

# **Wycliffe Associates**

## **Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide**

### ***Old Testament Survey***

#### ***Joshua - Esther***

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# Instructions for the Review Leader

## Prepare

- Find 2–4 believers to review your translated passages, and plan where to meet.
- Gather pens and paper, a printed copy of the Reviewers' Guide (RG), one copy of the source text, and printed copies of the translation.
- Read through the parts of the RG and translation that you will ask the believers to review.

## Start Review Session

- Bring everything you prepared.
- Welcome reviewers. Pray together.
- Tell reviewers the following:
  - “The questions in this review are not meant to test your Bible knowledge. Instead, they are meant to test how clear the translation is. When I ask questions, please answer from what you find in the text we just read.”
  - “You will not be asked or expected to suggest changes or edits for any issues that are found.”
  - “I will tell you the verse reference for each question. If needed, you can refer to that verse while answering the question.”
- Give reviewers copies of the translated passages.

## Conduct Review for Each Passage

- Read (aloud) any **Background** for the passage.
- Read (aloud) the passage in the translation. Reviewers should follow along while you read.
- Ask reviewers to retell the passage, using their own words. They may look at the passage as they retell it.
  - As you listen, mark the box by each **Part 1** item if it is understandable from the way reviewers retell the passage.
  - Write notes on the RG about what they understand and do not understand.
- Ask reviewers the **Part 2** questions. Tell reviewers the verse that each question is about so that they can look at the right verses as they answer.
  - As you listen, mark by each **Part 2** item if it is understandable from how reviewers answer the question. Reviewers do not need to quote directly.
  - As needed, ask additional questions to clarify. (For example, ask reviewers to show or tell which words in the verses led to their answer.)
  - You may also look at your source text to confirm answers.

You may use the **Comment Section** to take any other notes about what they say.

- Some questions in **Part 2** include the phrase “do you think.” These questions are designed to test if implied information can be understood. Any answer that fits with the text is OK. Participants may also answer these questions based on knowledge of other Biblical passages and based on how they react to this passage.

## Finish Review Session

- Pray together.
- Thank reviewers.
- As needed, talk about when to meet to review more passages.

## After the Review

- Arrange a time to meet with the translation team.
- At that time, bring all the notes from your Review Session(s) to the translation team.
- Show them what was found by reviewers. The team should decide what to change and how to do that.

# Joshua 1:1-9    Yahweh's instructions to Joshua

**Background:** Moses was the leader of Israel who brought the people out of Egypt. He died before the Israelites entered the promised land. Yahweh chose Joshua to be the next leader. In this passage, the people of Israel were very near the promised land. They were across a river from it. The river was called the Jordan.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ After the death of Moses, Yahweh told Joshua to cross over the Jordan with all the people to the land that Yahweh was giving to them. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Every place they stepped was given to them, just as Yahweh promised to Moses. [1:3]
- ☐ Their territory would extend from the wilderness and Lebanon to the Euphrates River and the Great Sea. [1:4]
- ☐ Yahweh told Joshua that no one would be able to stand before him. And Yahweh would not leave Joshua. [1:5]
- ☐ He told Joshua several times to be strong and courageous and that God would be with him wherever he went. [1:6-9]
- ☐ Yahweh told him to always obey the law Moses commanded. [1:7]
- ☐ He told Joshua to meditate on the Book of the Law and to do what was written in it. Then he would be prosperous and successful. [1:8]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1-2] What did Yahweh tell Joshua to do after the death of Moses?  
He told Joshua to cross over the Jordan with the people of Israel and to go into the land that Yahweh was giving to them.
2. [1:3] What places was Yahweh giving to them, just as he promised Moses?  
Yahweh was giving them every place where their feet walked.
3. [1:4] How far would their territory extend?  
Their territory would extend from the wilderness and Lebanon to the river called Euphrates, to the Hittites' land, and to the Great Sea in the west.
4. [1:5] What did Yahweh tell Joshua that no one would be able to do?  
He told Joshua that no one would ever be able to stop him or have victory over him, and no one would be able to stand his ground or stop Joshua.

**Joshua 1:1-9 continued**

5. [1:5] What else did Yahweh say to Joshua in verse 5?  
Yahweh said that he would always be with Joshua, as he had been with Moses. He said that he would not abandon or leave Joshua.
6. [1:6] When should Joshua be strong and courageous?  
He should be strong and courageous as he caused the people to inherit the land that Yahweh had promised to their ancestors.
7. [1:7] What should Joshua be careful to do, so that he would have success wherever he went?  
Joshua should be careful to obey all the law that Yahweh's servant Moses had commanded. He should not turn from it to the right or the left.
8. [1:8] What did Yahweh tell Joshua to have in his mouth always, and to meditate upon day and night?  
Yahweh told Joshua to have the book of the law in his mouth always and to meditate upon it day and night.
9. [1:8] What do you think it would mean for someone to have the book of the law in his mouth always, and to meditate upon it day and night?  
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps someone who did this would consistently read the book of the law, thinking and speaking about it. Perhaps this person would carefully consider what the book of the law meant.
10. [1:8] What did Yahweh say would happen if Joshua did this?  
Yahweh said that he would be prosperous and successful.
11. [1:9] Why did Yahweh say that Joshua should not be afraid?  
Joshua should not be afraid because Yahweh his God was with him wherever he went.
12. [1:10] Why do you think that Yahweh told Joshua to be strong and courageous so many times in this passage?  
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps it was difficult for Joshua to become the next leader after Moses. Perhaps Yahweh was preparing Joshua for especially difficult and frightening things that would happen when they went into the promised land.

**Comment Section:**

# Joshua 2:1-14 Rahab hides the spies

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Joshua sent two men as spies to look over the land, especially Jericho. The men came to Rahab's house and stayed there. [2:1]
- ☐ The king of Jericho was told about the spies. [2:2]
- ☐ The king of Jericho sent a message to Rahab to bring the men out to him, because he knew they were spying. [2:3]
- ☐ Rahab had hidden the spies. She said that the spies had come, but she did not know where they came from. [2:4]
- ☐ She said that the spies had left. She said that if they were pursued quickly, they could be caught. [2:5]
- ☐ But she had hidden the spies on the roof with stalks of flax. [2:6]
- ☐ The king's men hurried to pursue the spies, and the gate was shut after they left. [2:7]
- ☐ Before she hid the spies, Rahab told them that she knew that Yahweh had given the land to the men of Israel. She told them that everyone was afraid of them. [2:8-9]
- ☐ She said that her people had heard how Yahweh had dried up the sea for Israel when they came out of Egypt, and how Israel had destroyed two other kings on the far side of the Jordan. [2:10]
- ☐ Rahab said that the people were afraid. She said that Yahweh was the God of the heavens and the earth. [2:11]
- ☐ Rahab asked the spies to be kind to her and her family. [2:12-13]
- ☐ The spies agreed that they would be kind to her and to her family, if she would not tell what they were doing. [2:14]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] What did Joshua tell the two men to do when he sent them secretly as spies?  
He told them to look over the land, especially Jericho.
2. [2:1] Where did the two spies from Shittim stay when Joshua sent them to spy on the land?  
The two spies stayed at the house of a prostitute named Rahab.
3. [2:2] What was the king of Jericho told?  
He was told that men of Israel had come to search out the land.
4. [2:3] What message did the king of Jericho send to Rahab?  
He told her to bring out the men who entered her house, because they had come to search out all the land.
5. [2:4, 6] What had Rahab done with the spies when the king's men came looking for them?  
She had hidden them on the roof with stalks of flax.

**Joshua 2:1-14 continued**

6. [2:4-5] What did Rahab say to the king's men?  
Rahab said that the spies had been there, but she did not know where they had come from. She said that they had left at dusk, when it was time for the city gate to be closed. She said that she did not know where they went. She told the king's men to hurry so they could catch the spies.
7. [2:7] How did the king's men respond?  
They pursued them on the road that leads to the Jordan, and the gate was shut when the pursuers went out.
8. [2:9] Why did Rahab hide the two men of Israel who had come as spies?  
She knew that Yahweh had given them the land, and that those who lived in the land were afraid and would melt away before them.
9. [2:10] What had the people of Jericho heard about what Yahweh and the Israelites had done?  
They heard that Yahweh dried up the water of the sea when the Israelites came out of Egypt. They also heard that the Israelites had completely destroyed two kings of the Amorites.
10. [2:11] How did the people of Jericho respond?  
The people's hearts had melted and they had no courage left.
11. [2:11] What did Rahab say about Yahweh, the God of Israel?  
She said that he is God of heaven and earth.
12. [2:12-13] What did Rahab ask the spies to do?  
She asked the spies to swear by Yahweh that they would treat her family kindly. She asked them to give her a sign that they would spare her and her family.
13. [2:14] What did the spies promise Rahab?  
They promised her that they would be merciful and faithful to her when Yahweh gave them the land, if she did not tell what they were doing.

**Comment Section:**



# Joshua 5:13-15

## Joshua meets the commander of Yahweh's army

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ When Joshua was near Jericho, he saw a man with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua asked if the man was for them or for their enemies. [5:13]
- ☐ The man said he was the commander of the army of Yahweh. Joshua lay down on the ground to worship and asked what his master would say to him. [5:14]
- ☐ The commander of Yahweh's army told Joshua to take his sandals off because the place where he was standing was holy. Joshua did what he said. [5:15]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [5:13] Who did Joshua meet standing in front of him near Jericho?  
He met a man with a drawn sword in his hand.
2. [5:13] What did Joshua say to the man with the drawn sword?  
He asked if the man was for them or for their enemies.
3. [5:14] Who did the man with the drawn sword say that he was?  
He told Joshua that he was the commander of the army of Yahweh.
4. [5:14] What did Joshua do when he heard this?  
He lay with his face to the ground to worship. Then Joshua asked what his master would say to his servant.
5. [5:15] What did the commander of the army of Yahweh tell Joshua to do?  
He told Joshua to remove his sandals, because he was on holy ground.
6. [5:15] Did Joshua obey?  
Yes.

**Joshua 5:13-15 continued**

7. [5:15] Who do you think the commander of the army of Yahweh was?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he was an angel. Or perhaps he was God or the Son of God. (Scholars disagree about who this person was).

**Comment Section:**

# Joshua 6:1-23 The fall of Jericho

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The entrances of Jericho were all closed because of the army of Israel. Yahweh told Joshua that he had delivered Jericho into his hands. [6:1-2]
- ☐ Yahweh told Joshua instructions for what the Israelites should do at Jericho. [6:3-5]
- ☐ Just as Yahweh had said, Joshua told the priests to carry the ark of the covenant, and he told seven priests to carry trumpets. The army went ahead of the ark, and they all marched around the city. [6:6-7]
- ☐ As they marched, the priests blew their trumpets, but Joshua told the people not to shout. They did what Joshua said and marched around the city once. Then they went into their camp. [6:8-11]
- ☐ They did the same thing for six days. [6:12-14]
- ☐ On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times. When the priests blew their trumpets, Joshua told everyone to shout, because Yahweh had given them the city. He told them to spare Rahab and her family, and he told them about things that must be set apart for Yahweh. [6:15-19]
- ☐ The people shouted while the priests blew their horns, and the walls of Jericho fell down. Then the Israelites went in and destroyed the city and everything in it. [6:20-21]
- ☐ Joshua sent the two men who had been spies to bring Rahab and her family out safely. [6:22-23]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:1] What did the people of Jericho do because of the Israelites?  
They closed all the entrances to the city. No one went out or came in.
2. [6:2] What did Yahweh say to Joshua about Jericho?  
Yahweh said he had given the city, its king, and warriors into Joshua's hand.
3. [6:2] Why do you think Yahweh talked about this event that would happen in the future as if he had already done it?  
Yahweh probably talked about it this way to assure Joshua that the Israelites would certainly defeat Jericho.
4. [6:3] Yahweh said that the men of Israel must walk around the walls of Jericho how many times for the first six days?  
Yahweh said they must walk around the wall of Jericho one time each day for six days.
5. [6:4] What did Yahweh say the priests must do?  
He said seven priests must each carry a trumpet of ram's horn before the ark.

**Joshua 6:1-23 continued**

6. [6:4-5] What did Yahweh tell the men to do on the seventh day?  
He told the men to walk around Jericho seven times on the seventh day, and the priests must blow their trumpets.
7. [6:5] What did Yahweh tell all the people to do when they heard the long blast from the ram's horn?  
They must shout with a great shout.
8. [6:5] What would happen after the people shouted?  
The walls of the city would fall down.
9. [6:6-9] What did Joshua and the people do in verses 6, 7, 8, and 9?  
Joshua told the people Yahweh's instructions. The people did what Joshua told them to do.
10. [6:10] What did Joshua command the people on the first day?  
He told them not to shout, and he said that no sound should come from their mouths until the day he would tell them to shout.
11. [6:11] What did the people do after marching once around the city?  
They spent the night in the camp.
12. [6:12-13] In what order were the Israelites arranged as they walked around the city?  
In front were the armed soldiers, then the seven priests, then the ark of the covenant. The rear guard was in the back.
13. [6:14] What happened on the second day, and every day for six total days?  
They marched around the city one time and returned to the camp.
14. [6:15-16] What happened on the seventh day?  
They marched around the city seven times, then the priests gave a long blast with the trumpets, and Joshua commanded the people to shout.
15. [6:17] What instructions did Joshua give to the people in verse 17?  
He told them that the city and everything in it must be destroyed, except for Rahab and her family.

**Joshua 6:1-23 continued**

16. [6:18-19] What instructions did Joshua give to the people in verses 18 and 19?

He told them not to keep things that must be destroyed, so that they would not bring destruction on themselves. He told them that all silver and gold, and every vessel made of bronze and iron, were holy to Yahweh and must go into Yahweh's treasury.

17. [6:20-21] What happened after the people heard the trumpet sound and gave a great shout?

The wall fell down flat, and every man charged straight in and captured the city, destroying all that was in it.

18. [6:20-21] How do you think the walls fell down?

The passage indicated that the power of God made the walls fall down.

19. [6:22-23] What did Joshua send the two men who were spies to do?

He sent them to get Rahab and her family out of the city safely.

**Comment Section:**

## Joshua 7:10-26      Achan's sin and God's judgment

**Background:** After the great victory at Jericho, an Israelite hid some things that he had taken from the city that should have been destroyed. Because they had disobeyed Yahweh's instructions, he caused the Israelites to lose their next battle at the city of Ai. Joshua fell down with great sadness in front of the ark and asked Yahweh why he had let this happen.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told Joshua to get up and told him that the Israelites had been defeated because they had stolen things that were set apart. [7:10-11]
- ☐ Yahweh told Joshua that they must destroy these things from among them. He told Joshua to consecrate the people and to tell them what he had said. [7:12-13]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would select the one who stole the things that were set apart, and the Israelites must burn that person and everything that belonged to him. [7:14-15]
- ☐ Yahweh identified Achan as the person who stole the things that were set apart, and Joshua told Achan to confess what he had done. [7:16-19]
- ☐ Achan admitted that he had stolen and hidden the things, and Joshua sent messengers who found them. They laid them before Yahweh. [7:20-23]
- ☐ Joshua and all Israel took Achan and his sons and daughters, the stolen things, and everything that Achan owned to the Valley of Achor. Then the Israelites stoned all of them and burned them with fire. [7:24-26]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:10-11] What did Yahweh tell Joshua was the reason his army was defeated at Ai?  
Yahweh told Joshua that Israel had sinned and broken his covenant. They had stolen some things that were set apart. Then they had hidden their sin by putting these things with their own belongings.
2. [7:12] What did Yahweh say would happen if the people did not destroy the things they stole?  
He said he would no longer be with them.
3. [7:13] What did Yahweh tell Joshua to do?  
Yahweh told Joshua to get up and consecrate the people and tell them what God said to him.
4. [7:14] How would Yahweh select the person who had stolen the things?  
First, he would select the tribe. Then he would select the clan among that tribe. Then he would select the household among that clan. Then he would select the person among that household.

**Joshua 7:10-26 continued**

5. [7:15] What did Yahweh say would happen to the one who had stolen the things that were set apart?  
Yahweh said that the one who had stolen the things would be burned, as well as all he had.
6. [7:16-18] What tribe, clan, household, and person did Yahweh select?  
Yahweh selected the tribe of Judah, the clan of the Zerahites, the household of Zabdi, and Achan was the person.
7. [7:19] What did Joshua say to Achan?  
He told him to give glory to Yahweh. He told him to say what he had done, and not to hide it.
8. [7:20-21] What did Achan tell Joshua?  
Achan told Joshua that he had sinned against Yahweh. He said that he had taken a beautiful coat, two hundred shekels of silver, and a bar of gold.
9. [7:21] Where did Achan tell Joshua that he had hidden the things he had taken?  
Achan told Joshua that he had hidden the things in the ground in the middle of his tent.
10. [7:22-23] What happened after Joshua sent messengers to Achan's tent?  
They found the stolen things and brought them to Joshua and the people, pouring them out before Yahweh.
11. [7:24] Where did Joshua and all Israel take Achan, the things that he stole, and all that belonged to him?  
They took Achan and all that he had, as well as the stolen things, to the Valley of Achor.
12. [7:25] What did all of Israel do to Achan, the things that he stole, and all that belonged to him?  
They stoned and burned them.
13. [7:26] What happened to Yahweh's burning anger?  
Yahweh's burning anger was turned away.
14. [7:26] What do you think it meant for Yahweh's burning anger to be turned away?  
This seems to mean that Yahweh was no longer angry.

**Comment Section:**

## Joshua 10:6-14      The sun stands still over Gibeon

**Background:** The Gibeonites were a people of Canaan that tricked Joshua and the people of Israel into making a treaty with them. Joshua and the people of Israel had agreed not to destroy the Gibeonites, and they had agreed to be allies if the Gibeonites were ever attacked. But the people of Jerusalem were very afraid when the people of Gibeon made peace with Israel, because Gibeon was a very large city. The king of Jerusalem and four other Amorite kings took their armies to attack Gibeon.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Gibeon sent a message to Joshua and to the army of Gilgal to come to them quickly and save them from the army of the Amorites. [10:6]
- ☐ Joshua went up with his men, and Yahweh told Joshua that he would give them victory. [10:7-8]
- ☐ Joshua came to his enemies by surprise. Then Yahweh confused the enemy armies, so that Israel defeated them and pursued them. [10:9-10]
- ☐ As they fled, Yahweh threw down large hailstones upon them, which killed many of them. [10:10-11]
- ☐ Joshua asked Yahweh to stop the sun and moon in the sky until Israel defeated their enemy, and Yahweh did as Joshua asked. [10:12-14]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [10:6] What did the people of Gibeon do when they saw all the kings and their armies?  
They sent a message to Joshua to come and save them.
2. [10:8] What did Yahweh tell Joshua?  
Yahweh told Joshua not to be afraid, and that the kings had been given into his hand. Yahweh said that not one of them would stand against Joshua.
3. [10:8] What do you think Yahweh meant by saying that the kings had been given into Joshua's hand and that not one of them would stand against Joshua?  
The passage indicates that Yahweh meant that he would cause the Israelites to defeat and kill the enemy army.
4. [10:9] How does the passage describe how Joshua's army arrived?  
It says that Joshua came upon them suddenly.



**Joshua 10:6-14 continued**

5. [10:10] What did Yahweh do so that the Israelites could defeat the enemy?  
Yahweh confused the enemy.
6. [10:11] How did Yahweh kill most of the enemy?  
Yahweh threw large stones from heaven, which killed more than the men of Israel killed.
7. [10:12] What did Joshua say in the sight of Israel when he spoke to Yahweh on the day that Yahweh gave them victory?  
Joshua told the sun to be still at Gibeon, and the moon to be still in the Valley of Aijalon.
8. [10:13] What happened after Joshua said this?  
The sun stood still, and the moon stopped moving, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.
9. [10:14] Why did Yahweh do what Joshua said?  
Yahweh did what Joshua said because he was waging war on behalf of Israel.

**Comment Section:**

## Judges 2:1-5 The angel of Yahweh speaks to Israel

**Background:** Before Joshua died, Yahweh commanded the Israelites not to associate with the Canaanites or worship their gods. The Israelites promised Yahweh that they would not do these things. Then the Israelites affirmed their covenant with Yahweh.

In this passage, a place is named Bokim. This word means “weepers.”

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The angel of Yahweh reminded the people of Israel that God brought them out of Egypt, and that he would not break his covenant with them. [2:1]
- ☐ God told them that they must never make a covenant with those who were living in the land of Canaan. He told them that they must tear down the Canaanite altars. But the people of Israel had not listened to God. [2:2]
- ☐ Therefore, the Canaanites would be thorns in their sides. Their gods would be traps to them. [2:3]
- ☐ The people of Israel cried out and wept, and they offered sacrifices to Yahweh. [2:4-5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] What did the angel of Yahweh remind the people of Israel?  
The angel of Yahweh reminded the people of Israel that God brought them out of Egypt and brought them to the land promised to their fathers.
2. [2:2] What did God say about the promise he made to their fathers?  
God promised that he would never break his covenant with them.
3. [2:2] What two instructions did God give to the people of Israel?  
They must not make a covenant with the people who were living in the land of Canaan. They must break down the Canaanite altars.
4. [2:2] What happened instead?  
They did not listen to him.
5. [2:3] What would happen because the people of Israel had not listened to God?  
The angel of Yahweh said that God would not drive out the Canaanites out of the land. He said that the Canaanites would become thorns in the sides of the people of Israel. He said that the gods of the Canaanites would be a trap for the Israelites.

**Judges 2:1-5 continued**

6. [2:3] What do you think it meant for the Canaanites to be thorns in their sides and for the Canaanite gods to be a trap for them?

*(Answers may vary.)* It probably meant that the Canaanites would cause problems for the Israelites, and that the Israelites would be tempted to worship their gods.

