

UNIT 1: GOD GIVE US HIS WORD - I OLD TESTAMENT (10 LESSONS)

Introduction: This unit is the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons. Because of the intellectual characteristics of this age, this big task should be broken onto smaller objectives. In each lesson the students should work in groups to study and construct genealogy lines, maps, history line as well as search for archeological discoveries. The Students should get comfortable navigating through the books of the Bible and learn how to find verses. They also will learn to find Christ and the church in the Old Testament.

1. [introduction to the journey: definitions and overview](#)
2. [BIBLE: The 5 books of Moses- Pentateuch 1: Genesis](#)
3. [BIBLE: THE 5 BOOKS OF MOSES 2: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy](#)
4. [Books of history 1: Joshua, Judges, Ruth](#)
5. [Books of history 2: 1,2 Samuel, 1 kings, 1 & 2Chronicles](#)
6. [Books of history 3: 2nd Chronicles, 1st & 2nd Kings](#)
7. [Books of history 4: Post Exilic books of Esther, Ezra, , Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith 1st & 2nd Maccabees](#)
8. [Prophets Before and after the exile](#)
9. [Wisdom and Poetry books](#)
10. Old Testament Review

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit is the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

1. BIBLE: DEFINITIONS AND OVERVIEW

SEVANT PREPARATION

HOW TO TEACH THIS UNIT:

- Because of the six graders intellectual characteristics (page 14,15). Prepare your students by giving them the vision of this unit before you start.
- Spell out the targets of the unit ahead of time in clear objectives. Give a sense of partnership between teachers and students in reaching these goals. Write the goals on one corner of the board or hang a big card with the objectives on it.
- Things to prepare the class with: Bibles, Posters of Biblical charts and maps, and second canonical books. Internet access to look up places and archeological finds. Keep the goals of the lesson on the white board, so the students can have a visual reference of what is required at all times. A clock to keep time might be helpful.
- Teachers should memorize the summary of each book and the number of chapters with the main divisions before teaching. Teachers would need to give a very brief summary of the Events before they ask the participation of their students. The student involvement should be very clear and limited to the time allowed.
- Each student shall bring their Bibles with them to class in a special case. Additional bibles should be available in the class
- Explain that we have 13 lessons in this unit and in each lesson we should follow a simple format:
 1. *An introduction to the lesson to spell out what goals we have for this lesson and how to do it, a brief summary of the story - 15 minutes*
 2. *Breakup into groups of three or four and get the work accomplished - 30 minutes*
 3. *Reconvene to show and evaluate what we have accomplished - 15 minutes*
- Distribute materials: Bibles, hand-outs, highlighters, and explain the use.
- Teachers should be close to their students in their search and help them focus to finish the lesson's goals. This should be done without taking over the whole process.
- The whole process should be done in an excited and encouraging atmosphere.

SERVANT MEMORIZATION:

Revelation of God:

God revealed Himself to His people gradually through direct communication and through the life events of specific individuals. His Words and Actions were passed from generation to generation by word of mouth (oral Tradition) before they were written down in books (The Bible)

The Church kept God's revelation in both forms: **A.** The Bible & **B.** the Tradition.

The Church is who can explain to us the Bible through the Holy Tradition.

Bible = Books

Bible comes from the Greek word biblos = book, or Biblia = books. The Bible is a library of books. There are 73 books in the Coptic Orthodox Bible. The Bible is made of 2 collections: the Old and the New Testament. The Bible of the Coptic Orthodox church contains 46 books, while the Protestant and Jewish collection contain 39 Books.

The Old Testament books are grouped into 4 groups: **1.** The 5 Books of Moses **2.** The 16 Historical books **3.** The 6 Major Prophets & 12 Minor Prophets and **4.** The 7 wisdom / Poetry books.

The Old Testament books were written in Hebrew language and translated into Greek about 300 years before Christ. the translation was done in Alexandria, Egypt by 70 scholars that is why it is called the translation of the 70 (Septuagint in Greek). The Orthodox and the Catholic Church used the Septuagint translation since the beginning of the church.

The New Testament books are 27 in number. They were written in Greek language.

The Bible contains one story

Although it is written by more than 40 people over more than 1000 years, the Bible contains the story of our salvation. The central person in all the books of the Bible is our Lord Jesus Christ. The Old Testament Books foretold of His coming and His work. The New Testament told of His birth, mission, suffering, Resurrection, Ascension and foretold His second coming.

Covenant

Family bonds. Covenant can be understood in contrast with a contract

Covenant

Family bond

Exchange of Persons

When broken, a curse is incurred

Requires an oath and sign

Contract

legal binding agreement

Exchange of goods

when broken, there will be loss of goods

Does not require an oath nor a sign

Inspiration

2 Peter 1:21

"²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

2 Timothy 3:16,17

"¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The True Authorship of the Bible belongs to God. God moved the writers to write in their own style and characters to write His own Words in their different styles and guarded them from error.

How to lookup a verse in the Bible?

Each book of the Bible is divided into Chapters. Each chapter is divided into verses. A biblical Reference would be written like this: The book name (like Luke) first, then chapter number (1,2,3..) followed by a colon(:) then finally the verse number (1,2,3..) or two numbers for the range of the passage (2-12). Sometimes the name of the book is abbreviated: John becomes Jn., Matthew becomes Matt.

LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

The books of the Bible song practice

VOCABULARY

Revelation of God

Bible

Inspiration

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Introduction to the Unit
2. God is the Author of the Bible. Therefore, we venerate the Bible
3. The Place of the Bible in Church and personal lives
4. How to look up a verse in the Bible, Bible books

INTRODUCTION

"Today we are about to start a unit on the Bible. We are going to take a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this journey we are going to visit different places and time periods and learn about

different people and cultures. Most of all we will learn about God's care and love of His family on earth through the events and actions. We shall do this together, which mean that this journey will include hands-on work and group planning and discussions. We shall use maps, family trees, and pictures of archeological findings (remains of old cultures). You will be helped and provided with the needed resources."

Write or print the goals of the Bible Unit to be posted in the class:

1. Memorize the Bible Books in Order
2. Know the different groups of books within the Bible
3. Know the main events and persons in each book
4. Know the main story that make the Bible One - Covenants + family line

Archeology: *The dead sea scrolls online (5 minutes from the "YouTube" like the National Geographic documentary on the Dead Sea scrolls)*

LESSON BODY

- Introduce the vocabulary and the definitions of:
 - + Revelation
 - + Bible
 - + Inspiration
 - + The Bible contains one story
 - + Looking up verses in the Bible
 - + Practice:

Try to lookup: *Genesis 3:15, John 3:16, Jeremiah 31:31, 1Cor. 13:8, Isa. 7:14*

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q. What is the meaning of the word "Bible"?

A. *Greek for books*

Q. What are the 2 main sections of the Bible?

A. *Old Testament and New Testament*

Q. How many books are there in the Old Testament?

A. *46 books*

Q. How many books are there in the New Testament?

A. *27 books*

Q. Can you name the 4 main groups of books in the Old Testament?

A. *the 4 main groups of old Testament books are:*

1. *The 5 books of Moses*
2. *The 16 books of history*
3. *The 18 books of prophecy*
4. *The 7 books of Wisdom and poetry*

Q. What is the Bible about?

A. *Contains the written revelation of God. It contains one true story.*

Q. Who wrote the Bible?

A. *It is God who inspired more than 40 human writers.*

VERSE TO REMEMBER

2 Timothy 3:16 " ¹⁶*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*"

HOME ACTIVITY - MEMORIZATION

Students to memorize the list of books of the Bible and the divisions into groups. They would memorize 2Timothy 3:16,17

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit is the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

2. BIBLE: THE 5 BOOKS OF MOSES- PENTATEUCH 1: GENESIS

SERVANT PREPARATION

The 5 Books of Moses Pentateuch - Torah

The first group of books in the old Testament are the 5 books of Moses known as the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The narrative of the story of salvation is found in the 3 books Genesis, Exodus and Numbers, while the book of Leviticus and Deuteronomy are books of laws and commandments and contains very little history. This group is called the **"Torah"** or **"The books of the Law"**.

