

# **Wycliffe Associates**

## **Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide**

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

#### ***Isaiah - Malachi***

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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.

## 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.

# Isaiah 1:1-9      The rebellion of God's people

**Background:** Isaiah prophesied around 740–700 B.C., when the Assyrian Empire was becoming more powerful. Isaiah spoke the prophecies from God to the people of Judah.

***Read the passage.***

## Part 1

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

- ☐ Isaiah had a vision about Judah and Jerusalem. [1:1]
- ☐ Yahweh spoke and said that his children had rebelled against him. [1:2-3]
- ☐ Israel was described as a nation of sinners who had despised and abandoned Yahweh. [1:4]
- ☐ Even though the whole nation was like a sick or injured person, they continued to rebel. [1:5-6]
- ☐ The country was ruined, and Yahweh had left only a few survivors. [1:7-9]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] Who saw the vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem?  
Isaiah the son of Amoz saw the vision.
2. [1:1] When did Isaiah have his vision?  
Isaiah had his vision in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
3. [1:2] Why should the heavens hear and the earth listen?  
The heavens should hear and the earth should listen because Yahweh had spoken.
4. [1:2] What had Yahweh's children done?  
They had rebelled against Yahweh.
5. [1:3] Who did not know or understand?  
Israel did not know or understand.
6. [1:4] What had the sinners in the nation done?  
They had abandoned and despised Yahweh. They had turned away from the Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 1:1-9 continued**

7. [1:5-6] Why do you think Yahweh asked why they were still being beaten and why they rebelled more and more?  
He probably asked these questions because it seemed unbelievable that the nation would continue sinning after being punished so severely. The nation was like a person who was beaten from head to foot and was sick and weak.
8. [1:7] What was happening to their country?  
Their country was ruined. Their cities were burned, and they were overthrown by strangers.
9. [1:8] How was the daughter of Zion left?  
She was like a hut in a vineyard, like a shed in a garden, and like a besieged city.
10. [1:8] Who do you think the daughter of Zion was?  
Perhaps this person represented one of the people of Israel. Perhaps speaking about the daughter of Zion was a way to describe the city of Jerusalem.
11. [1:9] If Yahweh had not left a few survivors, what would Israel have been like?  
It would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Comment Section:**

## Isaiah 4:1-6      God prepares a remnant for Himself

**Background:** In Chapter 3, Isaiah said that Yahweh would humiliate the women of Zion, and the men would be killed by the sword. In Chapter 4, Isaiah continued to describe what it would be like on the day of Yahweh.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ A day was coming when seven women would take one man and ask him to marry them. [4:1]
- ☐ After Yahweh passed judgment on Israel, his branch would be beautiful, and the land would be fruitful. [4:2]
- ☐ The ones left in Jerusalem would be called holy. [4:3]
- ☐ Yahweh would wash away the women's filth and the bloodstains in Jerusalem. [4:4]
- ☐ Yahweh would create a cloud of smoke by day and fire by night over Mount Zion, to protect his people. [4:5-6]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1] Why would seven women take hold of one man?  
They would all want to marry the man, so that they would no longer be ashamed.
2. [4:1] What do you think was the reason there would not be enough men to marry the women?  
Perhaps there would not be enough men for the women to marry because many of them were killed in battle.
3. [4:2] What would be beautiful and glorious on that day?  
The branch of Yahweh would be beautiful and glorious.
4. [4:2] What would be the pride and delight of those who escaped in Israel?  
The fruit of the land would be their pride and delight.
5. [4:3] What would happen to the ones left in Zion and the ones who remained in Jerusalem?  
They would be called holy.
6. [4:4] How would Yahweh wash away the filth of the daughters of Zion and the blood stains in the midst of Jerusalem?  
He would do this by the spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire.

**Isaiah 4:1-6 continued**

7. [4:5] What would Yahweh create over the site of Mount Zion and the place of assembly?  
He would create a cloud of smoke by day and the glow of fire by night.
8. [4:5-6] What would the cloud, smoke, and fire be for the people?  
They would be a shelter for shade in the daytime from the heat. They would be a refuge and cover from storm and rain.

**Comment Section:**



## Isaiah 6:1-13    Isaiah's vision and commission

**Background:** This chapter records Isaiah's call to prophetic ministry.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Isaiah had a vision of Yahweh in his temple. [6:1]
- ☐ The seraphim called out about how holy Yahweh is. [6:2-4]
- ☐ Isaiah was afraid that he was doomed because he was sinful and had seen Yahweh. [6:5]
- ☐ Then a seraphim took away Isaiah's guilt by touching his mouth with a coal from the altar. [6:6-7]
- ☐ Yahweh asked who he could send to the people, and Isaiah said to send him. [6:8]
- ☐ Yahweh told Isaiah to speak to the people and tell them not to hear or understand. [6:9-10]
- ☐ Isaiah had to speak to the people until the land was desolate and the cities were destroyed. [6:11-12]
- ☐ What remained in the land would be burned like a tree, and the holy seed would be its stump. [6:13]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:1] What happened to Isaiah in the year King Uzziah died?  
He saw the Lord sitting on his throne.
2. [6:2] What was above the Lord?  
Seraphim with six wings were above him.
3. [6:3] What were the seraphim calling to each other?  
They called out that Yahweh is "holy, holy, holy!" They called out that the whole earth is full of his glory.
4. [6:4] What happened next?  
The voices of the seraphim shook the foundations of the temple. Then the temple was filled with smoke.
5. [6:5] Why did Isaiah say that he was doomed?  
He said it was because he had unclean lips and lived among people with unclean lips, and he had seen Yahweh.
6. [6:6] When one of the seraphim flew to Isaiah, what did he have in his hands?  
He had a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar.

**Isaiah 6:1-13 continued**

7. [6:7] What did one of the seraphim say when he touched Isaiah's mouth with the coal?  
He said that Isaiah's guilt had been taken away and his sin had been forgiven.
8. [6:8] What did Isaiah say when he heard the Lord ask whom he should send to the people?  
He said, "Here I am. Send me."
9. [6:9] What must Isaiah tell the people?  
He must tell them that they would hear and not understand. He must tell them that they would see and not know what they had seen.
10. [6:10] What was Isaiah told to do to the people's hearts, ears, and eyes?  
He was told to make their hearts insensitive, to make their ears dull, and to make their eyes blind. Otherwise, they might see and understand, and they might turn and be healed.
11. [6:11-12] How long must Isaiah tell the Lord's message to the people?  
He must speak until the cities were in ruins, the people were gone, and the land was desolate and abandoned.
12. [6:13] What would happen to the land, even if a tenth of the people were left in it?  
It would be burned like a tree.
13. [6:13] What would be in the tree's stump?  
The holy seed would be in the tree's stump.
14. [6:13] What do you think it meant that the holy seed was in the tree's stump?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps it means that from the few remaining people in Israel would come a group who would be holy before the Lord. Perhaps it meant that a holy descendant of Israel would come from among the few people of Israel who would remain faithful to the Lord after this time.

**Comment Section:**

## Isaiah 7:10-17 The prophecy about Immanuel

**Background:** In 7:1-9, the king of Aram and the king of the northern tribes of Israel went to attack Jerusalem. Then Ahaz, the king of Judah, and the people were terrified. Yahweh sent Isaiah to Ahaz to tell him that Yahweh would not let Aram and Israel defeat Judah.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Ahaz to ask for a sign from him. [7:10-11]
- ☐ Ahaz refused to ask for one. [7:12]
- ☐ Isaiah asked if the house of David had to weary God as well as wearying men. [7:13]
- ☐ Isaiah said that Yahweh would give a sign to the people: A young woman (virgin) would bear a son and name him Immanuel. [7:14]
- ☐ While the child was too young to know good from evil, the lands of two kings would be desolated, and Yahweh would bring the king of Assyria to attack Ahaz and Judah. [7:15-17]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:10-11] Who told Ahaz to ask for a sign?  
Yahweh told Ahaz to ask for a sign from him.
2. [7:12] What did Ahaz say to Yahweh?  
He said he would not ask for a sign, nor would he test Yahweh.
3. [7:13] What did Isaiah ask about the house of David?  
He asked whether it had not been enough to test the patience of people. He asked if they must also test the patience of Yahweh.
4. [7:13] What do you think Isaiah was indicating with these questions?  
He was probably indicating that Yahweh was not pleased when Ahaz would not do what Yahweh told him to do.
5. [7:14] What sign did Isaiah say the Lord would give to the people?  
A young woman (virgin) would conceive, bear a son, and name him Immanuel.
6. [7:15] When the child would eat curds and honey, what would he know?  
He would know how to refuse the evil. He would know how to choose the good.

**Isaiah 7:10-17 continued**

7. [7:16] What would happen before the child knew to refuse evil and choose good?  
The land of two dreaded kings would be desolated.
  
8. [7:17] What would Yahweh bring on Ahaz, his people, and his father's house?  
He would bring on them the king of Assyria, and the same kind of times as when Ephraim departed from Judah.

**Comment Section:**

## Isaiah 9:1-7      The birth and reign of the Prince of Peace

**Background:** Some of the prophecies in this chapter were fulfilled in Isaiah's lifetime while others are fulfilled in the distant future. Some scholars believe that there can be multiple fulfillments of each of these prophecies, while others see only one complete fulfillment.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ The land of Zebulun and Naphtali would be made glorious. [9:1]
- ☐ The people who walked in darkness would see a great light. [9:2]
- ☐ The people would rejoice because Yahweh defeated their oppressor. [9:3-5]
- ☐ A child (a son) would be given to the nation. He would have many glorious names. [9:6]
- ☐ He would rule from David's throne forever. [9:7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [9:1] Who would have no more gloom?  
There would be no more gloom for her who was in anguish.
2. [9:1] What would happen to the land of Zebulun and Naphtali?  
It would be made glorious.
3. [9:2] What place did Isaiah mention, by the way to the sea, in this land that would be made glorious?  
Isaiah mentioned Galilee of the nations, beyond the Jordan.
4. [9:2] What would the people who walked in darkness see?  
They would see a great light.
5. [9:3] What had God multiplied and increased at the time that this prophecy would happen?  
He had multiplied the nation and increased their joy.
6. [9:4] What did Yahweh break to pieces?  
He broke the yoke of his burden and the rod of his oppressor.

**Isaiah 9:1-7 continued**

7. [9:4] What do you think it meant that he broke the yoke of his burden and the rod of his oppressor?  
This probably means that Yahweh defeated those who were oppressing his people.
8. [9:5] What would be burned as fuel for the fire?  
Every boot worn in tumult and the garments rolled in blood would be burned as fuel.
9. [9:5] What do you think it meant that every boot worn in tumult and the garments rolled in blood would be fuel?  
(*Answer may vary.*) This probably meant that all of the boots and garments worn during battle would be burned. It probably also means that the things worn for war will be destroyed in the fire because they won't be needed any more, because war will be over.
10. [9:6] What would be on the shoulder of the child born to us?  
The government would be on his shoulder.
11. [9:6] What would his name be called?  
He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
12. [9:7] What would have no end?  
There would be no end of the increase of his government and of peace.
13. [9:7] Whose throne would he rule on?  
He would rule on David's throne.
14. [9:7] How long would his kingdom last?  
His kingdom would last from this time forward and for evermore.

**Comment Section:**

## Isaiah 11:1-16 The reign of the righteous branch

**Background:** This passage mentions a man named Jesse. This was the father of a famous king of Israel, King David.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ A shoot would sprout from the stump of Jesse. [11:1]
- ☐ The Spirit of Yahweh would rest on him. [11:2]
- ☐ He would delight in the fear of the Lord, and he would judge with righteousness. [11:3-5]
- ☐ Animals and people would live in peace with each other. [11:6-8]
- ☐ There would be no more hurt or destruction on the holy mountain, because the earth would be full of knowledge of Yahweh. [11:9]
- ☐ The nations would seek out the root of Jesse. [11:10]
- ☐ Yahweh would gather the remnant of his people, both Israel and Judah. [11:11-12]
- ☐ Ephraim and Judah would no longer be jealous of each other. [11:13]
- ☐ They would conquer their enemies. [11:14]
- ☐ Yahweh would make a highway through the rivers so that his people could return. [11:15-16]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [11:1] What would come from the stump and root of Jesse?  
A shoot would sprout from the stump of Jesse. A branch that would bear fruit would come from the root of Jesse.
2. [11:2] What would rest on the root of Jesse?  
The Spirit of Yahweh would rest on the root of Jesse.
3. [11:2] How else was the Spirit of Yahweh described?  
The Spirit of Yahweh was described as the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of instruction and might, and of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh.
4. [11:3] What would the root of Jesse delight in?  
His delight would be in the fear of the Lord.

**Isaiah 11:1-16 continued**

5. [11:3-4] How would the root of Jesse judge?  
He would not judge only from what he saw and heard. He would judge the poor with righteousness and decide fairly for them.
6. [11:5] What would be around him?  
Righteousness would be around his waist. Faithfulness would be around his hips.
7. [11:1-5] Who do you think Isaiah meant when he talked about the sprout or branch of Jesse?  
(Answer may vary.) He probably was talking about a person who would be born into Jesse's family, and into his son David's family, and this person would rule as king.
8. [11:6-7] How would the animals act?  
Animals that once hunted and killed each other would lie down together in peace.
9. [11:8] What would a baby and a young child be able to do?  
They would be able to play over the hole of the asp and put their hand on the den of the viper and not be harmed.
10. [11:9] With what would the earth be filled?  
The earth would be full of the knowledge of Yahweh.
11. [11:10] What would happen with the root of Jesse in that day?  
He would stand as a signal for people. The nations would seek him. His resting place would be glorious.
12. [11:11-12] From what places would the Lord gather the remnant of his people?  
He would gather his people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the islands of the sea. He would gather the people of Israel and Judah from all over the earth.
13. [11:13-14] How would he cause Ephraim and Judah to act?  
They would no longer be jealous of each other. Instead, they would defeat the enemy nations around them and take their plunder.
14. [11:15] What would Yahweh do to the gulf of the Sea of Egypt and the Euphrates River?  
He would destroy the gulf of the Sea of Egypt, and he would divide the Euphrates River into 7 streams. People would be able to walk over them.



**Isaiah 11:1-16 continued**

15. [11:16] What would be the purpose for the highway there?  
The highway would be for the return of the remnant of the people from Assyria.

**Comment Section:**

## Isaiah 40:1-8 Comfort for God's people

**Background:** In Chapters 40-66, Isaiah speaks mainly about the people of Judah and their exile in Babylon. Often, Isaiah speaks to the people as if they are already in exile. In this passage, Yahweh is speaking to his prophets and telling them what they should say to the people of Judah.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh said to comfort his people, because he had forgiven them. [40:1-2]
- ☐ A voice cried out to make a highway for Yahweh in the wilderness. [40:3]
- ☐ Every valley would be filled in, every mountain brought down, and all people would see the glory of Yahweh. [40:4-5]
- ☐ A voice said to cry out that all flesh was like grass and their faithfulness was like a flower, but God's word lasts forever. [40:6-8]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [40:1] What did God tell Isaiah to do for his people?  
He said that Isaiah should comfort God's people.
2. [40:2] What did God say that Isaiah should tell those in Jerusalem?  
Isaiah should tell those in Jerusalem that their warfare had ended, that their iniquity was pardoned, and that they had received double from Yahweh's hand for all of their sins.
3. [40:3] What did the voice cry out?  
The voice cried out to prepare a way for Yahweh in the wilderness, and to make him a straight highway in the Arabah, or desert.
4. [40:4] What would happen to the valleys, mountains, and rough places?  
The valleys would be lifted up. The mountains would be brought low. The rugged land would be made level. The rough places would become plains.
5. [40:5] What would be revealed?  
The glory of Yahweh would be revealed.
6. [40:5] Who would see the glory of Yahweh?  
All people would see it together.

**Isaiah 40:1-8 continued**

7. [40:5] Why would this happen?  
It would happen because the mouth of Yahweh had spoken.
8. [40:6] What was the voice told to cry?  
It was told to cry out that all flesh was grass, and their faithfulness was like the flower of the field.
9. [40:7] What happened to the grass and flowers when the breath of Yahweh blew on them?  
The grass withered and the flower faded.
10. [40:7] Why do you think that verse 7 says that people are certainly grass?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps it was meant to emphasize how small people are compared to Yahweh, or how short their lives are compared to his. Perhaps it was meant to show that this passage was really talking about people, not about literal grass and flowers.
11. [40:8] What will stand forever, unlike the grass, the flowers, and the people?  
The word of Yahweh will stand forever.
12. [40:8] What do you think it means that the Word of Yahweh will stand forever?  
The passage seems to mean that the Word of Yahweh will always be true and will last forever; it will not die or become useless.

**Comment Section:**

# Isaiah 52:13-53:12

He was pierced for our transgressions

*Read the passage.*

## Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh's servant would act wisely and be exalted. [52:13]
- ☐ Though he would be disfigured beyond recognition, he would sprinkle many nations and bring sight and understanding to people. [52:14-15]
- ☐ When the servant grew up there was nothing in his appearance that would attract him to others. He was despised and people hid their faces from him. [53:1-3]
- ☐ People thought the servant was being punished by God, but he was bearing their sins and afflictions. [53:4-6]
- ☐ The servant was silent before his oppressors. He was killed and put in a grave with criminals, though he did no violence and did not speak a lie. [53:7-9]
- ☐ It was Yahweh's will to make his servant an offering for sin and to accomplish his purpose through the servant to justify mankind. [53:10-12]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [52:13] What did Yahweh say about his servant in verse 13?  
His servant would act wisely. He would be high and lifted up. He would be exalted.
2. [52:14] How would people react to the servant?  
They would be horrified because his appearance was disfigured beyond that of any man. He no longer looked like a human being.
3. [52:15] What would the servant do?  
He would sprinkle many nations.
4. [52:15] Why would kings shut their mouths because of him?  
They would see things that they had not been told about before. They would understand things that they had not heard before.
5. [53:1] What two questions did Isaiah ask?  
He asked who had believed their message. He asked to whom the arm of Yahweh had been revealed.

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12 continued**

6. [53:2] How did the servant grow up before Yahweh?  
He grew up like a tender plant and like a root out of dry ground.
7. [53:2-3] How was the servant's appearance and manner described?  
His appearance was not attractive or beautiful. He was called a man of sorrows, and he was familiar with pain and grief.
8. [53:3] How was the servant received by people?  
He was despised and rejected. People hid their faces from him and did not value him.
9. [53:4] What did the servant do?  
He bore people's sicknesses and grief. He carried their sorrows.
10. [53:5] Why was the servant pierced and crushed?  
He was pierced and crushed for people's sin and iniquities.
11. [53:5] How were people healed?  
They were healed by his wounds.
12. [53:6] How many people had wandered like sheep and followed their own way?  
All people had wandered like sheep and followed their own way.
13. [53:6] What had Yahweh placed on his servant?  
Yahweh placed everyone's iniquity on the servant.
14. [53:7] What did the servant do even though he was oppressed?  
He humbled himself and did not open his mouth.
15. [53:8] How was the servant taken away?  
He was taken away by oppression and judgment.
16. [53:9] Where did they place the servant's grave?  
His grave was placed with criminals and with a rich man.
17. [53:9] How had the servant acted before this?  
The servant had done no violence. He had not spoken any lie.

