

YWAM Biblical Studies Inductive Bible Method NKJV

THE BOOKS OF
EZRA **NEH** **ESTER**



Compiled by Sarah Beriyth
Workbookspioneer.com 2015
Code:166ENE_01eng

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No scripture was altered for this Bible Study.*



“The gospel is not a book; it is a living being, with an action, a power, which invades every thing that opposes its extension, behold! It is upon this table: This book, surpassing all others. I never omit to read it, and every day with some pleasure.”

Napoleon, Emperor of the French (1804-1814), 1769-1821

Sarah Beriyyth is from South Africa, and has been in involved with long term missions since 1997.

She currently lives in Thailand as a volunteer with Youth with A Mission and has a B.A. Degree in Biblical studies with the University of the Nations (YWAM) She has visited over 30 nations.

It is her heart to see simple bible study books written that will stir spiritual growth and discipleship, not only in nations where Christianity is, but in nations where there is 1 to 2 missionaries for every 1 000 000 people.

She is working alongside believers in these type of nations to see Day & Night translated into the local languages of these unreached people groups. If you would like to sponsor a language / translator, please contact her.

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& Support Missions www.sarahberiyth.com



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

JOSHUA

JUDGES

RUTH

1 SAMUEL

2 SAMUEL

1 KINGS

2 KINGS

1 CHRONICLES

2 CHRONICLES

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

ESTHER

JOB

PSALMS

PROVERBS

ECCLESIASTES

SONG OF SOLOMON

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

LAMENTATIONS

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

HOSEA

JOEL

AMOS

OBADIAH

JONAH

MICAH

NAHUM

HABAKKUK

ZEPHANIAH

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

MALACHI

NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS

1 CORINTHIANS

2 CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS

EPHESIANS

PHILIPPIANS

COLOSSIANS

1 THESSALONIANS

2 THESSALONIANS

1 TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY

TITUS

PHILEMON

HEBREWS

JAMES

1 PETER

2 PETER

1 JOHN

2 JOHN

3 JOHN

JUDE

REVELATION

\\ LAW \\ HISTORY \\ POETRY & WISDOM \\ MAJOR PROPHETS \\ MINOR PROPHETS

\\ GOSPELS \\ HISTORY \\ LETTERS OF PAUL \\ GENERAL LETTERS \\ PROPHECY



2 APPROACHES TO BIBLE READING

DEDUCTIVE APPROACH

- One comes to the text with a thesis and then seeks out passages to support that thesis.
- One has already, to a certain extent, drawn conclusions before reading the whole text of Scripture in context.
- One is dictating to the Scriptures, rather than letting the Scriptures speak.

INDUCTIVE APPROACH - our aim

- One lays aside preconceived ideas and first lays a groundwork of observations.
- Conclusions are drawn from what one has observed. A thorough examination of the content becomes the basis for one's conclusions.
- One is letting the Scriptures speak for themselves.



3

STEPS OF THE INDUCTIVE APPROACH

Always PRAY
The Holy Spirit is your teacher
Think for yourself
Don't only rely on other people
Let the text speak for itself
Conclusions come from what you have observed

1. OBSERVATION

- What does the text say? Look, look, look until looking becomes seeing.
- Observation does not determine what the text mean.
- It makes you familiar with the text before you interpret.
- Read through the whole book in one setting.
- If you are looking at one passage, look at the surrounding context.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

1. Repeated Words | Phrases | Ideas | Themes
2. Key words
3. Who - People: Main characters, people groups, etc. Pronouns.
4. When - Time elements, Verb tenses
5. Where - Geographical locations, General locations.
6. Contrasts
7. Comparisons
8. Commands - Advice, Promises, Warnings, Predictions.
9. Conditional statements
10. Connectives
11. Atmosphere, Mood, Emotion
12. Figures of speech
13. Lists
14. Illustrations
15. Emphatic statements
16. Progression - of events, thought, author's logic.



2. INTERPRETATION

- What does it mean to the original Audience?
- It is not asking what it means to us today, but what it meant for the original hearers or readers.
- It involves understanding the author's viewpoint, as well as the view point of his audience.
- Imagine yourself thousands of years back in time. Put yourself in the shoes of the Original Audience. Try and see the passage through their eyes.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Who is the Original Audience?
- Why was the book written?
- What is the cultural situation?
- What is the political situation?
- What is the social and geographical situation?
- What did they think or believe?
- What is their religious background?
- What is happening in history or in their church at this time?
- Is the audience facing any problems?
- What are their strong points?

ASK:

- Ask: WHY?
- Ask: What does it mean?
- Ask: What does this imply?
- Ask: What is the significance?
- What are the author's concerns?
- What are the original audience's concerns, questions, struggles



3. APPLICATION How does the timeless truths apply?

- Application is the GOAL of Bible study!
- As God teaches us His Word, we want Him to work in our hearts. The study of Scripture should result in changed lives.

James 1:22-25

22 You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. 23 Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. 24 They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. 25 But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives.

They will be blessed in whatever they do.

Common English Bible (CEB)



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What are the basic timeless truths in this book or passage?
2. How do these truths apply to my life?

Be specific.

- What am I to believe?
- Do I need to change anything I have previously believed?
- Are there attitudes or actions that I need to change?
- How does this truth encourage me? In what area of my life?
- What do I see about the character of God?
- How does this aspect of God's character speak or minister to me?

More questions you can ask

- What have I learned about myself from my study?
- What have I learned about others?
- What impact does this have on my life?
- What can I learn about my relationship with God?
- Is there anything that needs to change in my relationship with Him?
- Is there anything that needs to change in how I relate to others?
- How am I challenged or encouraged by the lives of the people in the Bible? What can I learn from them? Is there anything I can identify with their lives?



THE PROCESS: From observation to application

1st Reading

- Out loud, in one setting, read through the book - Get the BIG picture.

2nd Reading

- Observe!
 - Mark what stands out for you during your reading.
- Use different colors. (Names, places, events, etc.)

3rd Reading

- Find the key verse in the book, and one in each chapter.

4th Reading

- Write down your observations

5th Reading

- Write a summary of this book
- Do application of book.



OBSERVATION - OLD TESTAMENT

Old Testament - Basic Required Information (BRI)

THE PROPHETS

1. Literary Question

- a. What kind of literature is the book?

2. Critical Question

- a. Who wrote the book?
- b. When was it written?
- c. To whom was it written?
- d. From where was it written?

3. Historical Question

- a. Give any personal details about the prophet
- b. Give dates of significant historical events
 - What was the political situation
 - What was the international situation
 - Political situation in Israel or Judah & ruling kings
 - Any alliances or important battles
- c. What was the religious situation in Israel and Judah
- d. Which prophets were contemporaries

4. Survey Question

- a. Which aspects of God's character does this book emphasize?
- b. What is the major reason this book was written?

WISDOM BOOKS

1. Literary Question

- a. What kind of literature is the book?

2. Critical Question

- a. Who wrote the book?
- b. When was it written?
- c. To whom was it written?
- d. From where was it written?

4. Survey Question

- a. Which aspects of God's character does this book emphasize?



MAIN DIVISIONS

Old Testament (39 books); New Testament (27 books).

The Old Testament has the following categories:

Law (5 books), History (12 books), Poetry and Wisdom (5 books), Major Prophets (5 books), and Minor Prophets (12 books).

Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Poetry & Wisdom

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Major Prophets

Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1st Samuel
2nd Samuel
1st Kings
2nd Kings
1st Chronicles
2nd Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi



OBSERVATION - NEW TESTAMENT

New Testament - Basic Required Information (BRI)

1. Literary Question

- a. What kind of literature is the book?

2. Critical Question

- a. Who wrote the book?
- b. When was it written?
- c. To whom was it written?
- d. From where was it written?