SERVANT MEMORIZATION:

1. Genesis: 50 Chapters

It is the book of the beginnings, The word Genesis comes from a Greek word that means origin, birth, source or beginning. In this book, Moses recorded the beginning of:

1. The creation:
2. The fall and the beginning of Nations:
3. The covenant relationships that God has with His people: Adam, Noah, Abraham
4. The book ends with the family of Abraham In Egypt

Start by asking them to pay attention to the summary of events and ask them to stop and ask questions when they need to. Make three columns on the board and ask them to help you fill the table the heading of the three tables should be: Major events, Important Persons & Patriarchs, Covenants.

Summary of Genesis

50 Chapters 4 Events, 4 Patriarchs (and 13 persons), 3 Covenants

1 God created everything seen and unseen (Chapter 1) and created us humans in a very special way and God blessed Humans in a covenant (**I**) and placed our great grandparents; Adam and Eve in the paradise (chapter 2). **2** God gave them a commandment to keep but the devil using the serpent

tricked them and they disobeyed God and lost the paradise (chapter 3) . God gave them a promise to save them (Genesis 3:15). That promise was fulfilled by God sending His Son. They had many children, the first born killed his younger brother (chapter 4). The third brother whose name was Seth knew God and continued Adam's line that carried the covenant blessing (chapter 5). When the other descendants of Adam became too many, they lost their relationship with God totally and became very wicked. One of the persons in that line was Enoch who was very close to God and made sure that his family stay very close to God. God took him and he was not to be found. **3** In the time of his great grandson God told Noah to build an ark before God sent a flood (chapters 6-9) that cleansed the earth from the wickedness. God renewed His covenant (**II**) with the human race through Noah's children when they came out of the Ark. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth and from them all the humans that exist today came (chapter 10). **4** Shortly after the flood was over, people build a great tower and was very proud, God gave them different languages and they became many nations (chapter 11) . From the line of Shem the firstborn came Abraham (chapter 12) who believed God's promises and left his land and his family and travelled to a land that God promised to give him. God promised Abraham three blessings (chapter 12) : many descendants, the land and a great name. God upgraded the promises to a covenant (**III**) (chapter 15), with circumcision as a sign. These promises were fulfilled in our Lord Jesus Christ who came from Abraham's line. Abraham was called the **first Patriarch** (father of fathers) who had Isaac miraculously at old age. Isaac became the **second Patriarch** (chapters 21 to 28) . Isaac had a son whose name was Jacob who became the **third patriarch** (chapters 25 to 50). Jacob had 12 sons. One of them was Joseph (the **fourth patriarch**) whom his brothers envied because his father favored him. They sold him as a slave. Joseph ended up saving Egypt from the greatest famine and becoming the second man. The book of Genesis ends with the family of Jacob in Egypt, where both Jacob and Joseph dies.

LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

The books of the Bible song

VOCABULARY

Pentateuch

Torah

INTRODUCTION - CONNECTION POINT

Re-introduce the Bible unit: "Today we continue our studying of the books of the Bible. We are going on a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this journey we are going to visit different places and time periods and learn about different people and cultures. Most of all we will learn about God's care

and love of His family on earth through the events and actions. We shall do this together, which mean that this journey will include hands-on work and group planning and discussions. We shall use maps, family trees, and pictures of archeological findings (remains of old cultures). You will be helped and provided with the needed resources."

Write or print the goals of the Bible Unit to be posted in the class:

1. Memorize the Bible Books in Order
2. Know the different groups of books within the Bible
3. Know the main events and persons in each book
4. Know the main story that make the Bible One - Covenants + family line

OBJECTIVES

1. To Memorize the names of the 5 books of Moses
2. Memorize the 4 main events and the 4 Patriarchs in Genesis
3. Know the story through the 3 covenants in Genesis with the signs and the promises (focus on Abraham)
4. To construct a family line

LESSON BODY

- Review briefly the previous lesson
- Introduce the 5 Books of Moses and focus on Genesis:
Genesis summary and outline: tell the story then write the outline:

4 EVENTS

1. Creation: Covenant with creation
The creation of the universe. **chapter 1**
The creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden **chapter 2**
2. The Fall: **chapter 3**
Cain and Abel **chapter 4**
Adam's family line **chapter 5**
3. Flood: **chapters 6-9**
Table of Nations (Noah's family line) **chapter 10**
4. Nations
The tower of Babel and the family tree of Abraham **chapter 11**
*help the students focus their search on the first 11 chapters looking at the New King James titles

4 PATRIARCHS -ONE FAMILY LINE

Abraham: Genesis **12** to Genesis **25**

Isaac: Genesis 21 - Genesis 28

Jacob: Genesis **25** - Genesis 50

Joseph: Genesis 37 - Genesis 50

* teachers to help students remember the chapter orders by the following: *note that Abraham takes from 12 to the middle of Genesis (25th chapter of 50) while Jacob and Joseph takes from 25 to the end. Isaac overlaps Abraham and Joseph overlaps Jacob*

3 COVENANTS - ONE STORY

With Adam *Genesis 1:28*

"27So God created man in His own image; in 3the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

With Noah *Genesis 9: 8-17.*

The sign was the rainbow

With Abraham *Genesis 12: 1-3,7*

The three promises: Blessing by: Nations, Name, Land

Genesis 17: 3-12 The three promises are upgraded to a covenant with a sign:
circumcision

* students will be given verses and will be asked to fill in the covenant/promises/signs

- The handouts have "*fill-in the spaces*" pages. The teachers should help the groups fill in the missing information.
- Use a map to show the suggested places from Genesis

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q. What are the five books of Moses?

A. *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*

Q. What is the content of Genesis?

A. *4 Events, 4 Patriarchs and 3 covenants*

Q. What blessings God promised Abraham with?

A. *Many descendants, great name and Land*

Q. Who are the 4 Patriarchs?

A. *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph*

Q. What are the 4 Events?

A. *Creation, Fall, Flood, Tower of Babel leading to Nations*

Q. What was the covenant sign that God asked Abraham to make?

A. *Circumcision*

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Genesis 17: 4 *"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations."*

HOME CTIVITY AND READING

Students to memorize the list of bible books and read Genesis 15, 17 and 22

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit would be the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

3. BIBLE: THE 5 BOOKS OF MOSES 2: EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY

SERVANTS PREPARATION

Summary of

Exodus (40 chapters) , Leviticus (27 chapters) , Numbers (36 chapters) and Deuteronomy (32 chapters)

(teacher to memorize):

*Exodus is a Greek word means to "Exit", "depart" or "get out". The book of Exodus (40 chapters) **A.** begins with the fourth generation of the family of Jacob in slavery in Egypt, where the Egyptian killed all the male babies of the Israelites (Jacob's family)(chapter 1). **A1** God saves Moses as a child and prepare him to lead His people out of Egypt (chapter 2). **A2** After 40 years God called him from a burning bush sent him back to Egypt to get God's family (who are Jacob and Abraham family also) because God made a covenant with Abraham to save his descendants (chapter 3,4) . Moses went back and confronted a very hard hearted pharaoh who refused to let God's people leave (chapter 5-7). **A3** God sent 10 plagues on Egypt (chapters 8-12). The last plague was the death of all the firstborn males of Egypt, where God instituted the Passover and lead the people out of Egypt (chapter 12). God asked that the firstborn males of Israel be consecrated to Him (chapter 13). God split the red sea and lead them through it where the Egyptian army got drowned (chapter 14), they sang a song to the Lord (chapter 15) which we sing as the first Ode in Tasbeha. **B1** In the desert God provided the bread from heaven (chapter 16) and Water from a rock (chapter 17). Moses' appointed Judges to help him in leadership (chapter 18). **B2** Moses prepared the people (chapter 19) to meet with God who gave them the Ten Commandment (chapter 20) and other laws (chapter 21-23). The people affirm the covenant (chapter 24). God made two tablets and wrote the 10 commandments on them and ordered Moses to build the Tabernacle (chapters 25-31). **B3** the people made a golden calf to worship (chapter 32). God tells Moses and the people to leave the mountain and go to the promise land (chapter 33) Moses made new tablets and God wrote on them the 10 Commandments (chapter 34). The Tabernacle was built (chapter 35-40).*

Leviticus (27 Chapters)

- *Leviticus comes from the name Levi (the priestly tribe), meaning the book is an instructional book for the priestly tribe. This book is the handbook of the priest.*
- *The Main Persons: Aaron and his sons*
- *It is divided into **Two parts**:*
 1. *From 1-17 ceremonial duties in the Tabernacle.*
 2. *From 18-27 the priests duties in teaching the people rules of sanctity "Malachi 2:7".*

Numbers (36 chapters)

starts in the desert with God telling Moses to take a census of all the Israelite males 20 years and older, who would inherit the promised land (chapter 1). God told Moses to count the firstborn males and exchange them by the Levites for the priestly work (chapter 3). Israel sent 12 spies into the promised land and when they refused to enter they start a 40 year journey in the desert (chapters 13-14) until all the generation that came out of Egypt perished. A new census was done before entering the promised land to count all males 20 years and older (chapter 26).

