said the people were saying  
☐ it was not time to build the temple.  
☐ they did not have enough money to finish the temple.
2. Haggai said the people were living in  
☐ nice houses while the temple was unfinished.  
☐ tents until the temple was finished.
3. Haggai said that God wanted the people to  
☐ wait to finish the temple till the rest of the people came back to Jerusalem.  
☐ finish the temple.
4. Haggai said that there had been a drought in the land because  
☐ the enemy nations were bothering the Israelites.  
☐ they had not finished the temple.
5. Zerubbabel and the people  
☐ would not listen to Haggai.  
☐ obeyed the word of the Lord.
6. Haggai spoke God's message and  
☐ said, "I am with you, says the Lord."  
☐ the people refused to listen.



**Zechariah** also spoke to the people about finishing the work on the temple. His main message to the people, though, was about the coming of Jesus as their new king.



 **Read the following verses and write a few words that describe something about the coming of Jesus.**

Zechariah 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah 11:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah 13:6 \_\_\_\_\_

 **Read Ezra 6:1-22**

1. What did Darius find in the palace at Achmetha? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who had written the scroll and what did it say? (verse 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Darius tell the governor to do? (verse 6-7) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Through which prophets had the work prospered? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When they had finished the work, what did they do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **What's The Meaning?**

remnant \_\_\_\_\_

decree \_\_\_\_\_

scroll \_\_\_\_\_

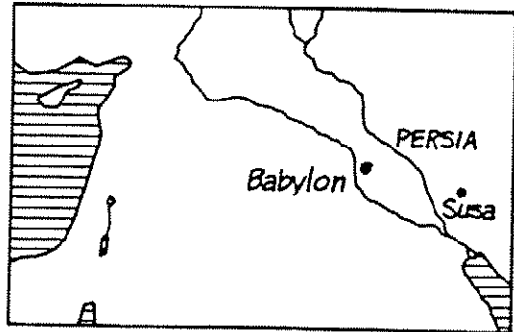
## Lesson 5

# Esther Saves God's People

Esther 1-10



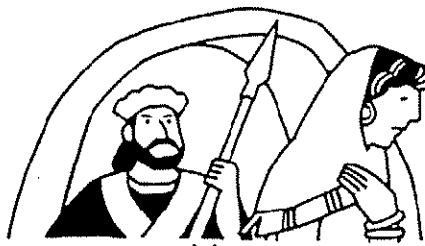
The story of Esther happened sometime between the first and second group of exiles who returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. This is a story of the Jews who stayed in Persia instead of going to Jerusalem.



**Read Esther 1:1-19**

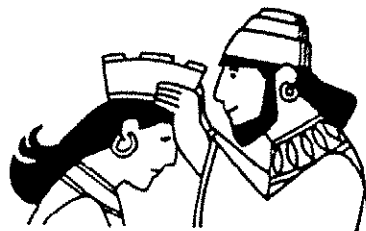
Number these sentences in the correct order:

- \_\_\_\_\_ The queen refused to go to the king's feast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The king made a great feast to show off his riches to his guests.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The king was afraid that all the women in the kingdom would begin to disobey their husbands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The queen made a feast for all the women in the royal palace.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The king was furious when the queen refused to attend his feast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The queen was banished from the palace.





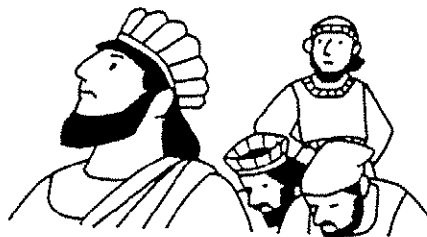
### **Read Esther 2:1-23**



1. What plan did the king's servants suggest for replacing the Queen? \_\_\_\_\_
2. \ Who had raised Esther? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was Esther's secret? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When she was presented to the king, what did she become? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What plot did Mordecai overhear? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How did he warn the king? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened to the two men? \_\_\_\_\_



### **Read Esther 3:1-15**



True/False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The king promoted Haman to a high position.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The king had commanded that everyone bow before Haman.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mordecai bowed before Haman.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Haman was furious that Mordecai would not bow before him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Instead of trying to destroy Mordecai, Haman plotted to kill all the Jews, Mordecai's people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Haman told the king that the Jews did not keep his laws.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Haman's plan was to have all of the Jews killed one day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The king did not agree to Haman's plan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When the decree was proclaimed, the people of the city were puzzled.