3. Historical Question

New Testament - Letters and Revelation

- a. What is the historical setting of the book:
What is the culture of the audience?
What historical and cultural information is important to understand the book?
- b. When was the church founded
- c. Who makes up the church
- d. What are their strengths and weaknesses / problems?

New Testament - Gospels and Acts

- e. What was the historical setting for the readers of the book?

4. Survey Question

- a. What is the main idea of the book
(The message in one sentence)
- b. What is the major reason that the book was written?
- c. Which particular aspect of Jesus does the book portray?



Moods of Communication

- Indicative Mood a statement of fact
- Interrogative Mood asking a question
- Imperative Mood making a command
- Subjunctive Mood statement of desire

Application

- What fundamental universal truths are presented in this passage?
- State the issues in your own life/culture that this truth address.
- State the implications of the principle when applied to your life and the world around you. What change does it require? What value is reinforce? What difference does it make?
- Make a heartfelt decision to change. State this decision in a plan to accomplish the task. This is a specific course of action.

The New Testament has the following categories:

Gospels (4 books), History (1 book), Paul's Letters (13 books),
General Letters (8 books), Prophecy (1 book).

Gospels	History	Letters of Paul	General Letters	Prophecy
Matthew	Acts	Romans	Hebrews	Revelation
Mark		1st Corinthians	[perhaps by Paul]	
Luke		2nd Corinthians	James	
John		Galatians	1st Peter	
		Ephesians	2nd Peter	
		Philippians	1st John	
		Colossians	2nd John	
		1st Thess	3rd John	
		2nd Thess	Jude	
		1st Timothy		
		2nd Timothy		
		Titus		
		Philemon		





EZRA



1st Reading

- Out loud, in one setting, read through the book
Get the BIG picture.



2nd Reading

- Observe!
- Mark what stands out for you during your reading.
Use different colors. (Names, places, events, etc.)



3rd Reading

- Find the key verse in the book, and one in each chapter.



4th Reading

- Write down your observations



5th Reading

- Write a summary of this book
- Do application of book.

1. Literary Question

a. What kind of literature is the book?

2. Critical Question

a. Who wrote the book?

b. When was it written?

c. To whom was it written?

d. From where was it written?

3. Historical Question

a. Who are key figures in this book?

b. Give dates of significant historical events

- What was the political situation

- What was the international situation

- Any alliances or important battles

4. Survey Question

a. What is the main idea of the book
(The message in one sentence)

b. What is the major reason that the book was written?

c. How can we connect Jesus in this book?

Application



- What fundamental universal truths are presented in this passage?

- State the issues in your own life/culture that this truth address.

- State the implications of the principle when applied to your life and the world around you.

What change does it require?

What value is reinforce?

What difference does it make?

- Make a heartfelt decision to change. State this decision in a plan to accomplish the task. This is a specific course of action.



Be specific.

- What am I to believe?



- Do I need to change anything I have previously believed?

- Are there attitudes or actions that I need to change?

- How does this truth encourage me? In what area of my life?

- What do I see about the character of God?

- How does this aspect of God's character speak or minister to me?

More questions you can ask

- What have I learned about myself from my study?

- What have I learned about others?

- What impact does this have on my life?

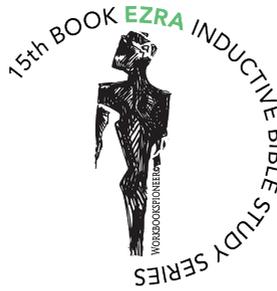
- What can I learn about my relationship with God?

- Is there anything that needs to change in my relationship with Him?

- Is there anything that needs to change in how I relate to others?

- How am I challenged or encouraged by the lives of the people in the Bible? What can I learn from them? Is there anything I can identify with their lives?





1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and put it also in writing, saying,

2 "Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia: 'The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and He hath charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Who is there among you of all His people? His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is the God), which is in Jerusalem.

4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver and with gold, and with goods and with beasts, besides the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all those whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

6 And all those who were about

LEFT**Observe:**

them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered.

7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem and had put them in the house of his gods;

8 even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them over to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9 And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

10 thirty basins of gold, four hundred and ten silver basins of a second sort, and other vessels a thousand.

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with those of the captivity, who were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

2:1 Now these are the children of the province who came up out of the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city,

2 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

3 the children of Parosh, two thousand a hundred seventy and two;

4 the children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two;

5 the children of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five;

6 the children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

twelve;
7 the children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four;
8 the children of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five;
9 the children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore;
10 the children of Bani, six hundred forty and two;
11 the children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three;
12 the children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two;
13 the children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six;
14 the children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six;
15 the children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four;
16 the children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight;
17 the children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three;
18 the children of Jorah, a hundred and twelve;
19 the children of Hashum, two hundred twenty and three;
20 the children of Gibbar, ninety and five;
21 the children of Bethlehem, a hundred twenty and three;
22 the men of Netophah, fifty and six;
23 the men of Anathoth, a hundred twenty and eight;
24 the children of Azmaveth, forty and two;
25 the children of Kirjatharim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three;
26 the children of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty and one;
27 the men of Michmas, a hundred twenty and two;
28 the men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty and three;
29 the children of Nebo, fifty and two;
30 the children of Magbish, a hundred fifty and six;
31 the children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four;
32 the children of Harim, three hundred and twenty;
33 the children of Lod, Hadid,

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five;
34 the children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five;
35 the children of Senaah, three thousand six hundred and thirty.
36 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three;
37 the children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two;
38 the children of Pashhur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven;
39 the children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.
40 The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy and four.
41 The singers: the children of Asaph, a hundred twenty and eight.
42 The children of the gatekeepers: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all a hundred thirty and nine.
43 The Nethinim: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaath,
44 the children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,
45 the children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub,
46 the children of Hagab, the children of Shalmai, the children of Hanan,
47 the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah,
48 the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,
49 the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,
50 the children of Asnah, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephusim,
51 the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

52 the children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,
53 the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah,
54 the children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.
55 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda,
56 the children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
57 the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.
58 All the Nethinim and the children of Solomon's servants were three hundred ninety and two.
59 And these were they who went up from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; but they could not show their father's house and their seed, whether they were of Israel:
60 the children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.
61 And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name.
62 These sought their register among those who were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore were they as polluted, put from the priesthood.
63 And the Tirshatha said unto them that they should not eat of the most holy things until there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.
64 The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,
65 besides their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

thirty and seven; and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

66 Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six, their mules two hundred forty and five, 67 their camels four hundred thirty and five, their asses six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

68 And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the Lord which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place.

69 They gave according to their ability to the treasury of the work, threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

70 So the priests and the Levites and some of the people, and the singers and the gatekeepers and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

3:1 And when the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

2 Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.

3 And they set the altar upon his bases, for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries; and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the Lord, even burnt offerings morning and evening.

4 They kept also the Feast of Tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

5 and afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

of the new moons and of all the set feasts of the Lord that were consecrated, and of every one who willingly offered a freewill offering unto the Lord.

6 From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings unto the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid.

7 They gave money also unto the masons and to the carpenters, and meat and drink and oil unto those of Sidon and to those of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren, the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and they appointed the Levites from twenty years old and upward, to press forward the work of the house of the Lord.

9 Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah together, to supervise the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals to praise the Lord, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel.

11 And they sang together by course, praising and giving thanks unto the Lord: "Because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever toward Israel." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers who were elderly men who had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy,

13 so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

4:1 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity were building the temple unto the Lord God of Israel,

2 then they came to Zerubbabel and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, "Let us build with you, for we seek your God as ye do; and we have done sacrifice unto Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up hither."