7. [2:4] How did the people respond when the angel of Yahweh spoke those words?  
The people of Israel shouted and wept.

8. [2:5] What did the people of Israel name that place?  
They named the place Bokim.

**Comment Section:**

# Judges 2:16-23      Yahweh provides judges

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh raised up judges to save the Israelites from their enemies who oppressed them. [2:16, 18]
- ☐ The people would not listen to the judges, and they were unfaithful to Yahweh. [2:17]
- ☐ When a judge died, the people of Israel became even more corrupt and stubborn than before. [2:19]
- ☐ Yahweh was angry with Israel because they violated his covenant and because they did not listen to him. [2:20]
- ☐ Yahweh decided not to drive out the nations around them. He would do this to test Israel, to see if they would walk in the ways of Yahweh. [2:21-23]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:16] When Yahweh raised up judges for the people, what did the judges do?  
The judges saved the Israelites from the people who were stealing their possessions.
2. [2:17] What did the people of Israel do after they were saved?  
They did not listen to the judges. They were unfaithful to Yahweh and gave themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They turned away from obeying the commandments of God.
3. [2:18] What happened when Yahweh raised up judges for the people of Israel?  
Yahweh helped the judges and delivered the Israelites from their enemies as long as the judge lived.
4. [2:18] How did Yahweh respond when the people of Israel groaned because of those who oppressed them?  
Yahweh pitied them.
5. [2:19] What happened when the judge died?  
The Israelites turned away from God and were more corrupt than their fathers. They served other gods and worshiped them. They refused to give up their evil ways.
6. [2:20] Why did the anger of Yahweh burn against Israel?  
Yahweh's anger burned because Israel broke his covenant and did not listen to him.

**Judges 2:16-23 continued**

7. [2:21] What did God say he would no longer do for Israel?  
God said that he would no longer drive out the nations that were left after Joshua died.
  
8. [2:22-23] What was the reason that God did not drive out the nations quickly and give them into the hand of Joshua?  
God decided to test Israel to see if they would obey him.

**Comment Section:**

## Judges 3:7-11 Othniel is Israel's first judge

**Background:** Yahweh left some Canaanites in the land to test Israel and see whether they would obey him.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. [3:7]
- ☐ Yahweh was angry with Israel and gave them over to serve the king of Aram for eight years. [3:8]
- ☐ When the people cried out to Yahweh, he raised up Othniel to rescue them from the king of Aram. [3:9]
- ☐ Yahweh gave the judge Othniel a great victory. [3:10]
- ☐ There was peace in the land for forty years. Then Othniel died. [3:11]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:7] What did the people of Israel do?  
The people of Israel did what was evil. They forgot Yahweh their God. They served other gods.
2. [3:8] How did Yahweh react when the people of Israel did what was evil?  
His anger burned against them. He allowed the king of Aram to defeat them, and the people of Israel served the king for eight years.
3. [3:9] What happened when the people of Israel called out to Yahweh?  
Yahweh raised up Othniel to help and rescue the people of Israel.
4. [3:10] What happened when Yahweh's spirit empowered Othniel?  
Othniel judged Israel and went out to war. Yahweh caused Othniel to defeat the king of Aram.
5. [3:11] What happened after Othniel's victory?  
The people of Israel had peace for forty years. Then Othniel died.

**Comment Section:**

## Judges 4:1-16 Deborah and Barak lead Israel in battle

**Background:** Ehud was a judge that God used to rescue the Israelites from Moab, and they had peace for 80 years until Ehud died.

This passage mentions Zebulun and Naphtali. These were two of the twelve tribes of Israel. At the end of the passage, when it says that Barak pursued Sisera's army, it means that Barak led his own army to pursue Sisera's army.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Israel again did what was evil. [4:1]
- ☐ Yahweh allowed the Canaanites, commanded by Sisera, to defeat them. [4:2]
- ☐ The people of Israel cried out to Yahweh for help, because they were oppressed cruelly for twenty years. [4:3]
- ☐ Deborah was the judge of Israel, and the people of Israel came to her because she settled their disputes. [4:4-5]
- ☐ Deborah told Barak that Yahweh commanded him to gather an army, and that Yahweh would cause them to defeat the army of Sisera. [4:6-7]
- ☐ Barak said he would go only if Deborah went with them. [4:8]
- ☐ Deborah agreed, but she said God would deliver Sisera into the hand of a woman. [4:9-10]
- ☐ Sisera called out all his 900 chariots and soldiers for the battle. [4:11-13]
- ☐ Deborah sent Barak and his army into battle, and she said that Yahweh went before them. [4:14]
- ☐ Yahweh confused Sisera's warriors and caused them to be defeated, and Sisera ran away on foot. [4:15]
- ☐ Barak pursued the warriors, and they were all killed. [4:12-16]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1] What did the people of Israel do after Ehud died?  
They did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh.
2. [4:2] How did Yahweh respond to Israel's evil?  
Yahweh allowed the army of Jabin, king of Canaan, to defeat them.
3. [4:2] Who was the commander of Jabin's army?  
Sisera was the commander.
4. [4:3] How long did Sisera and his army cruelly oppress the Israelites?  
They cruelly oppressed the people of Israel for twenty years.

**Judges 4:1-16 continued**

5. [4:4] Who was Deborah?  
Deborah was a prophetess and a leading judge in Israel.
6. [4:5] What did she do under the palm of Deborah?  
She settled disputes that occurred between the people of Israel.
7. [4:6] What did Deborah tell Barak?  
She told Barak that Yahweh commanded him to take 10,000 men and go to Mount Tabor.
8. [4:7] What did Yahweh say that he would do for Barak?  
Yahweh said that he would draw out Sisera to the Kishon River, with Sisera's chariots and army. Yahweh said that he would give Barak victory over Sisera's army.
9. [4:8] What did Barak say to Deborah?  
Barak told Deborah that he would go if she went with him, but if she did not go, he would not go.
10. [4:9] Why would Barak not receive honor for what he was about to do?  
He would not receive the honor because Yahweh would cause a woman to defeat Sisera.
11. [4:10] What happened next?  
Barak called the men of Zebulun and Naphtali to go to Kedesh, and 10,000 men went with him. Deborah also went with him.
12. [4:12-13] What did Sisera do when he heard that Barak went up to Mount Tabor?  
Sisera called out all his 900 chariots and all of his soldiers who were with him. They went to the Kishon River.
13. [4:14] What did Deborah say to Barak?  
She told him to go, because Yahweh had given Barak victory over Sisera, and Yahweh led them. Barak and his army went down from Mount Tabor.
14. [4:15] What did Yahweh do to Sisera and his army?  
Yahweh confused Sisera and all his chariots and his army, and Sisera got down from his chariot and ran away. Barak pursued the chariots and army, and every man in Sisera's army was killed.

**Comment Section:**



## Judges 6:28-35      Gideon destroys the altar of Baal

**Background:** Earlier in this chapter, the people of Israel again did evil in the sight of Yahweh, so Yahweh allowed the people of Midian to defeat them. When the Israelites cried out, Yahweh called Gideon as a judge and told him to go and tear down the altar of Baal, rebuild it the correct way, and sacrifice a bull to Yahweh there. Yahweh also told him to cut down the Asherah and burn the wood. Gideon took 10 servants and did as Yahweh said.

This passage mentions Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. These were some of the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The men of the town woke to find the altar of Baal broken down and the Asherah cut down. [6:28]
- ☐ They learned that Gideon did it. [6:29]
- ☐ The men told Gideon's father, Joash, to bring out his son Gideon so that they could kill him. [6:30]
- ☐ Joash told the men that if Baal was a god, he could defend himself. [6:31-32]
- ☐ The Midianites, the Amalekites, and the people of the east crossed the Jordan. [6:33]
- ☐ But Gideon, who was clothed with the Spirit, called some men from different tribes to follow him. [6:34-35]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:28] What happened in the morning, when the men of the town got up?  
The men saw that the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah was cut down. They also saw that a bull had been offered on the altar.
2. [6:29] What did the men of the city discover about who broke down the altar to Baal?  
They discovered that Gideon, son of Joash, broke down the altar.
3. [6:30] What did the men of the town tell Joash to do?  
They told him to bring out Gideon.
4. [6:30] What did the men of town want to do with Gideon?  
They wanted to kill him.
5. [6:31] What did Joash say to the men of the town?  
Joash asked if they were pleading Baal's case and if they were saving Baal. He said that they should be killed if they were doing that. He said that if Baal was a god, then the men should let Baal defend himself when someone broke down his altar.

**Judges 6:28-35 continued**

6. [6:32] What name was given to Gideon that day?  
Gideon was called Jerub-Baal.
  
7. [6:33] Who camped in the valley of Jezreel?  
The Midianites, Amalekites, and the people of the east gathered and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.
  
8. [6:34] What did the Spirit of Yahweh do for Gideon?  
The Spirit of Yahweh clothed Gideon.
  
9. [6:34] What do you think it meant when the Spirit of Yahweh clothed Gideon?  
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps it meant that the Spirit of Yahweh strengthened Gideon with courage. Perhaps it meant that the Spirit of Yahweh would protect Gideon in battle.
  
10. [6:34-35] What did Gideon do to summon an army?  
He blew a trumpet and called for the clan of Abiezer. Then he sent messengers to Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they all went to meet him.

**Comment Section:**

## Judges 16:23-31     The death of Samson

**Background:** Samson was a judge that God had used to defend Israel against their oppressors, the Philistines. Samson had been tricked by a woman and captured by the Philistines, who dug out his eyes and put him in prison.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The rulers of the Philistines gathered to celebrate Dagon, their god, because Samson had been conquered. They praised their god for this defeat. [16:23-24]
- ☐ The Philistines called for Samson to be brought from the prison so that they could laugh at him. They made him stand between two pillars. [16:25]
- ☐ Samson told a boy to let him feel the pillars on which the building rested, so that he could lean on them. [16:26]
- ☐ The building was very crowded, with 3000 additional people on its roof. [16:27]
- ☐ Samson called out to Yahweh to give him strength so that he could have revenge on the Philistines. [16:28]
- ☐ Samson placed his hands on the pillars and asked God to let him die with the Philistines. Then he stretched out with all his strength against the pillars. and the building fell upon all the people and killed them. [16:29-30]
- ☐ Samson's family took his body and buried him in the burial place of his father. [16:31]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [16:23] Why did the rulers of the Philistines gather to offer a sacrifice and to rejoice?  
They gathered to sacrifice and to rejoice because they believed that Dagon, their god, defeated Samson, their enemy.
2. [16:24] What did they do when they saw Samson?  
They praised Dagon, their god.
3. [16:24] How did they describe Samson?  
They said he was the destroyer of their country who had killed many of them.
4. [16:25] Why did the people call for Samson to be brought to their celebration?  
The people wanted to laugh at Samson.
5. [16:25] Where did the people make Samson stand?  
They made him stand between two pillars.

**Judges 16:23-31 continued**

6. [16:26] What did Samson say to the boy who held his hand?  
Samson asked the boy to let him touch the pillars on which the building rested, so that he could lean on them.
7. [16:27] Who was gathered in and on the house, looking at Samson?  
All of the rulers of the Philistines, along with other men and women, were gathered inside the house. About three thousand men and women were on the roof.
8. [16:28] What did Samson say when he called out to Yahweh?  
Samson asked Yahweh to strengthen him to take revenge on the Philistines for blinding him.
9. [16:29] What did Samson do when his hands touched the pillars?  
Samson leaned against the pillars with his right hand on one pillar and his left hand on the other pillar.
10. [16:30] What did Samson say?  
He said, "Let me die with the Philistines!"
11. [16:30] What happened when Samson stretched out with his strength?  
The building fell on the rulers and on all the people who were in it.
12. [16:30] What did the writer say about how many people Samson killed by collapsing the building?  
Samson killed more people when the building fell than he had killed during his life.
13. [16:31] What did Samson's brothers and those of his father's house do after Samson died?  
They took Samson's body and buried him in the burial place of his father.
14. [16:31] How long did Samson judge Israel?  
Samson judged Israel for twenty years.

**Comment Section:**

## Ruth 1:1-5 Naomi's husband and sons die

**Background:** This book is about a non-Israelite woman named Ruth. It tells how she came to join the people of Yahweh. The book also explains how Ruth became an ancestor of King David.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ In the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. [1:1]
- ☐ Because of the famine, Elimelek and his wife Naomi and their two sons went to live in Moab. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Naomi's husband died, and she was alone with her two sons. [1:3]
- ☐ The sons took Moabite wives, and they all lived there for ten years. [1:4]
- ☐ The sons died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. [1:5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] During what period of time in Israel's history did the story of Ruth occur?  
It occurred in the days when the judges ruled.
2. [1:1-2] Why did Elimelech move to Moab with his wife and his sons?  
Elimelech and his family moved because there was a famine in Judah.
3. [1:3] What happened to Naomi's husband in Moab?  
Her husband died, leaving her alone with two sons.
4. [1:4] What did Naomi's sons do in Moab?  
Her two sons married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth, and they lived there about ten years.
5. [1:5] What happened to Naomi's sons?  
Her two sons died.

**Comment Section:**

# Ruth 1:6-18 Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Naomi started to return from Moab to Judah with her two daughters-in-law. [1:6-7]
- ☐ Naomi encouraged her two daughters-in-law to return to their homes, and she hoped each one would find another husband. She kissed them, and they wept. [1:8-9]
- ☐ Her daughters-in-law wanted to stay with her, but she reminded them that she had no other sons for them to marry. [1:10-12]
- ☐ Naomi said that the hand of Yahweh was against her. [1:13]
- ☐ Naomi's daughters-in-law wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in law goodbye, but Ruth stayed with Naomi. [1:14]
- ☐ Naomi encouraged Ruth to return to her family, too. But Ruth insisted that wherever Naomi would go, Ruth would go with her. Ruth said that Naomi's people would be her people, and Naomi's God would be her God. [1:15-16]
- ☐ Ruth said that only death would part her from Naomi. Then Naomi stopped trying to persuade her. [1:17-18]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:6] Why did Naomi decide to return to Judah?  
She heard that Yahweh had given food to the people of Judah.
2. [1:7] What did Naomi and her two daughters-in-law do and where did they go?  
They left the place where they were and walked on the road toward Judah.
3. [1:8] What did Naomi say to her two daughters-in-law?  
She told each one to return to her mother's house. She wanted Yahweh to bless each of them for the kindness they showed to her.
4. [1:9] What did Naomi want her two daughters-in-law to do?  
She wanted them to find rest with other husbands.
5. [1:9] What did Naomi's daughters-in-law do after she kissed them?  
They cried.
6. [1:10] How did they respond to Naomi's requests for them to go back home?  
They said that they would return with Naomi to her people.

**Ruth 1:6-18 continued**

7. [1:11] What did Naomi ask her daughters-in-law?  
She asked why they wanted to go with her. Then she asked if they thought she could bear them more sons to marry.
8. [1:11] Why do you think Naomi asked these questions?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps she wanted them to think carefully about staying with her. She probably meant that there was no reason for them to stay with her because she could not provide husbands for them.
9. [1:12] What did Naomi tell them next?  
She told them to turn back and said that she was too old to have a husband.
10. [1:13] Who did Naomi believe was the source of her trouble?  
She believed that Yahweh had turned against her.
11. [1:13] Why do you think Naomi thought this?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps she thought she was cursed because her husband and sons had died. Perhaps she thought that God was angry with her for some reason.
12. [1:14] How did her daughters-in-law respond?  
They both cried aloud. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth held on to Naomi.
13. [1:15] What did Naomi say to Ruth?  
She reminded her that her sister-in-law had gone back to her people and to her gods, and she told Ruth to return with her sister-in-law.
14. [1:16] What did Ruth reply in verse 16?  
She told Naomi not to urge her to leave or to stop following Naomi. She said that where Naomi went, she would go, and where Naomi stayed, she would stay. She said that Naomi's people would be her people, and Naomi's God would be her God.
15. [1:17] What else did Ruth promise to Naomi in verse 17?  
She said that where Naomi died, she would die and be buried. She said that Yahweh should punish her if anything but death would separate her from Naomi.
16. [1:18] What did Naomi do when she saw that Ruth was determined to go with her?  
Naomi stopped trying to persuade Ruth.

**Ruth 1:6-18 continued**

17. [1:18] Why do you think Ruth stayed with Naomi?

*(Answers may vary.)* Ruth probably loved Naomi very much and did not want her to be alone. Perhaps Naomi had been more kind to than her own people had been. Perhaps she had learned about Yahweh from Naomi and wanted to go where Yahweh was worshiped.

**Comment Section:**



## Ruth 2:19-23 Ruth and Naomi talk about Boaz

**Background:** This passage talks about a kinsman-redeemer. According to the law of Moses, this was a person responsible for taking care of a relative in need. This also included marrying the widow of the relative who died.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Naomi asked Ruth where she had worked that day. [2:19]
- ☐ When Ruth told Boaz that she had gleaned in the field of Boaz, Naomi wanted Yahweh to bless Boaz for his kindness. Naomi also said that Boaz was a close relative, a kinsman redeemer. [2:19-20]
- ☐ Boaz had told Ruth to stay with his workers until the end of the harvest. [2:21]
- ☐ Naomi said it was good for Ruth to go with Boaz's female workers so no harm would come to her, rather than going to another field. [2:22]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:19] When Naomi saw the large amount of grain that Ruth brought back, what question did she ask Ruth?  
She asked where Ruth had gleaned that day.
2. [2:19] What did Ruth tell Naomi?  
She said that she had gleaned in the field owned by a man named Boaz.
3. [2:20] What was Naomi's reaction to hearing this?  
She wanted Boaz to be blessed by Yahweh for his kindness.
4. [2:20] What was the relationship between Naomi's dead husband and Boaz?  
They were close relatives.
5. [2:21] What had Boaz told Ruth about working with the men?  
Boaz had told Ruth to stay close to the young men until they finished all the harvest.
6. [2:22] Why did Naomi think it was good for Ruth to work with Boaz's women workers?  
By doing that, Ruth would not come to harm in any other field.

**Ruth 2:19-23 continued**

7. [2:23] What did Ruth do for the rest of the barley harvest and wheat harvest?  
She gleaned with Boaz's female workers and lived with Naomi.

**Comment Section:**

## Ruth 4:1-10 Boaz redeems Ruth

**Background:** In the previous chapter, Naomi sent Ruth to meet Boaz on the threshing floor, hoping to indicate to him that Ruth was a relative that Boaz should marry as a kinsman-redeemer. According to the law of Moses, this was a person responsible for taking care of a relative in need. This meant redeeming their land by buying it at a good price and keeping it in the larger family. It also included marrying the widow of the relative who died.

Boaz blessed Ruth for her willingness to approach him rather than a younger man. But he said that there was a nearer kinsman to which he must first offer the opportunity to marry Ruth.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Boaz sat at the gate and called to the near kinsman to sit with him. [4:1]
- ☐ Then Boaz gathered ten elders of the city to sit with them. [4:2]
- ☐ Boaz explained the situation of the land Naomi was selling. Boaz said that the near kinsman should redeem it. If not, Boaz would redeem it. The near kinsman said that he would redeem it. [4:3-4]
- ☐ Boaz then made it clear that whoever bought the land would also marry Ruth, to carry on the family name. [4:5]
- ☐ Then the near kinsman said that he could not buy the land, because that would harm his own inheritance. He told Boaz to buy the land. [4:6]
- ☐ The near kinsman took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz, which was the custom there to confirm a transaction. [4:7-8]
- ☐ The elders were witnesses to the decision for Boaz to buy the land and to get Ruth as his wife. [4:9-10]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1] Where did Boaz go to resolve the issue of who would be the kinsman-redeemer for Ruth?  
He went to the gate of the city.
2. [4:1] What did Boaz do when the nearer kinsman came by?  
Boaz asked the nearer kinsman to come sit with him.
3. [4:2] Who did Boaz ask to sit as witnesses?  
He asked ten men of the elders of the city to come sit with them.
4. [4:3-4] What did Boaz first tell the near kinsman?  
He told the near kinsman about the parcel of land that was owned by Elimelech, and he said that the near kinsman could redeem it.

**Ruth 4:1-10 continued**

5. [4:4] What was the near kinsman's answer?  
He agreed to redeem it.
  
6. [4:5] What additional requirement did Boaz then tell the near kinsman?  
He said that the one who bought the land would also marry Ruth, so that Elimelech's name would continue with his inheritance.
  
7. [4:6] Once he knew this, what was the near kinsman's answer?  
He then said that he could not redeem it, because it would damage his own inheritance. He told Boaz to redeem it instead.
  
8. [4:7] What was the custom in Israel concerning redemption and exchange of goods?  
A man would take off his sandal and give it to his neighbor as a way of making the matter legal.
  
9. [4:8] What did the near kinsman do to show that he agreed that Boaz should be the redeemer?  
He took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.
  
10. [4:9-10] What two agreements did Boaz remind the elders that they had witnessed?  
They had witnessed that Boaz had bought all that belonged to Elimelech and his sons. They had also witnessed that Boaz had acquired Ruth as his wife.

**Comment Section:**

## Ruth 4:13-17 Ruth bears a son

**Background:** This passage mentions David, who would be king of Israel. He would be the one through whom the Messiah would come.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Ruth became the wife of Boaz, and she conceived and had a son. [4:13]
- ☐ The women blessed Yahweh for providing a redeemer for Naomi. [4:14]
- ☐ The women told Naomi that the baby would be a restorer of life to her, because Naomi's daughter-in-law who loved her gave birth to him. [4:15]
- ☐ Naomi took the baby and cared for him. [4:16]
- ☐ They named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse, who became the father of David. [4:17]

### Part 2

1. [4:13] What happened after Boaz took Ruth to be his wife?  
Ruth conceived and had a son.
2. [4:14] What did the women say to Naomi?  
They blessed Yahweh for giving Naomi a kinsman. They said his name should be famous in Israel.
3. [4:15] What did the women say that the child would be?  
They said that he would be a restorer of life for Naomi.
4. [4:15] Why did the women say that Ruth was better for Naomi than seven sons?  
They said this because of Ruth's love for Naomi, and because Ruth had given birth to a grandson for Naomi.
5. [4:16] What did Naomi do with the baby?  
She took the baby in her arms and took care of him.
6. [4:17] What was Ruth's son's name?  
His name was Obed.