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12 continued**

18. [53:10] What was Yahweh's will?  
It was Yahweh's will to crush the servant and make him suffer.
19. [53:10] What would Yahweh do through him?  
Yahweh would accomplish his purpose through him.
20. [53:11] What would happen after the servant had suffered?  
He would see light and be satisfied.
21. [53:11] What would the servant do?  
He would justify many, and he would bear their iniquities.
22. [53:12] What would Yahweh do for his servant?  
His servant would receive a portion and divide the plunder with the strong.
23. [53:12] What did the servant do for transgressors?  
He was numbered with the transgressors. He bore the sin of many, and he made intercession for them.

**Comment Section:**

## Isaiah 61:1-11 The year of the Lord's favor

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh's anointed one came to proclaim good news, to heal the broken hearted, and to proclaim liberty for captives. [61:1]
- ☐ He came to announce Yahweh's favor, and also Yahweh's day of vengeance, and to comfort mourners. [61:2]
- ☐ He came to give them good things in place of bad ones. [61:3]
- ☐ The ancient ruins and desolations would be restored. [61:4]
- ☐ Strangers would tend their flocks and be their plowmen, while God's people would be called his priests. [61:5-6]
- ☐ It would be a time of plenty and joy, with justice and great blessing for God's people. [61:7-9]
- ☐ There would be great rejoicing because God had clothed his people with salvation and righteousness. [61:10]
- ☐ Righteousness and praise would be seen by all nations. [61:11]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [61:1] Why was the Spirit of the Lord on this person?  
The Spirit of Yahweh was on this person, because the Spirit had anointed him to proclaim good news to the afflicted, to heal the broken hearted, and to proclaim liberty to captives and opening of prisons for the bound.
2. [61:2] What else was he sent to do?  
He was sent to proclaim the year of Yahweh's favor and the day of vengeance of God. He was sent to comfort all who mourn.
3. [61:3] What was he sent to give to people?  
He was sent to give the people a crown instead of ashes, oil of joy instead of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of a spirit of despair.
4. [61:3] What was he sent to call people?  
He was sent to call people oaks (trees) of righteousness planted by Yahweh.
5. [61:4] What would the people do?  
They would rebuild the ancient ruins, restore the former desolations, and restore the ruined cities.

**Isaiah 61:1-11 continued**

6. [61:5] What would foreigners do?  
Foreigners would stand and feed their flocks. The sons of foreigners would be their farmers and vineyard workers.
7. [61:6] What would the people be called?  
They would be called priests of Yahweh and servants of God.
8. [61:6] What would the people do?  
They would eat the wealth of nations and boast about their riches.
9. [61:7] What would the people have instead of shame and dishonor?  
Instead of shame, they would have a double portion. Instead of dishonor, they would rejoice over their inheritance. They would have everlasting joy.
10. [61:8] What does Yahweh love and what does he hate?  
Yahweh loves justice. He hates robbery, violence, and injustice.
11. [61:9] How would all who see them acknowledge the people?  
They would be acknowledged as the people that Yahweh has blessed.
12. [61:10] Why did the speaker rejoice in Yahweh and why was he glad?  
He rejoiced and was glad because Yahweh had clothed him with garments of salvation and a robe of righteousness.
13. [61:10] What do you think it means that Yahweh will clothe the speaker with garments of salvation and a robe of righteousness?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps it means that Yahweh will save him and make him righteous.
14. [61:11] What would Yahweh do?  
He would cause righteousness and praise to sprout up in front of all the nations.

**Comment Section:**



## Jeremiah 1:1-10      God appoints Jeremiah as prophet

**Background:** Jeremiah was the last prophet to the people of Judah before the Babylonian army came and defeated them and took them away from their homes. Yahweh had made a covenant with the people of Judah, but they kept breaking the covenant through idolatry and unjust treatment of others. Yahweh allowed Judah's enemies to defeat them because they would not stop sinning against him.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ This book records what Jeremiah said. [1:1]
- ☐ Yahweh told Jeremiah what to say from the time of Josiah until the people of Jerusalem were taken away as prisoners. [1:2-3]
- ☐ Yahweh said to Jeremiah that he had chosen him to be a prophet even before Jeremiah was born. [1:4-5]
- ☐ Jeremiah was worried that he was too young, but Yahweh told Jeremiah not to be afraid because he would be with him. [1:6-8]
- ☐ Yahweh touched Jeremiah's mouth and put his word in Jeremiah's mouth. [1:9]
- ☐ Yahweh appointed Jeremiah to destroy and build up nations and kingdoms. [1:10]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] How was Jeremiah described in verse 1?  
Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests.
2. [1:2] Who was king when Yahweh first spoke to Jeremiah?  
Josiah was king when the Lord first spoke to Jeremiah.
3. [1:3] Until what time did Yahweh speak to Jeremiah?  
Yahweh spoke to Jeremiah until the time when the people of Jerusalem were taken away as captives.
4. [1:4-5] When did Yahweh choose Jeremiah to be a prophet?  
Yahweh chose Jeremiah before Jeremiah was born.
5. [1:6] Why was Jeremiah afraid to speak for Yahweh?  
Jeremiah thought he was too young to speak for Yahweh.
6. [1:7] What did Yahweh tell Jeremiah he must do?  
Yahweh told Jeremiah that he must go everywhere and say everything Yahweh would tell him.

**Jeremiah 1:1-10 continued**

7. [1:8] Why did Yahweh tell Jeremiah that he should not be afraid?  
He should not be afraid because Yahweh would be with him and rescue him.
8. [1:9] What did Yahweh place in Jeremiah's mouth?  
Yahweh placed his word in Jeremiah's mouth.
9. [1:9] What do you think it meant for Yahweh to place his word in Jeremiah's mouth?  
It probably meant that Yahweh made Jeremiah able to speak what Yahweh wanted him to speak.
10. [1:10] What did Yahweh appoint Jeremiah to do with regard to the nations and kingdoms?  
Yahweh appointed him to uproot, break down, destroy, overthrow, build, and plant nations and kingdoms.
11. [1:10] How do you think Jeremiah did what Yahweh appointed him to do in verse 10?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps Jeremiah was able to do these things regarding the nations and kingdoms with his words because Yahweh promised to be with him. Perhaps Yahweh gave him the strength and the words to say, while Jeremiah was faithful to speak the words that Yahweh told him to speak.
12. [1:10] What do you think it meant to destroy or build up nations and kingdoms with Yahweh's words through Jeremiah?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps it meant that if the people of the nations heard Jeremiah speak Yahweh's judgments on them, but they did not respond by obeying Yahweh, that would destroy them. Perhaps if the people of the nations heard Jeremiah speaking these judgments, they would repent. Then Yahweh would rescue them, and that would build them up.

**Comment Section:**

## Jeremiah 7:1-11      The message at the temple gate

**Background:** Jeremiah continued to warn the people about sinning against Yahweh. In this passage, Jeremiah talked about the house of Yahweh, or the temple. This referred to a place in Jerusalem at that time where Israelites went to worship Yahweh.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Jeremiah what he must say to the people of Judah. Yahweh said that if they would correct their ways and actions, he would allow them to stay in their homes and land. [7:1-3]
- ☐ The people of Judah were told not to trust deceitful words. They must do what is right. [7:4-5]
- ☐ The people of Judah were told to stop harming those who were vulnerable, murdering those who were innocent, and worshiping false gods. Then Yahweh would let them live in the land he had given to their forefathers. [7:6-7]
- ☐ Yahweh said the people were deceived if they thought he would save them while they continued to do evil things, worship false gods, and then come to Yahweh's house and say they were saved. [7:8-10]
- ☐ Yahweh asked the people if they thought of his house as a den of robbers. [7:11]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:1-2] Where did Yahweh tell Jeremiah to go and speak to the people of Judah?  
Yahweh told Jeremiah to go to the gate of the temple of Yahweh.
2. [7:3] What must the people of Judah do in order for Yahweh to let them continue to live in the land?  
They must change their ways and their actions in order to continue to live in the land.
3. [7:4] What were the words that Yahweh told the people not to say?  
He told them not to keep repeating that it was the temple of Yahweh.
4. [7:4] Why do you think the people of Judah would have felt safe by repeating that it was the temple of Yahweh?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps they thought that if they still had Yahweh's temple in their land, he would not punish them for their sins. Perhaps they thought Yahweh would never allow an enemy to come and harm his own temple or his people.
5. [7:5] What do you think it meant to execute justice between a man and his neighbor?  
(Answer may vary.) This probably meant that Yahweh wanted the leaders of Judah to be just and treat all people fairly when they were making decisions.

**Jeremiah 7:1-11 continued**

6. [7:6] What kinds of people did Yahweh say the people of Judah were harming?  
The people of Judah were harming foreigners, orphans, widows, and innocent people.
7. [7:6] Why do you think it was so important to Yahweh for the people of Judah to protect and provide for sojourners, orphans, and widows instead of oppressing them?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it was so important because it showed they were grateful that Yahweh protected and provided for the people of Judah when they were oppressed. Perhaps it was so important because these people were vulnerable and needed special protection from harm. Perhaps it was because Yahweh cared greatly for these people and commanded those who were more powerful to protect them and provide for them. Perhaps it was because the people of Judah had once been sojourners themselves.
8. [7:7] What would Yahweh do if the people of Judah repented of their sins and practiced doing good things instead of doing evil things?  
Yahweh would allow them to stay in the land that he had given to their ancestors.
9. [7:9] What did Yahweh ask the people of Judah about their actions?  
Yahweh asked them if they stole, killed, committed adultery, made false promises, or worshiped false gods.
10. [7:10] What did the people say when they went into Yahweh's house, although they still did detestable actions?  
When the people went into Yahweh's house, they said that they were saved.
11. [7:9] Why do you think Yahweh listed all of the sins of the people of Judah, accusing them of stealing, killing, committing adultery, swearing deceitfully, and following other gods?  
Yahweh was probably showing them the many ways that they had broken the covenant they had with Yahweh.
12. [7:11] What did Yahweh ask the people of Judah concerning his house?  
He asked them if they thought of his house as a den of robbers.
13. [7:11] Why do you think Yahweh would question the people of Judah in this way?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Yahweh wanted to point out their evil actions. Perhaps it was also because he had been watching their behaviors. Perhaps the people of Judah committed sins, then ran to the temple to hide, then went out from there to sin again, much like robbers would hide out in a den.

**Comment Section:**

## Jeremiah 12:1-6      Jeremiah's complaint and God's answer

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Jeremiah asked Yahweh why wicked people succeeded. [12:1-2]
- ☐ Jeremiah asked Yahweh to set these wicked people apart to be destroyed. [12:3]
- ☐ Jeremiah asked how long Yahweh would wait to punish them. [12:4]
- ☐ Yahweh replied to Jeremiah's complaint with two questions and told him not to trust anyone. [12:5-6]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [12:1] What question did Jeremiah ask Yahweh?  
Jeremiah asked Yahweh why wicked people prospered.
2. [12:1] Why do you think Jeremiah would ask Yahweh this question?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he was worried that Yahweh would not punish them for their evil. Perhaps he felt that it was unjust. Perhaps it also seemed like he and other innocent people were suffering because of their evil.
3. [12:2] What did Jeremiah say Yahweh did to the wicked and unfaithful people?  
He said Yahweh planted them and they took root and produced fruit.
4. [12:2] How did these people's words differ from their hearts?  
Yahweh was on their lips but not on their hearts.
5. [12:2] What do you think Jeremiah meant by the words he said in verse 2?  
He probably meant that Yahweh seemed to take care of the wicked people so that they could prosper. He probably meant that the wicked people talked frequently about Yahweh but did not truly care about him.
6. [12:3] What did Jeremiah want Yahweh to do with the wicked people in the land?  
Jeremiah wanted Yahweh to slaughter them.
7. [12:4] How did Jeremiah speak to Yahweh about what was happening in the land?  
He asked how long the land would mourn and how long the grass in the field would wither. He said that the animals and birds had been taken away because of the evil people, and because the people said that God would not see what happened to them.

**Jeremiah 12:1-6 continued**

8. [12:5] Why do you think Yahweh asked Jeremiah how he could expect to race against horses if he got worn out by racing against men?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps Yahweh wanted Jeremiah to understand that he would need stronger faith and courage than what he showed in reaction to the wicked people prospering. Perhaps Yahweh wanted Jeremiah to prepare for even more difficult trials that would come.
9. [12:6] What did Yahweh tell Jeremiah about his family?  
Yahweh warned Jeremiah that, because his family had betrayed him, he should not trust them even when they were friendly to him.
10. [12:6] Why do you think Yahweh warned Jeremiah not to trust his family?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he wanted Jeremiah to understand that he should not trust anyone except Yahweh. Perhaps he wanted Jeremiah to trust him even though he had not acted in the way Jeremiah hoped that he would.

**Comment Section:**

## Jeremiah 18:1-12 The potter and the clay

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Jeremiah to go to the potter's house to hear Yahweh's words. [18:1-2]
- ☐ Jeremiah went and saw the potter making a clay pot, but the pot was ruined, so the potter made a different pot. [18:3-4]
- ☐ Yahweh said he was like the potter, and the people of Israel were like the clay. [18:5-6]
- ☐ Yahweh said he could change his mind about destroying a nation if they started obeying him. Or he could destroy a nation for which he had intended good, if they started disobeying him. [18:7-10]
- ☐ Yahweh told Jeremiah to tell the people of Judah and Jerusalem that he was about to punish them, and they should stop doing evil things. [18:11]
- ☐ Yahweh said the people of Judah and Jerusalem were stubborn and would not stop doing evil things. [18:12]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [18:1-2] Where did Yahweh tell Jeremiah to go to hear Yahweh's words?  
Yahweh told Jeremiah to go to the potter's house.
2. [18:3-4] What happened to the clay pot that the potter was making?  
The clay pot was ruined in the potter's hands.
3. [18:4] What did the potter do with the clay from the ruined pot?  
He made the clay into a pot that pleased him.
4. [18:5-6] Who did Yahweh say that he was like?  
Yahweh said that he was like the potter.
5. [18:5-6] What did Yahweh say that the people of Israel were like?  
Yahweh said that the people were like the clay pot.
6. [18:5-6] What do you think Yahweh meant when he said that nations and kingdoms were like clay and that Yahweh was like the potter?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps Yahweh meant that nations and kingdoms are part of his creation. Perhaps he meant that he has the power to do anything he pleases with the people that he made.

**Jeremiah 18:1-12 continued**

7. [18:7-8] What did Yahweh say that he would do to a nation or kingdom that stopped doing evil after they heard his words?  
Yahweh would change his mind and not destroy that nation or kingdom.
8. [18:10] What did Yahweh say he would do to a nation or kingdom that did evil after Yahweh intended good for it?  
Yahweh would change his mind about the good that he had intended for that nation or kingdom.
9. [18:6-10] Why do you think Yahweh compared the people of Israel to the clay pot that was ruined?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he wanted them to see that their choice to do good or to do evil would determine if Yahweh would intend to do good to them or if he would intend to punish them.
10. [18:11] What did Yahweh say that he was going to do to the people of Judah?  
Yahweh would prepare a disaster against his people.
11. [18:12] How did Yahweh say that the people would respond to him?  
Yahweh said that they would refuse to listen to him, and they would do the evil things that they wanted to do.

**Comment Section:**



## Jeremiah 23:1-6      God will provide a righteous king

**Background:** In this passage, the word “sheep” was used to talk about Yahweh’s people, and the word “shepherds” was used to talk about the leaders of the people.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh said that the shepherds who destroyed and scattered Yahweh’s sheep would be doomed. [23:1]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would punish the wicked shepherds because they did not care for the flock of sheep, and they drove them away. [23:2]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would bring the flock back to the pasture and they would thrive and increase again. [23:3]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would put new shepherds over them that would care for them, and they would no longer be afraid. [23:4]
- ☐ Yahweh would raise up a king from David’s family who would act wisely and do what was just and right. [23:5]
- ☐ This king would rescue Judah and come after Israel, and they would be safe. [23:6]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [23:1] What did Yahweh say the shepherds were doing to the sheep of his pasture?  
Yahweh said that the shepherds were destroying and scattering them.
2. [23:2] What did Yahweh say that he would do to the shepherds for not caring for the sheep and driving them away?  
Yahweh said that he would punish them for their wicked practices.
3. [23:3] What would Yahweh do for his flock?  
Yahweh would gather them back, and they would thrive and increase again.
4. [23:4] What kind of shepherds would Yahweh bring to the sheep?  
Yahweh would bring shepherds who would care for them, so that they would no longer be afraid.
5. [23:5] What would Yahweh do in the days to come?  
Yahweh would cause a righteous king to rise up from the line of David to rule over the people.
6. [23:5] How would the good king rule?  
The good king would rule wisely and do what was right and just.

**Jeremiah 23:1-6 continued**

7. [23:6] What would happen to Judah and Israel when the new king would rule?  
Yahweh said that they would be rescued and live in safety.
8. [23:6] What was the name that the new king would be called?  
The king would be called "Yahweh is our righteousness."

**Comment Section:**

## Jeremiah 25:8-14 The prophecy of the 70-year captivity

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh said he would send the people of the north with King Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Judah because they refused to listen to Yahweh's words. [25:8-9]
- ☐ He would bring an end to joyous times and to what they usually did. [25:10]
- ☐ Judah would become ruined, and the nations would be slaves to the king of Babylon for seventy years. [25:11]
- ☐ After seventy years Yahweh would punish Babylon for their sins just as he said he would, and they would become slaves to other nations. [25:12-14]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [25:8-9] Why would Yahweh use the people of the north and Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Judah?  
Yahweh would do this because the people of Judah had not listened to Yahweh's words.
2. [25:9] What did Yahweh call Nebuchadnezzar, who was the king of Babylon?  
He called King Nebuchadnezzar "my servant."
3. [25:9-10] What would Yahweh do to Judah and its people and the nations that surrounded them?  
Yahweh would destroy them. They would become a horror to other people who see them. There would no longer be anyone there that was happy or doing things they once did.
4. [25:11] How long would these nations serve the king of Babylon?  
The nations would serve him for seventy years.
5. [25:12] What would Yahweh do after seventy years?  
Yahweh would punish the king of Babylon and his nation for their sins, and it would be ruined forever.
6. [25:13] What words would Yahweh fulfill concerning the king of Babylon and that nation?  
Yahweh would fulfill all the words he had spoken, and the words written in this book that Jeremiah prophesied against the nations.

**Jeremiah 25:8-14 continued**

7. [25:14] Who would make slaves of the king of Babylon and its people?  
Many other nations and kings would make slaves of them.