3 But Zerubbabel and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel said unto them, "Ye have nothing to do with us in building a house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the Lord God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us."

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

5 and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

6 And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

7 And in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of their companions wrote unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

Syrian tongue.

8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king of this sort:
9 Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions, the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Shushanites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites,
10 and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapper brought over and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest who are on this side of the river and at such a time:

11 (This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king.) "Thy servants, the men on this side of the river, and at such a time.

12 Be it known unto the king that the Jews who came up from thee to us have come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations.

13 Be it known now unto the king that, if this city be built and the walls set up again, then they will not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt bring damage to the revenue of the kings.

14 Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonor, therefore have we sent and certified this to the king,

15 that search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers. So shalt thou find in the book of the records and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same in old times, for which cause this city was destroyed.

16 We certify to the king that if this city be built again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no por-

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

tion on this side of the river.”

17 Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions who dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river: “Peace, and at such a time.

18 The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me.

19 And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city in old times hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein.

20 There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, who have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom were paid unto them.

21 Give ye now command to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not built until another command shall be given from me.

22 Take heed now that ye fail not to do this. Why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?”

23 Now when the copy of King Artaxerxes’ letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them cease by force and power.

24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

5:1 Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.

2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

3 At the same time came to them Tattenai, governor on this

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

side of the river, and Shetharboznai and their companions, and said thus unto them: "Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?"

4 Then said we unto them in this manner: "What are the names of the men who make this building?"

5 But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease until the matter came to Darius, and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.

6 The copy of the letter that Tattenai, governor on this side of the river, and Shetharboznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, who were on this side of the river, sent unto Darius the king —

7 they sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus: "Unto Darius the king, all peace.

8 Be it known unto the king that we went into the province of Judea to the house of the great God, which is built with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on and prospereth in their hands.

9 Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus: 'Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?'

10 We asked their names also, to inform thee, that we might write the names of the men who were the chief of them.

11 And thus they returned us answer, saying, 'We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was built these many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and set up.

12 But after our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried the people away into Babylon.

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

13 But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon, the same King Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God.

14 And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor.

15 And he said unto him, "Take these vessels; go, carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be built in his place."

16 Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem. And since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished.'

17 Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house which is there at Babylon, whether it be so that a decree was made by Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem; and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter."

6:1 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon.

2 And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a scroll, and therein was a record thus written:

3 "In the first year of Cyrus the king, the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: Let the house be built, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid — the height thereof threescore cubits, and

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

the breadth thereof threescore cubits,
4 with three rows of great stones,
and a row of new timber — and
let the expenses be given out of
the king's house.

5 And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem and brought unto Babylon, be restored and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God.

6 "Now therefore, Tattenai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, who are beyond the river, be ye far from thence.

7 Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

8 Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do for the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered.

9 And that which they have need of — both young bullocks and rams and lambs for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests who are at Jerusalem — let it be given them day by day without fail,

10 that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savors unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and of his sons.

11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

12 And the God who hath caused His name to dwell there, destroy all kings and people who

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

shall put forth their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree. Let it be done with speed.”

13 Then Tattenai, governor on this side of the river, Shetharboznai and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.

14 And the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Idd. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

15 And this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

16 And the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy, and offered at the dedication of this house of God a hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he-goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses.

19 And the children of the captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.

20 For the priests and the Levites were purified together; all of them were pure, and killed the Passover lamb for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

21 And the children of Israel, who had come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land to seek the Lord God

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

of Israel, ate,
22 and kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the Lord had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

RIGHT**Interpret:**

7:1 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,
2 the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,
3 the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,
4 the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,
5 the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest"
6 this Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given. And the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.
7 And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, and the singers and the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim, unto Jerusalem in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.
8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.
9 For upon the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.
10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.
11 Now this is the copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the Lord and of His statutes to Israel:

LEFT**Observe:**

12 "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven. Perfect peace, and at such a time.

13 I make a decree that all those of the people of Israel and of his priests and Levites in my realm, who are minded of their own free will to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.

14 Inasmuch as thou art sent by the king and by his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand,

15 and to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem,

16 and all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem"

17 thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem.

18 And whatsoever shall seem good to thee and to thy brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God.

19 The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, those deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem.

20 And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house.

21 "And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers who are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

22 up to a hundred talents of silver, and to a hundred measures of wheat, and to a hundred baths of wine, and to a hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.

23 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven. For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

24 Also we inform you, that concerning any of the priests and Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom upon them.

25 "And thou, Ezra, according to the wisdom of thy God that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye those who know them not.

26 And whosoever will not do the law of thy God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods or to imprisonment."

27 Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, who hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem,

28 and hath extended mercy unto me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

8:1 Now these are the chiefs of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.

2 Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel; of the sons of David,

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

Hattush;

3 of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males, a hundred and fifty.

4 Of the sons of Pahathmoab, Elihoenai the son of Zerariah, and with him two hundred males.

5 Of the sons of Shecaniah, the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males;

6 of the sons also of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males;

7 and of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males;

8 and of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males;

9 of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males;

10 and of the sons of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah, and with him a hundred and threescore males;

11 and of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight males;

12 and of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him a hundred and ten males;

13 and of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names are these — Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah — and with them threescore males;

14 of the sons also of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

15 And I gathered them together at the river that runneth to Ahava; and there abode we in tents three days. And I viewed the people and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi.

16 Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib and for Elnathan, men of under-

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

standing.

17 And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo and to his brethren the Nethinim at the place Casiphia, that they should bring unto u ministers for the house of our God.

18 And by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought us a man of understanding of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen;

19 and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari, his brethren and their sons, twenty;

20 also of the Nethinim, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim; all of them were expressed by name.

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek of Him a right way for us and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to request of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the way, because we had spoken unto the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath is against all those who forsake Him."

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this; and He was entreated by us.

24 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests —Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them —

25 and weighed unto them the silver and the gold and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king and his counselors and his lords and all Israel there present had offered.

26 I even weighed unto their

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels a hundred talents, and of gold a hundred talents;

27 also twenty basins of gold of a thousand drams, and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

28 And I said unto them, "Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers.

29 Watch ye, and keep them until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the Lord."

30 So the priests and the Levites took the weight of the silver and the gold and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.

31 Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month to go unto Jerusalem; and the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from such as lay in wait by the way.

32 And we came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days.

33 Now on the fourth day the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui.

34 By number and by weight of every one, the weight of all was written down at that time.

35 Also the children of those who had been carried away, who had come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel: twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve hegoats for a sin offering; all this was a burnt offering unto

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

the Lord. 36 And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side of the river; and they furthered the people and the house of God.

RIGHT**Interpret:**

9:1 Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

2 For they have taken their daughters for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands; yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass."

3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down stunned.

4 Then were assembled unto me every one who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away; and I sat dismayed until the evening sacrifice.

5 And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees and spread out my hands unto the Lord my God,

6 and said: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to Thee, my God; for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

7 Since the days of our fathers we have been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to

LEFT**Observe:**

the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

8 And now for a little space grace hath been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a constant and sure abode in His holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

9 For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving to set up the house of our God and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

10 "And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Thy commandments,

11 which Thou hast commanded by Thy servants the prophets, saying, 'The land unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

12 Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever, that ye may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.'

13 And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great trespass, seeing that Thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this,

14 should we again break Thy commandments and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? Wouldest not Thou be angry with us until Thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

15 O Lord God of Israel, Thou art righteous, for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day. Behold, we are before Thee in our trespasses, for we cannot stand before Thee because of this."

RIGHT**Interpret:**

10:1 Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children; for the people wept very sorely.

2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken foreign wives of the people of the land. Yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

4 Arise, for this matter belongeth unto thee; we also will be with thee. Be of good courage, and do it."

5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel to swear that they should do according to this word. And they swore.