**Ruth 4:13-17 continued**

7. [4:17] Who was Obed the father and grandfather of?  
Obed was the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Samuel 1:1-20      The birth of Samuel

**Background:** This book takes place at the end of the time of the judges, and Samuel would be the last of the judges over Israel. The name Samuel means "God has heard."

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Elkanah had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Every year, Elkanah went to Shiloh to worship and to sacrifice to Yahweh. [1:3]
- ☐ On the day of the sacrifice, Elkanah gave portions to Peninnah and all her children. He gave a double portion to Hannah because he loved her. [1:4-5]
- ☐ Peninnah was cruel to Hannah about having no children. Hannah cried and did not want to eat, but Elkanah tried to comfort her. [1:6-8]
- ☐ Hannah went to the temple, where Eli the priest was. There she prayed to Yahweh and wept. [1:9-10]
- ☐ Hannah made a vow to Yahweh in which she asked for a son and promised to give him back to Yahweh. [1:11]
- ☐ Eli saw Hannah praying silently, and he thought she was drunk. [1:12-14]
- ☐ Hannah told Eli that she had poured out her soul before Yahweh because she was troubled. [1:15-16]
- ☐ Then Eli told her to go in peace, and he prayed that God would do what Hannah asked. Hannah left and was no longer sad. Hannah and her family worshiped early the next morning and then went home. [1:17-19]
- ☐ Yahweh answered Hannah's prayer. She conceived and had a son named Samuel. [1:20]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1-2] Who were the two wives of Elkanah?  
The wives of Elkanah were Hannah and Peninnah.
2. [1:2] Did Hannah and Peninnah have children?  
Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.
3. [1:3] Where did Elkanah go every year, and why did he go there?  
He went to Shiloh to worship and to sacrifice to Yahweh.
4. [1:3] Who were the priests that were there?  
Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there.

**1 Samuel 1:1-20 continued**

5. [1:4-5] What did Elkanah do on the day of sacrifice every year?  
He gave portions of meat to Peninnah and to all her sons and her daughters, but he gave a double portion to Hannah because he loved her.
6. [1:6] Why did Hannah's rival provoke her?  
She provoked Hannah in order to irritate her, because Yahweh had made Hannah unable to have children.
7. [1:8] Why do you think that Elkanah asked Hannah whether he was better to her than ten sons?  
(Answers may vary.) He probably meant that she should not be so sad about not having children because she had a husband who loved her very much.
8. [1:9] Where was Eli the priest sitting?  
He was on his seat by the doorway of the temple of Yahweh.
9. [1:10] What did Hannah do in her distress?  
She prayed to Yahweh and wept bitterly.
10. [1:11] What did Hannah vow to Yahweh?  
Hannah vowed that if Yahweh would give her a son, she would give him to Yahweh and no razor would touch his head.
11. [1:12-13] While Hannah spoke to Yahweh in her heart, what did Eli, the priest, think about her actions?  
Eli saw Hannah's lips moving but didn't hear her voice, so he thought she was drunk from wine.
12. [1:14] What did Eli say to Hannah?  
He asked how long she would be drunk and told her to get rid of her wine.
13. [1:15-16] What did Hannah reply?  
Hannah answered that she had not been drinking, but in her sorrow she had poured out her soul to Yahweh.
14. [1:17] Then what did Eli say to Hannah?  
Eli told her to go in peace and asked the God of Israel to grant her the request she was asking him.



**1 Samuel 1:1-20 continued**

15. [1:18] What was different about Hannah after this?  
She was able to eat, and she was no longer sad.
16. [1:19] What happened next?  
They rose early to worship, and then they went home. Elkanah had relations with his wife, and Yahweh allowed her to become pregnant.
17. [1:19] What do you think it meant that Yahweh remembered Hannah?  
The next verse indicates that this means that Yahweh answered Hannah's prayer by allowing her to have a child.
18. [1:20] When Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, what did she name him?  
Hannah named her son Samuel because she asked for him from Yahweh.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Samuel 3:10-21 Yahweh speaks to Samuel

**Background:** Hannah sent her young son Samuel to serve Yahweh with Eli the priest in the temple. But Eli's two grown sons, who also served as priests, were worthless men who did not know Yahweh. They disrespected the sacrifices people brought to Yahweh, and they caused the people of Israel to sin.

One night in the temple, Yahweh called to Samuel three times, but Samuel thought that Eli was calling him. The third time, Eli realized that Yahweh was calling to Samuel. Eli told Samuel that if it happened again, he should say, "Speak, Yahweh, for your servant is listening."

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read.

- ☐ Samuel heard the voice of Yahweh again, and he told Yahweh that he was listening. [3:10]
- ☐ Yahweh told Samuel that he was going to punish Eli's family like he promised to do. [3:11-14]
- ☐ Samuel told Eli all that Yahweh said. [3:15-18]
- ☐ All Israel knew that Samuel was appointed to be a prophet of Yahweh. [3:19-20]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:10] What did Samuel say when he heard Yahweh call him again?  
Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
2. [3:11] What did Yahweh say would happen to the ears of everyone when they heard what Yahweh was going to do?  
Yahweh said their ears would tingle.
3. [3:11] What do you think it meant that their ears would tingle?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps it meant they would be very curious and afraid at what they heard.
4. [3:12] What did Yahweh say that he would do on that day?  
Yahweh said he would do everything that he said he would do against Eli and his house.
5. [3:13] Why would Yahweh judge Eli's house?  
Yahweh said he would judge Eli's house because Eli's sons sinned and brought a curse upon themselves, and Eli knew about it but he did not stop his sons.

**1 Samuel 3:10-21 continued**

6. [3:14] What would never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering?  
The sins of Eli's house would never be atoned for.
  
7. [3:15] What was Samuel afraid to do in the morning after he opened the doors of the house of Yahweh?  
He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision from Yahweh.
  
8. [3:16-17] What did Eli ask Samuel?  
He asked Samuel what the word was from God. He asked Samuel not to hide anything from him.
  
9. [3:18] What did Samuel do after Eli told him that he must not hide any words that Yahweh had spoken?  
Samuel told Eli everything and hid nothing from him.
  
10. [3:18] How did Eli respond to Samuel's message?  
Eli said that it was Yahweh, and Yahweh would do what seemed good to him.
  
11. [3:19] What happened to Samuel later?  
Samuel grew up and Yahweh was with him. God made all of the words that Samuel spoke in prophecies come true.
  
12. [3:20] What did all Israel from Dan to Beersheba know about Samuel?  
All Israel knew that Samuel was appointed to be a prophet of Yahweh.
  
13. [3:21] What happened in Shiloh when Yahweh appeared?  
Yahweh revealed himself to Samuel by his word.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Samuel 10:1-8      Samuel anoints Saul to be king

**Background:** Yahweh chose a man named Saul from the tribe of Benjamin to be the first king of Israel. Yahweh told Samuel that the next day a man would come to him, and Samuel should anoint him with oil. The next day Saul came to Samuel while looking for some lost donkeys.

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Samuel poured oil on Saul's head and told Saul that Yahweh had chosen him to be the ruler of Israel. [10:1]
- ☐ Samuel told Saul about some men he would meet and what they would do. [10:2-4]
- ☐ Samuel told Saul that when he arrived at the hill of God, he would meet a group of prophets and that he would prophesy with them. [10:5-6]
- ☐ Samuel assured Saul that God would be with him, and he should wait there seven days until he would come and show him what to do. [10:7-8]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [10:1] Why did Samuel pour a flask of oil on Saul's head and kiss him?  
He did this because Yahweh had told Samuel that Saul was his choice to be the ruler of Israel.
2. [10:2] What did Samuel say would happen after Saul left that day?  
He said that Saul would find two men near Rachel's tomb in Benjamin at Zelzah.
3. [10:2] What would the two men say about the donkeys that were lost?  
The men would tell Saul that his father's donkeys had been found and that Saul's father was worried about him.
4. [10:3] What did Samuel say would happen when Saul came to the oak of Tabor?  
Three men would meet Saul. One would carry three young goats. One would carry three loaves of bread. One would carry a skin of wine.
5. [10:4] What did Samuel say that the three men would do when they met Saul?  
Samuel said that the men would greet Saul and give him two loaves of bread, which he should take.
6. [10:5] What did Samuel tell Saul would happen when he came to the garrison of the Philistines?  
He said that Saul would meet a group of prophets coming down the hill.

**1 Samuel 10:1-8 continued**

7. [10:5] What did Samuel tell Saul about the group of prophets?  
He told Saul that there would be musical instruments coming down in front of them, and the men would be prophesying.
8. [10:6] What would the Spirit of Yahweh do?  
The Spirit of Yahweh would rush upon Saul. Saul would prophesy with the group of prophets, and he would be changed into a different man.
9. [10:7] What instructions did Samuel give to Saul?  
When Saul saw these signs, he should do whatever his hands found to do, for God would be with him.
10. [10:8] What other instructions did Samuel give to Saul?  
Samuel told Saul to go down to Gilgal. Samuel would come there to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. Saul must wait there for seven days until Samuel arrived to show him what to do.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Samuel 16:6-13 Samuel anoints David to be king

**Background:** Saul made terrible decisions as king, and he disobeyed God's direct commands to him. When Samuel confronted him, Saul made excuses. Samuel told Saul that Yahweh had rejected him as king. But all of this grieved Samuel greatly, and he mourned over Saul. Yahweh told Samuel to stop mourning and to go anoint the new king that Yahweh had chosen, who was one of the sons of Jesse in Bethlehem. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice.

This passage mentions Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, and David. These were some of Jesse's sons.

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Samuel thought Eliab might be Yahweh's anointed, but Yahweh told Samuel not to look at his outward appearance, because Yahweh looks at the heart and had rejected Eliab. [16:6-7]
- ☐ Seven of Jesse's sons came before Samuel, but Yahweh had not chosen any of them. [16:8-10]
- ☐ Samuel asked Jesse if he had any other sons. Jesse said that his youngest son, David, was keeping the sheep. Samuel told Jesse to send for David. [16:11]
- ☐ David was brought to Samuel and Yahweh said to anoint him. [16:12]
- ☐ Samuel anointed him, and the Spirit of Yahweh was on David from that day forward. [16:13]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [16:6] What did Samuel say to himself when he looked at Eliab?  
He said to himself that this man must certainly be Yahweh's choice to anoint as king.
2. [16:7] How did Yahweh explain to Samuel that he does not see as man sees?  
Yahweh said that man looks on the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks on the heart.
3. [16:7] What do you think it meant that Yahweh looks on the heart?  
This probably means that Yahweh judges a person based on the character of that person, which only Yahweh can see, including that person's inner thoughts, morals, and intentions.
4. [16:8] What happened when Jesse called Abinadab to pass before Samuel?  
Samuel said that Yahweh had not chosen Abinadab.
5. [16:9] What did Samuel say when Shammah passed by?  
Samuel said that Yahweh had not chosen him.

**1 Samuel 16:6-13 continued**

6. [16:10] What did Samuel say after Jesse made seven sons pass before him?  
Samuel said that Yahweh had not chosen any of them.
7. [16:11] What did Samuel ask Jesse in verse 11?  
Samuel asked Jesse if these were all of his sons.
8. [16:11] Where was Jesse's youngest son before Samuel called for him?  
Jesse's youngest son was tending the sheep.
9. [16:11] What did Samuel tell Jesse to do?  
Samuel told Jesse to send someone to get the youngest son.
10. [16:12] How was David described?  
David was ruddy, had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.
11. [16:12] What happened when David was brought to Samuel?  
Yahweh said to anoint David, because he was the one that God had chosen.
12. [16:13] What did Samuel do to David?  
Samuel anointed David with oil in the midst of his brothers.
13. [16:13] What did the Spirit of Yahweh do to David?  
The Spirit of Yahweh rushed on David from that day forward.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Samuel 17:41-50 David defeats Goliath

**Background:** Jesse sent his youngest son David, who usually tended sheep, to visit his brothers at the battlefield, where the Philistine army and the Israelite army had gathered on opposite hills. The giant Goliath, who was the leader of the Philistine army, challenged Israel to send one man to come to the valley and fight him one-on-one. But everyone, including Saul the king, was afraid. Young David said that he would face off against Goliath in battle because this Philistine had defied the armies of the living God. David only took three things to the battle: his shepherd's staff, his sling, and a pouch of five smooth stones.

When this passage speaks of "the Philistine," it means the giant named Goliath.

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Philistine (Goliath) faced the boy David and despised him. [17:41-42]
- ☐ The Philistine asked why this boy came to him with sticks. He cursed David and said he would feed David's flesh to birds and animals. [17:43-44]
- ☐ David told the Philistine that he was coming to meet him in the name of Yahweh. [17:45]
- ☐ David said that Yahweh would give him victory, enabling David to kill the Philistine and remove his head. David said that all the earth would know that there was a God in Israel. [17:46]
- ☐ David said that the battle belonged to Yahweh, who would give the Philistine army into the Israelites' hands. [17:47]
- ☐ David killed the Philistine with a sling and a stone. [17:48-50]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [17:41] Who did the Philistine Goliath, with his shield bearer in front of him, approach?  
The Philistine and his shield bearer came toward David.
2. [17:42] Why did the Philistine despise David when he saw him?  
David was only a boy.
3. [17:43] What did the Philistine say?  
The Philistine asked if he was a dog, saying that David came to him with sticks. Then he cursed David by his gods.
4. [17:44] What did the Philistine Goliath say that he was going to do to David?  
He said that he would give David's flesh to the birds and to the wild animals.



**1 Samuel 17:41-50 continued**

5. [17:45] What did David say that the Philistine came to him with?  
He said that the Philistine came to him with a sword, a spear, and a javelin.
6. [17:45] What did David say about how he came to the Philistine?  
David said that he came in the name of Yahweh of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, the same God that the Philistine had defied.
7. [17:46] What did David say would happen that day?  
David said that Yahweh would give him victory over the Philistines that day.
8. [17:46] What did David say would happen because the dead bodies of the Philistines would be given to the birds and wild animals?  
He said that everyone would know that there is a God in Israel.
9. [17:47] What did David say about Yahweh?  
He said that Yahweh did not save with a sword or spear. He said that the battle belonged to Yahweh, and Yahweh would give the Philistines into the Israelites' hands.
10. [17:48] What did David do when the Philistine approached him?  
David ran quickly to meet him.
11. [17:49] What did David do next?  
He shot a stone from his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead.
12. [17:49] What happened to the Philistine after he was hit with the stone?  
He fell down and was dead.
13. [17:50] How had David defeated the Philistine?  
He defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and with no sword in his hand.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Samuel 22:1-5     David in Moab

**Background:** David became a mighty warrior, and Saul became very jealous of him. Saul wanted to kill David, so David ran away, rather than striking back at Saul, God's anointed king. David went to Achish, the king of Gath, which was a Philistine territory. When Achish's servants spoke to him against David, David became afraid of Achish and escaped.

This passage mentions the cave of Adullam. Adullam was a town in Judah.

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David escaped to the cave of Adullam, and his family and others went to him. [22:1-2]
- ☐ David asked the king of Moab if his parents could stay in Moab with the king. [22:3]
- ☐ The prophet Gad told David to leave Moab and to go to the land of Judah, so David went into the forest of Hereth. [22:5]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [22:1] Where did David escape to?  
David escaped to the cave of Adullam.
2. [22:2] Who joined him at the cave of Adullam?  
David's family joined him. Also, everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to join David.
3. [22:3] What did David say to the king of Moab?  
He asked the king of Moab to allow his parents to stay there until David knew what God was going to do.
4. [22:4] How long did David's father and mother stay with the king of Moab?  
They stayed with the king the whole time that David was in his stronghold.
5. [22:5] What did the prophet Gad say to David and what did David do?  
He told David to leave his stronghold and go into the land of Judah. So David went into the forest of Hereth.

**1 Samuel 22:1-5 continued**

6. [22:5] Why do you think the prophet told David to leave the stronghold and go to Judah?  
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps David was in danger where he was. Perhaps God had a plan for him to do something in Judah.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Samuel 1:1-10      David learns of Saul's death

**Background:** The book of 2 Samuel begins where 1 Samuel ended. Just before this passage, an army of Philistines had attacked the Israelite army led by King Saul and his son Jonathan, who was a close friend of David. At this time, other enemies called the Amalekites had burned the Israelite town of Ziklag and captured many of its people, including some of David's own family. When David asked what to do, Yahweh told him to pursue the Amalekites. Then God gave David a great victory over them. David brought the captured people, including his family, back home to Ziklag. David did not know then what had happened with King Saul's army.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ After Saul died, David returned to Ziklag after attacking the Amalekites. [1:1]
- ☐ A man came to see David and told David about things that had happened at the camp of Israel. [1:2-3]
- ☐ He reported that Saul and his son Jonathan were dead. [1:4]
- ☐ The man said that he had a conversation with Saul, and he gave an account of how Saul died. [1:6-9]
- ☐ The man brought the crown and the band that Saul had on before his death and gave them to David. [1:10]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] What did David do after the death of Saul?  
David returned from attacking the Amalekites and remained in Ziklag for two days.
2. [1:2] On the third day, who came to David from Saul's camp?  
A man with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head came to David.
3. [1:2] What did the man do when he saw David?  
The man fell to the ground and bowed down before David.
4. [1:3] Where did the man say that he came from?  
He said that he had escaped from the camp of Israel.
5. [1:3-4] What did the man respond when David asked how things went at the camp?  
The man responded that the people had fled from the battle and that many had died.
6. [1:4] What did the man say about Saul and Jonathan?  
The man said that Saul and his son Jonathan were dead.

**2 Samuel 1:1-10 continued**

7. [1:5] What did David ask the man in verse 5?  
He asked how the man knew that Saul and his son were dead.
8. [1:6] Where did the man say that he found Saul?  
The man said that he was on Mount Gilboa only by chance, and he saw Saul leaning on his spear there.
9. [1:7-8] How did the man say that he responded when Saul asked him who he was?  
The man said that he had told Saul that he was an Amalekite.
10. [1:9-10] What did the man say that Saul had asked him to do?  
He said that Saul had asked the man to kill him, because Saul was ready to die from his wounds.
11. [1:10] What did the man say that he had done next?  
The man said that he had killed Saul, and that he had taken the crown that was on Saul's head and the band that was on Saul's arm.
12. [1:10] What did the man do with the crown and the band he had taken from Saul?  
He gave them to David and called him master.
13. [1:10] Why do you think that the man brought the crown and the band to David?  
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps he thought David would reward him for bringing them to him. Perhaps he knew or had heard that David would be the next king.
14. [1:10] 1 Samuel 31:4 says that Saul fell on his own sword and killed himself. Why do you think the man said that he killed Saul?  
(*Answer may vary.*) The man probably thought that David would be glad to hear that Saul was dead, so it is likely that he stole the things from King Saul's dead body and brought them to David, then lied about what had happened, in hopes that he would be honored for killing Saul.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Samuel 2:1-7 David is anointed king of Judah

**Background:** Instead of rewarding the Amalekite who brought Saul's crown and band to him, David killed the Amalekite for what he said he had done to Yahweh's anointed king, Saul. Then David mourned because Saul and Jonathan (who was Saul's son and David's friend) had died. Next, David sought Yahweh to find out what to do next.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David asked Yahweh where he should go, and Yahweh told him to go to Hebron. [2:1-2]
- ☐ David and his two wives went up to Hebron, along with the men with David and their families. [2:3]
- ☐ The men of Judah anointed David king over the house of Judah. [2:4]
- ☐ David blessed the men of Jabesh Gilead because of the loyalty they had shown to Saul. [2:5-6]
- ☐ David encouraged the people of Jabesh Gilead to be strong because their master was dead, and David was anointed to be king over Judah. [2:7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] To which city in Judah did Yahweh tell David to go, when David asked Yahweh to direct him?  
Yahweh told David to go to Hebron.
2. [2:2-3] Who went up with David to Hebron?  
David went up to Hebron with his two wives, Ahinoam and Abigail, and the men who were with him, who each brought his family.
3. [2:4] Who anointed David as king, and what did they say?  
The men of Judah came and anointed David king over the house of Judah. They told David that the men of Jabesh Gilead had buried Saul.
4. [2:5] What message did David send to the men of Jabesh Gilead?  
He sent them a blessing from Yahweh for the loyalty that they had shown to Saul by burying him.
5. [2:6] How did David bless the men of Jabesh Gilead?  
He asked that Yahweh would show them love and faithfulness because of what they did for Saul. David said he would also be good to them.

**2 Samuel 2:1-7 continued**

6. [2:7] What did David tell the men of Jabesh Gilead in verse 7?