**Comment Section:**

## Jeremiah 29:1-19 Jeremiah's letter to the exiles in Babylon

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Jeremiah sent the scroll with his words by Elasah to the people in exile after the king and leaders had been sent away from their home. [29:1-3]
- ☐ Yahweh said the people in exile should build houses, plant gardens, marry, have children and increase. They should seek peace and pray for the land of their exile. [29:4-7]
- ☐ Yahweh said they should not listen to the false prophets and diviners. [29:8-9]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would bring them back home after seventy years and would give them a good future. They would seek Yahweh and find him. [29:10-14]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would make Nebuchadnezzar kill the false prophets. They would be cursed because they committed adultery and spoke false words that Yahweh did not tell them to say. [29:15-19]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [29:1-2] Who did Jeremiah send the scroll to?  
He sent the scroll to the elders and leaders exiled in Babylon.
2. [29:3] By whose hands did Jeremiah send the scroll?  
He sent the scroll by the hands of Elasah and Gemariah.
3. [29:4-7] What did Yahweh say in the scroll to the people in exile?  
Yahweh said that they should build houses, plant gardens, marry, have children, and seek the peace of the city where they were exiled.
4. [29:4-7] Why do you think Yahweh said they should do these things?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he wanted them to settle down in that place and to lead normal lives because they would be there in Babylon for a long time. Perhaps he wanted them to understand that they would not go free quickly like the false prophet had said.
5. [29:8] What were the people in exile told not to do?  
The people were told not to let the prophets and diviners deceive them, nor pay attention to the predictions they gave through dreams.
6. [29:9] Why should the people not listen to the false prophets and diviners?  
The false prophets were lying and claiming to speak in Yahweh's authority, but Yahweh did not send them.

**Jeremiah 29:1-19 continued**

7. [29:10] When would Yahweh bring them back to their own land?  
Yahweh would bring them back after being ruled by Babylon for 70 years.
8. [29:11] What plans did the Lord have for the people in exile?  
The Lord had plans to prosper them, not to harm them, to give them a future and a hope.
9. [29:12-13] What would the people in exile do?  
They would pray and turn to the Lord for help.
10. [29:14] What would Yahweh do if his people would seek him?  
Yahweh would let them find him. He would listen. He would bring them back to their land.
11. [29:14] What do you think it meant that Yahweh would let the people in exile find him?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps it meant that he would act to do good for them. Perhaps it meant that he would answer them by bringing them back to their land. Perhaps it meant that he would be present with them and show his care for them.
12. [29:15-18] What would Yahweh do to the ones remaining in Jerusalem?  
Yahweh would kill them with sword, famine, and plague. He would make them an object of horror and shame among the nations.
13. [29:19] Why would Yahweh do this to them?  
Yahweh would do this because they did not listen to his words.

**Comment Section:**

## Jeremiah 31:27-40 A new covenant is promised to Israel and Judah

**Background:** When this passage mentions Egypt in verse 32, it is referring to a land where Israel was held captive for over 400 years.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh said that he would let people and animals live again in Israel and Judah. He would no longer allow harm to come to them but would prosper them. [31:27-28]
- ☐ The people would no longer be punished for the sins of their ancestors, but they would be responsible for their own sins. [31:29-30]
- ☐ Yahweh would make a new covenant with Israel and Judah, even though they broke the old covenant. [31:31-32]
- ☐ In the new covenant, Yahweh would make his laws part of their thinking and feeling. They would have a close relationship with Yahweh, and he would forgive all their sins. [31:33-34]
- ☐ Yahweh will not let the sun, moon, and seas stop their course, and he will not stop letting Israel be his people. [31:35-37]
- ☐ Yahweh promised that Jerusalem would be rebuilt and would never be destroyed again. [31:38-40]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [31:27] What would Yahweh do for the houses of Israel and Judah in the coming days?  
Yahweh would fill them with people and animals.
2. [31:28] What did Yahweh do in the past?  
In the past Yahweh destroyed them and brought harm to them.
3. [31:28] What did Yahweh say he would do in the days to come?  
Yahweh would watch over them to build them up and prosper them.
4. [31:29] What proverb would the people no longer say?  
They would no longer say that the fathers ate sour grapes but it hurt the teeth of the children.
5. [31:29-30] What do you think this meant?  
(Answer may vary.) It probably meant that people would no longer be responsible for the sins of their ancestors. They would be responsible for their own sins.

**Jeremiah 31:27-40 continued**

6. [31:31] What did Yahweh say he would do in the coming days?  
He would make a new covenant with Israel and Judah.
7. [31:31-34] What did Yahweh say he would do in the new covenant?  
He said that he would put his laws inside the people, so that the laws would be part of the people's thinking and feeling. Yahweh said that he would be their God and they would be his people.
8. [31:35-36] What comparison does Yahweh make between the children of Israel and the movements of nature that he put in place—the movements of the sun, moon, stars, and seas?  
Jeremiah described Yahweh as the one who created the sun to shine in the day, and the moon and stars, with the order of how they can be seen at night, as well as the way the ways are in the sea. Yahweh said that if these permanent things that he had set in place stopped, only then could Israel stop being Yahweh's nation.
9. [31:37] How did Yahweh explain how difficult it would be for him to reject Israel for what they had done?  
It would be as difficult as it would be for people to measure all of the heavens or all of the earth.
10. [31:35-37] What do you think Yahweh meant by all of this?  
He probably meant that he has control of the heavens, earth, and Israel, and that he would never let Israel stop being his people.
11. [31:38-40] What did Yahweh say would happen in the coming days?  
He said that the city would be rebuilt for him from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. The measuring line for it would go further, to the hill Gareb and around Goah. The whole valley where dead bodies and ashes were thrown, and all the Kidron Valley to the corner of the Horse Gate, would be set apart for Yahweh. The city would never be overthrown again.

**Comment Section:**



# Lamentations 1:1-5 Mourning over the destruction of Jerusalem

**Background:** The person who wrote this book is unknown. Some people think that Jeremiah the prophet wrote it. This guide refers to the author as “the author” or “the writer.”

In Lamentations, the author wrote about the nation of Judah after an enemy nation destroyed it. Its capital city Jerusalem was also destroyed. Jerusalem was also called “Zion.” The enemy army forced the people of Judah to live in other nations. This was called “the exile.” The author often spoke about the destroyed nation of Judah as if it were a woman who was mourning. The author also spoke this way about its capital city of Jerusalem.

***Read the passage.***

## Part 1

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

- ☐ The city was now all alone, after once being filled with people. (The author spoke of this city as if it was a woman.) [1:1]
- ☐ The city was mourning, and those who were the city’s friends had betrayed the city and become her enemies. [1:2]
- ☐ The people of Judah were removed from their homes and forced to live in other nations. (The author spoke of the people as if they were children of the woman.) [1:3-5]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] What had the city of Jerusalem become like, even though it was once mighty?  
The city had become like a widow.
2. [1:1] What do you think it meant for a city to become like a widow?  
This probably meant that many people in the city had been killed and taken away. When the city was talked about here as if it were a woman, calling the city a widow probably showed that it had suffered great loss and sadness when this happened.
3. [1:2] What did the friends of the city do to her?  
They betrayed her and became her enemies.
4. [1:3-4] Why do you think the author wrote that Judah could not find rest living among the nations?  
The author probably meant that the people of Judah were very sad and felt uncomfortable because they were forced to live away from their home.
5. [1:5] Why did Yahweh afflict the nation of Judah?  
He did this because Judah had disobeyed him many times.

**Lamentations 1:1-5 continued**

6. [1:5] What do you think this meant about Yahweh's attitude towards sin?  
It probably meant that Yahweh hates sin and will punish people for it, even if they are his own people.
7. [1:5] What happened to the children of Judah?  
Judah's enemy took them into captivity.

**Comment Section:**

## Lamentations 3:19-33 The hope of God's grace and mercy

**Background:** The author wrote in earlier passages about the nation of Judah's suffering and loss because of its sin against Yahweh. In this passage, the author began to write about hope and the character of Yahweh.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ The author said that he continually remembered his suffering, and he asked Yahweh to remember it also. [3:19-20]
- ☐ The author was hopeful when he remembered that Yahweh's love and compassions never end. [3:21-24]
- ☐ The author said that Yahweh is good to those who wait for him and seek him, so it is good to do these things. [3:25-26]
- ☐ The author said that a person can still be hopeful even when he is suffering. [3:27-30]
- ☐ The author said that Yahweh does not reject or punish his people forever. Instead, he will have compassion on them. [3:31-33]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:19-20] What did the author remember?  
The author remembered his affliction, wanderings, wormwood, and bitterness.
2. [3:20] What do you think it meant when the author said that his soul was bowed down within him?  
This seems to indicate that the author felt great sadness and perhaps despair.
3. [3:21-22] What made the author hopeful?  
The writer was hopeful when he reminded himself about Yahweh's love and compassions that never end.
4. [3:22-23] What did the writer say is new every morning?  
The writer said that the steadfast love of Yahweh and his compassions are new every morning.
5. [3:23] What did the author say is great?  
He said that Yahweh's faithfulness is great.
6. [3:24] What did the author call Yahweh in verse 24?  
The author called Yahweh his inheritance (also called portion).

**Lamentations 3:19-33 continued**

7. [3:25] Why should a person wait on Yahweh?  
Yahweh is good to those who wait on him and to the person that seeks him.
8. [3:25-26] What do you think it meant to wait silently?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it meant to patiently trust in Yahweh. Perhaps it also meant to wait without complaining or grumbling.
9. [3:27] What did the writer say was good for a man to bear in his youth?  
The writer said it is good for a man to bear his yoke in his youth.
10. [3:27] What do you think it meant for a man to bear his yoke in his youth?  
(Answer may vary.) The yoke might refer to difficult things that a man has to do in his youth that build character and make him stronger. Perhaps this verse meant that it is good for a man to experience difficulties while young, because it shows that Yahweh sustains those who trust in him. The yoke might also refer to suffering. Perhaps the nearby verses indicate that people will later remember their suffering as what Yahweh rescued them from.
11. [3:28] What should a person do when a yoke is laid on him?  
The person should sit alone in silence.
12. [3:29] What does the author say there may be, even if a person's mouth is in the dust?  
There may be hope.
13. [3:30] What did the author say that a man should offer to the person who strikes him?  
A man should offer his cheek to the one who strikes him.
14. [3:30-31] What do you think it means that a man should offer his cheek to the person who struck him?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means that a person should accept affliction and insults in times of suffering, knowing that God will save his people at the right time. It may also imply that a person should not fight back or defend himself when this happens.
15. [3:33] From where did Yahweh not afflict or torment the children of mankind?  
Yahweh did not do these things from his heart.
16. [3:33] What do you think the author meant when he said Yahweh did not do these things from his heart?  
The author probably meant that Yahweh did not enjoy punishing his people, but it was necessary for him to punish them when they sinned.

**Comment Section:**

# Lamentations 5:19-22

## Prayer for the restoration of God's people

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ The writer described Yahweh as the one who reigns forever. [5:19]
- ☐ The writer asked Yahweh why he had abandoned his people. [5:20]
- ☐ The writer asked Yahweh to restore his people to himself, unless his anger was too great, and he had rejected them forever. [5:21-22]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [5:19] What did the writer say about Yahweh's reign and throne?  
The writer said that Yahweh reigns forever and sits on his throne throughout all generations.
2. [5:20] What did the writer ask Yahweh?  
He asked Yahweh whether he was forgetting his people and abandoning them forever.
3. [5:21] What did the writer ask Yahweh to do for the people?  
He asked Yahweh to restore them to himself and to renew their days as they were long ago.
4. [5:21] What do you think this meant?  
(Answer may vary.) This probably meant that the author wanted Yahweh to make the people and their relationship with him like it was in the past.
5. [5:22] What reason did the writer suggest as why Yahweh might not restore and renew them?  
The writer said that Yahweh might not restore and renew them if he had completely rejected them in his anger.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezekiel 1:1-21 Ezekiel's vision and the four living creatures

**Background:** The Book of Ezekiel contains words that Ezekiel prophesied between 592 B.C. and 573 B.C. The Jewish people were exiled in Babylon at this time. God was using Babylon to punish the people for their sins.

This passage talks about "the land of the Chaldeans." Chaldea was a region in Babylonia. The name "Chaldean" came to mean "Babylonian."

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Ezekiel was living as a captive in the land of the Chaldeans when he received a vision from God. [1:1-3]
- ☐ In Ezekiel's vision he saw four living creatures who looked like lightning when they moved. [1:4-14]
- ☐ The four living creatures had four wheels that were able to go in any direction without turning. [1:17-21]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1-3] Where was Ezekiel living when the heavens opened and he saw visions of God?  
Ezekiel was living among the captives in the land of the Chaldeans by the Kebar Canal.
2. [1:2] On what day and year did Ezekiel have the vision described in this passage?  
His vision came on the fifth day of that month. It was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin.
3. [1:3] Whose hand was upon Ezekiel there?  
The hand of Yahweh was upon him.
4. [1:3] What do you think it means that the hand of Yahweh was upon him?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it meant that the vision he received came directly from Yahweh.
5. [1:4] In Ezekiel's vision, what was coming from the north?  
There was a windstorm and a great cloud with lightning flashing in it. Brightness was all around it and inside of it.
6. [1:5] What was in the middle of the great cloud?  
In the middle of the cloud was the likeness of four living creatures, with human forms.
7. [1:6] How many faces and wings did the creatures have?  
They each had four faces and four wings.

**Ezekiel 1:1-21 continued**

8. [1:7] What were their feet like?  
They were like the hooves of a calf. They shone like polished bronze.
9. [1:8] What did they have under their wings?  
They had human hands under their wings.
10. [1:9] How did the four living creatures move?  
The creatures did not turn as they moved. Instead, each one went straight forward.
11. [1:10] What appearances did the living creatures have on their four faces?  
Their four faces had the appearances of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle.
12. [1:11] How were the wings of each creature described?  
Each had two wings spread up and out, touching the wing of another creature. Two wings covered its body.
13. [1:12] What was directing the movement of the four living creatures?  
The Spirit was directing the movement of the four living creatures.
14. [1:13] How was their appearance described in verse 13?  
They were like burning coals or torches. Bright fire moved among them, and lightning flashed out.
15. [1:14] As the four living creatures moved back and forth, what did they look like?  
As they moved, the four living creatures looked like lightning.
16. [1:15-16] What did Ezekiel see beside each living creature?  
He saw a wheel beside each living creature. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel.
17. [1:17] What were the four wheels beside the four living creatures able to do?  
The four wheels were able to go in any direction without turning.
18. [1:18] How did Ezekiel describe the rims of the wheels?  
He said they were high and fearsome, full of eyes all around them.

**Ezekiel 1:1-21 continued**

19. [1:20-21] Why did the wheels go wherever the living creatures went, beside them or rising up with them?  
The wheels followed the living creatures because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

**Comment Section:**



## Ezekiel 2:1-10 God calls Ezekiel to prophesy to the exiles

**Background:** In the last verse of chapter 1, Ezekiel fell on his face when he saw something like the glory of Yahweh. In verse 1 of chapter 2, "he" refers to Yahweh.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh called Ezekiel "son of man." He told Ezekiel to stand up and Yahweh would speak to him. [2:1]
- ☐ The Spirit entered Ezekiel, setting him on his feet. [2:2]
- ☐ The Spirit said he would send Ezekiel to speak to the people of Israel who had rebelled against him. [2:3-4]
- ☐ The Spirit said that the people would know that a prophet had been among them, even if they did not listen. [2:5]
- ☐ The Spirit told Ezekiel not to be afraid of the rebellious people, even if they would not listen. [2:6-7]
- ☐ The Spirit told Ezekiel not to be rebellious like them, but to eat what the Spirit would give him. [2:8]
- ☐ Ezekiel was given a scroll with writing on it. [2:9-10]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] What name did Yahweh call Ezekiel?  
Yahweh called him the son of man.
2. [2:2] What did the Spirit do to Ezekiel?  
The Spirit entered Ezekiel and set him on his feet.
3. [2:3] Where would the Spirit send Ezekiel?  
He would send Ezekiel to the people of Israel.
4. [2:3-4] What kind of people were the descendants of Israel?  
The descendants of Israel were a stubborn and rebellious people.
5. [2:4] What would Ezekiel say to the people of Israel?  
Ezekiel would say to them, "This is what the Lord Yahweh says."
6. [2:5] What would the people of Israel know because Ezekiel would speak to them, even if they did not listen?  
The people of Israel would know that a prophet had been among them.

**Ezekiel 2:1-10 continued**

7. [2:6] What did the Spirit tell Ezekiel not to do as he spoke to the people of Israel?  
The Spirit told Ezekiel not to be afraid of the people. He told Ezekiel not to fear the people's words or their faces.
8. [2:7] What must Ezekiel do, whether the rebellious people listened to him or did not listen to him?  
He must speak Yahweh's words.
9. [2:8] How must Ezekiel be different from the people of Israel?  
Ezekiel must not be rebellious like the people of Israel.
10. [2:8-10] What was handed to Ezekiel, spread out before him, and what did the Spirit tell Ezekiel to do with it?  
A written scroll was handed to Ezekiel, and spread out before him, and the Spirit told him to eat it.
11. [2:10] What was written on the scroll?  
On the scroll were written lamentations, mourning, and woe.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezekiel 3:16-27      God makes Ezekiel the watchman for Israel

**Background:** This passage mentions a watchman. This was a man who stood in a tower and told the people if something dangerous was approaching the city.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh made Ezekiel a watchman for the house of Israel. [3:17]
- ☐ Ezekiel must warn each wicked person who was doing evil. If he did not warn the wicked person, that person would die in his sin, and Ezekiel would have to answer to Yahweh for it. If Ezekiel did warn the wicked person, but the person did not stop doing wickedness, that person would die in his sin, but Ezekiel would not be blamed for it. [3:19-21]
- ☐ Ezekiel went out to the plain, and when he saw the glory of the Lord, he fell on his face. [3:23]
- ☐ The Spirit told Ezekiel to shut himself in his house because the people of Israel intended to tie him up and stop him from being among them. [3:24-25]
- ☐ The Spirit said that he would first make Ezekiel unable to speak and rebuke the rebellious people. [3:26]
- ☐ Then Yahweh would cause Ezekiel to speak Yahweh's message. Some would listen and some would not. [3:27]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:16-17] What did Yahweh say that he had made Ezekiel to be for the house of Israel?  
Yahweh said he had made Ezekiel to be a watchman for the house of Israel.
2. [3:17-19] What do you think it meant that Ezekiel was a watchman for the house of Israel?  
The passage indicates that this meant that Ezekiel must warn the people of Israel about their sin and that Yahweh would punish them. (This made him similar to the kind of watchman who would stand in a tower and tell the people if something dangerous was approaching their city.)
3. [3:18, 20] What did Yahweh say would happen if Ezekiel did not warn a person about his evil deeds?  
The person would die because of their sins, and Yahweh would require his blood from Ezekiel's hand.
4. [3:18, 20] What do you think it meant that Yahweh would require the person's blood from Ezekiel's hand?  
The passage indicates that this meant that Ezekiel would be responsible for the person's death.