6 Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib. And when he came thither, he ate no bread nor drank water, for he mourned because of the transgression of those who had been carried away.

7 And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem,

8 and that whosoever would not come within three days, accord-

LEFT**Observe:**

ing to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those who had been carried away.

9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the great rain.

10 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, "Ye have transgressed and have taken foreign wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.

11 Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do His pleasure, and separate yourselves from the people of the land and from the foreign wives."

12 Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, "As thou hast said, so must we do.

13 But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand outside, neither is this a work of one day or two; for we are many who have transgressed in this thing.

14 Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all those who have taken foreign wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city and the judges thereof, until the fierce wrath of our God for this matter be turned from us."

15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah stood against this matter, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.

16 And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain chief of the fathers, were separated according to the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names. And they sat down on the first day of

RIGHT
Interpret:

LEFT**Observe:**

the tenth month to examine the matter,
17 and they made an end with all the men who had taken foreign wives by the first day of the first month.
18 And among the sons of the priests who had taken foreign wives (namely, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren), there were found: Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.
19 And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.
20 And of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah;
21 and of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah;
22 and of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethaneel, Jozabad, and Elasaah;
23 also of the Levites: Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah (the same is Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer;
24 of the singers also: Eliashib; and of the gatekeepers: Shallum and Telem, and Uri;
25 moreover of Israel: of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah and Jeziel, and Malchiah, and Mijamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah;
26 and of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah;
27 and of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza;
28 of the sons also of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai;
29 and of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth;
30 and of the sons of Pahathmoab: Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezaleel, and Binnui, and Manasseh;
31 and of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchiah, Shem-

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

32 Benjamin, Malluch and She-
mariah;
33 of the sons of Hashum:
Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad,
Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh,
and Shimei;
34 of the sons of Bani: Maadai,
Amram, and Uel,
35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluh,
36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,
37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and
Jaasau,
38 and Bani, and Binnui, Shimei,
39 and Shelemiah, and Nathan,
and Adaiah,
40 Machnadebai, Shashai,
Sharai,
41 Azareel, and Shelemiah,
Shemariah,
42 Shallum, Amariah, and Jo-
seph;
43 of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel,
Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadd-
ai, and Joel and Benaiah.
44 All these had taken foreign
wives; and some of them had
wives by whom they had chil-
dren.

RIGHT**Interpret:**



NEHEMIAH



1st Reading

- Out loud, in one setting, read through the book
Get the BIG picture.



2nd Reading

- Observe!
- Mark what stands out for you during your reading.
Use different colors. (Names, places, events, etc.)



3rd Reading

- Find the key verse in the book, and one in each chapter.



4th Reading

- Write down your observations



5th Reading

- Write a summary of this book
- Do application of book.

1. Literary Question

a. What kind of literature is the book?

2. Critical Question

a. Who wrote the book?

b. When was it written?

c. To whom was it written?

d. From where was it written?

3. Historical Question

a. Who are key figures in this book?

b. Give dates of significant historical events

- What was the political situation

- What was the international situation

- Any alliances or important battles

4. Survey Question

a. What is the main idea of the book
(The message in one sentence)

b. What is the major reason that the book was written?

c. How can we connect Jesus in this book?

Application



- What fundamental universal truths are presented in this passage?

- State the issues in your own life/culture that this truth address.

- State the implications of the principle when applied to your life and the world around you.

What change does it require?

What value is reinforce?

What difference does it make?

- Make a heartfelt decision to change. State this decision in a plan to accomplish the task. This is a specific course of action.



Be specific.

- What am I to believe?



- Do I need to change anything I have previously believed?

- Are there attitudes or actions that I need to change?

- How does this truth encourage me? In what area of my life?

- What do I see about the character of God?

- How does this aspect of God's character speak or minister to me?

More questions you can ask

- What have I learned about myself from my study?

- What have I learned about others?

- What impact does this have on my life?

- What can I learn about my relationship with God?

- Is there anything that needs to change in my relationship with Him?

- Is there anything that needs to change in how I relate to others?

- How am I challenged or encouraged by the lives of the people in the Bible? What can I learn from them? Is there anything I can identify with their lives?





1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in the palace at Shushan,
2 that Hanani one of my brethren came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who were left behind from the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.
3 And they said unto me, "The remnant who are left behind from the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire."
4 And it came to pass when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven
5 and said: "I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and fearsome God, who keepeth covenant and mercy for those who love Him and observe His commandments,
6 let Thine ear now be attentive and Thine eyes open, that Thou mayest hear the prayer of Thy servant, which I pray before Thee now day and night for the children of Israel Thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against Thee. Both I and my father's house have sinned.
7 We have dealt very corruptly against Thee, and have not

LEFT**Observe:**

kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments which Thou commanded Thy servant Moses.

8 Remember, I beseech Thee, the word that Thou commanded Thy servant Moses, saying, 'If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations; 9 but if ye turn unto Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though there were some of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set My name there.'

10 Now these are Thy servants and Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed by Thy great power and by Thy strong hand.

11 O Lord, I beseech Thee, let now Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant, and to the prayer of Thy servants who desire to fear Thy name; and prosper, I pray Thee, Thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.

2:1 And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him; and I took up the wine and gave it unto the king. Now I had not before been sad in his presence.

2 Therefore the king said unto me, "Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart." Then I was very sore afraid,

3 and said unto the king, "Let the king live for ever. Why should not my countenance be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchers, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?"

4 Then the king said unto me, "For what dost thou make request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

5 And I said unto the king, "If it please the king, and if thy

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servant have found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchers, that I may build it."

6 And the king said unto me (the queen also sitting by him), "For how long shall thy journey be? And when wilt thou return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a time.

7 Moreover I said unto the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over until I come into Judah,

8 also a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city and for the house that I shall enter into." And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

9 Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the servant the Ammonite heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there had come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

12 And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me. Neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; neither was there any beast with me, except the beast that I rode upon.

13 And I went out by night by the Gate of the Valley, even before the Dragon Well and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

14 Then I went on to the Gate of the Fountain and to the King's Pool, but there was no place for the beast that was under me to

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pass.

15 Then went I up in the night by the brook and viewed the wall, and turned back and entered by the Gate of the Valley, and so returned.

16 And the rulers knew not whither I went or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest who did the work.

17 Then said I unto them, "Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach."

18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me, as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian heard it, they laughed us to scorn and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?"

20 Then answered I them and said unto them, "The God of heaven, He will prosper us. Therefore we His servants will arise and build; but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem."

3:1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They sanctified it and set up the doors of it; even unto the Tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the Tower of Hananeel.

2 And next to him built the men of Jericho. And next to them built Zaccur the son of Imri.

3 But the Fish Gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof and the bars thereof.

4 And next unto them repaired

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Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana.
5 And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

6 Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof and the locks thereof and the bars thereof.

7 And next unto them Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, repaired unto the throne of the governor on this side of the river.

8 Next unto him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths, repaired. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of one of the apothecaries; and they fortified Jerusalem unto the Broad Wall.

9 And next unto them Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, repaired.

10 And next unto them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired, even opposite his house. And next unto him Hattush the son of Hashabniah repaired.

11 Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahathmoab repaired the other piece, and the Tower of the Furnaces.

12 And next unto him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, repaired — he and his daughters.

13 The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof and the bars thereof, and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the Dung Gate.

14 But Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Bethhaccerem repaired the Dung Gate; he built it and set up the

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doors thereof, the locks thereof and the bars thereof.

15 But the Gate of the Fountain Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah, repaired; he built it and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof and the bars thereof, and the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the king's garden and unto the stairs that go down from the City of David.