He told them to be strong and courageous because Saul was dead, and David was their new king.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Samuel 5:1-5      David becomes king of all Israel

**Background:** For a short time, one of Saul's sons, Ish-Bosheth, ruled over the tribes of Israel other than Judah. After conflict between Saul's army and David's army, multiple people were killed. One of these was Ish-Bosheth. But David continued to surprise others by avenging and mourning the deaths of Saul's relatives, including Ish-Bosheth, rather than rejoicing that his rivals were killed. This was because David honored Saul as God's anointed king.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The tribes of Israel told David they were his flesh and bone. [5:1]
- ☐ They reminded David that when Saul was their king, it was David who led the Israelite army. [5:2]
- ☐ They anointed David king over all the tribes of Israel. [5:3]
- ☐ David reigned forty years: seven years in Hebron as king of Judah, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem as king over all Israel. [5:4-5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [5:1] What did all the tribes of Israel say to David?  
They said that they were all David's flesh and bone.
2. [5:1] What do you think it meant when they said this to David?  
It seems to indicate that they meant they were all Israelites, or one family.
3. [5:2] What did all the tribes of Israel recall that Yahweh had said to David?  
All the tribes of Israel recalled that Yahweh had said that David would shepherd Yahweh's people Israel, and that David would become ruler over Israel.
4. [5:3] What did all the elders of Israel do in verse 3?  
They came to Hebron, made a covenant with David, and anointed him king over Israel.
5. [5:4] How old was David when he began his reign of forty years?  
David was thirty years old when he became king.



**2 Samuel 5:1-5 continued**

6. [5:5] How many years did David reign over Judah and then over all of Israel and Judah?

David reigned seven years and six months over Judah. David reigned thirty-three years in Jerusalem over all Israel and Judah.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Samuel 7:18-29 David's prayer of thanks

**Background:** Earlier in this chapter, David thought it was unfitting that he had a house made of cedar, but God was worshiped in a tent. David wanted to build a house or temple for God. But Yahweh God sent the prophet Nathan to tell David that instead Yahweh was going to build a different kind of house for David. Yahweh would do this by raising up a descendant of David who would build a house for Yahweh's name. Yahweh would establish David's throne forever, and there would be no end to the kingdom reigned by David's descendant.

The word house is used in different ways in this passage. It can mean a building or a family or a kingdom.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ King David sat before Yahweh and asked why Yahweh had been so good to him and to his family and had even spoken about his family's future. [7:18-19]
- ☐ David called himself Yahweh's servant. He said Yahweh had done all these things for his own purposes. [7:20-21]
- ☐ As he prayed, David praised how great Yahweh was and praised many great things Yahweh had done for Israel as well as for David and his family. [7:22-24]
- ☐ David asked Yahweh to do all that he promised for David's family. [7:25-26, 28-29]
- ☐ David told Yahweh that he had courage to pray for these things because they had been revealed to David by the prophet Nathan. [7:27]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:18] What did David do in response to Yahweh's words to him?  
David sat before Yahweh and prayed to him.
2. [7:18] What did David ask Yahweh?  
David asked how he or his family were important enough for Yahweh to have brought him this far.
3. [7:19] What did David say about his family?  
David said that Yahweh had spoken about David's family for generations to come.
4. [7:20-21] How did David speak about himself in verses 20 and 21?  
David called himself Yahweh's servant.
5. [7:21] Why did David say that these things were done and revealed to David?  
David said they were done the sake of Yahweh's word and to fulfill Yahweh's purpose.

**2 Samuel 7:18-29 continued**

6. [7:22] What did David say about Yahweh in verse 22?  
He called Yahweh great. He said that there is no one like Yahweh and that there is no God other than him.
  
7. [7:23-24] What did David mention that God had done only for the nation of Israel?  
David said that God redeemed them so they could be a people for himself, to make a name for Yahweh himself and to do great deeds for his land. God drove out other nations before the people that he rescued from Egypt. He established Israel to be his people forever. Yahweh became their God.
  
8. [7:25] What did David pray about the promise Yahweh had made?  
He prayed that the promise would be established forever, and prayed that Yahweh would do as he had promised.
  
9. [7:26] What did David want people to say about Yahweh's great name?  
He wanted people to say that Yahweh is the God of Israel.
  
10. [7:27] How did David say he had found courage to pray to Yahweh of hosts?  
He had courage because Yahweh of hosts had revealed that he would build David a house.
  
11. [7:28] What did David call Yahweh's words?  
David called Yahweh's words trustworthy.
  
12. [7:29] Why would David's house be blessed forever with Yahweh's blessing?  
David's house would be blessed forever because that is what Yahweh had said.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Samuel 11:1-5     David sins with Bathsheba

**Background:** In the previous chapter, the people of Ammon went to war against the Israelites.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ In springtime, David sent out all the army of Israel. They destroyed the army of Ammon while David stayed in Jerusalem. [11:1]
- ☐ One evening as he walked on his palace roof, David noticed a beautiful woman bathing. [11:2]
- ☐ He asked about her. The woman's name was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. [11:3]
- ☐ David sent for her and had relations with her, and she became pregnant. [11:4-5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [11:1] When did kings normally go off to war?  
Kings normally went off to war in the springtime.
2. [11:1] What did David's army do when he sent them out?  
They destroyed the army of Ammon and besieged Rabbah.
3. [11:1] Where was King David during this time?  
King David had stayed in Jerusalem.
4. [11:2] What happened one evening when David got up from his bed and walked on the roof of his palace?  
David saw a very beautiful woman bathing.
5. [11:3] What did David ask when he saw the woman?  
He asked who the woman was.
6. [11:3] Who was the woman?  
She was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the husband of Uriah the Hittite.
7. [11:4] What did David do with Bathsheba?  
David sent messengers to get Bathsheba, and he had relations with her.

**2 Samuel 11:1-5 continued**

8. [11:5] What did Bathsheba later tell David?  
She told David that she was pregnant.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Samuel 12:1-14 Nathan confronts David

**Background:** After Bathsheba told David that she was pregnant, David tried to trick Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, into sleeping with her, so that Uriah would think that the child was his own. When the plan failed, David arranged it so that Uriah would die in battle. David married Bathsheba after Uriah was killed.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh sent the prophet Nathan to David to give him a message. [12:1]
- ☐ Nathan told David about a rich man who owned many sheep. But the rich man took away a poor man's only loved lamb and killed it to prepare a meal for a guest. [12:1-4]
- ☐ David became angry at the rich man and said that he deserved to die. [12:5]
- ☐ David said that the rich man should pay four times over because he had no pity. [12:6]
- ☐ Nathan explained the meaning of the story. He said that David had acted like the rich man when he killed Uriah and took Uriah's wife. [12:7-9]
- ☐ Yahweh said that, as a result of David's actions, there would always be fighting in David's house, and Yahweh would take David's wives and give them to other people. [12:10-12]
- ☐ David admitted his sin. Then Nathan told David that Yahweh would forgive his sin and David would not be killed, but the child that David had with Bathsheba would die. [12:13-14]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [12:1] Why did Nathan go to David?  
Yahweh sent Nathan to David with a message.
2. [12:1] What two people were in the story that Nathan told to David?  
The story was about a rich man and a poor man.
3. [12:2] What did the rich man have?  
The rich man had many sheep and cattle.
4. [12:3] What did the poor man have?  
The poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb.

**2 Samuel 12:1-14 continued**

5. [12:3] What did the poor man do with the little lamb?  
He cared for the lamb, which grew up with him and with his children. The lamb ate and drank with them. The poor man laid the little lamb on his chest like it was a daughter to him.
6. [12:4] What happened when a visitor came to see the rich man?  
The rich man was unwilling to take one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the visitor. Instead, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it as a meal for his guest.
7. [12:4] How do you think the poor man would have responded to what happened?  
(Answers may vary.) The poor man would probably have been heartbroken as well as angry when his only lamb that he loved was killed unjustly.
8. [12:5] How did David respond when he heard the story?  
David was very angry with the rich man. He told Nathan that, as surely as Yahweh lives, the man who did this wrong thing without pity deserved to be put to death.
9. [12:6] What did David say that the cost should be for the rich man?  
David said that he should pay back the lamb four times over.
10. [12:7] What did Nathan tell David?  
Nathan said that David was the rich man in the story.
11. [12:7] What do you think Nathan meant when he said that David was the rich man in the story?  
The passage indicates that Nathan meant that David was similar to the rich man, because David had done wrong actions that could be compared to the kinds of wrong actions that the rich man had done in the story.
12. [12:7-8] What did Yahweh say about what he had done for David?  
Yahweh said that he had anointed David king and rescued him from Saul. Yahweh had given David a house and wives. He also gave Israel and Judah to David. If he had given David too little, Yahweh would have given him many more things.
13. [12:9] What did Yahweh say about what David had done?  
Yahweh said that David despised the commands of Yahweh by doing evil, by causing Uriah to be killed by the sword and by taking Uriah's wife.

**2 Samuel 12:1-14 continued**

14. [12:10] What did Yahweh say would happen because David had despised Yahweh and had taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite as his wife?  
Yahweh told David that he would raise up evil against David, and the sword would never leave his house.
15. [12:10] What do you think it meant when Yahweh said that the sword would never leave David's house?  
This probably meant that David's family members would always fight with one another.
16. [12:11] What did Yahweh say would happen to David's wives?  
Yahweh said that David's neighbor would sleep with David's wives in broad daylight.
17. [12:12] What did Yahweh tell David in verse 12?  
He said that David committed his sin secretly, but Yahweh would do this before all of Israel in the sunlight.
18. [12:13] What did David confess to Nathan, and how did Nathan respond?  
David confessed to Nathan that he had sinned against Yahweh. Nathan told David that Yahweh had forgiven his sin, and David would not die.
19. [12:14] What did Nathan tell David would be the consequences of his act against Yahweh?  
Nathan told David that because his act showed contempt for Yahweh, the child would die.

**Comment Section:**



## 2 Samuel 23:1-7      David's last words

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ These were David's last words. [23:1]
- ☐ Yahweh told David that the one who rules righteously over people would be like morning light. [23:3-4]
- ☐ God had made an everlasting covenant with David and his family. [23:5]
- ☐ Yahweh said that the worthless will be like thorns that will be burned up where they lie. [23:6-7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [23:1] What does verse 1 say that this passage contains?  
These are the last words of David.
2. [23:1] How was David described?  
He was described as the son of Jesse, highly honored, anointed by God, and the sweet psalmist of Israel.
3. [23:2] How did David explain what he spoke?  
He said the Spirit of Yahweh spoke to him. He said that Yahweh's word was on his tongue.
4. [23:3-4] What did the God of Israel say to David?  
The God of Israel said that the one who rules righteously and in the fear of God will be like the morning light when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, through sunshine after the rain.
5. [23:5] What had God made with David and his family?  
God had made an everlasting covenant with them.
6. [23:6-7] What did David say about the worthless people?  
They will be like thorns that are thrown away and burned.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Kings 2:1-12 David's final instructions to Solomon

**Background:** The end of this passage mentions the city of David. This means Jerusalem.

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ As David was about to die, he told Solomon to be strong. [2:1-2]
- ☐ David told Solomon to obey all of Yahweh's commands. If he did that, Solomon would succeed and prosper, and Yahweh would fulfill his promise to make David's descendants rule Israel forever. [2:3-4]
- ☐ David told Solomon that he should punish Joab for the wrong things that he had done. [2:5-6]
- ☐ David told Solomon to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai because they had helped David. [2:7]
- ☐ David told Solomon to punish Shimei for the wrong things that he had done. [2:8-9]
- ☐ David died and was buried. He had reigned over Israel for 40 years. [2:10-11]
- ☐ Solomon became king and was established in his rule. [2:12]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1-2] What did David say to Solomon as he was about to die?  
David told Solomon to be strong and to show himself to be a man.
2. [2:3] What instructions did David give to Solomon in verse 3?  
David told Solomon to obey all of Yahweh's commands.
3. [2:3-4] What would happen if Solomon obeyed all of Yahweh's commands?  
Solomon would prosper, and Yahweh would make David's descendants rule over Israel forever.
4. [2:5] What had Joab done to Abner and Amasa?  
He had killed them.
5. [2:5] What did David say that indicated that it was wrong for Joab to kill Abner and Amasa?  
Abner and Amasa were commanders of the armies of Israel, and Joab killed them in a time of peace, not in a time of war.

**1 Kings 2:1-12 continued**

6. [2:6] What did David want Solomon to do to Joab?  
He wanted Solomon to act wisely but also wanted him to stop Joab from living to be an old man and dying in peace.
7. [2:7] Why did David want Solomon to deal kindly with the sons of Barzillai and to let them eat at his table? [2:7]  
The sons of Barzillai had helped David when he fled from Absalom, Solomon's brother.
8. [2:8] What had Shimei done to David? [2:8]  
Shimei had violently cursed David.
9. [2:8] Why had Shimei escaped punishment for cursing David?  
David had promised not to kill him.
10. [2:9] How did David want Solomon to punish Shimei?  
He wanted Solomon to act in wisdom and to kill Shimei.
11. [2:10] What happened to David in verse 10?  
He died.
12. [2:10] Where was David buried?  
David was buried in the city of David.
13. [2:11] How long did David reign over Israel?  
David reigned over Israel for 40 years.
14. [2:12] Who was king after David died?  
Solomon became king after David died.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Kings 3:4-15 Solomon prays for wisdom

**Background:** Solomon had recently become king. Now he would rule in his father David's place. David had been a great king.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ King Solomon went to Gibeon and offered many sacrifices to Yahweh. [3:4]
- ☐ Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked what Solomon wanted from him. [3:5]
- ☐ Solomon said that Yahweh had shown David great faithfulness and gave him a son to sit on his throne. [3:6]
- ☐ Solomon said about himself that he was like a little child among all of Yahweh's numerous chosen people. [3:7-8]
- ☐ Solomon asked Yahweh for understanding and discernment so that he could rule Yahweh's people well. [3:9]
- ☐ The Lord was pleased with Solomon's request. [3:10]
- ☐ Because Solomon asked for wisdom and discernment instead of asking for a long life or riches for himself, God decided to give Solomon wisdom like no one else ever had. [3:11-12]
- ☐ God also decided to give Solomon what he did not ask for: riches and honor like no one else ever had. [3:13]
- ☐ He also promised to give Solomon a long life if he walked in God's ways and obeyed God's commands. [3:14]
- ☐ Then Solomon awoke. He went and offered sacrifices to the Lord in Jerusalem. [3:15]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:4] Why did Solomon go to Gibeon?  
Solomon went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices there. He offered 1000 burnt offerings on that altar.
2. [3:5] What happened there at night?  
Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream. In the dream, Yahweh told Solomon to ask for what he wanted God to give to him.
3. [3:6] What did Solomon say that Yahweh had done for his father King David?  
Yahweh had shown David great faithfulness. Yahweh had also given to David a son to sit on his throne.
4. [3:7] How did Solomon describe himself to Yahweh?  
Solomon described himself as a little child who did not know how to go out or come in.
5. [3:8] What did Solomon say about the people that God had chosen?  
Solomon said that they were too numerous to be counted.

**1 Kings 3:4-15 continued**

6. [3:9] What did Solomon ask Yahweh to give him?  
Solomon asked Yahweh to give him understanding and discernment so that he could judge Yahweh's chosen people well.
7. [3:10] What was the Lord's reaction to Solomon's request?  
He was pleased that Solomon asked this.
8. [3:11-12] What did God say about the wisdom that he would give to Solomon?  
He said that because Solomon had asked for wisdom, instead of asking for himself such things as a long life or riches, he would give Solomon a wise and discerning heart like no one else ever had.
9. [3:13] What did God add to the gift of wisdom that he gave to Solomon?  
He added what Solomon did not ask for, riches and honor, so that no one else would compare with Solomon.
10. [3:14] How could Solomon get an additional gift of a long life?  
If Solomon kept God's commands as his father David did, God said that Solomon would have a long life.
11. [3:15] What happened next?  
Solomon awoke, and it had been a dream.
12. [3:16] Where did Solomon go after this, and what did he do there?  
Solomon went to Jerusalem and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the ark of the covenant. He also made a feast for his servants.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Kings 10:1-10      The queen of Sheba visits Solomon

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The queen of Sheba visited Solomon and asked him hard questions. [10:1-3]
- ☐ She was amazed by his wisdom and wealth. [10:4-5]
- ☐ She told Solomon that she had not believed the report she heard about his wisdom until she came to Jerusalem, where she found that his wisdom and wealth were much greater than she had heard. [10:6-7]
- ☐ She said that those around Solomon were blessed to constantly hear his wisdom. [10:8]
- ☐ She praised Yahweh for making Solomon king of Israel. [10:9]
- ☐ She gave Solomon a large amount of gold, spices, and precious stones. [10:10]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [10:1] Why did the queen of Sheba come to Jerusalem?  
She came to test Solomon with hard questions.
2. [10:2] What did the queen of Sheba bring with her when she came to visit Solomon?  
She brought a long caravan and camels loaded with spices, gold, and precious gemstones.
3. [10:3] What did Solomon do when the queen arrived?  
Solomon answered all of her questions.
4. [10:4-5] How did the queen react when she saw all of Solomon's wisdom, his wealth, and how he worshiped Yahweh?  
It took her breath away.
5. [10:5] What do you think that this reaction indicated?  
It probably indicated that the queen of Sheba was greatly amazed.
6. [10:6-7] When the queen had first heard the report about Solomon's words and wisdom, how did she respond?  
She did not believe it.

**1 Kings 10:1-10 continued**

7. [10:7] What did the queen learn about Solomon when she went to Jerusalem?  
She learned that Solomon was much wiser and wealthier than she had been told.
  
8. [10:8] Why were all the people around Solomon blessed, in the queen's opinion?  
All the people around Solomon were blessed because they were able to constantly hear his wisdom.
  
9. [10:9] What did the queen say were the reasons that Yahweh should be praised?  
Yahweh should be praised because he loved Israel and had made Solomon king to do justice and righteousness.
  
10. [10:10] What else did the queen give to Solomon, in addition to gold and precious stones?  
She gave him a greater amount of spices than he would ever be given again.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Kings 16:29-34    Ahab is king over Israel

**Background:** After the days of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel divided into two parts. One was still called Israel, and the other was called Judah.

A king in this time would make an alliance with another country's king by marrying his daughter. But it was foolish for the kings of Israel to have such foreign wives, who would often lead their husbands to worship false gods. The Sidonians mentioned in this passage were evil Canaanites who worshiped idols and were normally enemies of God's people. Jericho, which is also mentioned, was a city that God caused to be destroyed in the Old Testament. God's general, Joshua, said then that any man who rebuilt Jericho would lose two sons as the cost for rebuilding it (Joshua 6:26).

***Read the passage.***

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Ahab became king of Israel and reigned for 22 years. [16:29]
- ☐ Ahab did more evil than the kings who reigned before him. [16:30]
- ☐ Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Sidon. [16:31]
- ☐ Ahab built an altar to Baal and made an Asherah pole. [16:32]
- ☐ Ahab did more to anger Yahweh than any king before him. [16:33]
- ☐ While Ahab was king, Hiel built Jericho, and his two sons died. [16:34]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [16:29] What happened in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah's reign?  
Ahab, son of Omri, began to rule as king over Israel.
2. [16:29] How long did Ahab reign over Israel in the city of Samaria?  
Ahab reigned for twenty-two years.
3. [16:30] What did Ahab do in the sight of Yahweh?  
He did more evil than all the kings before him.
4. [16:31-32] What evil things did Ahab do?  
He did the kinds of sinful things that Jeroboam did. He also married Jezebel, the daughter of the Sidonians' king. Ahab served and worshiped Baal, he built a house for Baal in Samaria, and he built an altar for Baal in that house.



**1 Kings 16:29-34 continued**

5. [16:33] How did Ahab relate to Yahweh?  
He did more to provoke Yahweh to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.
  
6. [16:34] What happened when Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho?  
Hiel's firstborn son, Abiram, died when Hiel built the foundation of the city. Hiel's youngest son died when Hiel set up the gates of the city.
  
7. [16:34] Whose word did these deaths fulfill?  
This fulfilled the word that Yahweh had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Kings 17:1-16      God provides for Elijah during a drought

**Background:** Elijah was a prophet of Yahweh during the reign of King Ahab. Zarephath, which is mentioned in this passage, was in Sidon. The people there did not worship Yahweh.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Elijah told Ahab that there would be no dew or rain until he said so. [17:1]
- ☐ Yahweh told Elijah to go east and hide by the Kerith brook, and he did. [17:2-5]
- ☐ Yahweh sent ravens to bring food to Elijah in the morning and evening. Elijah also drank from the brook. [17:4, 6]
- ☐ The brook dried up because there was no rain. [17:7]
- ☐ Then Yahweh told Elijah to go to Zarephath. Yahweh said that a widow there would feed Elijah. [17:8-9]
- ☐ When Elijah went there, he asked the widow that he saw for a drink and some bread. [17:10-11]
- ☐ The widow said that she only had a little oil and flour to make a last meal for herself and her son. [17:12]
- ☐ Elijah said that if she fed him first, Yahweh would make her oil and flour last until rain came. [17:13-14]
- ☐ When she did what Elijah said, Yahweh made the widow's oil and flour last for many days so that she could provide food for her household and for Elijah. [17:15-16]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [17:1] What did Elijah the Tishbite tell Ahab?  
He told Ahab there would not be dew or rain in those years until Elijah said so.
2. [17:1] Who do you think gave Elijah the authority to tell Ahab that?  
The passage indicates that Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave Elijah that authority.
3. [17:2-3] What did Yahweh tell Elijah to do?  
He told Elijah to go and hide by the brook Kerith.
4. [17:1-3] Why do you think that Elijah needed to hide?  
The passage indicates that Yahweh knew that Elijah was in danger. Perhaps King Ahab was angry with Elijah for telling him that there would be no rain until Elijah gave the word.
5. [17:4] What did Yahweh say would happen when Elijah went to Kerith?  
Elijah would drink from the brook, and the ravens would bring him food.

**1 Kings 17:1-16 continued**

6. [17:5] What did Elijah do?  
He did as Yahweh commanded and went to the brook Kerith.
  
7. [17:6-7] What happened when Elijah got to the brook Kerith?  
The ravens brought him bread and meat morning and evening, and Elijah drank from the brook until it dried up.
  