**Ezekiel 3:16-27 continued**

5. [3:19, 21] What did Yahweh say would happen if Ezekiel did warn a person about their evil deeds?  
If the person did not stop doing evil deeds, then he would die. If the person did stop doing evil deeds, then he would live. Either way, Ezekiel would rescue himself.
6. [3:23] What did Ezekiel do when he saw the glory of Yahweh in the plain?  
He fell on his face.
7. [3:24] What did the Spirit tell Ezekiel to go and do?  
The Spirit told Ezekiel to go and shut himself up in his house.
8. [3:25] What did the people intend to do to Ezekiel?  
They intended to tie him with ropes so that he could not go out among them.
9. [3:26] Why would Ezekiel not be able to rebuke the house of Israel at this time?  
The Spirit would make Ezekiel unable to speak, because the people were rebellious.
10. [3:27] What did the Spirit say Ezekiel would be able to do when the Spirit spoke to him?  
The Spirit said Ezekiel would be able to open his mouth and say, "This is what the Lord Yahweh says," when the Spirit spoke to him.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezekiel 8:1-18 Ezekiel's vision of the evil in Jerusalem

**Background:** In the previous year, Ezekiel had obeyed God and told the people about many punishments God would send because they sinned against him.

This passage mentions Tammuz in 8:14. Tammuz was an idol.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ When the hand of God fell on him, Ezekiel saw a fiery likeness with the appearance of a man. [8:1-2]
- ☐ The Spirit lifted Ezekiel in the vision and took him to the temple in Jerusalem, where he saw the glory of the God of Israel. [8:2-4]
- ☐ The Spirit showed Ezekiel an idol in Jerusalem's gate that provoked jealousy. [8:5]
- ☐ The Spirit told Ezekiel that he was being driven away from his own sanctuary because of the great evil in the house of Israel. [8:6]
- ☐ When Ezekiel obeyed the Spirit and dug through the temple wall, then opened a door, he found images of detestable animals and all the idols of Israel. [8:7-10]
- ☐ Seventy elders of the house of Israel were making offerings to the detestable idols. They said that Yahweh did not see them and had forsaken the land. [8:11-13]
- ☐ Ezekiel saw women mourning for the idol Tammuz at the gate of Yahweh's house. [8:14-15]
- ☐ Ezekiel saw men worshiping the sun in the inner courtyard of the house of Yahweh. [8:16]
- ☐ The Spirit told Ezekiel that he would act and not spare or pity the people of Jerusalem, even if they cried with a loud voice. [8:17-18]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [8:1] Where was Ezekiel when the hand of the Lord Yahweh fell upon him?  
Ezekiel was sitting in his house with the elders of Judah sitting before him.
2. [8:2] What did Ezekiel see when the hand of Yahweh came upon him?  
Ezekiel saw a fiery, shining likeness of a man.
3. [8:3, 5] What did the Spirit do?  
The Spirit lifted Ezekiel by his hair and took him up between earth and heaven. The Spirit took him in visions to the inner northern gate in Jerusalem, where the idol that provoked jealousy was standing.

**Ezekiel 8:1-18 continued**

4. [8:4] What else did Ezekiel see at the entrance of the inner northern gate?  
Ezekiel saw the glory of the God of Israel, which he had seen in his vision on the plain.
5. [8:6] What did the Spirit say was happening because of the great abominations (wickedness) that the house of Israel was doing?  
The Spirit said that these great abominations were making him go far away from his own sanctuary.
6. [8:7-8] What did the Spirit tell Ezekiel, the son of man, to do, when he brought Ezekiel to the doorway of the courtyard and showed him a hole in the wall?  
The Spirit told Ezekiel to dig into the wall.
7. [8:9] What did the Spirit tell Ezekiel to do, after Ezekiel dug into the wall and saw a door?  
The Spirit told Ezekiel to go and see the wicked abominations that the people were doing there.
8. [8:10] What did Ezekiel see after he opened the door?  
Ezekiel saw images on the wall of detestable animals. He saw all the idols of Israel.
9. [8:11] What did Ezekiel see next?  
He saw seventy elders of the house of Israel there with censers in their hands, offering incense to the idols.
10. [8:12] What did the elders say about Yahweh as they worshiped their idols?  
The elders said that Yahweh did not see them. They said that Yahweh had abandoned the land.
11. [8:14] What did Ezekiel see the women doing at the gate on the north side of Yahweh's house?  
The women were sitting there mourning for the idol Tammuz.
12. [8:6, 13, 15] What did the Spirit say to Ezekiel in verses 6, 13, and 15, each time he showed Ezekiel a terrible thing that the people were doing?  
The Spirit said each time that Ezekiel would see greater abominations.
13. [8:16] What did Ezekiel see in the inner courtyard of Yahweh's house?  
There were twenty-five men with their faces to the east, worshiping the sun.
14. [8:17] What did the Spirit say that the house of Judah was doing with their abominations?  
They had filled the land with violence and provoked Yahweh to anger.

**Ezekiel 8:1-18 continued**

15. [8:18] What did the Spirit say that he was going to do because of the abominations of the house of Judah?  
The Spirit said that he would act. He would not have compassion. He would not spare them. Even if they cried with a loud voice, he would not hear them.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezekiel 10:15-22 Vision of Yahweh's glory departing from the temple

**Background:** In the passages before this one, Ezekiel continued seeing the vision that Yahweh was showing him at the sanctuary. In Chapter 1 of this book, when he was by the Kebar Canal, Ezekiel had first seen the throne of God surrounded by wheels and living creatures.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Ezekiel saw cherubim, which were the same living creatures as the ones he had seen at the Kebar Canal, and they rose up with their wheels. [10:15-17]
- ☐ The glory of Yahweh left the threshold of the house of Yahweh and settled above the living creatures. [10:18]
- ☐ The living creatures rose up and moved to the east gate, and the glory of Yahweh stayed above them as they moved. [10:19]
- ☐ Ezekiel recognized that these living creatures were the same ones as those he had seen in his vision by the Kebar Canal. He knew that the living creatures were cherubim. [10:20]
- ☐ Ezekiel described the appearance of the cherubim. [10:21-22]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [10:15] What did Ezekiel say about the cherubim?  
These were the living creatures that Ezekiel saw at the Kebar Canal. They rose up.
2. [10:16-17] What did the wheels do as the cherubim moved and rose up?  
The wheels would go beside the cherubim when the cherubim moved. When the cherubim rose up, the wheels rose up.
3. [10:17] Why would the wheels move with the cherubim and rise up with the cherubim?  
This happened because the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
4. [10:18] From what place did the glory of Yahweh leave?  
The glory of Yahweh went out from the threshold of Yahweh's house.
5. [10:18] To what place did the glory of Yahweh move when it left the temple?  
It stood instead over the cherubim.



**Ezekiel 10:15-22 continued**

## 6. [10:19] What happened next?

The cherubim rose up from the earth with their wheels and stood above the eastern gate of Yahweh's house. The glory of Yahweh was above them.

## 7. [10:20-22] How did Ezekiel describe the cherubim?

Ezekiel said again that these were the living creatures that he had seen at the Kebar Canal, and he knew that they were cherubim. The cherubim each had four faces and four wings, with the likeness of human hands under their wings. The faces were the same ones that Ezekiel had seen before. Each of them went straight ahead.

**Comment Section:**

## Ezekiel 37:1-14      Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones

**Background:** In earlier passages, Ezekiel had told the people of Israel that Yahweh had punished them because they sinned against him. He told about even worse punishments that were coming to Jerusalem for the people's many terrible sins. But Ezekiel also assured them that Yahweh would restore them. In Ezekiel Chapter 33, a person who had escaped from Jerusalem reported that the city had been captured by its enemies. All the people's hopes seemed to be dead because they were still captives in Babylon and their homeland had been destroyed.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Ezekiel was taken by the Spirit of Yahweh to a valley full of dry bones. [37:1-2]
- ☐ The Spirit asked Ezekiel if these bones could live again. Ezekiel said that only Yahweh knew. [37:3]
- ☐ The Spirit told Ezekiel to prophesy over the bones. [37:4-7]
- ☐ Ezekiel prophesied over the dry bones as he was told to do, and the bones came together. Flesh and skin covered them, but they still did not live. [37:7-8]
- ☐ The Spirit told Ezekiel to prophesy again. [37:9]
- ☐ When Ezekiel prophesied again, breath came into them, and they came to life. [37:10]
- ☐ Yahweh said that just like with the dry bones, he would breathe life into Israel, and he would bring them back to their own land. [37:11-14]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [37:1] Where did the Spirit of Yahweh set Ezekiel down, and what was there?  
The Spirit of Yahweh set Ezekiel down in a valley full of bones.
2. [37:2] What did Ezekiel see when Yahweh made him walk around in the valley of the bones?  
There were a great many bones, and they were very dry.
3. [37:3] What question did Yahweh ask Ezekiel?  
Yahweh asked Ezekiel if the dry bones could live again.
4. [37:3] How did Ezekiel answer?  
Ezekiel said that Yahweh alone knew.
5. [37:4] What did Yahweh tell Ezekiel to do?  
Yahweh told Ezekiel to prophesy and tell the dry bones to hear the word of Yahweh.

**Ezekiel 37:1-14 continued**

6. [37:5-6] What was Ezekiel told to say to the dry bones?  
Ezekiel was instructed to tell the dry bones that Yahweh would cause them to have flesh on them, to be covered with skin, to have breath in them again, and to come to life. Then they would know that he was Yahweh.
7. [37:7] What happened first when Ezekiel prophesied to the bones?  
When Ezekiel prophesied to them, there was a rattling noise as the dry bones came together.
8. [37:8] What happened next?  
Ezekiel saw sinews and flesh over the bones, and skin that covered them. But there was no breath in them.
9. [37:9] What did Yahweh tell Ezekiel to prophesy next?  
He told Ezekiel to prophesy to the breath and tell it to come from the four winds and breathe on those killed, so that they would live.
10. [37:9-10] What happened to the bones when Ezekiel prophesied the second time?  
When Ezekiel prophesied the second time, the breath came into them, and they lived. They stood, a huge army.
11. [37:11] According to Yahweh, who did the valley of dry bones represent?  
The valley of dry bones represented the entire house of Israel.
12. [37:11] What had the house of Israel said?  
They had said that their bones were dried up. They had said that their hope was gone. They had said that they were cut off.
13. [37:12-13] What did Yahweh say he would do for Israel?  
Yahweh said that he would lift the people of Israel out from their graves and bring them back to the land of Israel.
14. [37:14] What was Yahweh's declaration?  
When Yahweh placed his Spirit within the people of Israel, they would live and have rest in their land. They would know that it was Yahweh who did this.

**Comment Section:**

## Daniel 1:1-21 Daniel's faithfulness after being taken to Babylon

**Background:** The first part of the Book of Daniel (chapters 1–6) took place at the time of King Jehoiakim of Judah and King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It happened when the people of Judah, including young men from Jerusalem, were first taken to Babylon as prisoners. The Babylonians are sometimes called Chaldeans in this passage.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ God allowed the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, to capture Jerusalem and to take some treasures from the house of God. Nebuchadnezzar put the treasures in his own false god's treasury. [1:1-2]
- ☐ The king told his official to find attractive young men of Judah who had knowledge and wisdom and were qualified to serve in the king's palace. He told the official to teach these men the language and literature of the Chaldeans. [1:3-4]
- ☐ These men would be given the same food and drink as the king had, while they were educated for three years, and then they would serve the king. [1:5]
- ☐ Among these young men were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, but the chief official gave them different names. [1:6-7]
- ☐ Daniel decided not to pollute himself with the king's food and wine, and asked permission for this. [1:8]
- ☐ God gave Daniel favor with the king's chief official. But the official was afraid that those who didn't eat and drink that way would be in worse condition than the other young men, and then he would be punished by the king. [1:9-10]
- ☐ Daniel asked the steward to let him and his three friends eat only vegetables and drink only water for ten days as a test, and then to treat them according to what he saw. [1:11-13]
- ☐ After the ten-day trial period of eating only vegetables and drinking water, Daniel and his three friends appeared healthier and better nourished than the other young men in the king's service, so the steward let them continue with this eating practice. [1:14-16]
- ☐ God gave Daniel and his three friends wisdom and skill. Daniel also understood visions and dreams. [1:17]
- ☐ When they were taken to the king, he found these four young men to be unlike any others. They served him. [1:18-19]
- ☐ They were ten times wiser than the kingdom's magicians. Daniel served there until another king reigned. [1:20-21]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] When did Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, come to Jerusalem to surround the city and cut off its supplies?  
Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem and did this in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah.
2. [1:2] Who gave Nebuchadnezzar victory over Jehoiakim king of Judah?  
The Lord gave Nebuchadnezzar victory over Jehoiakim.

**Daniel 1:1-21 continued**

3. [1:2] What did Nebuchadnezzar do with objects from the temple of God, because the Lord allowed it?  
Nebuchadnezzar carried off these objects to Babylon and put them in the treasure house of his false god.
4. [1:3] What did the king tell his chief officer Ashpenaz to do?  
The king told Ashpenaz to bring in some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility.
5. [1:4] What kind of young men did the king want to be brought into Babylon?  
The king wanted young men without blemish who were attractive, those who had wisdom and understanding, and those who would be qualified to serve in the king's palace.
6. [1:5] What did the king command the official to teach to these young men?  
He commanded the official to teach them the language and literature of the Chaldeans.
7. [1:5] What did he command for these young men to eat and drink?  
They must be given a daily part of the food that the king ate and some of the wine that the king drank.
8. [1:5] How long must they be educated before they served the king?  
They must be educated for three years.
9. [1:6] What were the names of some of these young men from Judah?  
Their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah.
10. [1:7] What names were they given by the chief official?  
Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach, Mishaël was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego.
11. [1:8] What did Daniel decide, and what did he do about it?  
Daniel decided that he would not defile himself with the king's food and wine. He asked permission for this from the chief official.
12. [1:8] Why do you think that eating the king's food and drinking the king's wine would defile or pollute Daniel?  
Perhaps this food and drink had been sacrificed first to idols, which would make them unfit to be consumed by God's people. The king's delicacies probably also included foods that were prohibited by Jewish law, items that God had said would defile any Israelite who ate them.

**Daniel 1:1-21 continued**

13. [1:9] What was the attitude of the chief official toward Daniel?  
God gave the chief official favor and compassion toward Daniel.
14. [1:10] What did the chief official say that he feared?  
The chief official feared the king, who had commanded these foods to be given to the young men. The official feared that what Daniel ate instead of the provided food would cause him to look worse than the other men his age. He feared punishment by the king if this happened.
15. [1:11-13] What did Daniel want the chief official's steward to do for ten days?  
Daniel wanted the steward to test him and his three friends for ten days by giving them only vegetables and water and then comparing them to the others afterwards. He asked the steward to treat them based on what he saw.
16. [1:14-15] After ten days, how did Daniel and his three friends appear?  
At the end of ten days, they appeared healthier and better nourished than all the young men who ate the king's food.
17. [1:16] What did the steward do as a result?  
He kept giving them only vegetables instead of the delicacies and wine.
18. [1:17] What kind of knowledge and insight did God give to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah?  
God gave them knowledge and understanding of all literature and wisdom. Daniel also could understand visions and dreams.
19. [1:19-20] When the king questioned Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, how did they compare to others?  
The king found them to be unlike all the others, so they began to serve the king. He found that they understood ten times more than all the magicians and those who claimed to speak with the dead.
20. [1:21] How long did Daniel serve in the king's palace?  
Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**Comment Section:**

## Daniel 3:16-30 Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace

**Background:** King Nebuchadnezzar had an enormous gold statue erected on the Plain of Dura, and he ordered many government officials to come to the dedication of the statue. He commanded for them all to fall down and to worship the idol when they heard musical instruments played. The king said that anyone who did not obey right away would be thrown into a burning furnace. Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were some of the officials there, but they would not worship the idol. The king was very angry with them and asked them what god could rescue them out of his hands.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king that God was able to keep them safe and to rescue them. [3:16-17]
- ☐ They told the king that they refused to serve his gods or to worship the golden statue the king had set up. [3:18]
- ☐ The king was so angry that he commanded for the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. [3:19]
- ☐ Then the king commanded strong men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace. [3:19-21, 23]
- ☐ The furnace was so hot that its flames killed the strong men who threw them into the furnace. [3:22]
- ☐ The king was amazed to see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walking around in the middle of the fire unharmed, along with a fourth man who looked like a son of the gods. [3:24-25]
- ☐ The king called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to come out of the furnace, and they did. [3:26]
- ☐ All the officials could see that these three men and their clothes were unharmed. [3:27]
- ☐ King Nebuchadnezzar praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the God who sent his messenger to rescue these three men who had trusted in him and refused to worship or serve other gods. [3:28]
- ☐ The king made a decree that anyone who spoke against the God of these men would be torn apart and their homes would be destroyed. [3:29]
- ☐ The king also caused these men to prosper. [3:30]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:16] How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answer the king's question about what god could rescue them? They said that they did not need to answer the king about this.
2. [3:16-17] What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say that God could do if the king threw them in the furnace? They told King Nebuchadnezzar that the God that they served could save them from the furnace of fire. They said that he could rescue them from the king's hand.

**Daniel 3:16-30 continued**

3. [3:18] What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tell the king that they would not do, even if God did not save them from the king's fire?  
They told the king that they would not serve his gods or bow down to his statue.
4. [3:19] How did the king react to what they said?  
He was filled with rage. His face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He commanded for the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than it usually was.
5. [3:20-23] What did the king command strong men to do?  
He commanded them to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace. The three men were tied up while still wearing all their clothing, and the strong men threw them into the fire.
6. [3:20-23] What happened to the strong men who were commanded to throw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the very hot furnace of fire?  
The fire was so hot that it killed the strong men who took Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the furnace.
7. [3:24] What did the king ask his officials, and what did they answer?  
He asked them whether they had thrown three men, tied up, into the fire. They answered that this was certain.
8. [3:25] What did the king see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do once they were inside the furnace of fire?  
The king saw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walking around in the fire, along with a fourth man. The king said that the fourth man looked like a son of the gods.
9. [3:25] Who do you think the fourth man was?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps the fourth man was an angel. Perhaps he was a messenger who had been sent to save the three men. Perhaps he was Jesus, the Son of the true God.
10. [3:26] What happened next?  
The king called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego servants of the Most High God, and he asked them to come out of the furnace. They did.
11. [3:27] What did the officials who gathered around Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego notice about them after they came out?  
They were not hurt. Their hair was not singed. Their clothes were not harmed. They had no smell of fire on them.



**Daniel 3:16-30 continued**

12. [3:28] What did King Nebuchadnezzar say about the God who saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the furnace of fire?

The king said to praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his messenger to save the ones who trusted him and refused to worship other gods.