16 After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Bethzur, repaired unto the place opposite the sepulchers of David, and to the pool that was made and unto the House of the Mighty.

17 After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part.

18 After him repaired their brethren, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Keilah.

19 And next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, repaired another piece opposite the ascent to the armory at the turning of the wall.

20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

21 After him Meremoth the son of Urijah the son of Koz repaired another piece, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.

22 And after him repaired the priests, the men of the plain.

23 After him repaired Benjamin and Hashub opposite their house. After him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, by his house.

24 After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another piece, from the house of Azariah unto the turning of the wall, even unto the corner.

25 Palal the son of Uzai made repairs opposite the turning of the wall, and the tower which

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lieth out from the king's high house that was by the court of the prison; after him Pedaiah the son of Parosh.

26 Moreover the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel unto the place opposite the Water Gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out.

27 After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, opposite the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel.

28 From above the Horse Gate repaired the priests, every one opposite his house.

29 After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his house. After him repaired also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate.

30 After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph repaired another piece. After him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah opposite his chamber.

31 After him Malchijah the goldsmith's son repaired unto the place of the Nethinim and of the merchants, opposite the Gate Miphkad and to the ascent of the corner chamber.

32 And between the ascent of the corner unto the Sheep Gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

4:1 But it came to pass that when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was wroth and felt great indignation and mocked the Jews.

2 And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they make sacrifice? Will they finish it in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?"

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, "Indeed that which they build, if a fox go up, even he shall break down their stone wall."

4 Hear, O our God, for we are

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despised; and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them as a prey in the land of captivity.

5 And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before Thee; for they have provoked Thee to anger before the builders.

6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 But it came to pass that when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabians and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being rebuilt, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

8 and conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem and to hinder it.

9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10 And Judah said, "The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish, so that we are not able to build the wall."

11 And our adversaries said, "They shall not know, neither see, until we come in the midst among them and slay them and cause the work to cease."

12 And it came to pass that when the Jews who dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, "From all places whence ye shall return unto us, they will be upon you."

13 Therefore set I men in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places; I even set the people by families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles and to the rulers and to the rest of the people, "Be not ye afraid of them; remember the Lord, who is great and fearsome, and fight

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for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses."

15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

16 And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields and the bows and the jackets of mail; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.

17 Those who built on the wall and those who bore burdens with those who loaded — every one with one of his hands wrought in the work and with the other hand held a weapon.

18 For the builders, every one, had his sword girded by his side, and so built. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

19 And I said unto the nobles and to the rulers and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us. Our God shall fight for us."

21 So we labored in the work; and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning until the stars appeared.

22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, "Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labor in the day."

23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us, put off our clothes, except that every one put them off for washing.

5:1 And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.
2 For there were those who said,

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"We, our sons and our daughters are many; therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat and live." 3 There were some also who said, "We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn because of the dearth." 4 There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards. 5 Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already; neither is it in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards." 6 And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. 7 Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles and the rulers and said unto them, "Ye exact usury, every one from his brother." And I set a great assembly against them. 8 And I said unto them, "We, according to our ability, have redeemed our brethren the Jews who were sold unto the heathen. And will ye even sell your brethren? Or shall they be sold unto us?" Then they held their peace, and found nothing to answer. 9 Also I said, "It is not good what ye do. Ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen, our enemies? 10 I likewise, and my brethren and my servants, might exact from them money and corn; I pray you, let us leave off this usury. 11 Restore, I pray you, to them even this day their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money and of the corn, the wine, and the oil that ye exact from them." 12 Then said they, "We will restore them, and will require nothing of them. So will we do

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as thou sayest." Then I called the priests and took an oath from them, that they should do according to this promise.

13 Also I shook my lap, and said, "So God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who performeth not this promise; eventhus be he shaken out and emptied." And all the congregation said, "Amen," and praised the Lord. And the people did according to this promise.

14 Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king (that is, twelve years), I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

15 But the former governors who had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yea, even their servants ruled over the people, but so did I not, because of the fear of God.

16 Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land; and all my servants were gathered thither for the work.

17 Moreover there were at my table a hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, besides those who came unto us from among the heathen who are about us.

18 Now that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days, a store of all sorts of wine; yet for all this I required not the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.

19 Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

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6:1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arabian and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left therein (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates),
2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me mischief.
3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease, whilst I leave it and come down to you?"
4 Yet they sent unto me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same manner.
5 Then Sanballat sent his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand,
6 wherein was written: "It is reported among the heathen, and Geshem saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel; for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king according to these words.
7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, 'There is a king in Judah!' And now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together."
8 Then I sent unto him, saying, "There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart."
9 For they all made us afraid, saying, "Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.
10 Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple; for they will come to slay thee, yea, in the night will they

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come to slay thee."

11 And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."

12 And lo, I perceived that God had not sent him, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me; for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

14 My God, think Thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have put me in fear.

15 So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty and two days.

16 And it came to pass that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen who were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was wrought by our God.

17 Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them.

18 For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

19 Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

7:1 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed,
2 that I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and

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feared God above many.

3 And I said unto them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors and bar them. And appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be opposite his house."

4 Now the city was large and great, but the people were few therein, and the houses were not built.

5 And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles and the rulers and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and found written therein:

6 these are the children of the province who went up out of the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city,

7 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number, I say, of the men of the people of Israel was this:

8 the children of Parosh, two thousand a hundred seventy and two;

9 the children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two;

10 the children of Arah, six hundred fifty and two;

11 the children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand and eight hundred and eighteen;

12 the children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four;

13 the children of Zattu, eight hundred forty and five;

14 the children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore;

15 the children of Binnui, six hundred forty and eight;

16 the children of Bebai, six

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hundred twenty and eight;
17 the children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty and two;
18 the children of Adonikam, six hundred threescore and seven;
19 the children of Bigvai, two thousand threescore and seven;
20 the children of Adin, six hundred fifty and five;
21 the children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight;
22 the children of Hashum, three hundred twenty and eight;
23 the children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and four;
24 the children of Hariph, a hundred and twelve;
25 the children of Gibeon, ninety and five;
26 the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, a hundred fourscore and eight;
27 the men of Anathoth, a hundred twenty and eight;
28 the men of Bethazmaveth, forty and two;
29 the men of Kirjathjearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty and three;
30 the men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty and one;
31 the men of Michmas, a hundred and twenty and two;
32 the men of Bethel and Ai, a hundred twenty and three;
33 the men of the other Nebo, fifty and two;
34 the children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four;
35 the children of Harim, three hundred and twenty;
36 the children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five;
37 the children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and one;
38 the children of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.
39 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three;
40 the children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two;
41 the children of Pashhur, a

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thousand two hundred forty and seven;
42 the children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.
43 The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel and of the children of Hodevah, seventy and four.
44 The singers: the children of Asaph, a hundred forty and eight.
45 The gatekeepers: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, a hundred thirty and eight.
46 The Nethinim: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaath,
47 the children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon,
48 the children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Shalmal,
49 the children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar,
50 the children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda,
51 the children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah,
52 the children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishesim,
53 the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,
54 the children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,
55 the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tamah,
56 the children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.
57 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida,
58 the children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
59 the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the

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children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon.

60 All the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants were three hundred ninety and two.

61 And these were the ones who went up also from Telmelah, Telhahresha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not show their father's house nor their seed, whether they were of Israel.

62 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty and two.

63 And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, who took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite for a wife, and was called after their name.

64 These sought their register among those who were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found; therefore they were as polluted, put from the priesthood.

65 And the governor said unto them that they should not eat of the most holy things until there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.

66 The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,

67 besides their manservants and their maidservants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven; and they had two hundred forty and five singing men and singing women.

68 Their horses, seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five;

69 their camels, four hundred thirty and five; six thousand seven hundred and twenty asses.