8. [17:8-9] Then what did Yahweh tell Elijah?  
Yahweh told Elijah to go to Zarephath and live there. Yahweh said he had commanded a widow there to provide for Elijah.
  
9. [17:10-11] When Elijah went to Zarephath, what happened?  
He saw a widow at the city gates who was gathering sticks, and he asked her for some water and some bread.
  
10. [17:12] What purpose did the widow tell Elijah for the sticks she was gathering?  
She was going to go prepare the handful of flour that she had and the little oil that she had into a last meal for herself and her son, before they would die.
  
11. [17:13] What did Elijah tell the widow to do?  
He told her to first make a little bread and give it to him. Then, with the oil and flour that was left, she could make some bread for herself and for her son.
  
12. [17:13] What do you think that the woman thought when Elijah told her to do that?  
(Answers may vary.) She probably thought that she could not do that, because there would not be enough flour and oil to make food for herself and for her son.
  
13. [17:14] What did Elijah tell the widow that Yahweh, the God of Israel, had said?  
Yahweh had said that the jar of flour and the bottle of oil would not become empty until Yahweh sent the rain.
  
14. [17:15-16] What happened when the widow did as Elijah had told her to do?  
She, Elijah, and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour did not go empty, and the jar of oil did not stop flowing.
  
15. [17:15-16] What do you think that this woman from Sidon learned about the God of Israel?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps she learned that the God of Israel is powerful, and he keeps his promises. Perhaps she learned that Yahweh is merciful.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Kings 19:15-21    God tells Elijah to anoint Elisha as prophet

**Background:** Elijah had grown very discouraged. He told God that he had been very zealous for Yahweh, but the people of Israel had forsaken Yahweh's covenant and torn down his altars. Elijah said that all the prophets other than him were killed, and now he was in danger. This passage contains Yahweh's reply to Elijah.

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told Elijah to go to the wilderness of Damascus. He told Elijah to anoint Hazael king over Aram, to anoint Jehu king over Israel, and to anoint Elisha to be prophet in Elijah's place. [19:15-16]
- ☐ Yahweh said that Jehu would kill those who escaped from Hazael, and Elisha would kill those who escaped from Jehu. [19:17]
- ☐ Yahweh would keep a remnant of 7000 people who had not worshiped Baal. [19:18]
- ☐ Elijah found Elisha plowing in the field and walked up to him. Elijah draped his cloak on Elisha. [19:19]
- ☐ Elisha wanted to say goodbye to his parents before following Elijah. Elijah told him to think about what he had done to him. [19:20]
- ☐ Elisha then killed his oxen, cooked the meat, and gave it to the people. Then he followed Elijah. [19:21]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [19:15-16] What did Yahweh tell Elijah to do after he had arrived in the wilderness of Damascus?  
Yahweh told Elijah to anoint Hazael to be king over Aram, to anoint Jehu to be king over Israel, and to anoint Elisha to be prophet in Elijah's place.
2. [19:17] What did Yahweh say that Jehu and Elisha would do?  
Yahweh said that Jehu would kill whoever escaped the sword of Hazael, and Elisha would kill those who escaped the sword of Jehu.
3. [19:18] What did Yahweh say that he would leave for himself?  
He said he would leave 7000 people in Israel who had not worshiped Baal.
4. [19:18] What do you think Yahweh meant by saying that he would leave these 7000 people for himself?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps Yahweh meant to encourage Elijah that there were many people that had not worshiped false gods. Perhaps Yahweh meant that he would not allow those 7000 people to be killed.
5. [19:19] What was Elisha doing when Elijah saw him?  
He was plowing the ground with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he was guiding the twelfth pair.

**1 Kings 19:15-21 continued**

6. [19:19] What did Elijah do when he found Elisha?  
He went up and draped his cloak on Elisha.
  
7. [19:20] What did Elisha want to do first before following Elijah?  
He wanted to say farewell to his parents.
  
8. [19:20] What did Elijah say when Elisha asked if he could go kiss his parents goodbye?  
Elijah told him to go back but think about what he had done to him.
  
9. [19:21] What did Elisha do with the pair of oxen he had been guiding and their yoke?  
Elisha killed his oxen, and he used the wood from the yoke to cook the meat. Then he gave the meat to the people to eat.
  
10. [19:21] Who do you think the people were?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps they were Elisha's family and other people who were plowing. Perhaps they were people in Elisha's community.
  
11. [19:21] What did Elisha do after he gave meat to the people?  
He went with Elijah and served him.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Kings 2:1-14 Elijah is taken up to heaven

**Background:** Elijah was a prophet in Israel. In 1 Kings 19, God told Elijah to anoint Elisha to be prophet after him.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ When Yahweh was about to take Elijah to heaven, he sent Elijah to three different places. [2:1-6]
- ☐ Each time he was sent on, Elijah told Elisha to stay in the place they were, but Elisha would not leave Elijah. [2:1-6]
- ☐ At each place, the sons of prophets asked if Elisha knew that Yahweh would take Elijah away from him. Elisha told them that he knew but didn't want them to talk about it. [2:1-6]
- ☐ When they got to the Jordan River, Elijah struck the water with his cloak. The river divided, and the two men walked across on dry land. [2:7-8]
- ☐ Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah said that if Elisha saw him being taken away, Elisha would get what he asked. [2:9-10]
- ☐ A chariot of fire came and took Elijah into heaven, and Elisha saw it happen. Elisha tore his clothes. [2:11-12]
- ☐ Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak and struck the water with it. The river divided again, and he walked across. [2:13-14]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] What was Yahweh going to do soon, when Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal?  
Yahweh was going to take Elijah to heaven by a whirlwind.
2. [2:2] What did Elijah tell Elisha to do?  
Elijah told him to stay there, because Yahweh had sent Elijah to Bethel.
3. [2:1] What did Elisha do?  
He said that he would not leave Elijah, and he went to Bethel with Elijah.
4. [2:3] What did Elisha say to the prophets in Bethel when they asked if he knew that Yahweh would take Elijah away?  
Elisha said that he knew about it, and he told them not to talk about it.
5. [2:4] What did Elisha do when Elijah told him to stay in Bethel while Yahweh sent Elijah to Jericho?  
Elisha said again that he would not leave Elijah, and he went to Jericho with Elijah.

**2 Kings 2:1-14 continued**

6. [2:5] What did Elisha say to the prophets in Jericho who asked if he knew that Yahweh would take Elijah away?  
Elisha said that he knew about it, and he told them not to talk about it.
7. [2:6] What did Elisha do when Yahweh sent Elijah to the Jordan?  
Elisha told Elijah again that he would not leave him, and he went to the Jordan with him.
8. [2:7] What did the group of 50 sons of the prophets do when Elijah and Elisha stood by the Jordan River?  
They went there and stood at some distance from them.
9. [2:8] What happened when Elijah rolled up his cloak and struck the Jordan River's water with it?  
The water divided, and Elijah and Elisha walked across on dry land.
10. [2:9] What did Elisha ask Elijah to do for him, when Elijah told him to ask for something?  
Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit to come on him.
11. [2:10] How did Elijah answer Elisha's request for a double portion of his spirit?  
He said that Elisha had asked a difficult thing. But he said that if Elisha saw Elijah being taken from him, Elisha would receive what he wanted.
12. [2:11] How did Elijah go up into heaven?  
He went up in a whirlwind.
13. [2:12] Why did Elisha cry out, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"?  
Elisha cried out this way because he saw Elijah taken up with the chariot and horses of fire.
14. [2:12] What did Elisha do after he cried out?  
He tore his own clothes.
15. [2:12] What do you think Elisha indicated when he tore his own clothes?  
This probably indicated that Elisha was very sad. (Other indications were that he did not want to hear from the sons of prophets that his master would be taken away, and that he called Elijah "my father" when crying out.)
16. [2:13] What did Elisha pick up?  
He picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen off of him.

**2 Kings 2:1-14 continued**

17. [2:14] What happened when Elisha struck the Jordan River with Elijah's cloak?

The waters parted on both sides, and he walked across.

18. [2:14] Why do you think Elisha asked where Yahweh, the God of Elijah, was?

*(Answers may vary.)* Perhaps he wanted to know if Yahweh was with him. Perhaps he wanted to show the sons of prophets, who were standing nearby, that what happened was through Yahweh's power.

**Comment Section:**



## 2 Kings 4:1-7 The miracle of the widow's oil

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A woman came to Elisha and told him that her husband, one of the prophets, had died. Now a creditor was going to take her sons as slaves. [4:1]
- ☐ Elisha asked what he could do for her and asked what she had in the house. She had nothing but one pot of oil. [4:2]
- ☐ Elisha told her to borrow as many empty pots as possible. [4:3]
- ☐ He said she should go into her house with her sons and fill all the pots. [4:4]
- ☐ She did as Elisha told her. When she filled the last borrowed pot, the oil stopped flowing. [4:5-6]
- ☐ Elisha told her to sell the oil and to pay her debt, and then she and her sons could live on the rest. [4:7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1] Why did the woman come to Elisha?  
Her husband, who was a son of one of the prophets, had died. Now the creditor was going to take the woman's two sons to be his slaves.
2. [4:1] What do you think was the creditor's reason for taking the woman's sons as slaves?  
The woman probably did not have the money to pay a debt that she owed to the creditor.
3. [4:2] What did Elisha ask the woman?  
He asked what he could do for her. He asked what she had in her house.
4. [4:2] What was the only thing the woman had?  
All she had was a pot of oil.
5. [4:3] What did Elisha tell the woman to do?  
He told her to borrow as many empty jars as possible from her neighbors.
6. [4:4] What did Elisha tell the woman to do next?  
He told her to go inside the house with her sons, close the door, and pour oil from her jar into all the borrowed jars. She should set the full jars aside.

**2 Kings 4:1-7 continued**

7. [4:5] What did the woman do?

She did as Elisha had told her. Her sons brought jars from the neighbors, and she filled them all with oil.

8. [4:6] What happened when she had no more empty jars?

The oil stopped flowing.

9. [4:7] What did Elisha tell her to do with the jars of oil?

He told her to sell the oil, pay off her debt, and live with her sons on the rest of the money.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Kings 5:8-18 Naaman is healed of leprosy

**Background:** The king of Aram sent a letter to the king of Israel. He asked the king of Israel to cure his servant Naaman from leprosy, a terrible skin disease. The king of Israel tore his clothes in great distress, because he knew that he could not heal anyone, and he thought that the king of Aram wanted to start trouble with him.

When people speak in this chapter about being cleansed or clean, they mean being healed from leprosy.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Elisha sent a message that told the king to send Naaman to him. [5:8]
- ☐ Naaman came to Elisha's house. [5:9]
- ☐ Elisha sent a messenger who told Naaman to dip in the Jordan River seven times. Then Naaman would be cured. [5:9-10]
- ☐ Naaman was very angry. He thought Elisha would come out, wave his hand over the leprosy, and call on Yahweh to cure him. [5:11]
- ☐ Naaman thought that he could dip in better rivers to become clean. [5:12]
- ☐ Naaman's servants convinced Naaman to do what Elisha said. [5:13]
- ☐ Naaman did what Elisha said to do, and he was healed. [5:14]
- ☐ Naaman returned to Elisha and said that he knew that only Yahweh was God. He wanted to give Elisha a gift. [5:15]
- ☐ Elisha refused to accept a gift. [5:16]
- ☐ Then Naaman requested two mule loads of dirt. He said that he would only sacrifice to Yahweh from then on. [5:17]
- ☐ Naaman asked for Yahweh to pardon him for times when he needed to help his king bow in Rimmon's house. [5:18]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [5:8] What did Elisha do when he heard that the king had torn his clothes?  
He sent a message that asked why the king had torn his clothes. The message also told the king to send Naaman to him, and then Naaman would know that there was a prophet in Israel.
2. [5:9] What did Naaman do?  
He went with his horses and chariots to Elisha's house.
3. [5:10] What did Elisha do when Naaman came to his house?  
He sent a messenger out to tell Naaman to go and dip himself in the Jordan River seven times to become clean.

**2 Kings 5:8-18 continued**

4. [5:11] Why was Naaman angry?  
He was angry because Elisha did not do what he expected. Naaman had thought that Elisha would come out and stand before him, call on Yahweh, and wave his hand over the place to heal Naaman's leprosy.
5. [5:12] Why did Naaman think that he should bathe in the Abanah or Pharpar rivers in Damascus, instead of the Jordan River?  
He thought that the waters in those rivers were better than the Jordan.
6. [5:13] What did Naaman's servants ask him?  
They asked if Naaman would have done something difficult in order to be cleansed, if Elisha had asked him to. They asked whether, even more, he should go and dip to be clean.
7. [5:13] What do you think that Naaman's servants wanted him to do?  
They probably wanted Naaman to go and do the simple task of dipping himself seven times in the Jordan River, so that he could be healed. They probably hoped that he would be healed.
8. [5:14] What happened when Naaman obeyed Elisha's instructions?  
His flesh was restored like the skin of a child, and he was healed.
9. [5:15] What did Naaman tell Elisha when he returned to him?  
He knew there was no God in all the earth except in Israel.
10. [5:16] What did Elisha do when Naaman offered him a gift?  
Elisha said that he would not take any gift from Naaman.
11. [5:17] What did Naaman ask to take back with him?  
He asked if he could take two mule loads of dirt with him.
12. [5:17] Who did Naaman say he would offer burnt offerings and sacrifices to?  
Naaman would offer them only to Yahweh.
13. [5:17] Why do you think Naaman asked for the dirt?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he wanted to sacrifice to Yahweh on a mound of dirt from Yahweh's land.

**2 Kings 5:8-18 continued**

14. [5:18] What did Naaman ask Yahweh's pardon for?

He asked to be pardoned for the times that he had to go with the king to worship Rimmon. The king would lean on Naaman's arm and Naaman would bow himself in the house of Rimmon.

15. [5:18] Who do you think that Rimmon was?

Rimmon was probably a false god that the king of Aram worshiped.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Kings 17:6-23 Israel goes into exile

**Background:** The literal phrase “made your sons and daughters pass through the fire” that was used in verse 17 of this passage means the practice of human sacrifice, or killing and burning a human as an offering, that God forbid his people to do. This practice was done in many nations that surrounded Israel at this time.

Although the tribe of Judah was separated from the rest of the nation of Israel, both are called the descendants of Israel in verse 20 of this passage.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Israel were taken captive to Assyria. [17:6]
- ☐ This happened because they sinned against Yahweh. They worshiped other gods and followed other nations' practices. [17:7-8]
- ☐ They secretly built high places, pillars, and Asherah poles. [17:9-10]
- ☐ They made offerings on the high places, which angered Yahweh, and they served idols. [17:11-12]
- ☐ Yahweh warned them through all the prophets, but the Israelites refused to listen. [17:13-14]
- ☐ They rejected God's covenant with them and abandoned his commandments, worshiping many false gods. [17:15-16]
- ☐ They burned their sons and daughters as offerings and used divination. All this provoked Yahweh's anger. [17:17]
- ☐ So Yahweh removed them from his sight. Only the tribe of Judah was left. [17:18]
- ☐ Even Judah did these things, so Yahweh rejected all the descendants of Israel. He gave them to plunderers until they were out of his sight. [17:19-20]
- ☐ After Israel was torn from the house of David, King Jeroboam led them into great sin. [17:21]
- ☐ The people of Israel continued all of Jeroboam's sins until they were carried away to Assyria. [17:22-23]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [17:6] What happened in the ninth year of Hoshea?  
The king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried away the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in various places there.
2. [17:7-8] Why were the people of Israel taken as captives?  
The people of Israel had sinned against Yahweh by worshiping other gods and living according to the customs of the nations that Yahweh had driven out.
3. [17:9-10] What did the people do against Yahweh according to verses 9 and 10?  
They secretly did things that were not right. They built high places in all their cities. They set up stone pillars and Asherah poles.

**2 Kings 17:6-23 continued**

4. [17:11-12] Why do you think God was angry about their high places, stone pillars, and Asherah poles?  
This passage indicates that these were ways that people served false gods (idols) and made offerings to them.
5. [17:13] What did Yahweh do to warn Israel and Judah?  
He told through the prophets to turn from their evil ways and to keep his commandments.
6. [17:14-15] How did Israel respond to the message of the prophets?  
They refused to listen. They rejected Yahweh's statutes and the covenant he had made with their ancestors. They followed the practices of the pagan nations around them.
7. [17:16] What else did Israel do, according to verse 16?  
They ignored all of Yahweh's commandments, and they made and worshiped many false gods.
8. [17:17] What did they do in verse 17 that provoked Yahweh to anger?  
They offered their sons and daughters as burnt offerings and used divination. They sold themselves to do evil.
9. [17:18] What did Yahweh do because of his anger against Israel?  
He removed them from his sight. Only the tribe of Judah was left.
10. [17:19] What did Judah do?  
They did not keep Yahweh's commandments, and they followed the customs that Israel did.
11. [17:20] What did Yahweh do to all the descendants of Israel?  
He rejected them, gave them into the hands of others, and cast them out of his sight.
12. [17:21] What was torn apart, according to verse 21?  
The house of David was torn from Israel.
13. [17:21] What did Jeroboam do when he was king of Israel?  
Jeroboam drove Israel away from following Yahweh and led them to commit great sin.
14. [17:22] What did Israel do?  
They followed all the sins of Jeroboam and did not depart from them.

**2 Kings 17:6-23 continued**

15. [17:23] What did Yahweh say through the prophets that he would do?  
He said that he would remove Israel from his sight.
16. [17:23] How was Israel removed from Yahweh's sight?  
They were taken away from their own land. They were taken to the land of Assyria.

**Comment Section:**



## 2 Kings 19:14-19 Hezekiah's prayer

**Background:** King Hezekiah of Judah trusted in Yahweh and led his people to follow Yahweh's ways. But Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, sent a letter to Hezekiah. This letter mocked the idea that Yahweh could rescue Judah from Assyria, boasting that King Sennacherib had already destroyed many other nations, many other kings, and many other (false) gods.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Hezekiah read the letter from Sennacherib. Then Hezekiah went to Yahweh's house to pray about it. [19:14]
- ☐ Hezekiah praised Yahweh as the only God. Hezekiah praised him for all that Yahweh created. [19:15]
- ☐ Hezekiah asked him to listen and see the words that Sennacherib used to mock the living God. [19:16]
- ☐ Hezekiah recalled that Sennacherib had destroyed other nations and burned their false gods. [19:17-18]
- ☐ He asked Yahweh to save Judah and to show all the world that he alone is God. [19:19]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [19:14] What did Hezekiah do with the letter that he received from the messengers?  
He read it. Then he went up to the house of Yahweh and spread the letter before Yahweh.
2. [19:15] What did Hezekiah say about who Yahweh is?  
Hezekiah said that Yahweh is the God of Israel, that he sits above the cherubim, and that he is the only God over all the kingdoms of the earth.
3. [19:15] What did Hezekiah say that Yahweh did?  
He said that Yahweh made the heavens and the earth.
4. [19:16] What did Hezekiah ask Yahweh to do?  
He asked Yahweh to hear and to see the words of Sennacherib.
5. [19:16] What did Hezekiah say was the purpose of Sennacherib's message?  
He said that the purpose of Sennacherib's message was to mock the living God.
6. [19:17] What had the kings of Assyria done to other nations?  
They had destroyed them and their lands.

**2 Kings 19:14-19 continued**

7. [19:18] Why were the Assyrians able to destroy the gods of the other nations?  
Those gods were not real gods; they were just things that people had made out of wood and stone.
  
8. [19:19] How would all the kingdoms on earth know that Yahweh was God alone?  
They would know this when Yahweh saved Judah from the power of Sennacherib.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Kings 22:8-20      The book of the law is read to Josiah

**Background:** Josiah, the king of Judah, is the king that is mentioned throughout this passage. King Josiah did what was right in the sight of Yahweh. Just before this passage, he commanded his people to repair the temple, which had been neglected and damaged during the reigns of previous kings who did not follow Yahweh. He sent his scribe, Shaphan, to go get the money for the repairs that had been collected from the people.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The high priest Hilkiah found the book of the law in the temple, and he gave it to Shaphan the scribe, who read it. [22:8]
- ☐ Then Shaphan went and reported to the king. He showed the book of the law to the king and read it to him. [22:9-10]
- ☐ When the king heard its words, he tore his clothes. [22:11]
- ☐ Then he told Hilkiah, Shaphan, and others to consult with Yahweh about its words. He said that Yahweh must be very angry because his people had not obeyed the words of the law. [22:12-13]
- ☐ Huldah the prophetess told them the words of Yahweh, who said he would bring disaster to Judah because the people had left Yahweh and followed other gods. [22:14-17]
- ☐ Yahweh said that King Josiah was repentant. Yahweh had seen how he humbled himself and tore his clothes and wept. Yahweh had heard him. [22:18-19]
- ☐ Because the king had done these things, Yahweh would wait to bring disaster upon Judah until after King Josiah died. [22:20]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [22:8] What did Hilkiah, the high priest, find in the house of Yahweh?  
He found the book of the law.
2. [22:8] What happened to the book of the law that he found?  
Hilkiah gave it to Shaphan the scribe, who read it.
3. [22:9] What did Shaphan do next?  
Shaphan reported to the king, telling him that the money in the temple had been entrusted to the workmen overseeing repair of the temple.
4. [22:10] What did Shaphan do concerning the book of the law?  
He told the king about it and read it to him.

