**THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL LESSON 23**

“Daniel bridges the entire 70 years of the Babylonian captivity … As a teenager … Daniel was kidnapped from his noble family in Judah and deported to Babylon to be brainwashed into Babylonian culture for the task of assisting in dealing with the imported Jews … He made the most of the exile, successfully exalting God by his character and service.”

*NKJV The MacArthur Study Bible* notes

**DAY ONE**

Read Daniel 1, 5, and 9:1-19

1. Give the succeeding kings throughout these chapters.

Answer here

2. a. What blessing did God provide for Daniel and his friends in chapter 1?

Answer here

b. How were they obedient to God’s commandments when it could have been costly for them?

Answer here

c. How did their obedience bring gain instead?

Answer here

3. a. In chapter 9, which book was Daniel studying?

Answer here

b. What did he learn from it?

Answer here

c. How did he respond to what he learned?

Answer here

d. What does this encourage us to do concerning Bible prophecy?

Answer here

Ezra led the 2nd return to Jerusalem after the captivity. He was a scribe who had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and he practiced the law in his own life before he taught that law. The “good hand” of God was upon him.

**DAY TWO**

Read Ezra 1-3

1. How was the prophecy from Isaiah 44:28-45:4 fulfilled in Ezra’s time?

Answer here

2. a. Comparing Proverbs 21:1, who caused Cyrus to let God’s people return to Judah?

Answer here

b. How does this affect or alter the governments of our day?

Answer here

c. What did Cyrus give them to take back with them?

Answer here

3. a. Who led the people back to Judah according to Ezra 2?

Answer here

b. List the groups of people who returned.

Answer here

c. How many were included in the whole assembly together according to Ezra 2:64?

Answer here

d. How is the entire group referred to in Ezra 9:8?

Answer here

4. a. What was their first action when they gathered together in Jerusalem?

Answer here

b. Who was Jeshua and what did he do?

Answer here

**DAY THREE**

Read Ezra 4-6

1. Comparing 2 Kings 17:24-34, who were the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin?

Answer here

2. a. Find several phrases and words that describe how their adversaries tried to stop their work.

Answer here

b. Comparing 2 Kings 24:1 and Jeremiah 38:17-23, were their accusations true?

Answer here

c. How did these enemies succeed in stopping the rebuilding?

Answer here

3. Which prophets were sent by God to encourage the Jews?

Answer here

4. a. What happened when the elders appealed to King Darius?

Answer here

b. What did he decree for their enemies?

Answer here

c. What does this teach us about the purposes of God and His sovereignty?

Answer here

**DAY FOUR**

Read Esther 1-4. Note that the story of Esther takes place between Ezra 6 and 7 as we are studying it.

1. List four main characters named in Esther.

Esther takes place during the Persian period of world history after many of the Israelites had returned to Jerusalem to help rebuild the temple. It was written to encourage the returned Jewish exiles by showing the faithfulness of God to preserve His people in spite of the hatred of foreigners who wanted to exterminate them.

Answer here

2. Describe some events that show God’s providential care of his children.

Answer here

3. a. What caused Haman to plot against the Jews?

Answer here

b. Share his ultimate purpose.

Answer here

4. a. Which phrase in chapter 4 shows God’s preparation of human instruments that He desires to use?

Answer here

b. Compare this phrase to Genesis 50:20 regarding Joseph who was also prepared to be used of God.

Answer here

**DAY FIVE**

Read Esther 5-10

1. a. What happened during the king’s sleepless night between the two banquets prepared by Esther for the king and Haman?

Answer here

b. How did this help Esther’s plans?

Answer here

2. How does Psalm 7:14-16 describe what took place in Esther?

Answer here

3. Because the king’s decree under Haman was irreversible, how did Ahasuerus allow the Jews to protect themselves?

Answer here

4. Which phrase in Esther 8 shows how the Gentile world was affected?

Answer here

5. In the end, what positions did Esther and Mordecai hold?

Answer here

6. Share something from this book that helps you know that God is involved in the affairs of men.

Answer here