**Students to look up the first and second census; first census in the first chapter of the book of Numbers (verses 1-3) and the second census is in chapter 26 (verses 1,2)*

Deuteronomy (34 chapters)

- *The name of the Book comes from the Greek word that means "second Law". It includes Moses final speeches to the Israelites before they enter the promise land. It includes 3 speeches and addressed to the whole nation from the plains of Moab. Moses died at the end of the book (chapter 34).*
- *Can be divided into three portions:*
 1. *First Sermon: chapters 1-4*
 2. *Second Sermon: chapters 4-27*
 3. *Third Sermon: chapters 27-34*

** Students to find the 10 commandments in Deuteronomy chapter 5*

LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

Bible books song

VOCABULARY

Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

OBJECTIVES

1. To Memorize the names of the 5 books of Moses
2. Memorize the Main events and the divisions of the 4 books
3. Know the Covenant at Sinai
4. To continue the family line, be familiar with the map of the area

INTRODUCTION - CONNECTION POINT

"We continue our studying of the books of the Bible. We are going on a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this journey we are going to visit different places and time periods and learn about different people and cultures. Most of all we will learn about God's care and love of His family on earth through the events and actions. We shall do this together, which mean that this journey will include hands-on work and group planning and discussions. We shall use maps, family trees, and pictures of archeological findings (remains of old cultures). You will be helped and provided with the needed resources."

The goals of the Bible Unit to be posted in the class:

1. Memorize the Bible Books in Order
2. Know the different groups of books within the Bible
3. Know the main events and persons in each book
4. Know the main story that make the Bible One - Covenants + family line

LESSON BODY

- Introduce the names of the books and their meanings
- Tell the summary and write the outline
- Show the map and Egypt, Sinai and the promised land
- Find the covenant in Exodus 24:1-8
- Let the students find the ten commandments in both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q. What are the five books of Moses?

A. *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.*

Q. What are the contents of the 5 books of Moses?

A. *Genesis: 4 Events, 4 Patriarchs, 3 covenants*

Exodus: 1.Before and 2.after the Exodus

Leviticus: Priests handbook: 1.Tabernacle Ceremonial laws and 2.Teaching purification

Numbers: 2 censuses: the first generation and the second generation

Deuteronomy: 3 speeches of Moses

Q. Where can you find the covenant with Israel in Exodus?

A. *Chapter 19-33*

Q. Where can you find the ten commandments?

A. *Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5*

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Exodus 20:2 " And God spoke all these words, saying: 2"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

HOME ACTIVITY AND MEMORIZATION

Students to memorize the list of books and their groups. To read Exodus 19, 20, 24, 31

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit would be the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

4. BOOKS OF HISTORY 1: JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH

SERVANTS PREPARATION

SERVANT MEMORIZATION

Introduction to the Historical Books (books from Joshua-2nd Maccabees are known as the Historical Books)

Major events covered by these books are:

1. The settlement of the people in the Promise Land
2. The transition from rule by judges to rule by kings
3. David's anointing as king of the United Kingdom
4. The division of the nation into Northern and Southern Factions
5. The destruction of the Northern Kingdom
6. The exile and return of the Southern Kingdom

*Teachers to review the book order of the 16 books of History; these books cover a period of 1000 years.

JOSHUA (24 chapters)

The first of the historical books and the link between the Pentateuch and the remainder of Israel's history, where we have the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham under the leadership of Joshua. The leader of the heavenly army commanded Joshua to lead the people to cross the Jordan (*chapter 1*) and gave him the divine plan to take the first city (Jericho) in the promised land. Joshua sent 2 spies who hides in Rahab's house and made an oath to save her and her house (*chapter 2*). The plan was to have the priests carry the Ark of the covenant (the most holy object) and the army silently go before them once every day for six days. On the seventh day they circled seven times, the priests blow the trumpets and the people shouted. The wall tumbled down and the army went in and took the city. Jericho was the first city conquered in the promised land (*chapter 6*). The conquest continued and followed by the settlement of the people in the promised land.

Persons: *Joshua, Rahab*

24 chapters made of two parts

1- Conquest of Canaan (Chapters 1-13) chapter 6 contains the famous story of Jericho

2- Settlement in Canaan (Chapters 13-24)

*Students to find the story of *Rahab* (Chapter 2) and how her story is related to the story of the fall of Jericho (chapter 6)

*Teachers to have a map of the Land of Canaan (to show the place that was crossed and where Jericho was)

Judges (21 chapters)

The book of Judges describe a dark period in the history of the Israelites

The name of the book means “the people who will deliver.” The book shows the Israelites in a disobedience and idolaters state. There are 7 cycles in the book. Each cycle starts with disobedience followed by discipline through oppressing neighbors leading people to cry and return to God, a ‘deliverer/Judge’ is then sent by God to deliver them followed by a period of calmness that leads people once again to forget about God and once again the cycle repeats. The first Judge is Joshua and the last Judge is Samuel. This period covers 325 years.

Names of Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson. there are 13 judges listed, we will only focus on Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Samson

Ruth (4 chapters)

Story of love, devotion and redemption set in the distressing context of the period of the judges; it represents a Moabite widow who forsakes her pagan heritage in order to cling to her Israelite mother in-law, the people and the God of Israel. Because of Ruth’s faithfulness in a time of national faithlessness God rewards her by giving her a new husband, a son and a privileged position in the ancestral line of King David and Christ. The story brings in the concept of the redeemer*.

***Redeemer:** (Hebrew: go’el) has many nuances in the Old Testament. The word came originally from the realm of family law. It was the duty of the go’el (next of kin) to vindicate a family member whose “justice” was threatened or violated. If the family member was forced to sell property for some reason, the redeemer was obligated to buy it and keep it in the family if at all possible. (teachers to explain the Boaz is the redeemer as he was a relative of Naomi who married Ruth and redeemed the land which was supposed to be lost and kept it for the family.

LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

The books of the Bible song

VOCABULARY

Judges

Redeemer

OBJECTIVES

1. Memorize the List of the history books
2. Know the main content of each book
3. Continue the family line and be familiar with the map

CONNECTION POINT

"We continue our studying of the books of the Bible. We are going on a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this journey we are going to visit different places and time periods and learn about different people and cultures. Most of all we will learn about God's care and love of His family on earth through the events and actions. We shall do this together, which mean that this journey will include hands-on work and group planning and discussions. We shall use maps, family trees, and pictures of archeological findings (remains of old cultures). You will be helped and provided with the needed resources."