13. [3:29] According to the king's decree, what would happen to anyone from any people, nation, or language who spoke against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

They must be torn apart, and their houses must be made into rubbish heaps.

14. [3:30] What did the king do with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego after they were saved from the furnace of fire?

The king caused Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

**Comment Section:**

## Daniel 7:9-14     The Ancient of Days and one like a son of man

**Background:** In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylonia, Daniel had a dream and visions that terrified him. He wrote down what he saw. Part of the vision included four different beasts. The most terrifying beast had ten horns. A new horn grew out among the others, and this horn had eyes like a man and a mouth that spoke with boastful words.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ In Daniel's dream and vision, he saw the Ancient of Days seated on his throne amongst fire and millions of servants. Books were opened and court was in session. [7:9-10]
- ☐ Daniel watched while the animal with the boastful horn was destroyed. The other animals lost their authority to rule, but they were allowed to live for a while longer. [7:11-12]
- ☐ In his visions, Daniel saw someone like a son of man come to the Ancient of Days. [7:13]
- ☐ The son of man was given everlasting authority to rule over the nations so that everyone should serve him. [7:14]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:9] As Daniel looked, who sat on one of the thrones that were set in place?  
The Ancient of Days took his seat.
2. [7:9] What color was the clothing of the Ancient of Days?  
It was as white as snow.
3. [7:9] What was the hair on his head like?  
The hair on his head was like pure wool.
4. [7:9-10] What fiery things were described in the place where the Ancient of Days was?  
His throne had flames of fire. The wheels of the throne were burning fire. A river of fire flowed out before him.
5. [7:10] How many served and stood before the Ancient of Days?  
Millions served him. One hundred million were standing before him.
6. [7:10] What was in session, and what was opened during that session?  
The court was in session, and the books were opened.

**Daniel 7:9-14 continued**

7. [7:11] What happened to the animal with the horn that spoke boastful words?  
It was killed. Its body was destroyed, and it was given over to be burned up.
8. [7:12] What happened to the other three animals that Daniel saw in his visions?  
Their authority to rule was taken away, but they were allowed to stay alive for a time.
9. [7:13] When Daniel saw one like the son of man come to the Ancient of Days, how did he come?  
He came with the clouds of heaven.
10. [7:14] What things were given to the son of man?  
He was given everlasting authority to rule, glory, and royal power.
11. [7:14] Why were these things given to him?  
They were given to him so that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.
12. [7:14] How long will the authority and kingdom of the one like a son of man last?  
His everlasting authority will not pass away. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

**Comment Section:**

## Daniel 12:1-13 Daniel's vision of the time of the end

**Background:** An angel came to Daniel and told him what would happen in the future.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Daniel learned about a time of great trouble that would come. At that time, anyone whose name is found in the book will be saved. [12:1]
- ☐ Many people will rise up from sleeping in the earth's dust, some to everlasting life and some to everlasting shame. [12:2]
- ☐ Those who are wise will shine brightly. Those who turn many to righteousness will be like the stars forever. [12:3]
- ☐ Daniel was told to close and seal his book until the time of the end. [12:4]
- ☐ Daniel saw two more individuals standing on each side of the river. [12:5]
- ☐ One was asked how long it would be until the end of these events, and that one answered. [12:6-7]
- ☐ Daniel did not understand the answer and asked about the outcome of these events. [12:8]
- ☐ Daniel was told that the words were sealed until the time of the end. [12:9]
- ☐ Daniel was told about those who would be purified and about those who would act wickedly. [12:10]
- ☐ Daniel was told how the number of days there would be between events of the future. [12:11]
- ☐ Daniel was told that he would rest and then rise at the end of days. [12:12]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [12:1] Who is the great prince who guarded Daniel's people?  
Michael guarded his people.
2. [12:1] How bad or difficult was the time of trouble that would come?  
There had never been any time like it since the beginning of any nation until that time.
3. [12:1] What would happen to those whose names were found written in the book?  
Those people would be saved.
4. [12:2] What would happen to many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth?  
Some would awake and rise up to everlasting life, but some would rise to shame and everlasting contempt.

**Daniel 12:1-13 continued**

5. [12:2] Who do you think are the ones who sleep in the dust of the earth?  
The passage indicates that these are people who died and were buried.
6. [12:3] What was said about the people who were wise?  
They would shine with the brightness of the heavens.
7. [12:3] To what were those people who turned many other people to righteousness compared?  
They were like stars forever and ever.
8. [12:4] What was Daniel told to do with his book?  
He was told to close it up and seal it until the time of the end.
9. [12:4] What would happen with knowledge?  
Knowledge would increase.
10. [12:5] When Daniel saw two more individuals, where were they?  
One was on each bank of the river.
11. [12:6-7] What did one of these individuals ask the other one, who was clothed in linen?  
One of them asked the other one how long it would be until the end of these amazing events.
12. [12:7] How long did the man who was upstream and clothed in linen swear that the time would be?  
He swore that it would be for a time, times, and half a time.
13. [12:7] When would all these things be completed?  
When they finished shattering the power of the holy people, these things would be completed.
14. [12:8] Did Daniel understand what the two men were saying about the outcome of these events?  
Daniel heard what they said, but did not understand, so he asked them about it.
15. [12:9] Instead of answering Daniel's question, what was Daniel told?  
Daniel was told to go his way because the words were shut up and sealed until the time of the end.
16. [12:10] What would happen to the wicked people while many others would be purified, cleansed, and refined?  
Wicked people would act wickedly and would not understand.

**Daniel 12:1-13 continued**

17. [12:11] How much time would there be from the time when an end was put to the regular burnt offering until the time when the abomination that causes desolation was set up?  
1,290 days.
18. [12:12] What was said about the one who waits until the end of the 1,335 days?  
That person was blessed.
19. [12:13] What was Daniel told would become of him, after he had gone his way as he was told to do?  
He would rest. Then he would rise in a place assigned to him at the end of days.
20. [12:13] What do you think it meant for Daniel to rest in this passage?  
The passage seems to indicate that this meant that Daniel would die.

**Comment Section:**

## Hosea 1:1-11 Hosea's unfaithful wife

**Background:** The prophet Hosea lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. He often called this kingdom Ephraim or Samaria. In Hosea's time, the kingdom of Israel was prosperous, but they were unfaithful to God.

This passage mentions the house of Jehu and the town of Jezreel. Jehu was a king of Israel. He went to Jezreel and killed the previous king and members of his family.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ The word of Yahweh came to Hosea. [1:1]
- ☐ Yahweh told Hosea to take for himself a wife who was a prostitute because Israel was acting like a prostitute by abandoning Yahweh. [1:2]
- ☐ Hosea married Gomer, and she gave birth to a son. [1:3]
- ☐ Hosea called this son Jezreel because in a little while Yahweh would punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed at Jezreel. [1:4-5]
- ☐ Gomer gave birth to a daughter, and Yahweh gave her a name that meant that he would no longer have mercy on Israel. [1:6]
- ☐ But Yahweh said that he would still show mercy to Judah. [1:7]
- ☐ Gomer gave birth to another son, and Yahweh gave him a name that meant that the Israelites were not his people. [1:8-9]
- ☐ But Yahweh promised a good future for Israel and Judah. [1:10-11]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:2] What kind of wife did Yahweh tell Hosea to take for himself, and what would she do?  
Yahweh told him to take for himself a wife who was a prostitute, and she would have children as a result of her prostitution.
2. [1:2] Why did Yahweh tell Hosea to do this?  
Yahweh said to do this because the land of Israel was committing great prostitution by abandoning Yahweh.
3. [1:3] What happened in verse 3?  
Hosea married Gomer the daughter of Diblaim and had a son with her.

**Hosea 1:1-11 continued**

4. [1:2-3] Why do you think it might have been hard for Hosea to obey the Lord?  
(*Answer may vary.*) It may have been difficult because other people would not understand why Hosea chose to marry a prostitute.
5. [1:4] Why did Yahweh tell Hosea to name his first son Jezreel?  
Yahweh told him to do this because soon Yahweh would punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed at Jezreel. Yahweh also said that he would put an end to the kingdom of Israel.
6. [1:5] When would the end of Israel come?  
Yahweh said it would be on the day that he broke the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.
7. [1:6] Why did Yahweh tell Hosea to name his first daughter Lo-Ruhamah? (The name Lo-Ruhamah means “not pitied.”)  
Yahweh said to name her this because he would no longer have mercy on the house of Israel.
8. [1:7] On whom would Yahweh have mercy?  
Yahweh would have mercy on the house of Judah.
9. [1:7] How did Yahweh say he would save the house of Judah?  
He said he would save them by himself, and not by bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen.
10. [1:9] Why did Yahweh tell Hosea to name his second son Lo Ammi? (The name Lo Ammi means “not my people.”)  
Yahweh told him to name his son this because the Israelites were no longer the people of Yahweh, and Yahweh was not their God.
11. [1:10] What would the number of the people of Israel be like?  
Their number would be like the sand of the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted.
12. [1:10] What would be said to those who were told in this place that they were not Yahweh’s people?  
They would be told that they were people of the living God.
13. [1:11] What would the people of Judah and Israel do?  
They would gather and appoint one leader for themselves. They would go up from the land.

**Comment Section:**



## Hosea 3:1-5      Hosea buys his wife back

**Background:** Yahweh spoke through Hosea to the people of Israel and told them that he would punish them for being an adulterous people. Like the people of Israel had done to Yahweh, Hosea's wife Gomer had gone away from him and committed adultery. This may have meant that she went back to her life as a prostitute.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Hosea to love his wife as Yahweh has loved the people of Israel. [3:1]
- ☐ Hosea bought his wife back. He told her that she must not be a prostitute or belong to another man. He said that they would stay with each other. [3:2-3]
- ☐ The people of Israel would also live for many days without a king or idols. Then they would return and seek Yahweh. [3:4-5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:1] In what way did Yahweh tell Hosea to love his wife?  
He said Hosea must love her as Yahweh loved the people of Israel.
2. [3:2] What did Hosea have to do to get his wife back?  
He bought her back for 15 pieces of silver, and for a quantity of barley.
3. [3:3] What did Hosea tell his wife?  
Hosea said that she must stay with him for many days. He told her not to be a prostitute and not to belong to another man. Hosea said that he would stay with her in the same way.
4. [3:4-5] After the people of Israel lived for many days without a king and without idols, what would they do?  
They would return and seek Yahweh their God and David their king.
5. [3:5] How will the people of Israel approach Yahweh in the last days?  
They will come trembling before Yahweh and his goodness.

**Comment Section:**

## Hosea 11:1-11 Yahweh's love for Israel

**Background:** Long before Hosea's time, Yahweh had freed the people of Israel from their slavery in Egypt. At that time, Yahweh had made a covenant with them. He promised to be their God and commanded them not to have any other gods. The people of Israel promised to obey Yahweh.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh loved Israel and called him out of Egypt. [11:1]
- ☐ The more Israel was called, the more Israel went away from Yahweh and worshiped idols. [11:2]
- ☐ This happened even though Yahweh taught them, healed them, led them, and fed them. [11:3-4]
- ☐ Assyria would rule over Israel, and their cities would be destroyed. [11:5-6]
- ☐ Yahweh's people were determined to turn away from him. Though they called to the Most High, they would not be helped. [11:7]
- ☐ Yahweh would have compassion on his people and return them to their homes. [11:8-11]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [11:1] From where did Yahweh call Israel when Israel was young?  
Yahweh called Israel out of Egypt.
2. [11:2] What did Israel do as Yahweh continued to call?  
The more Yahweh called Israel, the more Israel went away from him and sacrificed to idols.
3. [11:3] When Yahweh taught Ephraim to walk and lifted them by their arms, how did Ephraim respond?  
They did not know that Yahweh healed them.
4. [11:4] What other ways did Yahweh treat them?  
He led them with love. He bent down to feed them.
5. [11:5-6] What would happen to the people since they refused to return to Yahweh?  
They would return to Egypt, and Assyria would rule over them. Their cities would be destroyed.
6. [11:7] What were Yahweh's people determined to do?  
They were determined to turn away from him.

**Hosea 11:1-11 continued**

7. [11:7] What would happen to them even though they called out to the Most High?  
No one would help them.
8. [11:7] Who do you think is the Most High?  
The passage indicates that Yahweh is the Most High, because all of the passage is about how Yahweh and his people relate to each other.
9. [11:8-9] Why did Yahweh say he would not destroy Ephraim again?  
Yahweh's heart had changed, and he had compassion for them. He is God, not a man, and he would not come to them in wrath.
10. [11:10-11] How would the people come to Yahweh after he roared like a lion?  
The people would come trembling like birds from Egypt and from Assyria.
11. [11:11] Where would Yahweh cause them to live?  
He would cause them to live in their homes.

**Comment Section:**

## Hosea 14:1-9 Israel's future healing and blessing

**Background:** Hosea continued to describe how Yahweh would punish Israel.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Hosea told Israel to return to Yahweh. [14:1]
- ☐ Hosea told Israel to ask Yahweh to forgive them, and to reject Assyria and false gods. [14:2-3]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would heal them and love them freely. [14:4-6]
- ☐ When Israel returned to Yahweh, they would thrive like plants, and their fame would be like the wine of Lebanon. [14:6-7]
- ☐ Yahweh said that their fruitfulness came from him. [14:8]
- ☐ The righteous walk in the ways of Yahweh, but the rebellious stumble. [14:9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [14:1] Why did Israel stumble?  
Israel stumbled because of their sin.
2. [14:2] What did Hosea say that Israel should do?  
They should return to Yahweh. They should ask Yahweh to take away their sin. Then they should worship him, speaking out loud about his goodness.
3. [14:2] What do you think it meant to offer the fruit of their lips?  
It probably meant to speak praises to Yahweh.
4. [14:3] What else did Hosea say that Israel should say to Yahweh?  
They should say that Assyria would not save them. They should tell Yahweh that they would no longer call the things that they had made their "gods." They should say that the orphan finds mercy in Yahweh.
5. [14:4] What would Yahweh do when he was no longer angry with them?  
Yahweh would heal their unfaithfulness and love them freely.

**Hosea 14:1-9 continued**

6. [14:4-6] What would Israel be like when Yahweh healed them?  
Israel would be like a lily that blossomed, like a cedar tree that took root, and like a beautiful olive tree whose fragrance was like the cedars of Lebanon.
7. [14:7] What good things would happen to the people when they returned to Yahweh?  
They would flourish like grain. They would blossom like vines. Their fame would be like the wine of Lebanon.
8. [14:8] Where did Ephraim's fruitfulness come from?  
It came from Yahweh.
9. [14:9] Who will walk in the ways of Yahweh?  
The righteous will walk in them.
10. [14:9] Who will stumble in them?  
The rebellious will stumble.

**Comment Section:**

## Joel 1:1-12      The invasion of locusts

**Background:** Joel wrote this book to the people of Judah. This passage mentions wine, which was made from the juice of grapes grown in the land of Judah.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ The word of Yahweh came to Joel. [1:1]
- ☐ Joel asked the elders and all the people of the land if anything like this had happened before. [1:2]
- ☐ Joel told them to tell their children about it. He said that the next generations must tell their own children about it. [1:3]
- ☐ Anything left in the land had been eaten by locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. [1:4]
- ☐ Joel called all who drank wine to weep because the sweet wine was gone. [1:5]
- ☐ A mighty and large nation had come upon the land, and it had teeth like a lion. [1:6]
- ☐ The vines and fig trees were ruined and bare. [1:7]
- ☐ Joel told the people and elders to mourn like a virgin whose young bridegroom was dead, because the grain offering and drink offering had been cut off from the house of Yahweh. [1:8-9]
- ☐ Grain was destroyed, new wine was dried up, and oil had failed. [1:10]
- ☐ Joel told farmers and vine growers to wail and to be ashamed because all of their crop was gone. [1:11]
- ☐ The vines and trees were all withered, and joy had withered away. [1:12]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] Whose word came to Joel?  
The word of Yahweh came to Joel.
2. [1:2] What did Joel ask the elders and the other inhabitants of the land?  
He asked them if anything like this had happened before.
3. [1:3] What were the elders and inhabitants told to tell their children about?  
They were told to tell their children about what happened in their days.
4. [1:4] What did the locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars eat?  
The locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars each ate anything that the previous insects left behind.

**Joel 1:1-12 continued**

5. [1:5] Why would the drinkers of wine weep and wail?  
They would weep and wail because they no longer had sweet wine.
6. [1:5] Why do you think the sweet wine was cut off from them?  
It was probably because the insects had eaten all of the grapes that could be made into wine.
7. [1:6] Describe the nation that came upon the land.  
It was powerful and it had many individuals. It was described as having fierce teeth like those of a lion and a lioness.
8. [1:6] What do you think this nation was?  
This seems to be another way that Joel described the swarms of insects that destroyed the crops by eating them.
9. [1:7] What did the nation do to the vineyard and the fig tree?  
It made the vineyard into a desolate place, and it stripped the fig tree bare.
10. [1:8] How should the elders and those who lived in the land mourn?  
They should mourn in the way that a virgin whose young bridegroom had died would mourn.
11. [1:9] What was cut off from the house of Yahweh?  
The grain offering and the drink offering were cut off.
12. [1:10] What are three products that were ruined when the fields were ruined?  
The grain, new wine, and oil.
13. [1:11] What people did Joel tell to be ashamed, and what people did he tell to wail?  
He told the farmers to be ashamed. He told the vine growers to wail.
14. [1:12] Why do you think that joy withered away from the descendants of mankind?  
Their joy probably withered because their crops, vines, and trees were ruined.

**Comment Section:**

## Joel 2:28-32      God will pour out his Spirit on his people

**Background:** In Joel 2:20-27, Yahweh said that he would send the attackers far away from Judah, send rain, and restore the crops that the locusts had eaten. He also said that he would never again bring shame on his people. Yahweh continues talking to Joel in this passage.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Joel that he would pour out his Spirit on all flesh. Their sons and daughters would prophecy. Old men and young men would have dreams and visions. [2:28]
- ☐ Yahweh would also pour out his Spirit on both male and female servants. [2:29]
- ☐ Yahweh would show wonders in heaven and on earth. [2:30]
- ☐ The sun would become dark and the moon would turn to blood. Then the terrible day of Yahweh would come. [2:31]
- ☐ Everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved. [2:32]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:28] What did Yahweh say would happen when he poured out his Spirit on all flesh?  
Their sons and daughters would prophesy. Their old men would dream dreams. Their young men would see visions.
2. [2:29] What do you think it meant that Yahweh would pour out his Spirit on servants and female servants in those days?  
It probably meant that He would pour out his Spirit on all kinds of people, regardless of their position in life.
3. [2:30] What did Yahweh say he would show in the heavens and on the earth?  
He said he would show wonders in the heavens and on the earth with blood, fire, and pillars of smoke.
4. [2:31] What did he say would happen to the sun and the moon before the great and terrible day of Yahweh?  
The sun would turn into darkness and the moon would turn into blood.
5. [2:32] What people did he say would be saved at that time?  
Everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh would be saved.