**2 Kings 22:8-20 continued**

5. [22:11] What did the king do when he heard the words in the book of the law?  
He tore his clothes.
6. [22:12-13] What did the king command Hilkiah, Ahikam, Akbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah to do?  
He told them to go and consult with Yahweh for him, for the people, and for all of Judah.
7. [22:13] Why did the king think that Yahweh must be angry with them all?  
Their ancestors had not listened to and obeyed the book of the law.
8. [22:14] Who did the men go to speak to?  
They went and spoke to Huldah the prophetess.
9. [22:15-16] What did she tell them to do?  
She told them to tell the king that Yahweh was going to bring disaster on Judah and its people, as written in the book of the law.
10. [22:17] Why was Yahweh angry?  
Yahweh was angry because the people had abandoned him and burned incense to other gods.
11. [22:18-19] What did Huldah say that the men should tell the king of Judah?  
Because the king had a tender heart, had humbled himself, had torn his clothes, and had wept before Yahweh, Yahweh had listened to him.
12. [22:20] Why would the king of Judah not see the disaster that would come?  
He would not see it because he would die in peace first. The disaster would come after he died.
13. [22:20] What did the men do after Huldah finished speaking to them?  
They brought back what she said to the king.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Chronicles 10:1-10    The death of King Saul

**Background:** The books of Chronicles and the books of Kings tell much of the same history, but they are not exactly the same. The writers of Chronicles wrote mostly about the kings of Judah who were faithful to Yahweh and his covenant. The writers wanted to encourage the Jews and their leaders to obey the law and to honor God's covenant with them.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Philistines fought against the men of Israel and killed them on Mount Gilboa. [10:1]
- ☐ The Philistines pursued and killed Saul's three sons. [10:2, 6]
- ☐ The Philistines pursued Saul, and their archers wounded him. [10:2-3]
- ☐ Saul wanted his armor bearer to kill him before the Philistines found him. When his armor-bearer refused, Saul fell on his own sword. [10:4, 6]
- ☐ When Saul's armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his own sword and died. [10:5]
- ☐ The men of Israel abandoned their cities in the region, and the Philistines came and lived in them. [10:7]
- ☐ The Philistines found the bodies of Saul and his sons. [10:8]
- ☐ They put Saul's armor in the temple of their gods, and they fastened Saul's skull to the temple of Dagon. [10:9-10]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [10:1] What happened when the Philistines fought against Israel?  
The men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and were killed on Mount Gilboa.
2. [10:2] What happened to Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua, the sons of Saul?  
The Philistines pursued these sons of Saul and killed them.
3. [10:3] What happened to Saul as the battle continued?  
The archers overtook Saul and wounded him.
4. [10:4] What did the wounded Saul do because he was afraid that the Philistines who pursued him would abuse him?  
Saul told his armor bearer to draw his sword and thrust it through him.
5. [10:4] What did Saul do when his armor bearer would not kill him?  
Saul took his own sword and fell on it.

**1 Chronicles 10:1-10 continued**

6. [10:5] What did Saul's armor bearer do when he saw that Saul was dead?  
He also fell on his sword and died.
7. [10:6] What happened to all those of Saul's household who were in the battle?  
They all died.
8. [10:7] What happened when the men of Israel saw that Israel's army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead?  
They fled and abandoned their cities. Then the Philistines came and lived in the cities.
9. [10:8] What happened the next day when the Philistines came to strip the dead bodies?  
They found that Saul and his sons were dead.
10. [10:9] What did they take when they stripped Saul's body?  
They took his head and his armor.
11. [10:9] Why did the Philistines send messengers through their land?  
They wanted to take the news to their idols and to their people.
12. [10:10] What did they do with Saul's armor and his skull?  
They put Saul's armor in the temple of their gods and fastened his skull to the temple of Dagon.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Chronicles 11:4-9

## David captures Jerusalem

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David and all of Israel came to Jerusalem, but it was occupied by the Jebusites. [11:4]
- ☐ The inhabitants told David that he would not come into their city, but David captured the stronghold of Zion. [11:5]
- ☐ David had said that whoever struck Jerusalem first would be the commander. Joab attacked first. [11:6]
- ☐ David lived there, so it was called the city of David. [11:7]
- ☐ David built up part of the city, and Joab restored the rest. [11:8]
- ☐ David became greater and greater because Yahweh was with him. [11:9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [11:4] What people were in Jerusalem when David and all of Israel came to it?  
The Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, were there.
2. [11:5] What did the inhabitants of Jerusalem tell David as he came to the city?  
They told David that he would not come into the city.
3. [11:5] What did David do?  
He captured the stronghold of Zion.
4. [11:5-6] How did Joab become a commander in the army of Israel?  
David had said that whoever attacked the Jebusites first would become a commander, and Joab was the first to attack them.
5. [11:7] What was Jerusalem called after David began to live in its stronghold?  
It was called the city of David.
6. [11:8] What did David and Joab do to the city of Jerusalem?  
David built the city all around from the Millo back to the surrounding wall. Joab restored the rest of the city.

**1 Chronicles 11:4-9 continued**

7. [11:9] Why did David become greater and greater?  
He became greater and greater because Yahweh was with him.

**Comment Section:**



# 1 Chronicles 13:5-14    The ark of God and the death of Uzzah

**Background:** The ark of the covenant, also called the ark of God, was the holy object by which God had shown his presence in the tabernacle. God had commanded Israel to treat it with respect. The ark must never be looked into or touched. Only the Levites must transport it, and only by carrying it with its poles. Twenty years earlier, some men had looked into the ark and many people died as a result of God's punishment. Then the ark was taken to Kiriath Jearim, and a priest watched over it in the house of Abinadab for many years. Just before this passage, David and the assembly of Israel decided it was time to bring the ark of God back to the tabernacle in Jerusalem.

**Read the passage.**

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David assembled all of Israel and went to Kiriath Jearim to bring the ark of God from there. [13:5-6]
- ☐ They set the ark of God on a new cart, driven by Uzzah and Ahio. [13:7]
- ☐ David and all of Israel celebrated with all their might and with music. [13:8]
- ☐ Uzzah touched the ark of God to steady it when the oxen stumbled. [13:9]
- ☐ God was angry and struck Uzzah down and killed him. [13:10]
- ☐ David became angry. [13:11]
- ☐ He was afraid of God and wondered how he could bring the ark home with him. [13:12]
- ☐ The ark of God was moved to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. [13:13]
- ☐ The ark was there for 3 months, and God blessed the family of Obed-Edom. [13:14]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [13:5-6] What happened after David assembled all Israel together to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem?  
They all went up to Kiriath Jearim.
2. [13:6] How is Yahweh described in verse 6?  
He is described as the one who sits enthroned over the cherubim.
3. [13:7] How did they decide to transport the ark of God from the house of Abinadab?  
They put it on a new cart, which was guided by Uzzah and Ahio.
4. [13:7-8] What did David and all Israel do as the ark of God started on its journey?  
David and all Israel celebrated before God with all their might, and with many musical instruments.
5. [13:9] What happened when they came to the threshing floor of Kidon?  
Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark when the oxen stumbled.

**1 Chronicles 13:5-14 continued**

6. [13:10] How did Yahweh react when Uzzah did this?  
The anger of Yahweh burned against Uzzah, and Yahweh killed him because he reached out his hand to the ark.
7. [13:9-10] Why do you think that Yahweh was so angry with Uzzah?  
The passage indicates that it was because Uzzah was not allowed to touch the ark of God.
8. [13:11] Why was David angry?  
David was angry because Yahweh had struck down Uzzah.
9. [13:12] How did David feel as he asked himself how he could bring the ark home with him?  
David was afraid of God that day.
10. [13:12-13] Where did David put the ark of God instead of taking it to the city of David?  
He put the ark of God into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.
11. [13:14] How long did the ark stay with Obed-Edom's household?  
It remained there for 3 months.
12. [13:14] What did Yahweh do for Obed-Edom?  
Yahweh blessed his house and all that he possessed.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Chronicles 17:1-15    God's promises to David

**Background:** After the ark of God had been in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, David had the Levites carry the ark to Jerusalem, the city of David. There was great celebration as it was brought into the city. The ark was placed in a tent that David had set up.

The word house is used in different ways in this passage. It can mean a building or a family or a kingdom. The word cedar in this passage means a kind of fine wood used to build houses.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David said to Nathan the prophet that the ark of God sat in a tent while he, David, lived in a house of cedar. [17:1]
- ☐ Nathan told him to do what was in his heart because God was with him. [17:2]
- ☐ But that night, Nathan the prophet received a word from Yahweh. [17:3]
- ☐ Yahweh told him to say that David would not be the one to build a house for God. [17:4]
- ☐ Yahweh had not lived in a house at any time but gone from one place to another in tents. [17:5]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he had never asked anyone why they had not built him a house. [17:6]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he had taken David from tending sheep to rule over the people of Israel. [17:7]
- ☐ Yahweh had been with David and had given him victory over enemies. Yahweh would make David's name great. [17:8]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would appoint a place for the people of Israel and plant them there. [17:9]
- ☐ He said that he would subdue their enemies, and that he would build a house for David. [17:10]
- ☐ Yahweh told Nathan that one of the descendants of David would build the house for God. [17:11-12]
- ☐ Yahweh told Nathan that Yahweh would be a Father to David's descendant, and his throne would be established forever. [17:13-14]
- ☐ Nathan told David everything that Yahweh said to him in the vision. [17:15]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [17:1] What bothered King David about where the ark of the covenant of Yahweh was staying?  
It bothered him that the ark of the covenant of Yahweh was staying under only a tent while David was living in a house of cedar.
2. [17:2] What did Nathan say to David?  
Nathan told David to do what was in his heart because God was with him.
3. [17:3] What happened that night?  
The word of Yahweh came to Nathan.

**1 Chronicles 17:1-15 continued**

4. [17:4] What did Yahweh tell Nathan to say to David about building a house for Yahweh?  
He told him that David would not be the one to build a house for Yahweh to live in.
5. [17:5] What did Yahweh say about where he had lived and not lived since bringing the Israelites out of Egypt?  
He said that he had not lived in a house, but instead he had lived in a tent in various places.
6. [17:6] What had Yahweh never asked anyone who shepherded his people?  
He had never asked any of them why they had not built him a house made of cedar.
7. [17:7] Why did Yahweh take David from the pasture and from following the sheep?  
He did this to make David the ruler over his people Israel.
8. [17:8] What had Yahweh already done for David?  
He had been with David, and he had destroyed David's enemies.
9. [17:8] What did Yahweh say that he would do for David's name?  
He said that he would make David's name like the name of the great ones on the earth.
10. [17:8] What do you think it meant for Yahweh to make a great name for David?  
It probably meant to make David well known by many people. Perhaps it meant that many people would respect and honor him. Or perhaps it meant that he would be remembered long after his life was over.
11. [17:9] Who would no longer oppress the people of Israel after Yahweh gave them a place where they could live and no longer be troubled?  
Wicked people would no longer oppress Israel as they did before.
12. [17:10-11] What did Yahweh say about the house of David?  
Yahweh said that he would build a house for David.
13. [17:10-11] What do you think it meant that Yahweh would build a house for David?  
From the rest of the passage, it seems that this meant that Yahweh would cause David's descendants to continue to rule Israel.
14. [17:11] What did Yahweh say that he would do after David's days were fulfilled?  
Yahweh would raise up one of David's descendants and establish his kingdom.

**1 Chronicles 17:1-15 continued**

15. [17:12] What did Yahweh say about David's descendant?

David's descendant would build a house for Yahweh, and Yahweh would establish his throne forever.

16. [17:13] What did Yahweh say about his covenant faithfulness?

Yahweh said he would not take his covenant faithfulness away from David's descendant, as he took it from Saul.

17. [17:14] For how long did Yahweh say that the throne of David's descendants would be established?

The throne of David's descendants would be established forever.

18. [17:15] What did Nathan do after Yahweh spoke to him?

Nathan told David everything about the vision he received from Yahweh.

**Comment Section:**

# 1 Chronicles 22:6-19

## David commands Solomon to build the temple

**Background:** The tabernacle was a tent where the ark of the covenant was kept since the time of Moses. This passage speaks of building a house for Yahweh. This house would also be called the temple, and it would be the new place where the ark of the covenant would be kept.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David instructed his son Solomon to build a house for Yahweh. [22:6]
- ☐ David had planned to build a house for Yahweh himself. [22:7]
- ☐ But Yahweh would not let David build it because he had lived a life of violence. [22:8]
- ☐ Yahweh said that David's son Solomon would be a man of peace and would build Yahweh's house. Yahweh would give peace to Israel during Solomon's time. [22:9]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he would be a father to Solomon and establish Solomon's throne forever. [22:10]
- ☐ David prayed that Yahweh would be with Solomon when he built Yahweh's house. [22:11]
- ☐ He prayed that Yahweh would grant Solomon wisdom and discretion to rule over Israel and to obey Yahweh's commands. [22:12]
- ☐ David told Solomon to be strong and courageous, and not to be afraid or discouraged. [22:13]
- ☐ David told Solomon about all the materials he had collected to build Yahweh's house, and he said that Solomon should add more. [22:14]
- ☐ David reminded Solomon about the many available workmen, and he encouraged Solomon to get to work. [22:15-16]
- ☐ David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon. [22:17]
- ☐ He reminded them that Yahweh was with them and had given them peace. [22:18]
- ☐ He told them to seek Yahweh with all their heart and soul. He told them to begin the work on the holy place, so that the ark of the covenant and other holy things could be brought into the temple built for Yahweh. [22:19]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [22:6] What did David do when he called for his son Solomon?  
David instructed Solomon to build a house for Yahweh, the God of Israel.
2. [22:7] What had David intended to do?  
David had intended to build a house himself for the name of Yahweh his God.
3. [22:8] What reason did Yahweh give for why David would not be the one to build the house?  
Yahweh told David that he would not be the one to build the house because he had killed many people in battle.

**1 Chronicles 22:6-19 continued**

4. [22:9] What kind of man did Yahweh say that David's son Solomon would be?  
He would be a man of peace.
5. [22:9] What did Yahweh tell David that he would give to David's son, Solomon?  
Yahweh would give Solomon rest from all his enemies, and he would give peace to Israel during Solomon's days.
6. [22:10] What would be true about Solomon?  
Solomon would build a house for Yahweh's name. He would be Yahweh's son, and Yahweh would be his father.  
Yahweh would establish Solomon's kingdom over Israel forever.
7. [22:11-12] What did David pray for his son Solomon?  
David prayed that Yahweh would be with Solomon and enable him to succeed in building Yahweh's house, just as Yahweh had said. David also prayed that Yahweh would give Solomon insight and understanding when he ruled over Israel, so that he would obey the law of Yahweh.
8. [22:13] What did David say that Solomon must do to succeed?  
He told Solomon that he would succeed if he carefully obeyed the statutes and the decrees that Yahweh gave to Moses for Israel.
9. [22:13] Why do you think David told his son Solomon to be strong and courageous, and not to be afraid or discouraged?  
(Answers may vary.) He probably wanted to encourage Solomon. Perhaps this was because building Yahweh's house was a very large task and would take a long time.
10. [22:14] What kind of materials had David taken great pains to gather for Yahweh's house?  
David had gathered huge quantities of gold, silver, bronze, iron, timber, and stone.
11. [22:14] What did David tell Solomon to do, after listing all of these materials?  
He told Solomon to add more to them.
12. [22:15-16] What kinds of workmen were available to Solomon?  
There were stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and skilled craftsmen who could work with gold, silver, bronze, and iron.
13. [22:16] What did David tell Solomon at the end of verse 16?  
He told Solomon to arise and begin the work, saying, "May the Lord be with you."

**1 Chronicles 22:6-19 continued**

14. [22:17] What did David say to all the leaders of Israel?

David ordered them to help his son Solomon.

15. [22:18] How did David encourage the leaders?

He reminded them that Yahweh their God was with them and had given them peace on every side. He said that the region was subdued before Yahweh and his people.

16. [22:19] What did David tell the leaders to do?

He told them to seek Yahweh with all their heart and mind. Then he told them to arise and build the holy place of Yahweh.

17. [22:18-19] What could happen after they built the holy place of Yahweh?

They could bring the ark of the covenant and the other holy things into the house built for Yahweh's name.

**Comment Section:**



# 1 Chronicles 28:1-10      David's instructions to Israel and Solomon

**Background:** The tabernacle was a tent where the ark of the covenant was kept since the time of Moses. This passage speaks of building a house for Yahweh. This house would also be called the temple, and it would be the new place where the ark of the covenant would be kept.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David assembled all the Israelite leaders at Jerusalem. [28:1]
- ☐ King David told them that he had wanted to build a house for the ark of the covenant to rest, and he prepared to do that. [28:2]
- ☐ But God told David that he could not build it because he was a man of war. [28:3]
- ☐ Yet Yahweh had chosen David out of all his family, and out of all of the tribe of Judah, to be king over Israel. [28:4]
- ☐ And Yahweh had chosen Solomon out of all of David's sons to be king over Israel. [28:5]
- ☐ Yahweh said that Solomon would build the house because Yahweh had chosen him to be a son to Yahweh. [28:6]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he would establish Solomon's kingdom forever if Solomon continued to keep Yahweh's commands. [28:7]
- ☐ David told Solomon in front of all the leaders of Israel to follow Yahweh's commands so that he could possess the land and leave it as an inheritance for his descendants forever. [28:8]
- ☐ David told Solomon to know and serve God. Yahweh understands all thoughts. If Solomon sought Yahweh, he would find him. If Solomon abandoned Yahweh, Yahweh would reject him forever. [28:9]
- ☐ David reminded Solomon that Yahweh chose him to build the temple, so Solomon must be strong and build it. [28:10]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [28:1] Where did David assemble all the officials of Israel?  
David assembled them at Jerusalem.
2. [28:2] What did King David tell all of them, his brothers and his people?  
King David told them that he had intended to build a house for the ark of the covenant to rest, and a footstool for God. He had prepared to do that.
3. [28:3] Why did God say that David could not build a temple for his name?  
God said that he could not build it because he was a man of war and had shed blood.
4. [28:4] What did Yahweh choose David, out of all his father's house, to do?  
He chose David to be king over Israel forever.

**1 Chronicles 28:1-10 continued**

5. [28:5] What did Yahweh choose Solomon, out of all David's sons, to do?  
He chose Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of Yahweh, over Israel.
6. [28:6] Why did Yahweh say that Solomon would be the one to build Yahweh's house and courts?  
Yahweh said this was because he had chosen Solomon to be his son, and Yahweh would be Solomon's father.
7. [28:7] What did Yahweh say that he would do for Solomon if he remained committed to obey his commandments?  
Yahweh said that he would establish Solomon's kingdom forever.
8. [28:8] If all the people kept the commandments of Yahweh, what would happen?  
They would possess the good land and leave it as an inheritance to their descendants forever.
9. [28:9] What did David tell Solomon to do, in front of all the people?  
David told Solomon to know the God of his father and to serve him with all his heart willingly.
10. [28:9] What does Yahweh understand about everyone's thoughts?  
He understands every motivation of everyone's thoughts.
11. [28:9] What would happen if Solomon sought Yahweh?  
He would find Yahweh.
12. [28:9] What would happen if Solomon abandoned Yahweh?  
Yahweh would reject him forever.
13. [28:10] How did David remind and encourage Solomon?  
David reminded Solomon that Yahweh had chosen him to build this temple as his sanctuary. He encouraged Solomon to be strong and to do it.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Chronicles 3:1-12      Solomon builds the temple

**Background:** In 2 Chronicles 2, Solomon began preparing to build a house for Yahweh's name. He hired many skilled workers and began to gather building materials that he added to those that his father David had gathered.

This passage mentions a portico, which is a covered entrance to a building. It is sometimes called a porch or a vestibule. The passage also mentions a nave, which is the central part of a building. The cypress wood that was used to build the temple was a fine, strong wood that grew in Lebanon, far away from Jerusalem.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Solomon began building a house for Yahweh on Mount Moriah at the place his father David had prepared. [3:1]
- ☐ This was during the fourth year of Solomon's reign. [3:2]
- ☐ The house was very large, and its high entrance was overlaid with gold. [3:3-4]
- ☐ The inside of the house was decorated with carved cypress wood and precious stones, and everything was covered in pure gold. [3:5-7]
- ☐ Inside of this house, Solomon built the most holy place, which measured 20 cubits by 20 cubits. [3:8]
- ☐ He covered all of the most holy place's surfaces with gold. [3:9]
- ☐ He made two wooden cherubim for this place and overlaid them with gold. [3:10]
- ☐ The wings of the two cherubim together extended twenty cubits wide. The wing of one cherub touched the wing of the other cherub. [3:11]
- ☐ Each cherub wing measured five cubits wide. [3:12]
- ☐ The cherubim stood on their feet, facing the nave. [3:13]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:1] Where did Solomon build the house of Yahweh?  
He built the house in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where Yahweh had appeared to Solomon's father David. It was the place that David had planned for it.
2. [3:2] During what year of his reign did Solomon begin building the house?  
He began to build in the fourth year of his reign.
3. [3:3] What were the measurements of the foundation for the house of God?  
The foundation was 60 cubits long by 20 cubits wide.  
  
(These measurements are equivalent to about 27 meters long and about 9 meters wide.)

**2 Chronicles 3:1-12 continued**

4. [3:4] How long and high was the portico or porch at the front of the house?  
It was 20 cubits long and 20 cubits high.  
  
(This measurement is equivalent to about 9 meters long and about 9 meters high.)
5. [3:4] What did Solomon put on the interior of this portico entrance?  
He overlaid its inside with pure gold.
6. [3:4-7] How did Solomon decorate the main room of the house of God?  
Solomon lined the house with carved cypress wood and fine stones, and everything was overlaid in pure gold. He also carved cherubim on the walls.
7. [3:8] How wide and long was the most holy place that Solomon made?  
It was 20 cubits wide and 20 cubits long.  
  