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INTRODUCTION

- Introduction of the Historical books

LESSON BODY

- Review the list of the 16 historical books
- Tell the students that the focus of this lesson is on the first three: Joshua, Judges and Ruth

- Give the summary of the three books and the definition of the redeemer
- Watch 5 minutes from the Jericho documentary (Jericho unearthed)
- Show map of the promised land and place Ruth in the family line

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q. List the names of the sixteen books of History

A. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st & 2nd Kings, 1st & 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Judith, Tobit, 1st and 2nd Maccabees*

Q. What are the contents of Joshua, Ruth and Judges

A. *Joshua contains the conquest and the settlement in the promised land. Ruth is the story of the sincere love of Ruth the great grandmother of king David. The book of Judges tell the history of Israel after the conquest and before the kings - during the rule of the judges.*

Q. How was Jericho conquered?

A. *When the Israelites believed the plan of God and circled the city with the priest seven days*

Q. How many cycles are in the book of Judges? describe them.

A. *Seven. Each cycle starts with disobedience followed by discipline through oppressing neighbors leading people to cry and return to God, a 'deliverer/Judge' is then sent by God to deliver them followed by a period of calmness that leads people once again forget about God and once again the cycle repeats.*

Q. Name three Judges?

A. *Deborah, Gideon, Samson*

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Joshua 24:15 *"But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

HOME ACTIVITY AND MEMORIZATION

Memorize the books of the Bible and the main groups. update the family line

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit would be the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

5. BOOKS OF HISTORY 2: 1,2 SAMUEL, 1 KINGS, 1 & 2CHRONICLES

SERVANT PREPARATION

SERVANT MEMORIZATION

Introduction to the Historical Books (books from Joshua-2nd Maccabees are known as the Historical Books)

Major events covered by these books are:

1. The settlement of the people in the Promise Land and their wandering
2. The transition from rule by judges to rule by kings
3. David's anointing as king of the United Kingdom
4. The division of the nation into Northern and Southern Factions
5. The destruction of the Northern Kingdom
6. The exile and return of the Southern Kingdom

*Teachers to review the book order of the books of History; these books cover a period of 1000 years

First Samuel (31 chapters)

Hanna has no children and prayed to God for a child (*chapter 1*) and promised God to give God the child as servant all his life. Samuel was born and Hanna gave him to Eli to live in the Temple and serve with the high priest. God spoke to Samuel and was established as the first prophet after Moses (*chapter 3*). Samuel lead the people for many years until the people asked for a king and Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel (*chapter 10*). Saul disobeyed God and was rejected from kingship (*chapter 15*). God sent Samuel to anoint David as the new king for Israel (*chapter 16*). When David killed Goliath and became a national hero (*chapter 17*), Saul envied David and wanted to kill him. David fled to the philistines. Saul continued to fail and eventually consults a medium on the night of His suicide (*chapter 31*).

Outline of 1 Samuel: (31 chapters) 4 leaders and 3 national leadership transitions

1. The judgeship of Eli - childhood of Samuel (chapter 1-3)
2. The judgeship of Samuel (chapter 4-7)
3. The Leadership of king Saul (chapter 8-15)

4. The Kingship of David (chapter 15-31)

Second Samuel (24 chapters)

After David knew of the death of king Saul (*chapter 1*), He reigned in Hebron (*chapter 2*) then in Jerusalem after concurring it (*chapter 5*). He brought the Ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (*chapter 6*). David asked God to build a Temple for God but God said it would be David's son who would build it and makes a Covenant with David (*chapter 7*). David commits adultery and murder (*chapter 11*) David confessed his sin and Nathan the prophet tells David of the consequences of his sins (*chapters 12*) and trouble begins in his house (*chapter 13*), then in his kingdom (*chapter 14 - 24*). The book ends with king David numbering the people and bringing a curse on Israel (*chapter 24*).

Outline of second Samuel: (24 chapters)

1. The Triumph of David (chapter 1-10)
2. The Transgression of David (chapter 11)
3. The Troubles of David (chapters 12-24)

The books of 1Kings & 2Kings and 1Chronicles and 2Chronicles cover the same historical period from different perspectives.

These 4 books can be divided into the history of:

1. The united kingdom under David, Solomon and Rehoboam: 1Kings: (1-11), 1Chronicles (all 29 chapters), 2Chronicles (1-10)
2. The divided kingdom: 1Kings: (12-22) 2Kings (25 chapters), 2Chronicles (11-36)

The united kingdom: 1st Kings (1-11) 1st and 2nd Chronicles (chapters 1-9)

1st Chronicles starts with the lists of genealogies (*chapter 1-9*) then the reign of David (*chapter 10-30*). 1st Kings starts with the reign of Solomon (*chapter 1*) leading to the decline of Solomon and his death (*chapter 11*). 2nd Chronicles starts with the beginning of Solomon reign (*chapter 1*) through the Preparation (*chapter 2*), construction (*chapter 3*) and dedication of the Temple (*chapter 5-7*). Solomon glorious reign and death (*chapters 8-9*)

LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

The books of the Bible song

VOCABULARY

United kingdom

kings
Chronicles

OBJECTIVES

1. Memorize the List of the history books
2. Know the main content of each book
3. Continue the family line and be familiar with the map

CONNECTION POINT

"We continue our studying of the books of the Bible. We are going on a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this journey we are going to visit different places and time periods and learn about different people and cultures. Most of all we will learn about God's care and love of His family on earth through the events and actions. We shall do this together, which mean that this journey will include hands-on work and group planning and discussions. We shall use maps, family trees, and pictures of archeological findings (remains of old cultures). You will be helped and provided with the needed resources."

The goals of the Bible Unit to be posted in the class:

1. Memorize the Bible Books in Order
2. Know the different groups of books within the Bible
3. Know the main events and persons in each book
4. Know the main story that make the Bible One - Covenants + family line

LESSON BODY

- list the books of history and the meaning of the names: kings, chronicles, united kingdom
- Give a summary of the books: 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st Chronicles
- Give a summary of the books: 1st kings (1-11) and 2nd Chronicles (1-9)
- Show a diagram of the Temple of Solomon
- Continue the family line

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q. List the names of the sixteen books of History

A. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st & 2nd Kings, 1st & 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Judith, Tobit, 1st and 2nd Maccabees.*

Q. What is the main story of the book of 1st Chronicles?

A. *The genealogies of Israel and the history of the reign of king David.*

Q. What is the content of 1st kings (chapters 1-11)?

A. *The reign of king Solomon*

Q. What is the content of 2nd Chronicles?

A. *2nd Chronicles starts with the beginning of Solomon reign (chapter 1) through the Preparation (chapter 2), construction (chapter 3) and dedication of the Temple (chapter 5-7). Solomon glorious reign and death (chapters 8-9)*

Q. *Where in the Bible; can we find the story of David and Goliath?*

A. *first Samuel 17*

Q. Where in the Bible can we find the dedication of the Temple of Solomon?

A. *Second Chronicles chapter 7*

VERSE TO REMEMBER

2nd Samuel 7: 12,13 " *I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.13He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.* "

HOME ACTIVITY AND READINGS

The covenant with David:

read second Samuel 7 and the **Consecration of the Temple:** 2nd Chronicle 7

Memorize the book names and the contents

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit would be the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

6. BOOKS OF HISTORY 3: 2ND CHRONICLES, 1ST & 2ND KINGS

SERVANT PREPARATION

Summary of

The divided Kingdom: 2nd Chronicles (36 chapters), 1st Kings (22 chapters), 2nd Kings (25 chapters).

David

Solomon

Rehoboam: *The Revolt Against Rehoboam (2nd Chronicles 10)* . After the death of Solomon, the 10 northern tribes complained to his son Rehoboam about the unfairness of the tax systems. They complained that they were paying higher taxes than the tribe of the king (Judah). Rehoboam asked advice from 2 groups the elders and the younger. The older told him to listen to the people. The younger (his childhood friends) told him to be harsh with the people. He listened to the young friends advice. The people revolted under the leadership of Jeroboam who took 10 tribes and started the kingdom of the north (Israel). All the kings of the north were evil kings. This was a fulfillment of a prophecy given to Solomon when his heart turned from the Lord.

Abijah: Son of Rehoboam

Asa: Son of Abijah

Jehoshaphat: **Strength:** Righteous king

Weakness: befriended Ahab (Jezebel's husband, an evil king of the north kingdom) and had his son marry Ahab & Jezebel's daughter (Athalia) bringing evil to the kingdom of Judah.

Jehoram: Evil king. The husband of Athalia. Killed all his brothers (learned assassination from his wife). Elijah wrote him a letter of warning. He got sick and died in pain

Ahazia: Evil king. The son of Athalia. His mother advised him of evil. He was killed in Israel while visiting the king of the north. When Athalia heard of the death of her son Ahazia she ordered the killing of all the royal line. She killed all her grand children.