**Joel 2:28-32 continued**

6. [2:32] Where did he say the remnant would be?  
They would be on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.

**Comment Section:**

## Joel 3:14-21      The glorious future for Judah

**Background:** In Joel 3:1-13, Yahweh said that he would judge the nations in the Valley of Jehoshaphat because of what they did to the people of Judah and Jerusalem. In this passage, Yahweh continues the message he wants the prophet Joel to deliver. Zion is mentioned in this passage. It was the place in Jerusalem where Yahweh's temple was located.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Joel that the day of Yahweh was near in the Valley of Judgment. [3:14]
- ☐ The sun, moon, and stars would darken. [3:15]
- ☐ Yahweh would speak loudly from Zion and Jerusalem. The heavens and the earth would shake. But Yahweh would be a shelter for his people. [3:16]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he would live in Zion, and Jerusalem would be holy. [3:17]
- ☐ Sweet wine, milk, and water would be abundant in Judah. [3:18]
- ☐ Egypt and Edom would be desolated because of the violence they did against the sons of Judah. [3:19]
- ☐ But Judah would be inhabited forever. [3:20]
- ☐ Their shed blood would be avenged because of Yahweh's presence in Zion. [3:21]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:14] What did Yahweh say was near in the Valley of Judgment?  
The day of Yahweh was near.
2. [3:15] What would darken and lose brightness?  
The sun and moon would be darkened. The stars would hold back their brightness.
3. [3:16] What two things would Yahweh be for his people?  
Yahweh would be a shelter and a fortress for his people.
4. [3:17] What would the people know?  
They would know that Yahweh their God lives in Zion.
5. [3:17] What would Jerusalem be, because of Yahweh their God's presence in Zion?  
Jerusalem would be holy.

**Joel 3:14-21 continued**

6. [3:18] What good things did Yahweh say would be abundant in Judah?  
There would be sweet wine, milk, and water.
  
7. [3:18] What would come from the house of Yahweh?  
A fountain would come from the house of Yahweh.
  
8. [3:19] Why would Egypt and Edom become an abandoned devastation and wilderness?  
They would be desolated because the people of Egypt and Edom violently shed the innocent blood of the people of Judah.
  
9. [3:20] What would be inhabited forever?  
Judah would be inhabited forever.
  
10. [3:21] What did Yahweh say he would avenge, because he lived in Zion?  
He would avenge their blood.

**Comment Section:**

## Amos 3:1-8 Israel's guilt and punishment

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Amos told the people of Israel about what Yahweh had spoken against them. [3:1]
- ☐ Yahweh said he had chosen only them. He said that he would punish Israel for all the evil things they did. [3:2]
- ☐ Yahweh asked whether two could walk together unless they agreed to meet. [3:3]
- ☐ Yahweh asked Israel several questions about how lions acted when they found prey, about birds getting caught in traps, and about disasters overtaking cities. [3:4-6]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would reveal his plan to his prophets. [3:7]
- ☐ Yahweh compared prophets saying what God speaks to people fearing when lions roar. [3:8]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:1] Who was the word of Yahweh spoken against?  
This word of Yahweh was against the people of Israel, and against the whole family he had brought out of Egypt.
2. [3:2] What did Yahweh say he had done already for Israel?  
He had chosen only them from all the families of the earth.
3. [3:2] What was Yahweh going to do to Israel?  
He was going to punish them for their sins.
4. [3:3] What must two people do in order to walk together?  
In order to walk together, two people must agree to meet.
5. [3:6] Who must have sent disaster upon a city, if a disaster happened?  
Yahweh must have sent the disaster.
6. [3:7] What does Yahweh do before he acts?  
The Lord reveals his plans to his servants, the prophets.

**Amos 3:1-8 continued**

7. [3:3-7] In this passage, what do you think was the purpose or meaning of the questions asked?  
(*Answer may vary.*) It appears that these are rhetorical questions. This means that Yahweh was not asking these questions because he did not know the answer. These questions caused the listener to think deeply or realize something. Perhaps Yahweh wanted the listeners to realize that none of the things he asked about happened randomly or without purpose. So, when Yahweh speaks through his prophets there was a reason. Therefore, they should listen to the prophet because what Yahweh says will certainly happen.
8. [3:8] Just like people feared when they heard a lion roar, what must happen when Yahweh had spoken?  
The prophet must prophesy.

**Comment Section:**

## Amos 5:18-24      Warning about the day of the Yahweh

**Background:** The passage speaks about the day of Yahweh. This refers to a time when Yahweh would judge people for their sin.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told the people of Israel they should not long for the day of Yahweh, because it would be a day of darkness and gloom when many bad things would happen. [5:18-20]
- ☐ Yahweh rejected the people's religious gatherings. [5:21]
- ☐ Yahweh rejected the people's sacrifices. [5:22]
- ☐ Yahweh rejected the people's songs. [5:23]
- ☐ Yahweh wanted justice and righteousness to flow like waters from a river or stream. [5:24]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [5:18] What were some of the people longing for?  
They were longing for the day of Yahweh.
2. [5:18] Why do you think some of the people were longing for the day of Yahweh?  
They probably thought that it would be the day when Yahweh punished other nations. They probably thought that Yahweh would not punish them, because they were his people.
3. [5:18, 20] What did Amos say the day of Yahweh would be to them?  
The day of Yahweh would be darkness and not light, gloom and not brightness.
4. [5:19] On the day of Yahweh, what would happen to the man who fled from a lion?  
A bear would meet him.
5. [5:19] On the day of Yahweh, what would happen to the man who went home and put his hand on the wall?  
A snake would bite him.
6. [5:19] In verse 19, what do you think the two examples meant?  
They probably were meant to show that there would be no escaping God's punishment on the day of Yahweh. Even if they escaped from one bad thing, another bad thing would happen to them. No matter where they went or what they did, they would be in danger.

**Amos 5:18-24 continued**

7. [5:21] What did Yahweh think about the Israelites' festivals and their solemn assemblies?  
Yahweh hated their festivals. He did not enjoy their solemn assemblies.
8. [5:22] What types of offerings would Yahweh no longer accept from the people?  
Yahweh would no longer accept their burnt offerings, grain offerings, and fellowship offerings.
9. [5:23] What noise did Yahweh want the people to stop making?  
Yahweh no longer wanted them to make the noise of their songs and music. He would not listen to them.
10. [5:24] How did Yahweh describe what justice and righteousness should be like?  
Yahweh wanted justice and righteousness to flow like a river of water, like a constantly flowing stream.
11. [5:24] What do you think Yahweh meant by using streams and rivers as an example?  
He probably meant that he wanted all the people to constantly do what was just and right throughout Israel.

**Comment Section:**

## Amos 7:10-17 The priest of Bethel accuses Amos of conspiracy

**Background:** Amos had continued to speak Yahweh's words to the people of Israel. Amos said Yahweh would no longer spare them. He would destroy their places of worship and rise against king Jeroboam and his family.

The word herdsman in this passage means a shepherd.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ A priest named Amaziah told the king of Israel that Amos had started a conspiracy against the king. [7:10]
- ☐ Amaziah told Amos to leave and go back to the land of Judah. [7:12]
- ☐ Amaziah told Amos not to prophesy in Bethel because it is where the king lived. [7:13]
- ☐ Amos said Yahweh called him from his job as a herdsman to prophesy to the people of Israel. [7:14-15]
- ☐ Amaziah and his family would be punished for rejecting Yahweh's message from Amos. [7:16-17]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:10] What did Amaziah the priest accuse Amos of?  
Amaziah said that Amos was conspiring against Jeroboam, king of Israel.
2. [7:11] What had Amos prophesied about Jeroboam?  
Amos had prophesied that Jeroboam would die by the sword.
3. [7:11] What had Amos prophesied about Israel?  
Amos had prophesied that Israel would go away from the land, into exile.
4. [7:12] Where did Amaziah tell Amos to return to and prophesy?  
He told Amos to return to the land of Judah and prophesy there.
5. [7:13] Why did Amaziah say that Amos could not prophesy in Bethel anymore?  
Amaziah said that Bethel was the king's sanctuary and a royal house.
6. [7:14-15] What was Amos's work before Yahweh took him to be his prophet?  
Amos was a herdsman, and he took care of sycamore fig trees.



**Amos 7:10-17 continued**

7. [7:17] What did Yahweh say against Amaziah, priest of Bethel?  
Yahweh said that Amaziah's wife would be a prostitute and that his sons and daughters would be killed.  
Amaziah's land would be divided up, and he himself would die in an unclean land.
8. [7:17] What did Yahweh say against Israel?  
Israel would surely go into exile, away from their own land.

**Comment Section:**

## Amos 9:11-15 Israel will be restored

**Background:** In the verses before this passage, Yahweh said he would certainly punish the people of Israel no matter where they went or what they did, but he would not completely destroy them.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ A day would come when Yahweh would raise up and restore the fallen tent of David. [9:11]
- ☐ Yahweh would give back what was left of Edom, and all the nations called by his name, to the people of Israel. [9:12]
- ☐ In those days, Israel's people would come back from lands where they were held captive. [9:14]
- ☐ Then Israel would prosper again, getting drink and food from what they planted. [9:14]
- ☐ They would remain in the land forever. [9:15]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [9:11] What did Amos say that Yahweh would rebuild in the day that would come?  
On that day, Yahweh would raise up the tent of David that had fallen.
2. [9:11] How well would it be rebuilt?  
It would be rebuilt as it was long ago.
3. [9:11] What do you think it meant for Yahweh to raise up the fallen tent (or shelter) of David?  
Perhaps it meant that he would restore David's family and cause one of his descendants to rule again. Perhaps it meant that he would restore the ruined places where David's family had lived.
4. [9:12] What did Yahweh declare that they would possess?  
They would possess what was left of Edom and all the nations who were called by Yahweh's name.
5. [9:13] What would happen to the mountains and the hills in the coming days?  
The mountains would drip sweet wine, and the hills would flow with it.
6. [9:14] What did Yahweh promise to do for his people Israel?  
Yahweh promised to bring Israel back from their exile.

**Amos 9:11-15 continued**

7. [9:14] What would the people do when they were brought back from their exile?  
They would rebuild their cities and live in them. They would plant vineyards and drink their wine. They would make gardens and eat their fruit.
8. [9:15] After Yahweh did this, how long would Israel remain in their land?  
Israel would never be taken out of the land Yahweh gave them.

**Comment Section:**

## Obadiah 1:8-18      The day of Yahweh is near

**Background:** Teman was a grandson of Esau. In this passage, the name Teman refers either to Edom or to a place in Edom. In this passage, the name Jacob refers to the people of Israel. Jacob was an ancestor of all the people of Israel. This passage mentions Mount Zion, which can mean Jerusalem or God's holy place in Jerusalem.

In this passage, the house of Jacob probably refers to the two tribes of Israel that continued to worship God in Jerusalem. The house of Joseph probably refers to the ten tribes of Israel who did not worship God in Jerusalem.

Drinking on God's holy mountain in this passage could mean something that Edom did as a sign of conquering over Israel.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh said that he would destroy Edom. [1:8-9]
- ☐ When strangers attacked Jacob, Edom was unmoved and refused to help. [1:11]
- ☐ Yahweh told Edom not to gloat over Jacob or to loot Jacob's wealth. [1:12-14]
- ☐ Yahweh would punish Edom and the nations for the wrongs they did to Israel. [1:15-18]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:8] What did Yahweh say he would do to Edom and the mountain of Esau?  
He would destroy their wise men.
2. [1:9] What would happen as a result of Teman's mighty men being terrified?  
All of the men from the mountain of Esau would be killed.
3. [1:10] Why would Edom be covered with shame and destroyed forever?  
This would happen because they acted violently against Jacob (Israel), their close relatives.
4. [1:11] What kind of violence was done to Jacob?  
Strangers took away Jacob's wealth, and foreigners went in and cast lots for Jerusalem. Edom was like one of them.
5. [1:10-11] Why do you think it was wrong for the people of Edom to do nothing to help Jacob?  
God called Jacob their brother. It seems that the people of Edom should have helped the people of Jacob, as a man should help a brother.

**Obadiah 1:8-18 continued**

6. [1:12] What did God command Edom not to do when terrible things happened to Jacob and Judah?  
God commanded Edom not to gloat, not to rejoice over them, and not to boast on this terrible day.
7. [1:13] Where did Yahweh tell the people of Edom not to go, and what did he tell them not to take?  
He told them not to go into his people's gate. He told them not to take his people's wealth.
8. [1:14] What did Yahweh tell the people of Edom not to do to his people?  
He told them not to kill those who were running away from their enemies and not to deliver those who survived over to their enemies.
9. [1:15] What did Yahweh say would return onto the nations' heads?  
Yahweh said that their deeds would return onto their heads.
10. [1:15] What do you think it means for the nations' deeds to return onto their own heads?  
The earlier part of this verse says that as they have done, it will be done to them. This probably means that if the nations did terrible things to Israel, terrible things would be done to those nations.
11. [1:16] Who did God say would drink continually, just as Edom previously drank on God's holy mountain?  
God said that the nations would drink continually.
12. [1:16] What do you think it would mean for the nations to drink continually, just as Edom did previously on God's holy mountain?  
Perhaps other nations would always conquer Edom, just as Edom had conquered God's people. It might also mean that the nations would continue to drink one another up until they were all destroyed.
13. [1:17] Where will those who escape be?  
They will be in Mount Zion.
14. [1:17] What will the house of Jacob take? That is, what will the people of Israel take?  
They will take their possessions.
15. [1:17] How do you think the people of Israel would have felt when they heard verse 17?  
(Answer may vary.) They may have been hopeful because Mount Zion would be holy again and they would take back what belonged to them.
16. [1:18] What would the house of Jacob and the house of Joseph do to the house of Esau?  
They would burn the house of Esau.

**Obadiah 1:8-18 continued**

17. [1:18] How many people from the house of Esau would survive?

No one from the house of Esau would survive.

18. [1:18] How do you think the people of Israel felt when they heard verse 18?

*(Answer may vary.)* They were probably comforted to know that God would punish their enemies.

**Comment Section:**

## Jonah 1:1-17      Jonah flees from God

**Background:** Jonah was a prophet from Gath Hepher (2 Kings 14:25). He was a Jew. The people of Nineveh were Assyrians, who were cruel enemies to the Jews. The Jews were also called Hebrews.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read.

- ☐ Yahweh told Jonah to go to Nineveh. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Jonah got on a ship and went to Tarshish instead. [1:3]
- ☐ Yahweh sent a big storm, and all the sailors were afraid. [1:4-5]
- ☐ Jonah said the cause of the storm was that he was running from the presence of Yahweh. [1:10]
- ☐ Jonah told the men to throw him into the sea in order to stop the storm. [1:11-12]
- ☐ The sailors resisted throwing Jonah overboard and tried everything else first. [1:13]
- ☐ When the sailors finally threw Jonah overboard, the storm stopped, and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh. [1:15-16]
- ☐ Yahweh sent a large fish that swallowed Jonah, and Jonah was in the fish's belly for 3 days. [1:17]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] Whose word came to Jonah the son of Amittai?  
The word of Yahweh came to Jonah.
2. [1:2] What did Yahweh command Jonah to go and do?  
Yahweh commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh and speak out against it because of its wickedness.
3. [1:3] What did Jonah do after he heard Yahweh's command?  
Jonah ran away from the presence of Yahweh. He went to Joppa and got on a ship to go to Tarshish.
4. [1:4] What did Yahweh do to the ship that Jonah was on?  
Yahweh sent a great wind which became a mighty storm on the sea, and it appeared that the ship would be broken up.
5. [1:5] What did the sailors do?  
The sailors became very afraid, and each cried out to his own god. They threw the cargo into the sea to make the ship lighter.

**Jonah 1:1-17 continued**

6. [1:5] Why do you think the sailors threw the cargo into the sea to make the ship lighter?  
Perhaps if the ship had less weight aboard, it would not sink.
7. [1:5] Where was Jonah during the storm?  
He was asleep in the inner part of the ship.
8. [1:6] What did the captain want Jonah to do?  
He wanted Jonah to call on his god for help.
9. [1:7] How did the sailors determine who was the cause of the evil, and what was the result?  
The sailors cast lots to determine who was the cause, and the lot fell to Jonah.
10. [1:8-9] What was Jonah's reply when the sailors questioned him?  
Jonah told the sailors that he was a Hebrew, and he feared Yahweh, the God of heaven, who created the sea and the dry land.
11. [1:10] What did Jonah say was the cause of the evil that was happening to them?  
Jonah told the men that he was running from the presence of Yahweh.
12. [1:10] Why do you think the men asked Jonah what he had done?  
Perhaps they asked this to show how shocked and fearful they were. They seemed to understand that Jonah was foolish to run away from Yahweh. Now they were in great danger.
13. [1:11-12] What did Jonah tell the men to do in order to stop the increasing storm?  
Jonah told the men to throw him into the sea.
14. [1:13] What did the men do to try to get back to land?  
They rowed harder.
15. [1:14] What two requests did the sailors make of Yahweh?  
They asked Yahweh to not let them perish. They asked him to not hold them guilty for Jonah's death.
16. [1:15] What happened when the sailors threw Jonah into the sea?  
The sea stopped raging.



**Jonah 1:1-17 continued**

17. [1:15] What do you think it meant for the sea to stop raging?

This is probably a word picture of the end of the storm in the sea, and it means that the sea became smooth and calm. Perhaps it also seemed like the water was angry until Jonah was thrown into it.

18. [1:16] What did the men do when the sea became calm?

They feared Yahweh. They offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows to him.

19. [1:17] What happened to Jonah after they threw him into the sea?

Yahweh appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights.

**Comment Section:**

## Jonah 4:1-11    Jonah's anger and God's mercy

**Background:** In the previous chapter, God changed his mind and did not punish the people of Nineveh, who were cruel enemies of the Jews.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read.

- ☐ Jonah was angry that God did not punish Nineveh. [4:1-2]
- ☐ Jonah begged God to let him die. [4:3]
- ☐ God provided a plant to give Jonah shade from the hot sun. [4:6]
- ☐ When the plant died, Jonah was angry about that. [4:7-9]
- ☐ God spoke to Jonah about Jonah's compassion for the plant and God's own compassion for Nineveh. [4:10-11]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1] How did Jonah feel when God decided not to punish the people of Nineveh?  
He was displeased about it and angry.
2. [4:2] Why did Jonah tell God was his reason to flee to Tarshish?  
Jonah said he knew Yahweh was gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abundant in love, and one who relents from sending disaster.
3. [4:2-3] Why do you think knowing those things about God made Jonah want to run away to Tarshish?  
(Answer may vary.) Jonah probably did not want any of Israel's enemies, the people of Nineveh, to hear God's message and to have the opportunity to repent. Jonah may have been afraid that God would have compassion on Nineveh and not destroy them. But since they had been cruel to Israel, Jonah probably wanted God to destroy Nineveh. Perhaps he did not want God to have mercy on anyone who was not from Israel. Maybe Jonah also would be ashamed if what he prophesied did not come true.
4. [4:3] What did Jonah want Yahweh to do to him, now that God had decided not to destroy the people of Nineveh?  
Jonah wanted Yahweh to take his life. He wanted to die.
5. [4:4] What question did Yahweh ask Jonah?  
Yahweh asked Jonah if it was right for him to be angry.