### **Read Esther 4:1-17**

Which verse tells us that . . .

1. When Mordecai heard the decree, he was very sad? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Esther tried to get Mordecai to take off the sackcloth and put on regular clothes? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Esther said she was not supposed to go to the king unless he called for her? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mordecai told Esther that she would be in danger as well as the rest of the Jews? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Esther said she would go to the king even if it meant that she would be killed? vs. \_\_\_\_\_



### **Read Esther 5:1-14**

Fill in the blanks with the missing words:

1. When Esther stood in the inner court, the king held out the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Esther invited the king and Haman to a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. At the banquet, the king asked \_\_\_\_\_ what she wanted.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was furious that Mordecai did not stand or tremble before him.
5. Haman's wife suggested that he have \_\_\_\_\_ built to hang Mordecai.

### **What's the Meaning?**

scepter \_\_\_\_\_

sackcloth \_\_\_\_\_



**Read Esther 6:1-14 and 7:1-10**

1. One night when the king could not sleep, what did he read in the book of the records? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When Haman came in before the king, what did the king ask Haman? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who did Haman think the king wanted to honor? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who did the king really want to honor? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Haman feel after he had done all of this to Mordecai? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When Haman and the king went to Esther's second banquet, what did Esther tell the king? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened to Haman? \_\_\_\_\_



**Read Esther 8:1-17**

Check the correct answer:

1. When Esther begged the king to take back the decree, he told \_\_\_\_\_ Esther that it was final, the Jews must die.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Esther that he could not take back the decree, but they could write another decree.
2. The new decree allowed the Jews to \_\_\_\_\_ defend themselves.  
\_\_\_\_\_ flee into other countries.
3. After this, Mordecai was \_\_\_\_\_ promoted to a position of high honor.  
\_\_\_\_\_ sent to prison.

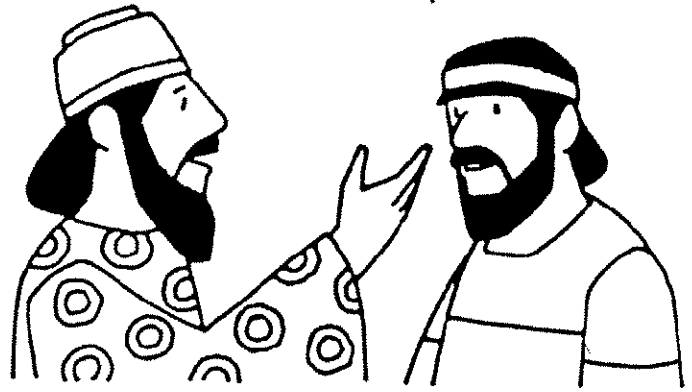




## Lesson 6

# More Exiles Return With Ezra

Ezra 7-10



### Read Ezra 7:1-10

1. Who is the reigning king of Persia now? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ezra was a distant grandchild of which Israelite leader? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was Ezra's occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long did it take for Ezra to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What were the three main goals in Ezra's life? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think these would be good goals for our lives? \_\_\_\_\_



### Read Ezra 7:11-16

Check the things which King Artaxerxes said in his letter to Ezra:

- \_\_\_\_\_ The people of Israel living in his land could go to Jerusalem with Ezra.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use the money he gave them to buy animals for sacrifices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If you need any more money for building the house of God, he would give it to them from the king's treasury.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ezra would appoint judges to judge the people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The people would have to worship the gods of Persia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Whoever does not obey the law of God would be punished.