Jehohashabeath, the sister of Ahazia (most probably from another mother) took Joash (one of the sons of Ahazia her brother) and hid him in her bedroom. She was the wife of Jehoiada the high priest. They lived in the house of God and there they hid him. Athalia reigned for six years.

Joash: Jehoiada the high priest (Joash aunt's husband) brought him out and made him a king and ordered the death of Athalia. When Jehoiada the high priest died, the princes of Judah got corrupted (the effect of Athalia). His cousin, Zachariah (son of Jehoiada the high priest) rebuked the princes for worshipping idols. So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD. Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada (Zachariah's father) had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, "The LORD look on *it*, and repay!". Joash was killed by the hands of his servants.

Amaziah: Son of Joash

Uzziah: *Strength:* He did what was right and Godly
Weakness: A proud man who wanted to do everything even the priestly service of burning incense (only for priests to do). The priests rebuked him for attempting to burn incense. Uzziah became furious; and he *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he *was* leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him. King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper the rest of his life

Jotham: *Strength:* He did what was right and godly, according to all that his father Uzziah had done
Weakness: (although he did not enter the temple of the Lord all the days of his life)

Ahaz: The king to whom Isaiah gave the oracle of Emanuel. He worshiped idols

Hezekiah: *Strength:* The righteous king who made a reformation. During his time Sennacherib the king of Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom (720 BC) then besieged Jerusalem and reproached the name of the Lord. The angel of the Lord killed one hundred and eighty five thousand of the army. Sennacherib was killed by the hands of his sons. Hezekiah got sick and Isaiah told him to prepare to die. Hezekiah prayed earnestly and was given a sign - the dial returned 10 degrees backwards.

Weakness: Hezekiah showed all his treasures to the ambassadors of the king of Babylon.

- Manasseh:** *Weakness:* The king that did the most evil in Judah: he killed Isaiah the prophet, he promoted the worship of Idols and desecrated the Temple of the Lord by building altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke *Him* to anger. He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of the Lord.
Strength: But he repented at the end.
- Amon:** Son of Manasseh
- Josiah:** A very righteous king who made a great reform and tried very hard to correct all the wrong that his grandfather Manasseh had done. During his reforms, the priests found the Torah of Moses hidden in the Temple. He died wounded in Her-Megiddo before completing his reform. He could not undo what Manasseh had done.
- Jehoahaz:** Son of Josiah. Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt took him captive to Egypt
- Jehoiakim:** The second son of Josiah. He was made king by the king of Egypt in place of his brother
- Jehoiakin:** The son of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took him to Babylon with many captives and spoils from Jerusalem. He lived in Babylon and was treated honorably by the king of Babylon.
- Metanaia:** The third son of Josiah. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made him a king over Judea after taking his nephew Jehoiakin (who was the legitimate heir to throne) to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar changed his name to Zedekiah (the truthful). Zedekiah after swearing an oath by God to Nebuchadnezzar, he repelled against him. Then Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war *fled* at night. And *the king* went by way of the plain. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon. (550 BC) He was the last king of Judah in the old testament.

The kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom)

The Kings of Israel were all evil. Most famous out of them is king Ahab and his wife Jezebel (daughter of king Sidon). In the time of Ahab, Elijah the prophet appeared in Israel.

LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

Bible books song

VOCABULARY

Northern Kingdom\ Israel

Southern Kingdom\ Judah

Chronicles

OBJECTIVES

1. To Memorize the names of history books of the Bible
2. Memorize the Main events and the divisions of the history books
3. Know the Covenant with king David
4. To continue the family line, be familiar with the map of the area

INTRODUCTION - CONNECTION POINT

"We continue our studying of the books of the Bible. We are going on a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this lesson we will study the kingdom of David after Solomon.

The goals of the Bible Unit to be posted in the class:

1. Memorize the Bible Books in Order
2. Know the different groups of books within the Bible
3. Know the main events and persons in each book
4. Know the main story that make the Bible One - Covenants + family line

LESSON BODY

- Review the list of the books of history and the meaning of the names: kings, chronicles, united kingdom
- Continue the family line: let the students construct the family line of the kings of Judah from the NKJ bible chapter headings - guide them. This will familiarize them with their names.
- Give a summary of the books: 1st kings (12-22), 2nd kings (all 25) and 2nd Chronicles (10-36)

- Here is a way to entice students to keep focused with this lesson: make a copy of the following 2 pages handout , let each have a copy and ask them to complete the spaces with the names of the kings as you tell them the story:

Kings of Judah during the Divided Kingdom

The beginning of the **division** starts after **Solomon's son** _____¹ received bad advice.

After Solomon died the people (who were later the 10 northern tribes) complained to _____ that they were paying higher _____. **Rehoboam**, asked advice from the _____ elders _____ and _____ his _____ young _____ friends. _____ advised him to be harsh with the people (the complainers). The people then rebelled with Jeroboam as their leader who took 10 tribes and started the kingdom of the north (division).

This was a fulfillment of a prophecy to _____ when his heart turned from the Lord.

_____² and _____³ were the next two kings after Rehoboam (_____ of Solomon)

Then comes a **righteous** king with a very cool name _____⁴. His weakness was that he became friends with **Ahab** (who was an evil king of the north, married to Jezebel). **Jehoshaphat's** son _____⁵ married Ahab and Jezebel's evil daughter _____, who brought _____ to the Kingdom from now forward.

Jehoram after listening to **Athalia** his wife, killed all his brothers. Right after, he got sick and died ☹. Of course after him, his son _____⁶ ruled the kingdom, and still took advice from his **evil mother** _____. He went to go visit the king of the north and was killed there. When Athalia heard of this (went crazy again) she ordered the killing of all her grandchildren. Ahazia's sister (Jehoashabeath- also a **cool name**) heard of this and took **Joash** and hid him in her _____, then they **hid him** in the house of God. Her husband was the high priest named Jehoiada. ☹ Unfortunately, **Athalia ruled for 6 years**. Jehoiada ordered the death of Athalia and made _____⁷ king 😊. During Athalia's reign the kingdom was corrupted ☹ and the nobles were **worshiping idols**. Zachariah, Joash's cousin rebuked them during Joash's rule. The nobles hated Zachariah for this and poisoned Joash against him. **Joash** did not remember what _____'s father (the high priest) did for him and ordered the stoning of Zachariah ☹.

Zachariah said “the Lord look on it, and repay.” Joash was then killed by the hands of his own servants. Amaziah⁸ the son of Joash ruled next.

Then another **righteous** king ruled, his name was _____.⁹ **Uzziah** did what was good and right but he was a **proud man**. This led him to burn _____ (even though he was not a priest and was told not to). Because he was told not to, and didn't it anyways, leprosy broke out on his forehead, so he was pushed out of the _____. He was a leper until he _____. While Uzziah was still alive his son _____¹⁰ ruled. **Jotham** was a **righteous** man although he never entered in to the temple until he died.

The next king was _____¹¹. He was the king whom Isaiah gave the **oracle of Emmanuel**. This king however **worshiped idols** ☹️

_____¹² the king came next. He was a **righteous** king who made a reformation. During his time the Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom.

After **Hezekiah**, the next king's name was _____¹³. He was the **most evil** in Judah ☹️. He killed _____ the prophet, promoted worship of idols and dishonored the temple ☹️. Also, taught his son _____¹⁴ evil as well. Even though he did loads of evil things, he **repented at the end** 😊

After Amon, came **Josiah**¹⁵ who was a very **righteous** king who tried to correct all the evil doings of his _____ Manasseh. During his reform, the priests found the _____ (written by Moses) hidden in the temple.

Then came **Jehoahaz**¹⁶ and then _____¹⁷ the second son of Josiah who was made king by the king of Egypt after his brother was taken as a slave in Egypt.

The son of **JehoiakiM**, **JehoiakiN**¹⁸ lived in Babylon and was treated well. When Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt, he took and brought third son of Josiah _____¹⁹ into the throne of Judea and changed his name to Zedakiah in exchange of taking his nephew JehoiakiN to Babylon (Chronicles 36). Zedakiah is the last king of Judah in the Old Testament.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q. How was the Davidic kingdom divided?