**Jonah 4:1-11 continued**

6. [4:4-5] Why do you think Jonah did not answer Yahweh's question?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Maybe he knew that it was not right for him to be angry, but he did not want to admit that to God. Maybe he did not know what to say. Maybe he was too angry to speak.
7. [4:5] Why did Jonah go out of the city and sit down?  
Jonah wanted to see what might happen to the city.
8. [4:4-5] What do you think Jonah hoped would happen to the city?  
He probably hoped that it would still be destroyed.
9. [4:6] What did Yahweh do for Jonah while he sat outside the city?  
Yahweh appointed a shade plant for Jonah to relieve him from his discomfort. Jonah was glad because of it.
10. [4:7] What happened to the plant in the morning?  
God appointed a worm to kill the plant, and the plant died.
11. [4:8] What happened next?  
God appointed a hot east wind. The hot sun also beat down on Jonah's head. Jonah became faint from the heat, and he wanted to die.
12. [4:9] What question did God then ask Jonah?  
God asked Jonah if it was good that he was angry about the plant.
13. [4:9] How did Jonah respond to God's question?  
He said that it was good that he was angry, even to death.
14. [4:10] What did Yahweh say to Jonah about how he felt about the shade plant?  
Yahweh said Jonah had compassion for the plant, even though Jonah did not make it grow, and it grew in a night and died in a night.
15. [4:11] For what did Yahweh have compassion?  
Yahweh had compassion for the 120,000 people of Nineveh and for the animals.

**Comment Section:**

## Micah 1:2-7      The coming destruction of Israel

**Background:** Long before Micah wrote this book, the nation of Israel had divided into two kingdoms. The southern kingdom was called Judah, and its capital city was Jerusalem. Jerusalem was built on a hill. The northern kingdom was called Israel, and its capital city was Samaria. Samaria was also built on a hill.

In this book, the names "Jacob" and "Israel" can refer either to the nation of Israel or to one of its kingdoms.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Micah told the earth and all that is in it to let the Lord Yahweh be a witness against them from his holy temple. [1:2]
- ☐ Micah said that Yahweh would trample on the high places of the earth. [1:3]
- ☐ The mountains would melt, and the valleys would split open. [1:4]
- ☐ Yahweh would do this because of Jacob's transgression and Israel's sin. [1:5]
- ☐ Yahweh said what he would do to Samaria. [1:6-7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:2] What did Micah tell all the people to do?  
He told them to listen and to let the Lord Yahweh be a witness against them.
2. [1:3] On what would Yahweh come down and tread?  
He would tread on the high places of the earth.
3. [1:3] What do you think these high places were?  
Perhaps these were mountains, or great cities that people took pride in. Perhaps they were hills where people made altars to false gods.
4. [1:4] What would happen to the mountains and to the valleys?  
The mountains would melt, and the valleys would split apart.
5. [1:5] Why would Yahweh bring this judgment?  
Yahweh would do this because of Jacob's transgression and the sins of Israel.
6. [1:6] What would Yahweh make Samaria become?  
He would make it a heap of ruins in a field, a place for planting vineyards.

**Micah 1:2-7 continued**

7. [1:6] What do you think Samaria's stones and foundations were?

Probably the stones were what the buildings and the city wall were made of. The foundations were probably what the buildings were built on.

8. [1:7] What else would be destroyed?

Samaria's carved figures, gifts, and idols would be destroyed.

**Comment Section:**

## Micah 5:1-5 Israel's ruler will come from Bethlehem

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Enemies set up a siege against Israel and struck the judge of Israel. [5:1]
- ☐ A ruler for Israel would come out from Bethlehem. His beginning would be from ancient times. [5:2]
- ☐ Israel would be given up to her enemies until the time when a woman in labor gave birth to a child. Then his other brothers would return to Israel. [5:3]
- ☐ The ruler would shepherd the people in Yahweh's strength and majesty. [5:4]
- ☐ The people would remain, because this ruler would be great all over the earth. [5:4]
- ☐ The ruler would give Israel peace, in spite of Assyria's invasion. [5:5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [5:1] How did enemy armies threaten Israel?  
They set up a siege against Israel, and they struck Israel's judge on the cheek with a rod.
2. [5:2] Who would come out from the little place called Bethlehem Ephrathah?  
A ruler for Israel, whose beginning is from ancient times, would come from Bethlehem Ephrathah.
3. [5:3] Even though this ruler was promised, what would happen to Israel?  
Israel would be given over to the other nations until she who was in labor would bear a child.
4. [5:3] What would happen next?  
The rest of his brothers would return to join the Israelites.
5. [5:3] Who do you think are these brothers who would return to join the Israelites?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps this passage is referring to those who would believe in and follow the new ruler. (Other Scripture passages indicate that this is a prophecy about Jesus, the new ruler who was born in Bethlehem.) Or perhaps these brothers include people of Israel who had been unfaithful in the past but who would come back to God because of the new ruler.
6. [5:4] Who will shepherd his flock in the strength and majesty of Yahweh?  
The ruler from Bethlehem will shepherd his flock in the strength and majesty of Yahweh.

**Micah 1:1-5 continued**

7. [5:4] Why would the flock remain?

They would remain because their new ruler and shepherd will be great all over the earth.

8. [5:5] What will the ruler give them?

He will give them peace.

**Comment Section:**

## Micah 6:6-8      What does God require of us?

**Background:** In this passage, the prophet speaks as one person to God but represents all the people of Israel.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ A man of Israel asks if he should bring more animal sacrifices or oil to Yahweh. [6:6]
- ☐ He asks whether he should give up his firstborn child for the sin of his soul. [6:7]
- ☐ Yahweh replies that he has already told the man what is good. Yahweh's people must act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. [6:7-8]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:6] What was the first question the man of Israel asked?  
He asked what he should bring to Yahweh.
2. [6:6-7] What kinds of offerings did the man ask about bringing to Yahweh?  
He asked about bringing burnt offerings of year-old calves. He asked if Yahweh would be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand rivers of oil. He asked if he should offer his firstborn child for the sin of his soul.
3. [6:8] Why should the man have known what Yahweh required?  
He should have known because Yahweh had already told his people what was good.
4. [6:8] What did Yahweh require?  
Yahweh required his people to act justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with their God.
5. [6:8] How do you think people who love kindness behave?  
They are probably kind to other people.

**Comment Section:**



## Micah 7:14-20 God's steadfast love and compassion

**Background:** Verse 20 mentions Abraham and Jacob. Long ago, God had made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Jacob was one of Abraham's grandsons. Jacob's descendants are the nation of Israel.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Micah asked God to shepherd his people. [7:14]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he will do wonders, and Micah said that the nations will see and fear Yahweh. [7:15-17]
- ☐ Yahweh forgives sins and does not stay angry, because he loves to show his faithfulness. [7:18]
- ☐ Yahweh will throw the sins of his people into the depths of the sea. [7:19]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:14] What did Micah ask Yahweh to do?  
Micah asked Yahweh to shepherd his people. He asked Yahweh to let his flock graze in the places where they did before.
2. [7:14] What do you think Micah meant with this request?  
It probably meant that Micah wanted Yahweh to protect his people and to provide what they needed.
3. [7:15] What did Yahweh say that he would show to his people?  
Yahweh said that he would show them wonders, as in the days when they came out of Egypt.
4. [7:16-17] How would the nations react to what Yahweh would do?  
They would see the wonders that Yahweh did, and they would be ashamed of all their power.  
They would come to Yahweh, but they would be very afraid of him.
5. [7:16-17] What did Micah say the nations' fear would be like?  
They would put their hands on their mouths, and their ears would be deaf. They would crawl like snakes or other creeping things. They would come out of their fortresses, afraid.
6. [7:18-19] What did Micah say that Yahweh is like?  
Yahweh is like no one else. He forgives the sins of his people. He does not hold onto his anger forever, because he loves to show his faithfulness. He will have compassion on his people and trample on their sins.

**Micah 7:14-20 continued**

7. [7:19] Into what will Yahweh throw all the sins of the people of Israel?  
Yahweh will throw all their sins into the depths of the sea.
8. [7:19] What do you think throwing sins into the sea represents?  
It probably represents completely forgiving them.
9. [7:20] What did Micah say that Yahweh would do for Jacob and Abraham?  
Micah said Yahweh will give truth and faithfulness to Jacob and Abraham, as he swore to their forefathers that he would do.
10. [7:20] What do you think it meant that Yahweh would give truth to Jacob?  
Perhaps it means that Yahweh would show the descendants of Jacob what is true. Perhaps it means that he would show that he is true or faithful to them.
11. [7:20] Who do you think will benefit from what Yahweh did for Jacob and Abraham?  
Probably their descendants will benefit, and Yahweh's people will benefit.

**Comment Section:**

## Nahum 2:10-13      The destruction of Nineveh

**Background:** Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire. Assyrian soldiers had killed many people and destroyed many places. Yahweh describes, in this prophecy to Nahum, what it will be like when he causes fierce Nineveh to be attacked and destroyed. The fierce Assyrians of Nineveh are spoken of as lions, which are fierce animals, in this passage. The previous verses talk about when Yahweh will allow his people to take away all of Nineveh's treasures in the attack.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Nineveh was empty and devastated. [2:10]
- ☐ Yahweh was against them and would burn their chariots. [2:13]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:10] Why do you think Nineveh was empty and devastated?  
The passage indicates that Nineveh was empty and devastated because their enemies had come and killed many people and taken many things.
2. [2:10] What does the description in verse 10 show about how the people of Nineveh felt when these things happened?  
It shows they were terrified.
3. [2:11] Verse 11 asks about where the lions' den is. What do you think that this shows about how the fierce city of Nineveh looks after the attack?  
Perhaps it shows that it does not look like the same place. Perhaps it is mocking how fierce the Nineveh Assyrians were known to be.
4. [2:12] What did the lion do to his victims?  
The lion tore his victims to pieces. The lion had enough prey to fill up the place where it lived.
5. [2:13] In verse 13, Yahweh speaks to Nineveh. What did Yahweh say he would do to Nineveh?  
Yahweh said that he would burn their chariots and cut off their prey from the land.

**Nahum 2:10-13 continued**

6. [2:13] What would happen to Nineveh's young lions?  
They would be killed by the sword.

**Comment Section:**

## Nahum 3:1-7 The complete ruin of Nineveh

**Background:** The destruction of Nineveh was described in the previous chapter. Nineveh was a city full of cruel soldiers and people who gained money through prostitution and witchcraft.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Nahum described an army attacking Nineveh. [3:1-4]
- ☐ Yahweh will show how shameful Nineveh was. [3:4-6]
- ☐ Those who saw it would run away, but no one would grieve. [3:7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:1] How did Nahum describe Nineveh?  
Nineveh was a city full of blood, lies, and stolen things.
2. [3:1] Why do you think Nahum called Nineveh a city full of blood?  
Perhaps he called it this because the people of Nineveh killed many people.
3. [3:2] In this prophecy, what did the people of Nineveh hear?  
The people of Nineveh heard the noise of whips, wheels, horses, and chariots.
4. [3:3] How many people did the attackers kill?  
They killed so many people that there were piles of dead bodies on the ground, and they could not be counted.  
The attackers stumbled over the bodies.
5. [3:4] Why did these things happen?  
They happened because Nineveh sold nations by acting like a prostitute and sold peoples by doing witchcraft.
6. [3:5-6] What would Yahweh do to Nineveh, the prostitute?  
Yahweh would shame and expose Nineveh to the nations.
7. [3:7] What would everyone do who looked at the people of Nineveh?  
No one would weep for Nineveh, and all would flee from them.

**Comment Section:**

## Habakkuk 1:1-11    God uses the Chaldeans to punish Judah

**Background:** Yahweh had said in the past that he would punish the people of Judah by sending the Babylonian army. In this book, the prophet Habakkuk questioned Yahweh about what he was doing.

The Babylonians are called Chaldeans in the book of Habakkuk.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Habakkuk asked Yahweh how long he would have to wait for Yahweh to hear him and act. [1:2]
- ☐ People were doing wicked things. [1:2-3]
- ☐ There was no true justice. [1:4]
- ☐ Yahweh told Habakkuk that he was going to do something amazing and unbelievable. [1:5]
- ☐ Yahweh told Habakkuk that he was raising up the Chaldeans to seize places that belonged to others. [1:5-6]
- ☐ The Chaldeans were terrifying and fierce, with fast horses. [1:7-8]
- ☐ The Chaldeans would ridicule other kings and rulers. They would capture strongholds. [1:10]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:2] Why did Habakkuk cry out to Yahweh for help?  
He cried out because of the violent things people were doing.
2. [1:2-3] What was Habakkuk's complaint to Yahweh?  
He asked how long it would be before Yahweh would listen to him and save people. Habakkuk did not want to see the wickedness around him.
3. [1:3] What did Habakkuk see?  
Habakkuk saw sin, destruction, violence, and conflict.
4. [1:4] What did Habakkuk say about justice?  
He said that justice did not last and that it was corrupted.
5. [1:5] How did Yahweh say that Habakkuk would react to what was going to happen?  
He would be amazed. He would not believe it, even if he was told about it.

**Habakkuk 1:1-11 continued**

6. [1:5-6] Who was Yahweh raising up?  
Yahweh was raising up the Chaldeans, who marched through the land to capture places that did not belong to them.
7. [1:7] What kind of people were the Chaldeans?  
The Chaldeans were terrifying.
8. [1:8] What were the Chaldeans' horses like?  
Their horses were faster than leopards and wolves.
9. [1:8] How were the Chaldeans who rode the horses described?  
They came swiftly from far away, like eagles hurrying to eat.
10. [1:9] What do you think it meant that the Chaldeans gathered captives like sand?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it meant that they gathered many captives like many grains of sand. Perhaps it meant that they captured their enemies as easily as someone picks up a handful of sand.
11. [1:10] What was the Chaldeans' attitude toward other kings and rulers?  
The Chaldeans mocked other kings and rulers.
12. [1:10] How did the Chaldeans treat fortified cities?  
The Chaldeans laughed at the fortified cities and captured them.
13. [1:11] What was the Chaldeans' god?  
Their own strength was their god.

**Comment Section:**

## Habakkuk 2:1-14 God will punish the Chaldeans

**Background:** This passage begins with Habakkuk waiting for the answer of Yahweh. The vision in this passage speaks of one evil person, who represents all the evil Chaldeans that deserve the wrath of Yahweh.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Habakkuk waited for Yahweh to answer his complaint. [2:1]
- ☐ Yahweh answered Habakkuk and told him to write the vision on tablets. [2:2]
- ☐ Yahweh said that the righteous will live by faith. [2:4]
- ☐ Yahweh said that people would rise up against the one who was arrogant, greedy, and violent. [2:5-12]
- ☐ The land would be full of the knowledge of God's glory. [2:14]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] Why did Habakkuk say he would wait and watch carefully?  
He would wait and watch carefully to see what Yahweh would answer about his complaint.
2. [2:2] What did Yahweh tell Habakkuk to do?  
Yahweh told Habakkuk to write the vision on tablets.
3. [2:3] What did Yahweh say to Habakkuk about this vision concerning the future?  
Yahweh told Habakkuk that this vision would certainly happen.
4. [2:4] What did Yahweh say about righteous people?  
Yahweh said that the righteous will live by faith.
5. [2:5] What did Yahweh say about the arrogant man?  
The arrogant man does not stay at home. Like death, he is never satisfied. He gathers all people and nations for himself.
6. [2:6-7] What would happen to the one who took more and more of what was not his?  
Others would mock him. His victims would rise up against him and attack.
7. [2:8] What would happen to the one who plundered other people, shed blood, and acted with violence?  
Those who were left would plunder him.



**Habakkuk 2:1-14 continued**

8. [2:9] Who did Yahweh declare woe against?  
He declared woe against the one who used evil to gain riches for himself.
9. [2:10] How did the evil man bring shame to his house and sin against his own life?  
He cut off many people.
10. [2:10-11] What would cry out because of his shame and sin?  
The stones of the evil man's walls and the wood of his house would cry out.
11. [2:12] Who did Yahweh declare woe upon in verse 12?  
Yahweh declared woe on the one who built a city with blood and iniquity.
12. [2:12] What do you think it meant to build a city with blood?  
It probably meant to kill people or to treat people brutally in order to build the city.
13. [2:14] What did Yahweh say would happen in the land, instead of the worthless things the evil people wanted?  
Yahweh said that the land would be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh.

**Comment Section:**

## Habakkuk 3:16-19 Habakkuk rejoices in the Lord

**Background:** In Habakkuk 1, Yahweh sent Habakkuk a terrifying vision of the Chaldean enemies that were coming to attack Habakkuk's people. Then, in the passage before this one, Yahweh had Habakkuk write down a terrifying vision of his wrath against the Chaldean army.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Habakkuk was afraid. [3:16]
- ☐ Habakkuk said that he would wait quietly for when distress would come on the people who invaded his land. [3:16]
- ☐ Habakkuk said that he would rejoice in the God of his salvation, even if the land was unfruitful and there was no food. [3:17-18]
- ☐ Habakkuk called Yahweh God his strength. [3:19]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:16] How did Habakkuk feel after he wrote down the vision Yahweh gave him?  
He was very afraid.
2. [3:16] What would Habakkuk say he would quietly wait for?  
Habakkuk would quietly wait for the day when distress would come upon those who invaded Yahweh's people.
3. [3:17] What hardships did Habakkuk mention in verse 17?  
The fig trees, vines, and olive trees may not produce fruit. The fields might yield no food. There may be no livestock.
4. [3:18] What did Habakkuk say he would do in spite of hardships?  
Habakkuk said he would rejoice in the God of his salvation.
5. [3:19] What did Habakkuk say that Yahweh God was for him?  
Habakkuk said that Yahweh God was his strength.
6. [3:19] What did Habakkuk say that his feet were like?  
Habakkuk's feet were like the feet of a deer.
7. [3:19] What did Yahweh enable Habakkuk to do with feet like a deer's feet?  
He enabled Habakkuk to walk on high places.

**Habakkuk 3:16-19 continued**

8. [3:19] What do you think Habakkuk meant about Yahweh doing these things for him?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he meant that Yahweh was helping him to be strong in very difficult times. Perhaps he meant that Yahweh made him confident and comforted him. Perhaps he meant that Yahweh's strength allowed him to do things and experience heights that were not possible with his own strength.