70 And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The governor gave to the treasury a thousand drams of gold, fifty basins, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

71 And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasury of

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LEFT**Observe:**

the work twenty thousand drams of gold and two thousand and two hundred pounds of silver.

72 And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand pounds of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.

73 So the priests, and the Levites, and the gatekeepers, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinim, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the Water Gate; and they spoke unto Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all who could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the Water Gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the Book of the Law.

4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah and Shema and Anaiah, and Urijah and Hilkiah and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah and Mishael and Malchijah, and Hashum and Hashbadana, Zechariah and Meshullam.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people (for he was above all the people), and when he opened it all the people stood up.

6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people

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answered, "Amen, Amen," while lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads, and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

7 Also Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law; and the people stood in their place.

8 So they read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly, and gave the sense and caused them to understand the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who is the governor, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites who taught the people, said unto all the people, "This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

10 Then he said unto them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions unto those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy unto our Lord; neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved."

12 And all the people went their way to eat and to drink and to send portions and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

13 And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.

14 And they found written in the law, which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month;

15 and that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities

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and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches and pine branches and myrtle branches, and palm branches and branches of thick trees to make booths, as it is written."

16 So the people went forth, and brought them and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the Water Gate and in the street of the Gate of Ephraim.

17 And all the congregation of those who had come again out of the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

9:1 Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting and with sackcloth and earth upon them.

2 And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

3 And they stood up in their place and read in the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for onefourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God.

4 Then stood up upon the stairs of the Levites, Jeshua and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the Lord their God.

5 Then the Levites, Jeshua and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

Pethahiah, said: "Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever! And blessed be Thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise!
6 Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all things that are therein, the seas and all that is therein; and Thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth Thee.
7 Thou art the Lord the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;
8 and foundest his heart faithful before Thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites and the Girgashites—to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed Thy words, for Thou art righteous"
9 and didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and hearest their cry by the Red Sea;
10 and showedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh and on all his servants and on all the people of his land. For Thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst Thou get Thee a name, as it is this day.
11 And Thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors Thou threwest into the deep, as a stone into the mighty waters.
12 Moreover Thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar, and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go.
13 Thou camest down also upon Mount Sinai and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments and true laws, good statutes and commandments;
14 and madest known unto them Thy holy Sabbath, and commandedst them precepts,

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

statutes, and laws by the hand of Moses Thy servant; 15 and gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which Thou hadst sworn to give them.

16 "But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks and hearkened not to Thy commandments.

17 And they refused to obey, neither were mindful of Thy wonders that Thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage. But Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

18 Yea, when they had made them a molten calf and said, 'This is thy God who brought thee up out of Egypt,' and had wrought great provocations, 19 yet Thou in Thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light and the way wherein they should go.

20 Thou gavest also Thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not Thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

21 Yea, forty years didst Thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old and their feet swelled not.

22 Moreover Thou gavest them kingdoms and nations, and didst divide them into corners; so they possessed the land of Sihon and the land of the king of Heshbon and the land of Og, king of Bashan.

23 Their children also did Thou multiply as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

land which Thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it.

24 So the children went in and possessed the land, and Thou did subdue before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

25 And they took strong cities and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells dug out, vineyards and olive yards, and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in Thy great goodness.

26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against Thee, and cast Thy law behind their backs, and slew Thy prophets who testified against them to turn them to Thee; and they wrought great provocations.

27 Therefore Thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them. And in the time of their trouble when they cried unto Thee, Thou heardest them from heaven; and according to Thy manifold mercies Thou gavest them saviors who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.

28 "But after they had rest, they did evil again before Thee. Therefore leftest Thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them; yet when they returned and cried unto Thee, Thou heardest them from heaven. And many times didst Thou deliver them according to Thy mercies, 29 and testifiedst against them, that Thou mightest bring them again unto Thy law. Yet they dealt proudly and hearkened not unto Thy commandments, but sinned against Thy judgments (which if a man do, he shall live in them), and withdrew the shoulder and hardened their

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

neck and would not hear.

30 "Yet many years didst Thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by Thy Spirit in Thy prophets. Yet would they not give ear; therefore gavest Thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

31 Nevertheless for Thy great mercies' sake Thou did not utterly consume them nor forsake them, for Thou art a gracious and merciful God.

32 "Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the fearsome God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before Thee that hath come upon us—on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all Thy people since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

33 Nevertheless, Thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for Thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly.

34 Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers kept Thy law, nor hearden unto Thy commandments and Thy testimonies, wherewith Thou didst testify against them.

35 For they have not served Thee in their kingdom, and in Thy great goodness that Thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which Thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

36 Behold, we are servants this day; and for the land that Thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it.

37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom Thou hast set over us because of our sins; also they have dominion over our bodies and over our cattle at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

38 "And because of all this, we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests set their seal unto it."

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

10:1 Now those who sealed were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hachaliah, and Zedekiah,
2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,
4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah;
these were the priests.
9 And the Levites: both Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel.
10 And their brethren: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah,
12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
13 Hodijah, Bani, Beninu.
14 The chief of the people: Parosh, Pahathmoab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
18 Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai,
19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
21 Meshezabeel, Zadok, Jaddua,
22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
26 and Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.
28 And the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons and their daughters, every one having knowledge and having understanding
29 they cleaved to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and into an oath to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and His judgments and His statutes;
30 and that we would not give

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;

31 and if the people of the land bring wares or any victuals on the Sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath or on the holy day; and that we would leave the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

32 Also we made ordinances for us to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:

33 for the showbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering of the Sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

34 And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God according to the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year to burn upon the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the law;

35 and to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the Lord;

36 also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle (as it is written in the law) and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests who minister in the house of our God;

37 and that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests to the chambers of the house of our God, and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.

38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites when the Levites take tithes; and

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.

39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers where are the vessels of the sanctuary and the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers. And we will not forsake the house of our God.

11:1 And the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people also cast lots to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine parts to dwell in other cities.

2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

3 Now these are the chief of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem; but in the cities of Judah dwelt every one in his possession in their cities, to wit: Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants.

4 And at Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalaleel, of the children of Perez;

5 and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Colhozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni.

6 All the sons of Perez who dwelt at Jerusalem were four hundred threescore and eight valiant men.

7 And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah.

8 And after him Gabbai and

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

Sallai, nine hundred twenty and eight.

9 And Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah the son of Senuah was second over the city.

10 Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin.

11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, was the ruler of the house of God.

12 And their brethren who did the work of the house were eight hundred twenty and two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,

13 and his brethren, chief of the fathers, were two hundred forty and two; and Amashai the son of Azareel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,

14 and their brethren, mighty men of valor, were a hundred twenty and eight; and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of one of the great men.

15 Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;

16 and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chief of the Levites, had the oversight of the outside business of the house of God.

17 And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah the second among his brethren, and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

18 All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred fourscore and four.

19 Moreover the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren who kept the gates, were a hundred seventy and two.

20 And the residue of Israel, of the priests, and the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, every one in his inheritance.

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

21 But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim.

22 The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha. Of the sons of Asaph, the singers were over the business of the house of God.

23 For it was the king's commandment concerning them, that a certain portion should be for the singers, due for every day.

24 And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabeel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

25 And for the villages with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt at Kirjatharba and in the villages thereof, and at Dibon and in the villages thereof, and at Jekabzeel and in the villages thereof,

26 and at Jeshua, and at Moladah, and at Bethphelet,

27 and at Hazarshual and at Beersheba and in the villages thereof,

28 and at Ziklag and at Meconah and in the villages thereof;

29 and at Enrimmon and at Zorah and at Jarmuth,

30 Zanoah, Adullam, and in their villages; at Lachish and the fields thereof, at Azekah and in the villages thereof. And they dwelt from Beersheba unto the valley of Hinnom.