A. *After the death of Solomon, the 10 northern tribes complained to his son Rehoboam about the unfairness of the tax systems. They complained that they were paying higher taxes than the tribe of the king (Judah). Rehoboam asked advice from 2 groups the elders and the younger. The older told him to listen to the people. The younger (his childhood friends) told him to be harsh with the people. He listened to the young friends advise. The people revolted under the leadership of Jeroboam who took 10 tribes and started the kingdom of the north (Israel). All the kings of the north were evil kings.*

Q. Why was the kingdom divided?

A. *¹¹Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. ¹²Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."*

Q. Who is the king that:

1. Killed Zachariah the priest not remembering the good that his father did to him
2. During his time the Assyrian destroyed the northern kingdom (720 BC)
3. Did the most evil but repented at the end
4. Tried very hard to correct the evil of his grandfather but could not
5. Was a good king except for his friendship with Ahab and Jezebel
6. In his time the kingdom was taken and he witnessed the death of his children
7. He was a good man but proud enough to perform priestly duties
8. Never entered the Temple
9. Refused to listen to the wise older counselors and lost 10 tribes
10. Evil king of the Northern kingdom who was in the time of Elijah the prophet

A.

1. *Joash*
2. *Hezekiah*
3. *Manasseh*
4. *Josiah*
5. *Jehoshaphat*
6. *Metanaiah or Zedakiah*
7. *Uzziah*
8. *Jotham*

9. *Rehoboam*

10. *Ahab*

VERSE TO REMEMBER

1st kings 11:11

"Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant."

HOME ACTIVITY - READING

Read 2nd Chronicles: 10-36

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit would be the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

7. BOOKS OF HISTORY 4: POST EXILIC BOOKS OF ESTHER, EZRA, , NEHMIAH, TOBIT, JUDITH 1ST & 2ND MACCABEES

SERVANT PREPARATION

Summary of

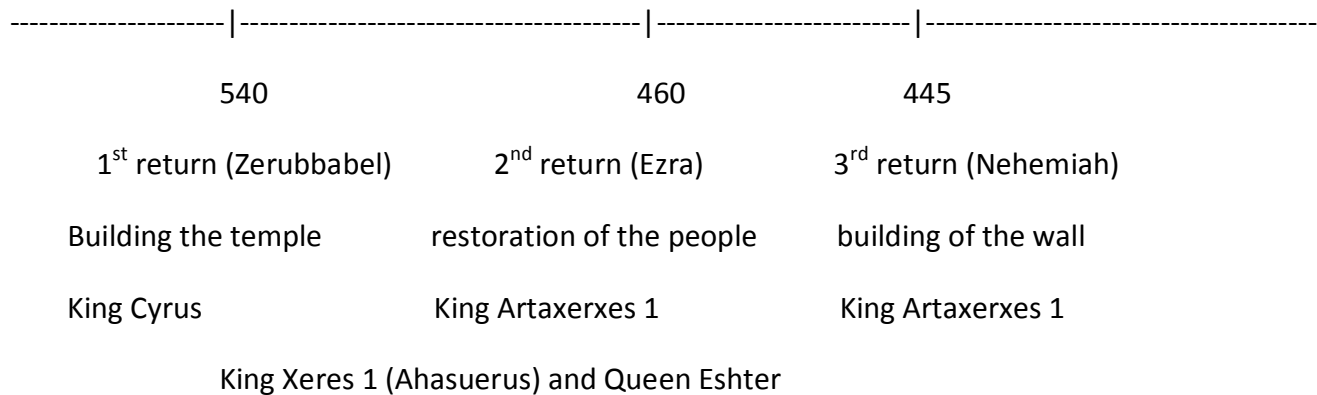
Exile and Return: Esther(10 chapters), Tobit(14 chapters), Judith(16 chapter), Ezra(10 chapters), Nehemiah(13 chapters), 1st Maccabees(16 chapters), 2nd Maccabees(15 chapters).

There are 6 main kingdoms or nations that took over Israel in history

1. Egyptian at the time of Moses, the Israelites were slaves to the Egyptians. This is not considered a kingdom but rather a nation that the Israelites were enslaved to.
2. The Assyrian Kingdom and during this time Israel was divided into Judah and Israel and the Israel nation was completely wiped out.
3. The Babylonian kingdom that was started by king Nebuchadnezzar and one of the famous stories in the bible we hear about was Daniel and his friends taken to the Babylon
4. The Persian Kingdom and this is the period we'll be talking about today where Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther took place.
5. The Greek Kingdom where 1st and 2nd Maccabees took place. A famous Greek leader was Alexander the great that we hear about in history.
6. The Roman Kingdom which started 27 years before Christ and during Christ's life on earth, Israel was under the Roman empire.

If you remember the dream of Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel interpreted it for him about a statue of a man. The head of this statue represented the Babylonian Kingdom, the arms and chest represented the Persian/Medes kingdom, the waist and hips represented the Greek kingdom and the legs represented the Roman kingdom. Then came the stone that destroyed all these kingdoms and became a very large kingdom as a symbol of Christ that his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

If we look at the graph below we see the timeline of the book of Ezzra, Nehemiah, and Esther



So as you see from the above diagram is that the return of the Israelites back to Jerusalem happened over 3 times and many chose not to go back. At the time of the Persian Kingdom their main belief was to accept all religions as one so many Jews fell into this belief and gave up the things that God asked them to do to separate them from other nations. So many started marrying from other nationalities, giving up the Sabbath and the circumcision. So purification of the people and rebuilding of the temple was very important at the time.

In the book of Ezra, it is believed that he was the writer. Ezra was a priest and he led the second return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. The first one was led by Zerubbabel who went back to build the temple. As you see from the chart Zerubbabel was at the time of Cyrus the Persian king who was known to be moderate and allowed the Jews to go back unlike the kings in the Babylonian Kingdom. Zerubbabel was a descendant of David and many thought that he'll be their future king. The second return was led by Ezra the priest and his calling was the spiritual and moral rebuilding of the people. By the way interestingly enough Ezra lived at the time of Buddha in India, and Socrates in Greece. So as you see there were many other religions and beliefs that could have had a negative influence on the Jews.

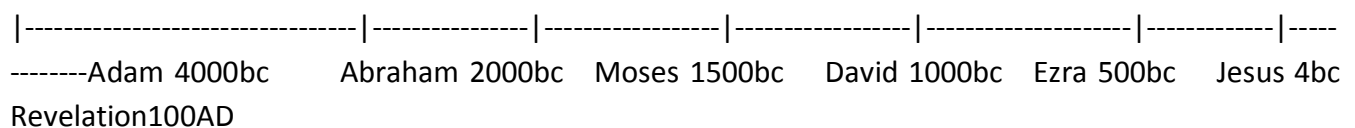
In the book of Nehemiah, the 3rd return happened under the leadership of Nehemiah to rebuild the wall of the city of Jerusalem. This book was written by Nehemiah. Nehemiah was the cupbearer of the king and at that time this was quite a prestigious position, it was more like a personal advisor of the king more than a butler by today's standards. Eventually the king made him governor over Judah. The book of Nehemiah completes the historical books which were 400 years before the coming of Christ. The book of Nehemiah shows God's faithfulness to his people that in spite of all the hardships they faced from their enemies to stop their work in building the walls of the city, with God's help they finished the building of the wall in 52 days. Even their enemies admitted that this is the work of God.

One of the most beautiful parts of the book of Nehemiah is the covenant renewal ceremony in which the people commit themselves to God and promise Him to separate themselves from the pagans and follow His commandments.