*Ezra assembled his group of almost 2,000 men and their families to return to Jerusalem. Ezra was very careful that he led the people in accordance with God's word.*



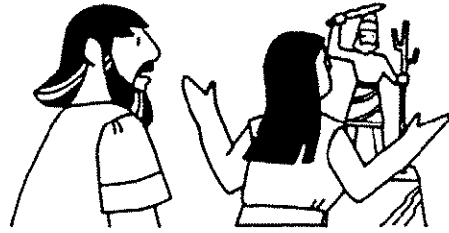
**Read Ezra 8:21-36**

Check the correct answer:

1. When Ezra assembled the people at the river before they began their long journey to Jerusalem, he  
\_\_\_\_\_ made the people fast so that they would humble themselves before God.  
\_\_\_\_\_ gave all the men weapons to protect their families.
2. Ezra did not want to ask the king for soldiers to protect them as they traveled because  
\_\_\_\_\_ he didn't think the king would give them to him.  
\_\_\_\_\_ he had said that God would protect them.
3. Ezra appointed twelve of the leaders of the priests to  
\_\_\_\_\_ carry all of the gold and silver which had been given to them to build the house of God.  
\_\_\_\_\_ be in charge of the temple when they arrived in Jerusalem.
4. As they began their journey,  
\_\_\_\_\_ they were attacked by enemies along the way.  
\_\_\_\_\_ God protected them from the enemies along the way.
5. When they arrived in Jerusalem, one of the first things the people did was to  
\_\_\_\_\_ build new houses for their families.  
\_\_\_\_\_ offer sacrifices to God.



## Read Ezra 9:1-15



Which verse tells us that . . .

1. Some of the people were still married to people of other nations? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ezra tore his clothes to show his shame for the people? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ezra prayed to God that he was too ashamed to lift up his face to God? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
4. God had allowed a remnant to escape from captivity? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
5. They had been slaves, but God had not forgotten them? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
6. God had told them not to marry the foreign people ever since they had entered Canaan? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
7. God had not punished them as much as they had sinned? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
8. If they did all of this again, God might destroy them so there would be nothing left? vs. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ezra concluded his prayer by saying the people were guilty before God? vs. \_\_\_\_\_

### What's The Meaning?

scribe \_\_\_\_\_

trespass \_\_\_\_\_



## Read Ezra 10:1-12



True/False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. While Ezra was praying, a large group of people came to him saying they had done nothing wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. One of the men spoke up and said, "We have sinned against God in taking foreign (pagan) wives."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. They wanted to make a covenant with God to keep their wives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When the people gathered together, Ezra told them to confess to God and separate themselves from their foreign wives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The people refused to obey Ezra.

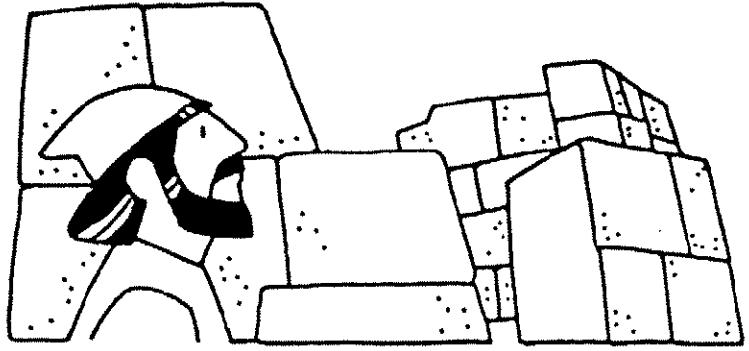
### God's Plan

1. What had God's plan been for His people all these hundreds of years? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think it had been so important to God that His people not marry the people from the lands around them? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Couldn't God's people have taught their foreign wives about the true God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you think it was sad for some of these families to have to separate from the foreign wives? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When would it have been easier to leave these women - before they got married to them or afterwards? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Did God's people always understand His plan for them? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do we always understand everything about God's plan for us? Give an example. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Should we be willing to make sacrifices, even in our family, if necessary, to keep God's will? \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 7

# Nehemiah Rebuilds Jerusalem's Walls

Nehemiah 1-13



God's people returned to Jerusalem in three groups. The book of Ezra told about the first two groups. The first group rebuilt the Temple. The second group went back with Ezra who taught God's laws. Nehemiah tells about a third group that rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the Persian king Artaxerxes. This was a position of great responsibility. Nehemiah was trusted by the king. He was dedicated to God and His work. He was a man of prayer and gave God all the credit for the work that was done.