(This measurement is equivalent to about 9 meters wide and about 9 meters long.)
8. [3:8-9] What overlaid the inside of the most holy place?  
The inside of the most holy place was overlaid with fine gold.
9. [3:10] What did Solomon make for the inside of the most holy place?  
He made two large images of cherubim overlaid with gold.
10. [3:11-12] How many wings did each cherub have, and how long was each wing?  
Each cherub had two wings, and each wing was 5 cubits long.  
  
(This measurement is equivalent to about 2.3 meters long.)
11. [3:11-13] How were the cherubim positioned in the most holy place?  
The two cherubim were side by side, with one wing of each cherub touching the wall and the other wing of each cherub meeting the wing of the other cherub in the middle of the most holy place. The cherubim stood on their feet, facing the main room.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Chronicles 7:1-12      The dedication of the temple

**Background:** After the ark and other furnishings were put in the Yahweh's house, Solomon prayed and dedicated the house to Yahweh.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ After Solomon prayed, fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifices, and Yahweh's glory filled the house. [7:1]
- ☐ The priests could not enter the house, because Yahweh's glory filled it. [7:2]
- ☐ The people of Israel bowed their faces to the ground and worshiped Yahweh. [7:3]
- ☐ The king and the people offered sacrifices to dedicate the house of God. [7:4-5]
- ☐ The priests stood where they served. The Levites had musical instruments for praising Yahweh. The priests blew trumpets, and all of Israel stood. [7:6]
- ☐ Solomon set apart the middle of the courtyard for offerings, because the bronze altar was not big enough to hold all of them. [7:7]
- ☐ They held a feast for seven days and had a solemn assembly on the eighth day. [7:8-9]
- ☐ The people were sent away by Solomon with glad and joyful hearts because of the goodness that Yahweh had shown to David, to Solomon, and to Israel. [7:10]
- ☐ Solomon successfully completed all that he had planned to do in the house of God and in his own house. [7:11]
- ☐ Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream and said that he had heard Solomon's prayer and had chosen this place as a house of sacrifice. [7:12]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:1] What happened when Solomon finished praying to Yahweh?  
Fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glory of Yahweh filled the house.
2. [7:2] Why couldn't the priests enter the house of Yahweh?  
They could not enter because the glory of Yahweh filled the house.
3. [7:3] What did the people do when the fire came down and the glory of Yahweh filled the house?  
The people of Israel bowed with their faces to the ground. They worshiped and gave thanks to Yahweh.
4. [7:4-5] What did King Solomon and all the people do next?  
King Solomon and all the people offered sacrifices to Yahweh to dedicate the house of God.

**2 Chronicles 7:1-12 continued**

5. [7:6] What did the Levites have for praising Yahweh?  
The Levites had musical instruments for praising Yahweh.
6. [7:6] What did all Israel do when the priests blew their trumpets?  
All Israel stood.
7. [7:7] Why did Solomon set aside the middle of the courtyard and make offerings there?  
He did this because the bronze altar that he made was not able to hold all the offerings.
8. [7:8] How many days did the festival last?  
It lasted for 7 days.
9. [7:9] What happened on the eighth day?  
Solomon held an assembly.
10. [7:10] What did Solomon do on the twenty-third day of the seventh month?  
He sent the people away to their tents.
11. [7:10] Why were the people glad and joyful?  
The people were glad because of how good Yahweh was to David, to Solomon, and to Israel.
12. [7:11] What was Solomon able to do successfully?  
He was able to do everything that he wanted to do in Yahweh's house and in his own house.
13. [7:12] What did Yahweh say when he appeared to King Solomon at night, after the house of God had been built?  
Yahweh said that he had heard Solomon's prayer. Yahweh also said that he had chosen this place for himself as a house of sacrifice.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Chronicles 18:28-34 Ahab's defeat and death

**Background:** After the days of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel divided into two parts. One was still called Israel, and the other was called Judah. When Jehoshaphat became king of Judah, he followed Yahweh. Ahab, the king of Israel, worshipped idols instead of following Yahweh. But King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat went together to the city of Ramoth Gilead to fight against the king of Aram.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahab of Israel went to attack Ramoth Gilead. [18:28]
- ☐ King Ahab of Israel decided to disguise himself, but he told Jehoshaphat to wear his usual royal robes. Then they went into battle. [18:29]
- ☐ The king of Aram had commanded his captains to attack only the king of Israel. [18:30]
- ☐ The captains saw Jehoshaphat and said he was the king of Israel. They turned to attack him, but Jehoshaphat cried out and Yahweh helped him. [18:31]
- ☐ The captains saw that Jehoshaphat was not the king of Israel, and they stopped pursuing him. [18:32]
- ☐ A man drew his bow at random and shot King Ahab of Israel between the joints of his armor. The wounded king told his chariot driver to take him out of the battle. [18:33]
- ☐ The battle continued. King Ahab of Israel watched from his chariot, and he died at sunset. [18:34]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [18:28] What city did Ahab and Jehoshaphat go to fight against?  
They went to fight against Ramoth Gilead.
2. [18:29] What did Ahab, the king of Israel, say to Jehoshaphat?  
Ahab told Jehoshaphat that he would disguise himself and go into the battle. But Ahab told Jehoshaphat to put on his royal robes.
3. [18:29] What did Ahab and Jehoshaphat do?  
Ahab disguised himself, and he and Jehoshaphat went into battle.
4. [18:29] Why do you think Ahab disguised himself?  
He probably did that because he did not want his enemies to recognize him and attack him.

**2 Chronicles 18:28-34 continued**

5. [18:30] What had the king of Aram told his captains?  
He told them to attack only the king of Israel.
6. [18:31] When the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, what did they say?  
They said that he was the king of Israel.
7. [18:29, 31] What do you think made them think that Jehoshaphat was the king of Israel instead of Ahab?  
(Answers may vary.) King Jehoshaphat was wearing his royal robes, so it was clear that he was a king. But Ahab, who was the king of Israel, did not look like a king because he had disguised himself.
8. [18:31] What happened when the captains of the chariots of Aram turned to attack Jehoshaphat?  
Jehoshaphat cried out, and Yahweh helped him.
9. [18:32] What did God cause the captains to do when they realized Jehoshaphat was not the king of Israel?  
God turned them away from pursuing Jehoshaphat.
10. [18:33] How was Ahab wounded?  
A man drew his bow at random and shot Ahab between the joints of his armor.
11. [18:34] Where was Ahab, the king of Israel, during the rest of the battle?  
Ahab was propped up in his chariot, facing the Arameans.
12. [18:34] What time of day was it when Ahab died?  
About the time that the sun went down, Ahab died.

**Comment Section:**



## 2 Chronicles 26:15-23 Uzziah's pride and punishment

**Background:** Over the years there were other kings of Judah, and eventually Uzziah became king when he was sixteen years old. As long as Uzziah sought Yahweh, God made him prosper.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ King Uzziah's men invented devices to shoot arrows and hurl great stones. The king became very powerful and famous. [26:15]
- ☐ King Uzziah grew proud and acted unfaithfully to Yahweh. He went into the temple of Yahweh to burn incense. [26:16]
- ☐ Azariah and 80 other priests confronted King Uzziah. They reminded him that only the priests who were consecrated were allowed to burn incense to Yahweh. They told him to leave the holy place. [26:17-18]
- ☐ Uzziah became angry, but then Yahweh caused leprosy to break out immediately on Uzziah's forehead. [26:19]
- ☐ They rushed to get him out of the temple, and Uzziah hurried because Yahweh had struck him. [26:20]
- ☐ Uzziah had to live in a separate house because he was a leper, and he was cut off from the house of Yahweh. [26:21]
- ☐ Isaiah the prophet wrote about the rest of what Uzziah did. Uzziah died, and his son Jotham became king. [26:22-23]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [26:15] What did the king's skillful men invent?  
They invented machines that shot arrows and hurled great stones.
2. [26:15] Why did King Uzziah's fame spread to distant lands?  
His fame spread because he had much help, and he was powerful.
3. [26:16] What did Uzziah do when he became proud?  
Uzziah went into the temple of Yahweh to burn incense on the altar of incense.
4. [26:17-18] Why did Azariah and the 80 priests go into the temple after Uzziah?  
They went in to confront Uzziah.
5. [26:18] Who was allowed to burn incense to Yahweh?  
Only the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were consecrated to burn incense to Yahweh.

**2 Chronicles 26:15-23 continued**

6. [26:18] Why do you think it was wrong for Uzziah to burn incense to Yahweh?  
Because only priests were allowed to burn incense, and Uzziah was not a priest, it was wrong for Uzziah to burn incense to Yahweh. The passage says that it was unfaithfulness, and it showed dishonor to Yahweh.
7. [26:19] What happened after the priests confronted Uzziah?  
Uzziah became angry, and then leprosy appeared on his forehead in front of the priests.
8. [26:20] What did the priests do next?  
They quickly drove him out of there.
9. [26:20] Why do you think that leprosy broke out on Uzziah's forehead?  
The passage said that Uzziah rushed out of the holy place himself because Yahweh had struck him. This indicates that Yahweh caused leprosy to break out on Uzziah's forehead as a punishment for unfaithfulness and dishonor to Yahweh.
10. [26:21] Why did Uzziah have to live in a separate house until the day of his death?  
Uzziah had to live in a separate house because he was a leper, and he was cut off from the house of Yahweh.
11. [26:22] Who else wrote about Uzziah?  
The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz wrote about Uzziah.
12. [26:23] What did people say about Uzziah even after he died?  
They said that he was a leper.
13. [26:23] Who became king after Uzziah died?  
Jotham, Uzziah's son, became king in his place.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Chronicles 35:20-27 Josiah dies in battle

**Background:** Josiah became king of Judah. He did what was right by removing the false gods from the land, repairing the temple, and leading Judah to celebrate the Passover again.

This chapter mentions several places. Egypt is south of Israel. Carchemish was on the Euphrates River north of Israel. Megiddo is in Israel.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Necho, the king of Egypt, went up to fight against Carchemish. Josiah went to fight against Necho. [35:20]
- ☐ Necho sent a message that said he was not coming against Josiah. Necho told Josiah to stop opposing God, who had commanded Necho to hurry with what he was doing. [35:21]
- ☐ Josiah disguised himself and kept fighting. He did not listen to Necho's words that had come from God. [35:22]
- ☐ Archers shot Josiah. He was taken away to Jerusalem, where he died. [35:23-24]
- ☐ Everyone in Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. [35:25]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [35:20] What did King Josiah do after he had set the temple in order?  
Josiah went up to fight against Necho, the king of Egypt.
2. [35:21] What did Necho say in his message to Josiah?  
He said that God had commanded him to hurry in his fight against Carchemish. He told Josiah not to interfere so that God would not destroy Josiah.
3. [35:22] How did Josiah respond to Necho's message?  
Josiah did not listen to Necho's words. Instead, he disguised himself so he could fight against Necho.
4. [35:22] Why do you think Necho told Josiah not to interfere in his battle against Carchemish?  
The passage indicates that Necho told this to Josiah because God wanted him to say it to Josiah.
5. [35:23] What happened to Josiah on the battlefield?  
Archers shot Josiah, and he was wounded badly.

**2 Chronicles 35:20-27 continued**

6. [32:24] What happened after Josiah's servants took him to Jerusalem?  
Josiah died, and they buried him in the tombs of his ancestors.
7. [35:25] What songs became customary in Israel?  
The songs of lament that Jeremiah sang for Josiah became customary in Israel.
8. [35:26-27] Where are the other deeds of Josiah recorded?  
They are recorded in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

**Comment Section:**

## 2 Chronicles 36:15-23 The fall of Jerusalem

**Background:** Zedekiah became king of Judah. He did what was evil in God's sight, and he did not listen to Jeremiah the prophet. The leaders of the priests and the people were also unfaithful to God, and they followed the evil practices of the other nations.

The Chaldeans were the people of Babylonia. Babylon was the name of the capital city of Babylonia.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God sent his messengers to the people of Judah again and again, because he had compassion on them. [36:15]
- ☐ But the people mocked the messengers, despising their words, until Yahweh's anger rose against them. [36:16]
- ☐ God sent the king of the Chaldeans and gave them all into his hand. [36:17]
- ☐ The king took away to Babylon all of the treasures from the temple and from Judah's king and officials. [36:18]
- ☐ The Chaldeans burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned its palaces, and destroyed everything valuable. [36:19]
- ☐ The king of the Chaldeans took those who escaped the sword to Babylon, and they became his servants. [36:20]
- ☐ The land of Judah then had its Sabbath rests for 70 years. [36:21]
- ☐ Then Yahweh motivated Cyrus, the king of Persia, to make a proclamation. [36:22]
- ☐ Cyrus said that Yahweh commanded him to build a house for him in Jerusalem. Cyrus allowed God's people to go to Jerusalem. [36:23]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [36:15] Why did Yahweh keep sending his messengers to the people of Judah?  
He kept sending messengers because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.
2. [35:15-16] How did the people respond to the compassion that Yahweh continued to show them?  
They mocked his messengers, despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets.
3. [36:16] What do you think God was telling the people through his messengers?  
(Answer may vary.) From other passages, it is clear that he was telling them to stop sinning so he would not have to punish them.
4. [36:16] What happened after the people responded this way to Yahweh?  
His anger rose against them.

**2 Chronicles 36:15-23 continued**

5. [36:17] How did God deal with the mockers?  
He brought the king of the Chaldeans against them and gave them all into the king's hand.
6. [36:17] What did the king of the Chaldeans do to the people?  
He killed the young men of Judah with the sword. He did not have compassion on anyone.
7. [36:18] What did the king of the Chaldeans take to Babylon?  
He took to Babylon all the treasures of the house of God and all the treasures of the king and officials.
8. [36:19] What did the Chaldeans do to Jerusalem?  
They burned down the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned its palaces, and destroyed valuable things.
9. [36:20] What happened to those who escaped the sword of Babylon?  
The king of the Chaldeans took them to Babylon, and they became servants for the king and his sons.
10. [36:21] Why did all of this happen to Judah and Jerusalem?  
This happened to fulfill what Yahweh said through Jeremiah.
11. [36:21] How long did the land of Judah have its Sabbath rests?  
The land had its Sabbath rests for 70 years.
12. [36:22] What happened in the first year of Cyrus, the king of Persia?  
Yahweh motivated Cyrus, king of Persia, to make a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and put it also in writing.
13. [36:23] What did Cyrus, king of Persia, say that Yahweh had commanded him to do?  
He said that Yahweh had commanded him to build a house of God in Jerusalem.
14. [36:23] What did Cyrus say to God's people?  
He said that any of them could go to Jerusalem. He said, "May Yahweh your God be with you."

**Comment Section:**

## Ezra 1:1-8 Cyrus allows the exiles to return

**Background:** The Book of Ezra is about how the people of Israel returned from Babylon and tried to worship Yahweh again as the law required. To do this they needed to rebuild their temple so they could sacrifice to Yahweh.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Cyrus king of Persia proclaimed that Yahweh had appointed him to build a house for him in Jerusalem. This fulfilled the word that Yahweh had given through Jeremiah. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Cyrus proclaimed that whoever was from Yahweh's people could go to Jerusalem. [1:3]
- ☐ Cyrus encouraged others to support the ones who went by sending gifts for the house of God. [1:4]
- ☐ Many of God's people, including leaders and priests and Levites, arose to go to Jerusalem. [1:5]
- ☐ Those around them encouraged them and sent silver, gold, goods, livestock, and offerings for God's house. [1:6]
- ☐ Cyrus released objects belonging to Yahweh's house that Nebuchadnezzar had brought from Jerusalem. [1:7]
- ☐ Cyrus had Mithredath, the treasurer, count the objects for Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. [1:8]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] What did Yahweh prompt Cyrus the king of Persia to do in the first year of his reign?  
Yahweh inspired Cyrus to send out a proclamation.
2. [1:1] What prophecy did this fulfill?  
It fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah.
3. [1:2] What did Cyrus say about Yahweh in the proclamation?  
Cyrus said that Yahweh had appointed him to build a house for Yahweh in Jerusalem, which was in Judah.
4. [1:3] What did Cyrus say to God's people in the proclamation?  
Cyrus told them that they could go to Jerusalem and rebuild the house of Yahweh. He asked for Yahweh their God to be with them.
5. [1:4] Who did Cyrus say should assist those who went to Jerusalem by sending supplies for God's house?  
He said that God's people living as foreigners should send silver, gold, goods, animals, and offerings.

**Ezra 1:1-8 continued**

## 6. [1:5] Who went to Jerusalem?

Those who went to Jerusalem were the heads of the clans of Judah and Benjamin, the priests and Levites, and everyone whose spirit God stirred to go.

## 7. [1:6] What did those around them do?

Those around them assisted by sending articles of silver and gold, goods, livestock, and valuable gifts, in addition to freewill offerings.

## 8. [1:7] Where had Nebuchadnezzar put the objects belonging to Yahweh's house? [1:7]

Nebuchadnezzar had put the objects in the houses of his own gods.

## 9. [1:7-8] What did Cyrus the king do with these objects?

He brought them out from where they were. Then Cyrus had Mithredath, the treasurer, count the objects and give them to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

**Comment Section:**



## Ezra 3:10-13     Rebuilding the temple

**Background:** In the second year after the return to Jerusalem, Levites who were twenty years and older began to oversee the building of the house of Yahweh.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ When the temple foundation had been laid, the priests and Levites took their places to praise Yahweh with their trumpets and cymbals. [3:10]
- ☐ They sang, praising and thanking Yahweh for his goodness and faithfulness to Israel, and the people gave a great shout to praise Yahweh that the foundation was laid. [3:11]
- ☐ But many of the older priests, Levites, and chief patriarchs who had seen the first temple wept loudly while the others shouted for joy. [3:12]
- ☐ It was difficult to distinguish the sound of weeping from the sound of the joyful shouts, and the sound was heard from far away. [3:13]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:10-11] When the builders laid a foundation for Yahweh's temple, how did the priests and the Levites praise Yahweh?  
The priests and the Levites praised Yahweh with trumpets, with cymbals, and with singing.
2. [3:11] How did they describe Yahweh in their song?  
They sang that Yahweh was good and that he remains faithful to Israel forever.
3. [3:11] How did the people respond when the builders laid a foundation for Yahweh's temple?  
The people shouted joyfully. They praised Yahweh because the temple's foundations had been laid.
4. [3:12] How did those who were older and had seen the first temple respond when this temple's foundations were laid?  
They wept loudly.
5. [3:12] Why do you think that those who had seen the first temple wept loudly?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps seeing the temple foundations reminded them of how sad it was when the temple was destroyed, and when they went into exile. Perhaps they thought this new temple would not be as beautiful and grand as the one that was there before.

**Ezra 3:10-13 continued**

6. What sounds were hard to distinguish from each other? [3:13]

The sounds of the people who were shouting joyfully and the sounds of the people who were weeping loudly were hard to distinguish from each other.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezra 4:1-5 Israel's enemies and the temple

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Some enemies heard that the people who had been exiled were now building a temple for Yahweh. [4:1]
- ☐ The enemies went to Zerubbabel and the elders and asked to build the temple, too. They said this was because they worshipped the same God and sacrificed to him. [4:2]
- ☐ Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other leaders refused to let the enemies help build the temple. [4:3]
- ☐ The people of the land made the people of Judah afraid to continue building and also bribed officials to oppose them. They continued doing this until Darius reigned Persia. [4:4-5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1] What did some enemies of Judah and Benjamin hear?  
The enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people who had been exiled were now building a temple for Yahweh.
2. [4:2] What did these enemies say that they wanted to do, when they went to Zerubbabel and the other elders?  
They said that they wanted to build the temple, too.
3. [4:2] What was the reason they gave for wanting to build with them?  
They said that they worshiped the Judeans' God and had sacrificed to him since the days when the king of Assyria brought them to that place.
4. [4:3] What did Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other leaders reply?  
They said that their enemies had nothing to do with building the temple. They said that the returning exiles alone would build the house for their God, just as King Cyrus of Persia commanded.
5. [4:4-5] How did the enemies then interfere with the work on the temple?  
They intimidated (or threatened) the people of Judea, to make them fearful. They bribed the officials to slow down and stop the building plans.
6. [4:5] How long did they continue interfering?  
They did this for all of the days of King Cyrus and even until Darius reigned Persia.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezra 6:13-15      The temple is completed

**Background:** When King Artaxerxes ruled Persia, he stopped the people of Israel from building the temple for a time. When King Darius began to rule Persia, the people started building again.