1st Maccabees happened at the time of the Greek Kingdom. Antiochan Epiphanes invaded Israel and truly defiled the temple. He allowed the pagans to offer their sacrifices inside the temple. He tried to abolish the Jewish religion in every way. He would kill anyone who observes the Sabbath or gets circumcised or practice the Jewish religion in any way. The Maccabees family (a father and his 3 sons) were very zealous Jews who gathered an army and fought the Greeks and kicked them out of Israel. Interestingly enough this is the celebration of Hanukkah that the Jews celebrate till that day. At that time the Jews had enough oil for the Menorah in the temple for one day and sent people out of the city to get more oil but that was very difficult because the city was surrounded by the Greeks and at that time God allowed the Menorah to be lit up for 8 continuous days which was a miracle and as we mentioned the Jews celebrate that till this day.

2nd Maccabees talks about Jewish martyrs and honors them, also has prayers for the dead, talks about resurrection from the dead and intercession of the saints.

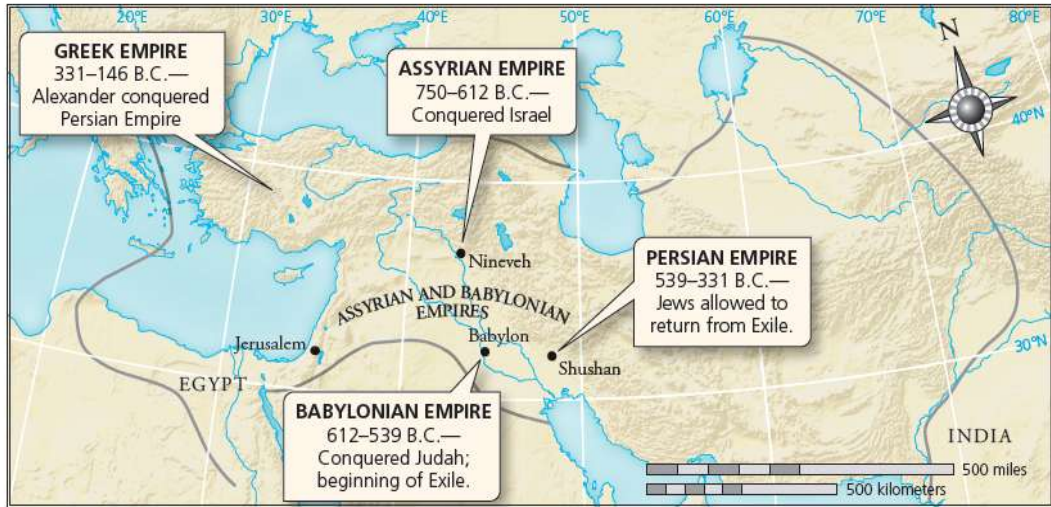
Another diagram to review is the one below



Judith is one of the canonical books that occurred in the 2nd century bc at the time of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar had sent a large army headed by Holofernes to take over many countries and when they encircled Israel, the Israelites were terrified because they knew that the enemy had planned to kill all the Israelites. Judith was a very beautiful holy woman who was a young widow and who was known in town to live a very holy life and was spending most of her time in fastings and prayers . She went to the high priest and told him about her plan and the high priest approved her plan and sent her on her way. She went to Holofernes (the head of the army of Nebuchadnezzar) telling him that she knew that he was going to win the war and that she would help him.

to take over Israel. He believed her and made a big celebration in which he got drunk and as every body left and he and Judith were the only one left in his tent, she took his sword and killed him and carried his head back to Israel. The next day when his army found that their leader was dead they were very scared and confused and ran away.

SUCCESSION OF FOUR WORLD EMPIRES



© GeoNova

THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



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LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

Bible books song

VOCABULARY

OBJECTIVES

1. To Memorize the names of history books of the Bible
2. Memorize the Main events and the divisions of the history books
3. Know the Covenant with king David
4. To continue the family line, be familiar with the map of the area

INTRODUCTION - CONNECTION POINT

"We continue our studying of the books of the Bible. We are going on a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this journey we are going to visit different places and time periods and learn about different people and cultures. Most of all we will learn about God's care and love of His family on earth through the events and actions. We shall do this together, which mean that this journey will include hands-on work and group planning and discussions. We shall use maps, family trees, and pictures of archeological findings (remains of old cultures). You will be helped and provided with the needed resources."

The goals of the Bible Unit to be posted in the class:

1. Memorize the Bible Books in Order
2. Know the different groups of books within the Bible
3. Know the main events and persons in each book
4. Know the main story that make the Bible One - Covenants + family line

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit would be the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

8. PROPHETS BEFORE AND AFTER THE EXILE

SERVANT PREPARATION

Introduction to the prophetic Books:

The prophets are messengers of God who confronted the people of God when they acted against the Covenant with YAWH. They called the people to repentance. There was a long list of prophets in Israel. The list started with Moses, the prophet. Moses is the most important prophet, whom God first called and instructed. Moses was the greatest of the old testament prophets and his experience as a prophet became the model for all the other prophets to be measured.

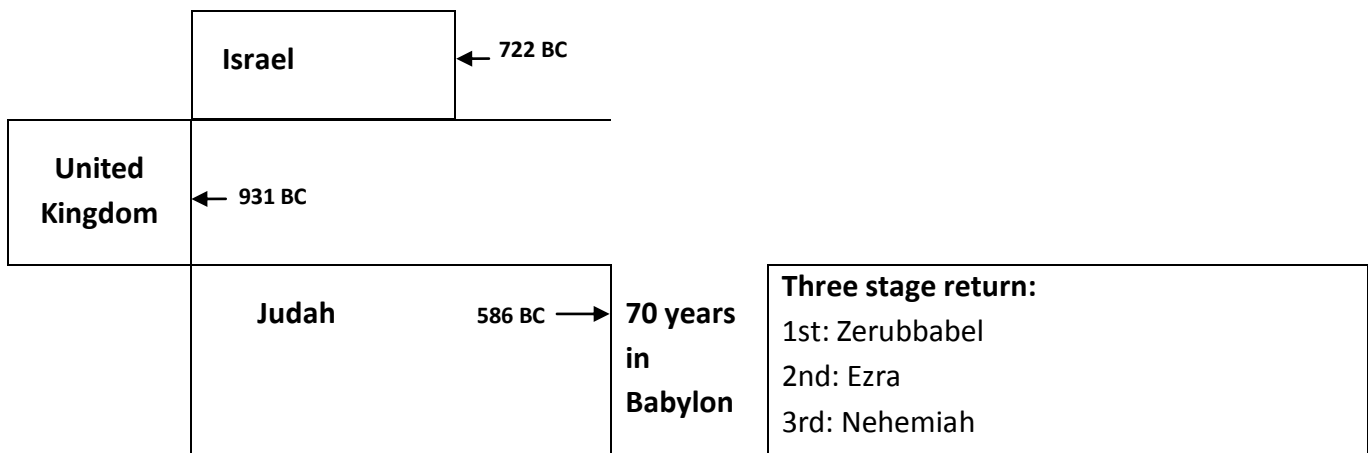
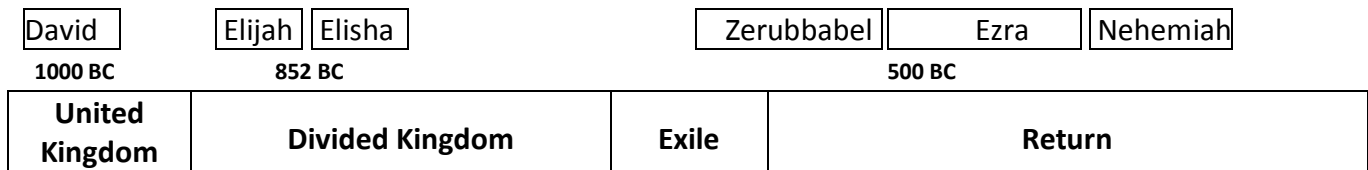
Characteristics of the relationship between the Lord and His prophets:

1. The authority of the Lord over both the prophets and their hearers
2. The obedience of the prophets (even to death sometimes)
3. The authority of the prophets as representatives of the sovereign God
4. The requirement of the hearers to chose between covenant obedience or disobedience
5. The report of the prophet back to God in the form of prayer.

The prophetic books are written in the style of Hebrew poetry. The prophets used poetry for different reasons:

1. Poetry speaks powerfully to the will and the emotions
2. Poetry with its symbolism and imagery better conveys the wonders of God and His character
3. Poetry can speak about meaning of the future events without the need to describe all the details involved

Prophets wrote in the period between 750 B.C. to 500 B.C.