Ezra

Groups  
1 and 2

Nehemiah

Group  
3



**Read the following verses and answer the questions:**

**Nehemiah 1:3**

What message was brought to Nehemiah? \_\_\_\_\_

**Nehemiah 1:4-11**

What was the first thing Nehemiah did when he received the message? \_\_\_\_\_

**Nehemiah 2:1-2**

What did the king notice about Nehemiah as he served the king? \_\_\_\_\_

**Nehemiah 2:5**

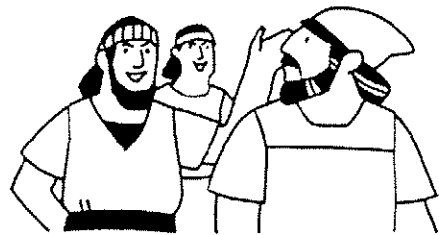
What did Nehemiah request of the king? \_\_\_\_\_



### Read Nehemiah 2:9-20

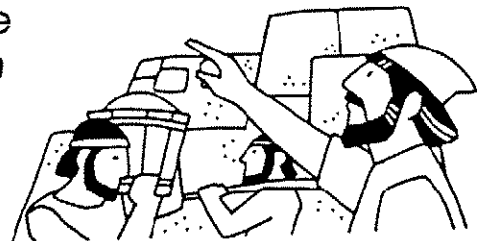
Check the correct answer:

1. Nehemiah delivered the letters from the king to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ governors in the region beyond the River.  
\_\_\_\_\_ people living in Jerusalem.
2. When Sanballat and Tobiah heard about it, they were  
\_\_\_\_\_ glad that someone was coming to help the Jews.  
\_\_\_\_\_ worried that someone was coming to help the Jews.
3. When Nehemiah got to Jerusalem, he  
\_\_\_\_\_ had a great feast with his relatives.  
\_\_\_\_\_ went out during the night with the Jews and priests to  
examine the work that needed to be done.
4. Nehemiah said to these men,  
\_\_\_\_\_ "Let us build the wall of Jerusalem."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "I think this is too great a job for us."
5. When Sanballat and Tobiah heard of their plans,  
\_\_\_\_\_ they said they would help.  
\_\_\_\_\_ they laughed at them.
6. Nehemiah told them that  
\_\_\_\_\_ the king was going to help.  
\_\_\_\_\_ God was going to help.



### Read Nehemiah 4:6

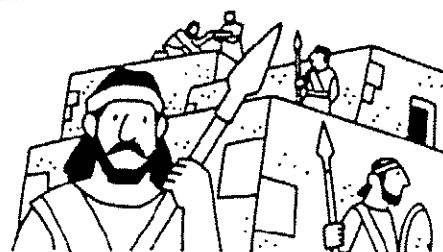
*As Nehemiah had planned, he organized the people into groups to work on the wall. Even though they were being ridiculed by Sanballat and Tobiah, they continued working. What does Nehemiah mean when he said, "the people had a mind to work"?*



Should we have a mind to work? \_\_\_\_\_



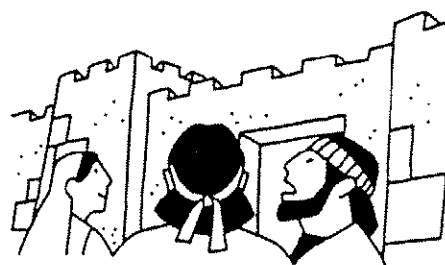
### **Read Nehemiah 4:10-23**



True/False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The people were getting discouraged because there was so much to clean up and the enemies were threatening them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Nehemiah gave some of the people swords and spears for protection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Nehemiah said that the Lord would protect them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When the enemies heard that God was protecting them, they left them alone and the people went back to work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The builders carried weapons and worked at the same time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Nehemiah said that they should carry weapons because God might not protect them.

*During the time that the wall of Jerusalem was being rebuilt, Sanballat and Tobiah continued to ridicule and threaten the Jews to keep them from finishing the work. Finally the work was completed.*



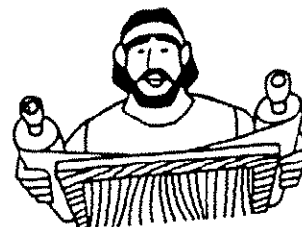
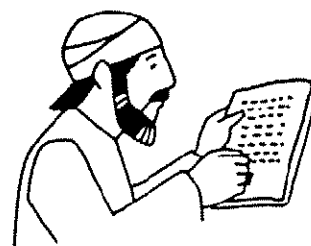
### **Read Nehemiah 6:15-19**