The local governor Tattenai wrote a letter to King Darius to complain about the building. But King Darius issued a decree saying that Tattenai and the other officials there must not interfere with those who were rebuilding the house of God. King Darius even told Tattenai and the other officials to give the people of Judah some money from their taxes and any food or supplies that they requested.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Tattenai the governor and other officials did everything that King Darius had ordered. [6:13]
- ☐ The Jewish leaders finished building according to the decrees of the God of Israel and of the kings of Persia. [6:14]
- ☐ The temple was completed during the sixth year that King Darius ruled. [6:15]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:13] How did Tattenai, Shethar-Bozenai, and the other officials respond to the decree that King Darius sent?  
They did everything that the decree ordered them to do.
2. [6:14] In what way do you think that the prophets Haggai and Zechariah helped the Jewish elders to build and to prosper?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps their prophesying encouraged the Jewish elders. Perhaps they taught the Jewish elders more about God and what he had commanded for this time of building.
3. [6:14] What were the Jewish elders able to accomplish?  
They finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and by the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, who were the kings of Persia.
4. [6:15] In what month and year was the house of God completed?  
It was completed in the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezra 9:1-4 Ezra learns that Israelites married foreigners

**Background:** Ezra was a skilled scribe in the law of Moses that Yahweh had given to Israel. He was the descendent of Aaron, who was the first high priest in Israel. Ezra had arrived in Jerusalem shortly before the events in this passage.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The officials approached Ezra and told him that the people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites had not separated themselves from the peoples of the land and what they did. [9:1]
- ☐ The people of Israel, priests, and Levites had married their daughters and sons to the peoples of other lands. [9:2]
- ☐ Ezra was devastated when he heard the report about the people of Israel. [9:3]
- ☐ Others who respected God's words gathered around Ezra as he sat, appalled, until evening. [9:4]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [9:1] What did some of the officials come to tell Ezra?  
They came to tell him that the people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites had not separated themselves from the peoples of the land.
2. [9:1-2] In what way did the people of Israel not separate themselves from the people of other lands? [9:1-2]  
They married some of their daughters and sons to the peoples of other lands.
3. [9:2] Who were the first ones to be unfaithful to God in this way?  
The first ones who were unfaithful in this way were the Jewish leaders and officials.
4. [9:3] How did Ezra feel about this news?  
Ezra was outraged and horrified. He showed this by tearing his clothes, pulling hair from his head and beard, and sitting down in devastation until evening.
5. [9:4] What was the response of other people who respected the words of God, when they saw how devastated Ezra was?  
They gathered by Ezra as he sat, until the evening offering.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezra 10:1-4 Shekaniah encourages Ezra

**Background:** Ezra knelt down before Yahweh, confessed the guilt of the people, and pleaded for God's mercy.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Ezra prayed, confessed, and wept. A large crowd gathered around him. They were weeping, too. [10:1]
- ☐ Shekaniah said to Ezra that they had been unfaithful, but there was still hope for Israel. [10:2]
- ☐ Shekaniah said that the people of Israel should make a covenant with God to send away all of the foreign women and their children. He said that it should be done according to the law. [10:3]
- ☐ He told Ezra to get up and do this, and he said that they would be with him. [10:4]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [10:1] What did Ezra do as he prayed and confessed?  
He wept and threw himself down before God's house.
2. [10:1] Who else gathered around Ezra to weep?  
A large crowd of Israelite men, women, and children gathered around him and wept bitterly.
3. [10:2] What did Shekaniah the son of Jehiel say to Ezra in verse 2?  
Shekaniah said that they had been unfaithful to God by marrying foreign women, but there was still hope for Israel.
4. [10:3] What covenant did Shekaniah say that the Israelites should make?  
Shekaniah said that they should make a covenant with their God to send away all the foreign women and their children, according to the counsel of the Lord and of all those who trembled at God's commandments. He said that this should be done according to the law.
5. [10:4] Who would have to send away all the foreign women and their children?  
Ezra would have to arise and do it.
6. [10:4] What did Shekaniah say to encourage Ezra?  
He told Ezra that the people would be with him. He told Ezra to be strong and to do it.

**Comment Section:**

# Nehemiah 1:1-11 Nehemiah prays for the exiles

**Background:** A Jew named Nehemiah lived in Persia and worked for King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah received a report that the walls around Jerusalem were broken down. Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to help rebuild the city walls.

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Nehemiah asked about what happened to the Jews who escaped captivity. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Nehemiah wept when he heard how those who survived the captivity were troubled and disgraced. [1:3-4]
- ☐ Nehemiah prayed and cried to the Lord and begged God to hear his prayers. [1:5-6]
- ☐ Nehemiah confessed the sins that he and the people of Israel had committed. [1:6-7]
- ☐ Nehemiah asked God to have mercy on the people. He also asked God to give him success and favor. [1:8-9]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] Who wrote the book of Nehemiah?  
Nehemiah, the son of Hakaliah, wrote these words.
2. [1:1-2] What month and year was it when Nehemiah asked Hanani and some people from Judah about the Jews who had escaped from captivity, and about Jerusalem?  
It was in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year.
3. [1:3] What did Hanani and the people from Judah reply?  
They replied that the people Nehemiah asked about were in great trouble and disgrace because Jerusalem's walls and gates were broken and burned.
4. [1:4] What did Nehemiah do when he heard about the condition of Jerusalem?  
He sat down and wept. For days he continued grieving, fasting, and praying.
5. [1:5] As Nehemiah began his prayer, how did he describe Yahweh, the God of heaven?  
He called God great and awesome. He called him a God who keeps His covenant of love to those who love him and keep His commandments.
6. [1:5-6] What did Nehemiah beg from Yahweh, the God of heaven?  
He begged for Yahweh God to give him attention and to hear what he was praying for the people of Israel, God's servants.

**Nehemiah 1:1-11 continued**

7. [1:6-7] What did Nehemiah confess to God?

Nehemiah confessed the sins of the people of Israel, his own sins, and the sins of his family.

8. [1:7] How did Nehemiah describe the sins of the people?

Nehemiah said that they had acted very wickedly against Yahweh. He said that they had not kept Yahweh's commandments, statutes, and rules.

9. [1:8-9] What did Nehemiah ask God to do?

He asked God to recall what he had said to Moses. God had said that he would scatter his people among the nations if they were unfaithful. But then if they returned to him and obeyed him, God would gather them from where they had scattered, Then God would bring them to the place where he had chosen for his name.

10. [1:10] What did Nehemiah say to God about the people he was praying for?

He described them as God's servants and God's people. He said that God had rescued them by his great power and strong hand.

11. [1:11] What did Nehemiah beg from God while praying?

He asked Yahweh to listen to his prayer, and to the prayer of his servants who honored God's name. He asked Yahweh to give him success that day, and mercy in a man's sight.

12. [1:11] For whom was Nehemiah a cupbearer?

Nehemiah served as a cupbearer to the king.

13. [1:10-11] When Nehemiah asked God to give him success and favor in the sight of a man, which man do you think he meant?

The last verse seems to indicate that Nehemiah was asking for success and favor with the king of Persia that he served as a cupbearer.

**Comment Section:**



## Nehemiah 2:17-20

## Nehemiah says to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

**Background:** Nehemiah traveled to Judah with the orders from the king, but when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard about it, they were very displeased that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. At night, Nehemiah went out secretly and inspected the walls of the city.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Nehemiah described to the rulers that Jerusalem was in ruins and its gates had been burned. [2:17]
- ☐ The people said that they would build the wall. [2:18]
- ☐ Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem mocked the people of Judah and showed them contempt. [2:19]
- ☐ Nehemiah answered Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem boldly, telling them that the God of heaven would give them success. [2:20]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:17] What did Nehemiah tell the people to observe about Jerusalem?  
He told them to look and see the trouble they were in: how Jerusalem was in ruins and its gates had been burned.
2. [2:17] What did Nehemiah want the people to do along with him?  
He said they should rebuild the wall so that they would no longer be disgraced.
3. [2:18] When Nehemiah told the people that the good hand of his God was on him and told them about the words the king had spoken to him, what did they say and do?  
They said they would start building, and they strengthened their hands for the work.
4. [2:18] What do you think it meant to strengthen their hands for the work?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps it meant to get people and materials ready for the work. Perhaps it meant that they did something to become physically stronger. Perhaps they got their minds ready, determined to do the work.
5. [2:19] What did Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem say when they heard about the work that Nehemiah had planned?  
They mocked and ridiculed the workers and asked if they were rebelling against the king.

**Nehemiah 2:17-20 continued**

6. [2:20] How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem when they mocked and ridiculed the workers? Nehemiah told them that the God of heaven would give his people success. He said they were going to start rebuilding. He also told Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem that they had no share, no right, and no historic claim in Jerusalem.

**Comment Section:**

## Nehemiah 4:1-9 Enemies oppose the rebuilding

**Background:** The workers repaired the gates that were in the wall.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Sanballat became very angry when he heard about the building of the wall. [4:1]
- ☐ Sanballat and Tobiah taunted the Jews. Nehemiah asked God to turn their taunts back on them. [4:2-5]
- ☐ Nehemiah and his people built the wall to half its height. [4:6]
- ☐ Some people came together to fight against Nehemiah and his people. [4:7-8]
- ☐ Nehemiah and his people prayed for God to protect them day and night. [4:9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1-3] Who mocked the Jews when they heard that the Jews were building the wall?  
Sanballat and Tobiah mocked the Jews and their work.
2. [4:4-5] Why do you think Nehemiah asked God not to cover over the iniquity of Sanballat and Tobiah?  
Nehemiah probably asked this because he wanted them to face God's consequences for mocking the builders.
3. [4:6] What did Nehemiah say was the reason the Jews had made progress in building the wall?  
He said it was because the people had a desire to work to rebuild the wall.
4. [4:7] How did Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites react when they heard how the Jews were succeeding?  
They were very angry.
5. [4:8] What did Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites do after conspiring together?  
They came together to fight against Jerusalem and caused confusion.
6. [4:9] When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites came to fight against Jerusalem, what did the builders and people do?  
They prayed to God and set a guard to protect them day and night.

**Comment Section:**

## Nehemiah 6:15-19 Jerusalem's wall is finished

**Background:** When Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian and the rest of the enemies of Judah heard that they had rebuilt the wall and that there were no longer any sections left broken open, they asked Nehemiah to come and meet them outside of Jerusalem. Nehemiah knew they intended to harm him, so he refused to go to them.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Nehemiah reported that the wall was finished. [6:15]
- ☐ The enemies were fearful because they knew the work was done with the help of God. [6:16]
- ☐ Some of the nobles of Judah sent letters to tell Tobiah to try to frighten Nehemiah. [6:17-19]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:15] How long did it take to finish repairing the wall?  
The wall was completed in fifty-two days.
2. [6:16] Why did their enemies become afraid when they heard the wall was finished?  
They were afraid because they knew the work was done with the help of God.
3. [6:17] Who sent letters to each other?  
The nobles of Judah sent letters to Tobiah. He sent letters to them.
4. [6:18] Why were the people of Judah bound by an oath to Tobiah?  
They were bound by an oath because he was the son-in-law of Shekariah son of Arah.
5. [6:18] To whom was his son Jehohanan married?  
He was married to the daughter of Meshullam, the son of Berekiah.
6. [6:19] Why do you think that many in Judah were talking to Nehemiah about Tobiah's good deeds and reporting Nehemiah's words to Tobiah?  
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps these people were trying to spy on Nehemiah. Perhaps they were testing Nehemiah to see what he would say about Tobiah. Maybe Tobiah had tricked them into thinking he only meant good for the Jews.

**Nehemiah 6:15-19 continued**

7. [6:19] Why did Tobiah send letters to Nehemiah?  
Tobiah sent letters to Nehemiah to frighten him.

**Comment Section:**

## Nehemiah 8:1-8 Ezra reads the law

**Background:** When the wall was finished and the doors were set in place, Nehemiah gave instructions on when the gates to Jerusalem could be open and when they should be shut.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Ezra read the book of the law of Moses to the people from morning to midday. [8:1-5]
- ☐ The people responded when Ezra opened the book of the law and blessed Yahweh. [8:5-6]
- ☐ The Levites helped the people understand the Law of God. [8:7-8]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [8:1] Where were the people gathered?  
All the people were gathered in the open area in front of the Water Gate.
2. [8:1] What did the people ask Ezra?  
They asked Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses.
3. [8:2] What day did Ezra bring the law to the people?  
He brought the law on the first day of the seventh month.
4. [8:2-3] Who was included in the assembly?  
Men, women, and all who could hear and understand were included in the assembly.
5. [8:3] Where did Ezra face when he read from the law?  
He faced the open area in front of the Water Gate.
6. [8:3] How long did Ezra read?  
He read from early morning until midday.
7. [8:3] How did the people respond?  
All the people listened attentively to the book of the law.

**Nehemiah 8:1-8 continued**

8. [8:4] Where did Ezra stand when he read from the law?  
He stood on a high wooden platform that was built for this purpose.
  
9. [8:4] Ezra standing by himself when he read from the law?  
No. Several men were standing on both his right side and his left side.
  
10. [8:5] What did the people do when Ezra opened the book of the law?  
All the people stood up when Ezra opened the book.
  
11. [8:6] What did the people do when Ezra blessed Yahweh?  
All the people lifted up their hands and said Amen. Then they bowed down and worshiped Yahweh, with their faces to the ground.
  
12. [8:7-8] What did the Levites do while Ezra was reading the Law of God?  
The Levites helped the people understand the law that was being read. They made it clear by interpreting it, and they gave the people its meaning.

**Comment Section:**

## Esther 2:15-18 Esther becomes queen of Persia

**Background:** The Book of Esther tells how a young Jewish woman named Esther became the queen of Persia. Xerxes was the king of Persia, and as he held a large banquet for the noblemen and governors of his provinces, he summoned Queen Vashti to come before the audience. When she refused, King Xerxes removed her from being the queen and then conducted a search for a new queen.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Esther asked for only the things that Hegai advised when she prepared herself to go in to the king. She won the favor of everyone who saw her. [2:15]
- ☐ When Esther was taken to the king, he loved her more than any of the other women. [2:16-17]
- ☐ He made her queen instead of Vashti. [2:17]
- ☐ The king then gave a great feast for all his officials and servants, and he gave many generous gifts. [2:18]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:15] How were Esther and Mordecai related?  
Esther was the daughter of Mordecai's uncle, so they were cousins. But Mordecai had adopted Esther as his own daughter.
2. [2:15] What did Esther ask for?  
She asked only for what Hegai suggested to her. He was the king's official who was in charge of the women.
3. [2:16] When was Esther taken to the king?  
She went into the royal residence in the tenth month, in the seventh year of the king's reign.
4. [2:17] Why did the king set the royal crown on Esther's head and make her queen?  
He loved her more than all the other women.
5. [2:18] For what people did the king give a great feast?  
He gave a great feast for all his officials and his servants.
6. [2:18] What did he call the feast?  
He called it Esther's feast.



**Esther 2:15-18 continued**

7. [2:18] What else did the king do during this time of celebration?  
He released the provinces from being taxed, and he gave generous gifts.

**Comment Section:**

## Esther 3:1-6     Haman's plot against the Jews

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ King Xerxes promoted Haman the Agagite above the other nobles. [3:1]
- ☐ All the king's servants bowed down and revered Haman, as the king had commanded them to do. But Mordecai refused to do this. [3:2]
- ☐ The king's servants asked Mordecai why he did not do what the king commanded. [3:3]
- ☐ They asked this each day, but Mordecai did not listen. Then they told Haman. Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew. [3:4]
- ☐ When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel or show him respect, Haman was furious. [3:5]
- ☐ Haman scorned the idea of only killing Mordecai. Instead, Haman planned to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the kingdom. [3:6]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:1] Who did King Xerxes promote above all the other officials?  
He promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite.
2. [3:2] Why did all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bow down and pay homage to Haman?  
The king had ordered this to happen.
3. [3:3] What did Mordecai refuse to do?  
Mordecai refused to kneel or bow down to Haman.
4. [3:4] How did Haman find out that Mordecai refused to obey?  
The king's servants told him.
5. [3:5] What reason did Haman have to become angry?  
He was angry because he saw that Mordecai did not kneel down or show him respect.
6. [3:6] Who did Haman want to kill?  
Haman wanted to kill not only Mordecai but also all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, in the entire kingdom.

**Comment Section:**

## Esther 4:12-17 Esther asks the Jews to fast

**Background:** Haman deceived the king and had him decree that all the Jews would be killed in one day. When Mordecai found out, he put on mourning clothes and cried bitterly along with all the other Jews. Then Mordecai sent Esther a message about the decree, asking her to plead with the king for her people. Esther sent back a message through her attendant Hathak, telling Mordecai about the law that said that anyone who went to the king without being summoned would be put to death, and Esther had not been summoned to the king in 30 days.

This passage mentions fasting. This is when people stop eating and drinking for a set time while they pray urgently to God.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Esther's words were reported to Mordecai. [4:12]
- ☐ Mordecai sent Esther a reply, telling her not to think that she would escape what would happen to the Jews. [4:13]
- ☐ Mordecai said that if Esther kept silent, deliverance would come to the Jews from elsewhere, but she and her family would die. He asked if Esther might have come to her position for this reason. [4:14]
- ☐ Esther sent back a message and asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews to fast for three days, as she would fast, before she went to the king and risked death. [4:15-16]
- ☐ Mordecai did what Esther asked him to do. [4:17]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:12] What was reported to Mordecai?  
The words of Esther were reported to Mordecai.
2. [4:13] What message did Mordecai send back to Esther?  
He said that Esther should not think that, because she was in the king's palace, she would escape any more than the other Jews.
3. [4:14] What else did Mordecai say in his message?  
He said that if Esther remained silent, rescue would come for the Jews from another place, but Esther and her father's house would perish. He asked if Esther might have come to her royal position for this time.
4. [4:15-16] How did Esther respond to Mordecai?  
She told him to gather all the Jews who lived in Susa and fast for her for three days and nights.

**Esther 4:12-17 continued**

5. [4:16] What would Esther and the young girls who attended her do during the same three days and nights?  
They would also fast.
6. [4:16] What did Esther say that she would do after the fast?  
She said that after the fast she would go to the king, even though it was against the law. She accepted that she might perish for doing this.
7. [4:16] Why do you think that Esther asked Mordecai to have all the Jews fast?  
She probably wanted all of her people to pray with her that she would succeed in her request, so that the king would not have all the Jews killed. Perhaps she also hoped that they would pray for her not to die as punishment for going before the king when she had not been summoned.
8. [4:17] What did Mordecai do when he received Esther's message?  
He did all that Esther ordered him to do.

**Comment Section:**

## Esther 6:1-10 The king decides to honor Mordecai

**Background:** Esther spoke to the king and asked for the king and Haman to come to a feast that she was going to prepare. Haman was full of joy when he heard this. But when Mordecai did not bow and give him honor, he was enraged again. So Haman built gallows fifty cubits high, and he planned to ask the king to have Mordecai killed by hanging upon it.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ On that night, the king could not sleep. He asked for the book that recorded the events of his reign. It was read to him. [6:1]
- ☐ It was recorded in the book that Mordecai reported two officials who tried to harm the king. [6:2]
- ☐ The king asked what great honor was given to Mordecai for doing this. His men said that nothing had been done. [6:3]
- ☐ The king asked who was in the courtyard. Haman had just entered to speak to the king about killing Mordecai on the gallows. The king's men said that Haman was there, and the king summoned him. [6:4-5]
- ☐ The king asked Haman what should be done for a man that the king wished to honor. Haman thought that the king must wish to honor him. [6:6]
- ☐ Haman listed many fine things that he thought should be done for a man that the king wished to honor. [6:7-9]
- ☐ The king told Haman to go do for Mordecai every fine thing that Haman had mentioned. [6:10]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:1] Why did the king command his servants to bring the book that recorded the events of his reign?  
The king could not sleep.
2. [6:2] What was recorded in that book about Mordecai?  
Mordecai had exposed the plot of Bigthana and Teresh, two officials who tried to harm the king.
3. [6:3] What did the king want to know?  
He wanted to know what great honor had been given to Mordecai for what he did.
4. [6:4] What did the king's servants tell the king?  
They told him that nothing had been done to honor Mordecai.
5. [6:4] Who had entered the courtyard at that time?  
Haman had entered the courtyard.

**Esther 6:1-10 continued**

6. [6:4] Why was Haman there?  
Haman had come to speak to the king about killing Mordecai. Haman had just set up gallows for that purpose.
7. [6:5] When the king's servants said that Haman was standing in the courtyard, what was the king's response?  
The king told them to let Haman come in.
8. [6:6] Which man did Haman think that the king was talking about, when the king asked Haman what should be done for a man that the king took pleasure in honoring?  
Haman thought that the king was talking about him (Haman).
9. [6:7-8] How did Haman say that a man should be dressed if the king took pleasure in honoring him?  
Haman said that such a man should wear royal robes that the king himself had worn.
10. [6:7-8] What did Haman say that a man should ride if the king took pleasure in honoring him?  
Haman said that such a man should ride a horse that the king himself had ridden.
11. [6:9] Who did Haman say should clothe an honored man and lead him on a horse through the city streets?  
Haman said that one of the king's most noble officials should do these things.
12. [6:10] What did the king tell Haman to do in verse 10?  
The king told Haman to hurry and take the robes and the horse, as he had described, and to do for Mordecai all the things that Haman had said should be done.

**Comment Section:**

## Esther 7:7-10 Haman is hanged

**Background:** On the second day of Esther's feast, the king said to Esther that he would grant her request, up to half of his kingdom. Esther asked the king to grant her and her people their lives, and she told the king about the plan to destroy her people. When the king asked who had dared to make this plan, she replied that it was an enemy: the evil Haman. Then Haman was terrified in the king and queen's presence.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ When the king went angrily into the palace garden, Haman stayed to beg Queen Esther for his life, because he saw that the king intended to harm him. [7:7]
- ☐ When the king returned, it looked like Haman was assaulting Queen Esther as he begged for his life. [7:8]
- ☐ An official told the king that Haman had set up gallows to hang Mordecai. The king said to hang Haman on the gallows, and they did. Then the king stopped being angry. [7:9-10]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:7] What did Haman do when the king got up in a rage and went into the palace garden?  
Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther.
2. [7:7] What did Haman understand that the king intended?  
He understood that the king intended to destroy him.
3. [7:7-8] What was happening when the king came back into the room?  
While starting to beg for his life, Haman had just fallen on the couch where Esther was.
4. [7:8] What did the king ask to indicate what he thought that Haman was doing?  
The king asked if Haman was assaulting the queen in the king's presence.
5. [7:8] Why do you think that the servants covered Haman's face when the king asked this?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps this indicated that Haman was doomed to die.
6. [7:9] What did the official Harbana tell the king then?  
He told the king that Haman had set up a gallows to kill Mordecai, the one who spoke up to protect the king.

**Esther 7:7-10 continued**

7. [7:10] What did the king say to do?

The king said to hang Haman on the gallows that Haman had set up for Mordecai.

8. [7:10] What happened after they killed Haman on the gallows?

The king's rage died down.

**Comment Section:**