PROPHETS BEFORE THE EXILE		EXILE PROPHETS	PROPHETS AFTER THE EXILE
To Israel: Amos Hosea To Nineveh: Jonah Nahum To Edom: Obadiah	To Judah: Joel Isaiah Micah Zephaniah Jeremiah Habakkuk Lamentation	To Jews in Babylon: Daniel Ezekiel	To remnant after returning: Haggai Zachariah Malachi

LESSON PREPARATION

SONG

The Bible books song

VOCABULARY

Prophet: one who speaks for another. Hebrew “nabi” from “nabu” to call Either proclaiming a message from God or the prophet is the messenger. The prophet acts and speaks on behalf of God. Moses called Nabi which means prophet while nebia was used for leadership of two women Miriam and Deborah. During the time of Samuel term was being applied to special Israelite society (Elijah)

Repent: Key word is Hebrew verb “*shub*” which means to turn. One meaning is turning away from loyalty to the God of the covenant to some other loyalty or God-story. Another meaning is to turn around or turn to the covenant relationship with Yahweh also meaning repentance.

Covenantal Lawsuits: Are initiated by God against His people when they broke the Covenant. The prophet would pronounce the “lawsuit” which typically included: 1.A summon, 2.Accusation. 3.Pronouncement of Judgment. 4.Description of the coming punishment. 5.Promise of restoration.

Son of Man: Daniel 7 introduces an important title of our Lord. The original Aramaic, *bar ‘anash*, literally means “a son of man.” Our Lord in his confrontation with the high priest identify himself as the son of man that would come on the clouds of heaven. likewise, at the time of His ascension, the angels told the disciples that He would come again on the clouds.

OBJECTIVES

1. Memorize the List of the Major (6) and Minor Prophets (12)
2. Know the overall mission of the prophets
3. know the timing of the different prophets in relation to the Exile

CONNECTION POINT

"We continue our studying of the books of the Bible. We are going on a journey through the Holy Scriptures. In this journey we are going to visit different places and time periods and learn about different people and cultures. Most of all we will learn about God's care and love of His family on earth through the events and actions. We shall do this together, which mean that this journey will include hands-on work and group planning and discussions. We shall use maps, family trees, and pictures of archeological findings (remains of old cultures). You will be helped and provided with the needed resources."

The goals of the Bible Unit to be posted in the class:

1. Memorize the Bible Books in Order
2. Know the different groups of books within the Bible
3. Know the main events and persons in each book
4. Know the main story that make the Bible One - Covenants + family line

LESSON BODY

1. Introduce the Books of the prophets
2. Help the students learn the lists of the prophets (major and minor, pre-exilic, exilic and post-exilic)
3. Explain the definitions of prophet, repent, covenantal lawsuit, son of man.

CONCLUSION

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q. What is a prophet?

A. one who speaks for another. Hebrew "nabi" from "nabu" to call Either proclaiming a message from God or the prophet is the messenger. The prophet acts and speaks on behalf of God.

Q. What is repentance?

A. Repent: Key word is Hebrew verb "shub" which means to turn. One meaning is turning away from loyalty to the God of the covenant to some other loyalty or God-story. Another meaning is to turn around or turn to the covenant relationship with Yahweh also meaning repentance.

Q. Name three pre-exilic prophets?

A. Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk

Q. In what style did the prophets write? and why?

A. The prophetic books are written in the style of Hebrew poetry. The prophets used poetry for different reasons:

- 1. Poetry speaks powerfully to the will and the emotions*
- 2. Poetry with its symbolism and imagery better conveys the wonders of God and His character*
- 3. Poetry can speak about meaning of the future events without the need to describe all the details involved*

Q. Who are the exilic prophets?

A. Daniel, Ezekiel

Q. Who is the greatest prophet of the old testament?

A. Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi

Unit II: God gives us His Word

Purpose: This unit would be the place in the curriculum where the students learn the overarching themes and the mainline subjects of the Bible. It is the study of the holy books, their writers, the main themes and persons.

9. WISDOM AND POETRY BOOKS

SERVANT PREPARATION

Summary

The Poetry Books

The Poetry books are

1. Job
2. Psalms
3. Proverbs
4. Ecclesiastes
5. Song of Solomon
6. Wisdom of Solomon (Canonical book)
7. Wisdom of Sirach (Canonical book)

The purpose of these books is to provide guidance for moral behavior and everyday living but yet centered around God unlike the other cultures at the time who had writings about morals but not God centered.

1. Job

Job was written at the time of Abraham. Job was a gentile living in the land of Uz (which is Northern Arabia). We don't know who wrote the book. Job a book written as a classic examination of evil and human suffering. The book of Job tells the story of a rich man who loses everything he owns and all his children and get stricken by severe physical illness and wrestles

throughout the book with the question why? It starts with a debate between Satan and God telling God that Job obeys you because you blessed him with many blessings and if you take these blessings away from him, he will not follow you. Then it goes through 3 cycles of debate between Job and his friends where his friends at some point explain his suffering that it is for God to purify him and at another point blaming him that God allowed all this because of his sins. In fact both of Satan's and his friends arguments are false and do not completely answer the question of why God allowed suffering. At the end of Job's story, God restores to him double of everything he lost and gives him as many children as he had and even though it does not give us a full answer to the question of why does the righteous suffer? Because of our limited nature we will never fully understand God yet Job at the end realizes the love and care of God and learns to trust his will in his life. Through his difficult time he was able to have a personal experience with God and said the beautiful famous verse " I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear but now my eye sees You" Job 42:5.

2. Psalms

The largest book of the bible. Even though we always think that David wrote all of it but that is not true, it is the book with the most number of authors but David wrote most of them. It was used as the temple hymnbook and the book of psalms means the book of praises. There are many topics that the psalms cover and also it covers a full range of human experiences like being happy, sad, scared,...etc. Some psalms are thanksgiving psalms to praise God, others were lament psalms to speak about the desperation that us humans go through and our need for God's deliverance, others talk about God as our earthly and heavenly king, and others are called pilgrimage psalms that the Jews used to sing as they travel to Jerusalem to celebrate their Jewish feasts ...etc. Also in many of the psalms we see prophecies about Christ such as specifics about his crucifixion.

3. Proverbs

Written by King Solomon and gives advice to the people in how to deal successfully with the practical affairs of life and a lot of advice for the home how kids should deal with their parents and the how parents to deal with their kids. It also talks about wisdom and foolishness but not by the world's standards of intelligence and unintelligence but rather by God's standard describing the wise as someone who fears the Lord and the fool as the one who trusts in himself and believes that there is no God. We refer to Christ as the wisdom because he is the path to the truth and has all the hidden treasures to wisdom and truth.

4. Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes means the one who addresses an assembly. It records an intense search for the meaning and satisfaction in life on this earth. It is written by king Solomon near the end of his

life where he realizes in spite of his power ,fame, riches, having multiple wives and concubines that all the glory in this world is vanity but then ends the book on a positive note stating that there will be judgment and eternal life. Many of the difficult question which king Solomon poses about the meaning of this life would be answered only in Jesus Christ who is the only one that can provide our life with joy , fulfillment and wisdom.

5. Song of Solomon

This is also written by King Solomon as a poem, love song, and his wedding of a shepherdess (the Shulmaite) . The book is arranged as scenes in a drama with 3 main speakers : the bride, the king, and the chorus. It is a symbolic book describing the relationship between God and Israel in the old testament and between Christ and the church in the new testament.

6. The wisdom of Solomon

This is a canonical book. Is written by Solomon and is the same idea as the proverbs giving moral advice and talking about wisdom

7. Wisdom of Sirach

This is a canonical book. Is written by a Jewish scribe whose name is Joshua (Jesus) the son of Sirach. It is also ethical teachings like Proverbs and talks about all conditions of life , advice and instruction (maybe we can read few verses)

LESSON PREPARATION

OBJECTIVES

1. Memorize the List of the books of wisdom
2. Know the writer, the main content of each book

LESSON BODY

See Summary