1. How many days did it take to finish rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When the enemies heard that the wall was finished, what did they realize? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Had Nehemiah said that God would help them? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Had Nehemiah allowed the ridicule and threats of his enemies to frighten him? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who did Nehemiah trust? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What are some lessons we can learn from Nehemiah? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Read the verses and fill in the blanks:**

1. What the people wanted Ezra to read. **Nehemiah 8:1** \_\_\_\_\_
2. What the people said after Ezra read the Book of the Law.  
**Nehemiah 8:6** \_\_\_\_\_
3. What position Nehemiah now held. **Nehemiah 8:9** \_\_\_\_\_
4. What the people promised to obey.  
**Nehemiah 10:29** \_\_\_\_\_



The Lord you  
are seeking  
will come.

The last prophet to prophesy in the Old Testament was **Malachi**. He probably prophesied during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. Malachi warned the people against corrupt worship and spoke of the coming of the Saviour.



**Read the following verses and match them with Malachi's message:**

- |                  |       |   |
|------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Malachi 1:8   | _____ | My name will be great among all nations.  |
| 2. Malachi 1:11  | _____ | The Lord you are seeking will come.   |
| 3. Malachi 2:7-8 | _____ | You offer animals for your sacrifices that are already sick. Would you offer that to your governor? |
| 4. Malachi 3:1   | _____ | The priests had caused many to disobey God's law.   |
| 5. Malachi 3:7   | _____ | You have not kept my ordinances.  |



## Reviewing *The Period of Captivity and Return*

Fill in the blank with the correct word:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Name the country that carried the people of Judah away as captives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name the king of this country at that time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What was the name of one of the captives who served in the king's palace and rose to high positions under four kings?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What prophet had warned the people many times that the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed and then he witnessed the burning of the city himself?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What prophet prophesied to the people in captivity that they were being punished, but they would one day return to their land?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What was the name of the leader of the first group of exiles that returned to Jerusalem?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What was the main job of these people who returned in the first group?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Who was the leader of the second group of exiles who returned to Jerusalem?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. What did Ezra want to do for the people?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. What was the name of the young Jewish girl who was chosen to be the queen to the king of Persia?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. What was the name of this girl's uncle who had raised her?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Who was the leader of the third group of exiles who returned to Jerusalem?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. What was the job of this third group?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Which two prophets had prophesied to the people who had stopped working on the temple?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Who was the last prophet who spoke to the Israelites about false worship and the coming of the Saviour?

## Reviewing The Meaning

Match the word with the correct meaning and the picture below:

1. An order or law given by a king or ruler.
2. A rough, dark cloth usually woven from goat's hair. A person would wear the cloth to show their sorrow.
3. A short rod held by a king or queen to show that he/she had the most authority.
4. The surrounding of a city or town by an army so that nothing can go in or out.
5. An expert at understanding the Jewish law. They also copied the law onto scrolls.
6. To go against the rights of someone else, or to go against God's laws.
7. A small part that is left over.
8. A long strip of papyrus or parchment

\_\_\_\_\_scroll

\_\_\_\_\_siege

\_\_\_\_\_remnant

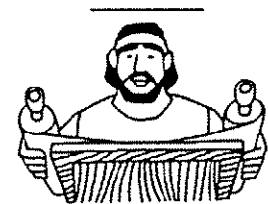
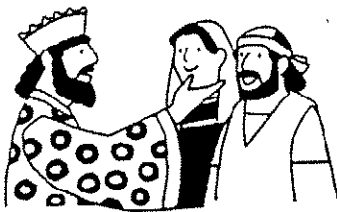
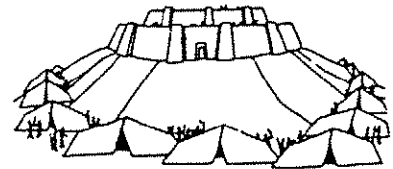
\_\_\_\_\_decree

\_\_\_\_\_scepter

\_\_\_\_\_sackcloth

\_\_\_\_\_scribe

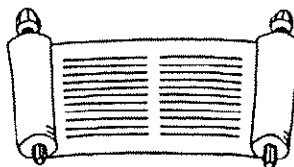
\_\_\_\_\_trespass



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