31 The children also of Benjamin from Geba dwelt at Michmash, and Aija and Bethel and in their villages,

32 and at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

35 Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.

36 And of the Levites were divisions in Judah, and in Benjamin.

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

12:1 Now these are the priests and the Levites who went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,
2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,
3 Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,
4 Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,
5 Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,
6 Shemaiah and Joiarib, Jedaiah,
7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chief of the priests and of their brethren in the days of Jeshua.
8 Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who was over the psalms of thanksgiving, he and his brethren.
9 Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, were opposite them in the watches.
10 And Jeshua begot Joiakim, Joiakim also begot Eliashib, and Eliashib begot Joiada,
11 and Joiada begot Jonathan, and Jonathan begot Jaddua.
12 And in the days of Joiakim were priests, the chief of the fathers: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
13 of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;
14 of Melicu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;
15 of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;
16 of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
17 of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;
18 of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;
19 and of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
20 of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;
21 of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethaneel.
22 The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, were recorded chief of the fathers; also the priests, until the reign of Darius the Persian.
23 The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, were written in the

RIGHT
Interpret:

LEFT**Observe:**

book of the Chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

24 And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren opposite them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch opposite watch.

25 Mattaniah and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, were porters keeping the watch at the thresholds of the gates.

26 These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

27 And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

28 And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites,

29 also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages round about Jerusalem.

30 And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people and the gates and the wall.

31 Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of those who gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the Dung Gate;

32 and after them went Hoshaiah and half of the princes of Judah, 33 and Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam,

34 Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremiah,

35 and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets, namely,

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph;
36 and his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them.
37 And at the Fountain Gate, which was opposite them, they went up by the stairs of the City of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the Water Gate eastward.
38 And the other company of those who gave thanks went opposite them, and I after them with half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the Tower of the Furnaces even unto the Broad Wall,
39 and from above the Gate of Ephraim and above the Old Gate, and above the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananeel and the Tower of Meah, even unto the Sheep Gate; and they stood still at the Prison Gate.
40 So stood the two companies of those who gave thanks in the house of God, and I, and half of the rulers with me;
41 and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;
42 and Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer.
43 Also that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the wives also and the children rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.
44 And at that time some were appointed over the chambers of the treasuries for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

of the fields of the cities the portions appointed by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites who waited.

45 And both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the watch of their God and the watch of the purification, according to the commandment of David and of Solomon his son.

46 For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God.

47 And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, every day his portion; and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites, and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron.

13:1 On that day they read in the Book of Moses in the audience of the people, and therein was found written that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God, ever,

2 because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them. However that be, our God turned the curse into a blessing.

3 Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

4 And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah.

5 And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where previously they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense and the vessels and the tithes of the corn, the new wine and the oil, which were commanded to be given to the Levites and the singers and the gatekeepers, and the offerings of the priests.

6 But in all this time I was not at

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

Jerusalem; for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I came unto the king, and after certain days I obtained leave from the king.

7 And I came to Jerusalem and learned of the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.

8 And it grieved me sore; therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.

9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers; and thither I brought back the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

10 And I perceived that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for the Levites and the singers who did the work had fled every one to his field.

11 Then I contended with the rulers and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the storehouses.

13 And I made treasurers over the storehouses: Shelemiah the priest and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah; and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren.

14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for the offices thereof.

15 In those days I saw in Judah some treading of wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves and loading them on asses, as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I testified against them as to the

RIGHT
Interpret:

LEFT**Observe:**

day wherein they sold victuals.
16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, who brought fish and all manner of wares, and sold on the Sabbath unto the children of Judah and in Jerusalem.
17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah and said unto them, "What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day?
18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us and upon this city? Yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath."
19 And it came to pass, when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath; and some of my servants I set at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the Sabbath day.
20 So the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice.
21 Then I testified against them and said unto them, "Why lodge ye about the wall? If ye do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time forth they came no more on the Sabbath.
22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Thy mercy.
23 In those days also I saw Jews who had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab; 24 and their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.
25 And I contended with them and cursed them, and smote certain of them and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, "Ye shall not give your daughters unto their

RIGHT**Interpret:**

LEFT**Observe:**

sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons or for yourselves.
26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did women from other lands cause to sin.
27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying foreign wives?"
28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I chased him from me.
29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.
31 and for the wood offering at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

RIGHT**Interpret:**



ESTER



1st Reading

- Out loud, in one setting, read through the book
Get the BIG picture.



2nd Reading

- Observe!
- Mark what stands out for you during your reading.
Use different colors. (Names, places, events, etc.)



3rd Reading

- Find the key verse in the book, and one in each chapter.



4th Reading

- Write down your observations



5th Reading

- Write a summary of this book
- Do application of book.

1. Literary Question

a. What kind of literature is the book?

2. Critical Question

a. Who wrote the book?

b. When was it written?

c. To whom was it written?

d. From where was it written?

3. Historical Question

a. Who are key figures in this book?

b. Give dates of significant historical events

- What was the political situation

- What was the international situation

- Any alliances or important battles

4. Survey Question

a. What is the main idea of the book
(The message in one sentence)

b. What is the major reason that the book was written?

c. How can we connect Jesus in this book?

Application



- What fundamental universal truths are presented in this passage?

- State the issues in your own life/culture that this truth address.

- State the implications of the principle when applied to your life and the world around you.

What change does it require?

What value is reinforce?

What difference does it make?

- Make a heartfelt decision to change. State this decision in a plan to accomplish the task. This is a specific course of action.



Be specific.

- What am I to believe?



- Do I need to change anything I have previously believed?

- Are there attitudes or actions that I need to change?

- How does this truth encourage me? In what area of my life?

- What do I see about the character of God?

- How does this aspect of God's character speak or minister to me?

More questions you can ask

- What have I learned about myself from my study?

- What have I learned about others?

- What impact does this have on my life?

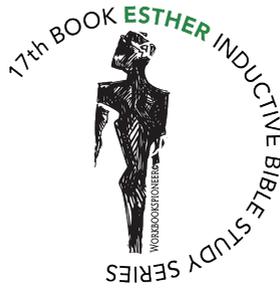
- What can I learn about my relationship with God?

- Is there anything that needs to change in my relationship with Him?

- Is there anything that needs to change in how I relate to others?

- How am I challenged or encouraged by the lives of the people in the Bible? What can I learn from them? Is there anything I can identify with their lives?





1:1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this is Ahasuerus who reigned from India even unto Ethiopia, over a hundred and seven and twenty provinces),

2 that in those days when the King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in the palace in Shushan, 3 in the third year of his reign he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants. The power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces being before him,

4 he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, even a hundred and four-score days.

5 And when these days had passed, the king made a feast unto all the people who were present in the palace at Shushan, both unto great and small, for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

6 There were white, green, and blue hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings, and pillars of marble. The beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red and blue and white and black marble.

7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold (the vessels being diverse one from another) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.

8 And the drinking was according to the law. None did compel,

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for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

9 Also, Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains who served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11 to bring Vashti the queen before the king, with the crown royal, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was fair to look on.

12 But the queen, Vashti, refused to come at the king's commandment brought by his chamberlains. Therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

13 Then the king said to the wise men who knew the times (for so was the king's manner toward all who knew law and judgment;

14 and the next unto him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face and who sat first in the kingdom):

15 "What shall we do unto Queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of King Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?"

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: "Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes and to all the people who are in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus.

17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in be-

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fore him, but she came not.’
18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king’s princes, who have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.
19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, that Vashti come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another who is better than she.
20 And when the king’s decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire (for it is great), all the wives shall give to their husbands honor, both to great and small.”
21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan.
22 For he sent letters into all the king’s provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people in their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

2:1 After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.
2 Then said the king’s servants who ministered unto him, “Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king;
3 and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto the palace at Shushan, to the house of the women unto the custody of Hegai the king’s chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them.
4 And let the maiden who pleaseth the king be queen

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instead of Vashti." And the thing pleased the king, and he did so.

5 Now in the palace at Shushan there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite,

6 who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadasah (that is, Esther), his uncle's daughter; for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful, whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree were heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto the palace at Shushan under the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house into the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness from him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens who were meet to be given to her out of the king's house; and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place in the house of the women.

10 Esther had not shown her people nor her kindred, for Mordecai had charged her that she should not show it.

11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house to know how Esther did and what should become of her.

12 Now when every maid's turn had come to go in to King Ahasuerus, after she had been twelve months according to the manner of the women (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six

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months with sweet odors and with other things for the purifying of the women),

13 then thus came every maiden unto the king. Whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned to the second house of the women to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, who kept the concubines. She came in unto the king no more unless the king delighted in her and she were called by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, had come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all those who looked upon her.

16 So Esther was taken unto King Ahasuerus into his royal house in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts according to the state of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat at the king's gate.

20 Esther had not yet shown her kindred nor her people, as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him.

21 In those days, while Mordecai sat at the king's gate, two of the

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king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those who kept the door, were wroth and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen, and Esther informed the king thereof in Mordecai's name.

23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out. Therefore they were both hanged on a tree, and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

3:1 After these things did King Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.

2 And all the king's servants who were in the king's gate bowed and revered Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

3 Then the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, "Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?"

4 Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily unto him and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

6 And he scorned to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had shown him the people of Mordecai. Therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

7 In the first month, that is, the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot) before Haman, from day to day and from month to month to the

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twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar.

8 And Haman said unto King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people, neither keep they the king's laws. Therefore it is not to the king's profit to suffer them.

9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those who have charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

11 And the king said unto Haman, "The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee."

12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish all Jews, both young and old, little children and women in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to take the spoil of them for plunder.

14 The copy of the writing, to be given for a commandment in every province, was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's com-

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mandment, and the decree was given in the palace of Shushan. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

4:1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and cried with a loud and a bitter cry,
2 and came even before the king's gate; for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

3 And in every province whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting and weeping and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it to her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him; but he received it not.

5 Then called Esther for Hathach, one of the king's chamberlains whom he had appointed to attend her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was and why it was.

6 So Hathach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city which was before the king's gate.

7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

8 Also he gave him the copy of the written decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to show it unto Esther and to explain it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

9 And Hathach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 Again Esther spoke unto Hathach, and gave him a com-

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mandment unto Mordecai:
11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces do know that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court who is not called, there is one law of his: to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. But I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days."

12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

13 Then Mordecai commanded them to answer Esther: "Think not concerning thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house any more than all the Jews.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there arise respite and deliverance to the Jews from another place, but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed. And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer:

16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me; and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I also and my maidens will fast likewise. And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

5:1 Now it came to pass on the third day that Esther put on her royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the king's house, opposite the king's house; and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, opposite the gate of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So

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Esther drew near and touched the top of the scepter.
3 Then said the king unto her, "What wish thou, Queen Esther? And what is thy request? It shall be even given thee, to the half of the kingdom."
4 And Esther answered, "If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him."
5 Then the king said, "Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said." So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.
6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, "What is thy petition? And it shall be granted thee. And what is thy request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."
7 Then answered Esther and said, "My petition and my request is:
8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said."
9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.
10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself; and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends and Zeresh his wife.
11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.
12 Haman said moreover, "Yea, Esther the queen let no man but myself come in with the king unto the banquet that she had

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prepared, and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king. 13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, "Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king, that Mordecai may be hanged thereon. Then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman, and he caused the gallows to be made.

6:1 On that night the king could not sleep; and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, "What honor and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?" Then said the king's servants who ministered unto him, "There is nothing done for him."

4 And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had come into the outer court of the king's house to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

5 And the king's servants said unto him, "Behold, Haman standeth in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?"

7 And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delighteth to honor,

8 let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king

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rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head.

9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man thereby whom the king delighteth to honor; and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor!'"

10 Then the king said to Haman, "Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew who sitteth at the king's gate. Let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken."

11 Then Haman took the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor!"

12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house, mourning and having his head covered.

13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, "If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him."

14 And while they were yet talking with him, the king's chamberlains came and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is thy petition, Queen Esther? And it shall be granted thee. And what is thy request? And it shall be performed, even to the half of

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the kingdom.”

3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, “If I have found favor in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain and to perish. But if we had been sold as bondmen and bondwomen, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could not compensate for the king’s damage.”

5 Then King Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, “Who is he, and where is he, who dared presume in his heart to do so?”

6 And Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.” Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

7 And the king, arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath, went into the palace garden; and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen, for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

8 Then the king returned from the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine, and Haman had fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, “Will he force the queen also before me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, “Behold also the gallows fifty cubits high which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman.” Then the king said, “Hang him thereon!”

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king’s wrath pacified.

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8:1 On that day did King Ahasuerus give the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was unto her.

2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 And Esther spoke yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet and besought him with tears to put away the wickedness of Haman the Agagite and his plot that he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king,

5 and said, "If it please the king and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?"

7 Then King Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it pleaseth you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's ring may no man reverse."

9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month (that is, the month of Sivan), on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that

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Mordecai commanded, unto the Jews and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, a hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof and unto every people in their language, and to the Jews according to their writing and according to their language.

10 And he wrote in King Ahasuerus' name and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries.

11 Therein the king granted the Jews who were in every city to gather themselves together and to stand for their life" to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey

12 upon one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 So the posts who rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at the palace at Shushan.

15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold and with a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

16 The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honor.

17 And in every province and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his de-

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creed came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews, for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

9:1 Now in the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar) on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them (though it was turned to the contrary, so that the Jews had rule over those who hated them), 2 the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on such as sought their hurt; and no man could withstand them, for the fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants and the deputies, and those who did the business that belonged to the king, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.

4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword and slaughter and destruction, and did what they would unto those who hated them.

6 And in the palace in Shushan the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.

7 And Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha,

8 and Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha,

9 and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vajezatha

10 (the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews) they slew; but on the spoil they laid not their hand.

11 On that day the number of those who were slain in the palace at Shushan was brought

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before the king.

12 And the king said unto Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in the palace in Shushan, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is thy petition? And it shall be granted thee. Or what is thy further request? And it shall be done."

13 Then said Esther, "If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do tomorrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows."

14 And the king commanded it so to be done; and the decree was given at Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

15 For the Jews who were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month of Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the spoil they laid not their hand.

16 But the other Jews who were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand; but they laid not their hands on the spoil.

17 On the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

18 But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwallied towns made the fourteenth day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all

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the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,
21 to establish this among them: that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and the fifteenth day of the same yearly,
22 as the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another and gifts to the poor.
23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them,
24 because Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot) to consume them and to destroy them.
25 But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that this wicked scheme which Haman devised against the Jews should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.
26 Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur [that is, Lot]. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter and what had come upon them,
27 the Jews ordained and took upon them and upon their seed and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to their writing and according to their appointed time every year;
28 and that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, and that these days of Purim should not pass from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them

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perish from their seed.

29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim.

30 And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth

31 to confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed regarding the matters of the fastings and their cry.

32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

10:1 And King Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land and upon the isles of the sea.

2 And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

3 For Mordecai the Jew was next unto King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and accepted by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wellbeing of his people and speaking peace to all his seed.

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