**Comment Section:**

## Zephaniah 1:1-9      The coming judgment on Judah

**Background:** Verse 4 mentions Baal. Baal was a false god. Verse 5 mentions heavenly bodies. This means the sun, moon, stars, and planets.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Zephaniah that he would destroy everything on the earth. [1:1-3]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would destroy all people who do not follow him. [1:4-6]
- ☐ The people were told to be silent before Yahweh. [1:7]
- ☐ Zephaniah prophesied that the day of Yahweh was near. [1:7]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] Who received this word from Yahweh?  
Zephaniah, son of Cushi received this word.
2. [1:1] Who was the king of Judah at this time?  
Josiah, son of Amon, was the king of Judah.
3. [1:2-3] What did Yahweh say he would destroy?  
Yahweh said he would destroy everything from the surface of the earth: people, animals, birds, and fish.
4. [1:4] In verse 4, what did Yahweh say that he would cut off?  
Yahweh said that he would cut off every remnant of Baal. He would cut off the names of the idolatrous people who were among the priests.
5. [1:4] Why do you think Yahweh would cut off every remnant of Baal?  
He would probably do this so that the people would stop worshiping Baal and never worship Baal again.
6. [1:5] What did people worship when they went up onto their housetops?  
They worshiped the heavenly bodies.
7. [1:6] What did Yahweh say would happen to people who turned away from him?  
Yahweh said he would cut them off.

**Zephaniah 1:1-9 continued**

8. [1:7] What were the people told to do before Yahweh, in verse 7?  
They were told to be silent.
9. [1:7] Why do you think the people should be silent before Yahweh?  
Perhaps it was because this would show that they were humble before Yahweh and feared him. Perhaps it would show that they valued what Yahweh said.
10. [1:7] What did Zephaniah say was near?  
He said that the day of Yahweh was near, and that Yahweh had prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.
11. [1:8-9] Who did Yahweh say he would punish on the day that was coming?  
Yahweh would punish the princes and the king's sons. He would punish everyone dressed in foreign clothes, those who leapt over the door sill, and those who filled their master's house with violence and deceit.

**Comment Section:**

## Zephaniah 3:6-17

## God will judge the nations and restore his remnant

**Background:** Verse 7 mentions that people would make their deeds corrupt. That meant that they would do evil things.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh said that he had destroyed nations and cities. [3:6]
- ☐ Since the people did not repent and acted corruptly, Yahweh said that he would pour out his anger on the world. [3:7-8]
- ☐ At this time, Yahweh would purify people's lips so they could call on his name and worship him. [3:9-10]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he would remove those who were proud from among them. [3:10-11]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he would let humble people remain in Israel, and they would be righteous and take refuge in his name. [3:12-13]
- ☐ At that time, Yahweh's followers would rejoice because Yahweh had taken away their punishment and that he was joyful and loving with them. [3:14-17]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:6] How does Yahweh describe his destruction of the nations?  
The nations, their fortresses, their streets, and their cities were destroyed. There were no people left there.
2. [3:7] How did the people live after Yahweh corrected them with this destruction?  
They were eager to do corrupt deeds.
3. [3:8] What decision did Yahweh make about the nations?  
Yahweh decided to assemble the nations and to pour out his anger and wrath on them.
4. [3:9] Why would Yahweh purify the lips of the people?  
He would purify their lips so that they would call on his name and serve him.
5. [3:10] What would the scattered people bring to Yahweh?  
They would bring offerings to Yahweh.

**Zephaniah 3:6-17 continued**

6. [3:11] Why would the people not be put to shame?  
They would not be put to shame because Yahweh would remove those who boasted, and they would no longer act arrogantly on his holy mountain.
7. [3:12] What type of people would Yahweh allow to stay in Israel?  
He would leave those who were lowly.
8. [3:12] What would these lowly people take refuge in?  
They would take refuge in the name of Yahweh.
9. [3:13] How would those who remained in Israel be changed?  
They would no longer do what was wrong. They would not lie or be deceitful. No one would make them afraid.
10. [3:13] Why do you think no one would make the people of Israel afraid?  
Perhaps they would not be afraid because Yahweh would protect them and give them peace. Perhaps they would not be afraid because they would live righteously, so Yahweh would not send their enemies to attack them.
11. [3:14-15] Why should Israel sing and shout?  
Israel should sing and shout because Yahweh had taken away their punishment and made their enemies go away. They would never again have to fear evil with Yahweh the king of Israel among them.
12. [3:16-17] What would others say to the people of Jerusalem at the time that was coming?  
They would tell the people of Jerusalem not to be afraid, because Yahweh was with them. They would say that Yahweh was powerful and could save them. They would say that Yahweh would have love and joy and gladness over them.

**Comment Section:**

# Haggai 1:1-15

## The command to rebuild the temple

**Background:** The king of Babylon conquered Judah and took many of the people of Judah as captives to Babylon. Then a Persian king conquered Babylon and said that the people of Judah could go back to Judah. Some did, and they started to rebuild Yahweh's temple. But they had trouble with enemies, and they stopped. Then Darius became king of Persia, and he helped the people of Judah.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ During the reign of King Darius, Yahweh spoke through Haggai to Zerubbabel and to the high priest Joshua. [1:1]
- ☐ The people were saying that it was not time yet to rebuild Yahweh's house. [1:2]
- ☐ Yahweh spoke through Haggai and asked if it was time for people to live in finished houses while his house was in ruins. [1:3-4]
- ☐ Yahweh told them to consider their ways, and why they did not have enough food, clothing, and money. [1:5-7]
- ☐ Yahweh told them to get wood and rebuild his house. [1:8]
- ☐ Yahweh said he had caused a drought because they had not rebuilt his house. [1:9-11]
- ☐ Then the people obeyed Yahweh and feared him. [1:12]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he was with them, and they started repairing his house. [1:13-15]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] When did the word of Yahweh come through Haggai the prophet?  
It came on the first day of the sixth month.
2. [1:1] Who was king at this time?  
Darius was king.
3. [1:1] To what people did the word of Yahweh come through Haggai?  
It came to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah and Joshua the high priest.
4. [1:2] What were the people saying at this time about the house of Yahweh?  
They were saying that it was not yet the time to rebuild Yahweh's house.
5. [1:4] What was the condition of Yahweh's house while the people lived in their finished houses?  
Yahweh's house lay in ruins.



**Haggai 1:1-15 continued**

6. [1:6] What did the people of Judah lack?  
They did not have enough food, drink, clothing, and money.
7. [1:5, 7] What did Yahweh tell them to do in verses 5 and 7?  
He told them to consider their ways.
8. [1:8] What did Yahweh command the people to do?  
He commanded them to get timber and to build his house, so that he would take pleasure in it and be glorified.
9. [1:9] What did Yahweh say was the reason that the people were not able to bring home much?  
Yahweh said that he blew it all away.
10. [1:9] Why did Yahweh blow it all away?  
He blew it away because his house lay in ruins while they were busy with their own houses.
11. [1:10-11] How do you think Yahweh blew it all away?  
It seems from the next verses that Yahweh blew it all away by stopping the rain so that there would be no crops.  
Perhaps he also dried up the crops with wind.
12. [1:10-11] What things did Yahweh send a drought to affect, because the people did not rebuild his house?  
The drought was on the land, the mountains, the grain, the wine, the oil, and all the other crops, the men, the animals, and all their work.
13. [1:12] How did Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people respond to what Yahweh said through Haggai?  
They obeyed the voice of Yahweh and feared him.
14. [1:13] How did Yahweh respond to the people's obedience?  
He sent a message through Haggai, his messenger, to tell them that he was with them.
15. [1:14] What did Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people do, after Yahweh stirred up their spirits?  
They began to work on Yahweh's house.
16. [1:15] When did this happen?  
This happened on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

**Comment Section:**

## Haggai 2:1-9    The future glory of the temple

**Background:** The people had been working to repair Yahweh's house, the temple, for about a month when this passage begins. This passage mentions Yahweh's covenant, which means his promise.

**Read the passage.**

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh spoke through Haggai again to Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people. [2:1-2]
- ☐ Yahweh asked them to compare the glory of the former temple to the way the temple was now. [2:3]
- ☐ Yahweh told them to be strong and work, because he was with them. [2:4]
- ☐ He told them not to be afraid. [2:5]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he would shake the heavens, the earth, and the nations. [2:6-7]
- ☐ He said the nations would bring precious things to him, and he would fill his house with glory. [2:7-8]
- ☐ He said that his house's glory would be greater than before, and he would give peace there. [2:9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1-2] How did Yahweh's word come to Zerubbabel the governor, Joshua the high priest, and the people?  
Yahweh's word came through Haggai the prophet.
2. [2:3] How did Yahweh's house differ in this passage from the way it was in the past?  
Yahweh's house was glorious in the past. The temple in this passage did not seem glorious in comparison to the earlier one.
3. [2:4] What did Yahweh tell Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people to do?  
He told them to be strong and to work.
4. [2:4] How did Yahweh encourage them?  
He said that he was with them.
5. [2:5] What do you think was the covenant, or promise, that Yahweh had established with them when they came out of Egypt?  
This probably meant the covenant that Yahweh made with them, saying that he would be their God and they would be his people.

**Haggai 2:1-9 continued**

6. [2:5] What did Yahweh tell them not to do?  
He told them not to be afraid.
7. [2:6-7] What did Yahweh say would happen after he shook the heavens and the earth?  
Every nation would bring their precious things to Yahweh, and he would fill his house with glory.
8. [2:8] What did Yahweh say belongs to him in verse 8?  
Yahweh said that silver and gold belongs to him.
9. [2:9] What did Yahweh say about the glory of his house?  
He said that the glory of his house would be greater in the future than it was before.
10. [2:9] What would Yahweh give in this place?  
Yahweh would give peace.

**Comment Section:**

## **Zechariah 1:1-6**      A call to return to Yahweh

**Background:** Zechariah wrote to the people of Judah who returned from being exiled in Babylon. The people of Judah continued to sin, as their ancestors did before they went into exile.

***Read the passage.***

### **Part 1**

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

- ☐ Yahweh told Zechariah that he had been very angry with the people's fathers. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Yahweh told Zechariah to tell the people to turn to Yahweh, and he would return to them. [1:3]
- ☐ Yahweh told Zechariah to tell them not to be like their fathers who did not pay attention to Yahweh. [1:4]
- ☐ Yahweh told Zechariah to tell the people that when his decrees overtook their fathers, they repented. [1:6]

### **Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] During whose reign did Yahweh speak to Zechariah?  
Yahweh spoke to him during the reign of Darius.
2. [1:3] What did Yahweh say he would do if the people would turn to him?  
Yahweh said that if the people would turn to him, he would return to them.
3. [1:4] What did their fathers do when Yahweh told them to turn away from their evil ways?  
Their fathers did not listen, and they did not pay attention to Yahweh.
4. [1:5] What questions did Yahweh ask about their fathers and the prophets?  
He asked where their fathers were. He asked whether the prophets lived forever.
5. [1:5] What do you think Yahweh meant when he spoke about their fathers and the prophets?  
He probably meant that their ancestors and the prophets who lived back then had all died.
6. [1:5] What was the result of what Yahweh said and decreed?  
His words and decrees overtook their fathers.
7. [1:5] How do you think Yahweh's word and decrees overtook the fathers?  
Perhaps this means that what Yahweh said would happen to their fathers did happen to them.

**Zechariah 1:1-6 continued**

8. [1:6] What did the fathers say when they repented?

When they repented, they said that Yahweh had done to them what he planned to do. He had done to them what their ways and actions deserved.

**Comment Section:**

## **Zechariah 3:1-10**     A vision of Joshua the high priest

***Read the passage.***

### **Part 1**

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

- ☐ Joshua was standing before the angel of Yahweh, and Satan was standing at his right hand to accuse him of sin. [3:1]
- ☐ Joshua was dressed in filthy garments, but the angel told those standing there to remove them from him. [3:3-4]
- ☐ The angel told Joshua that he had taken away his sins and would dress him in priest's robes. [3:4]
- ☐ Those standing there dressed Joshua in clean clothes and a clean turban. [3:5]
- ☐ Yahweh told Joshua that he would govern Yahweh's house and guard Yahweh's courts. [3:7]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would remove the sin from that land in one day. [3:9]
- ☐ Yahweh said that each man would invite his neighbors to sit under his vine and fig tree. [3:10]

### **Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:1] What was Joshua's work?  
Joshua was the high priest.
2. [3:1] Who else was near Joshua?  
Joshua was standing before the angel of the Lord. Satan was standing at his right hand.
3. [3:1] What did Satan intend to do to Joshua?  
Satan intended to accuse Joshua of sin.
4. [3:2] What did the angel of Yahweh say to Satan two times?  
He said, "May Yahweh rebuke you."
5. [3:3] What was Joshua wearing?  
Joshua was dressed in filthy garments.
6. [3:4] What did the angel of Yahweh tell the others standing there to do?  
The angel commanded them to remove Joshua's filthy garments.
7. [3:4] What did the angel tell Joshua then?  
The angel said he had taken away Joshua's sin and would dress him in priest's robes.

**Zechariah 3:1-10 continued**

8. [3:4-5] Then what did those standing there do?  
They clothed Joshua with a clean turban and clean garments, while the angel stood by.
9. [3:7] What did Yahweh say would happen to Joshua, the high priest, if he would walk in Yahweh's ways and keep his commandments?  
He said that Joshua would govern Yahweh's house and guard Yahweh's courts. He said that Joshua would have a place among those who were standing there.
10. [3:8] Who did Yahweh say he would bring?  
Yahweh said that he would bring his servant, the Branch.
11. [3:9] What was on the stone that Yahweh set in front of Joshua?  
There were seven eyes on it and an inscription.
12. [3:9] What did Yahweh say he would do in a single day?  
He would remove the sin of that land.
13. [3:10] What else did Yahweh say would happen on that day?  
Yahweh said that each man would invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree.

**Comment Section:**

# **Zechariah 12:10-14**      Israel will mourn for him whom they pierced

***Read the passage.***

## **Part 1**

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

- ☐ Yahweh said he would pour out a spirit of compassion and pleading on the house of David. [12:10]
- ☐ The house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem would look on the one they had pierced and mourn. [12:10]
- ☐ Many clans and wives of the land would mourn by themselves. [12:11-14]

## **Part 2**

Answer the following questions.

1. [12:10] On that day, what will Yahweh pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem?  
He will pour out a spirit of compassion and pleading.
2. [12:10] What will the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem do when they look on the one that they have pierced?  
They will mourn and weep bitterly for him, the way people mourn for an only child or a firstborn child.
3. [12:10-14] Why do you think they will mourn so much?  
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps they will realize what they have lost. Perhaps they will realize how guilty they are. Perhaps they will mourn so much because it is God who is speaking, and he also says that it was he himself who was pierced. This passage could also indicate that the one they pierced actually was an only child and a firstborn child.  
This and other Scripture passages indicate that this is a prophecy about God's only and firstborn Son (also called God the Son), who would be pierced for other people's sins.
4. [12:12-14] How will the people mourn?  
The clans will mourn separately from each other. The men will mourn separately from the women.

**Comment Section:**



## Malachi 1:1-5 Yahweh's love for Israel

**Background:** Malachi spoke his prophecies to the Jews who had returned from Babylon to Judah. At that time, the Jews were discouraged even though they had finished building a new temple. The wonderful things that previous prophets had promised for Judah had not yet happened, and the Persian Empire still ruled over them. As a result, they no longer were concerned about the law or about worshiping Yahweh.

This passage talks about Jacob and Esau. These two men were brothers. Jacob's descendants were the people of Israel. Esau's descendants were the people of Edom.

***Read the passage.***

### Part 1

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

- ☐ These were the words of Malachi that Yahweh told him to say. [1:1]
- ☐ Yahweh said he loved Jacob, but he hated Esau and made his land an abandoned wilderness. [1:2-3]
- ☐ If Edom would rebuild, Yahweh would tear it down again. [1:4]
- ☐ Israel would praise Yahweh when they saw his power. [1:5]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] Who brought these words of Yahweh to Israel?  
Malachi brought these words of Yahweh to Israel.
2. [1:2-3] Whom did Yahweh love and whom did he hate?  
Yahweh had loved the people who heard these words. Yahweh loved Jacob, and he hated Esau.
3. [1:3] What had Yahweh done with Esau's mountains and Esau's inheritance?  
Yahweh had abandoned and devastated Esau's mountains. He had made the land that Esau inherited into a place for the jackals of the wilderness.
4. [1:4] What would Yahweh do if Edom returned and rebuilt the ruins?  
He said that he would destroy it again.
5. [1:4] Why do you think that the people of Edom would be called wicked by others?  
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps other people would see that Yahweh destroyed whatever they did. Perhaps they would see other wicked things that the people of Edom did.

**Malachi 1:1-5 continued**

6. [1:5] How would Israel respond when they saw Yahweh destroy the rebuilt ruins of Edom?  
Israel would respond by saying that Yahweh's greatness reaches far beyond Israel's borders.

**Comment Section:**

## Malachi 2:1-9 Yahweh rebukes the priests

**Background:** These verses mention a man named Levi. Levi was a son of Israel, and his descendants became one of the 12 tribes of Israel. Yahweh chose Aaron's descendants from this tribe to be his priests. Yahweh gave other Levites special responsibilities to serve him by helping the priests and by caring for the tabernacle and temple. Yahweh's promises to Levi and to his descendants were called a covenant. To honor this covenant, Levi and his descendants must teach the law truthfully and with justice.

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ If the priests did not listen and did not honor Yahweh's name, he would send a curse on the priests and on their blessings and rebuke the priests' descendants. [2:1-3]
- ☐ Yahweh warned them this way so that his covenant could continue to be with Levi. Levi had feared Yahweh and honored Yahweh's name. [2:4-6]
- ☐ A priest should instruct others as a messenger of Yahweh. But the priests had turned away from the true path and caused many to stumble. [2:7-8]
- ☐ Because the priests had corrupted the covenant of Levi and had disobeyed Yahweh in their teaching and by showing partiality with the law, Yahweh had humiliated them before all the people. [2:8-9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:2] What would happen if the priests would not listen and would not honor the name of Yahweh of hosts?  
Yahweh would curse them and curse their blessings, if they did not honor his name and commands with their hearts.
2. [2:3] What was Yahweh going to do to their descendants and to the priests?  
Yahweh said he would rebuke their descendants. He would spread dung from their festivals on the priests' faces.
3. [2:3] What do you think this passage means when it says Yahweh would spread dung from their festivals on the priests' faces?  
It probably means that Yahweh would humiliate the priests. Yahweh could cause shame to them from the things they were doing in their festivals.
4. [2:4] Who would Yahweh's covenant continue to be with?  
Yahweh said his covenant would continue to be with Levi.

**Malachi 2:1-9 continued**

5. [2:5] What did Yahweh's covenant promise to give Levi?  
It would give him life and peace.
6. [2:6] What was true about Levi?  
Levi honored Yahweh's name. He spoke truthful instruction and nothing false. He walked with God in peace and uprightness. He turned many people away from iniquity.
7. [2:7] What were some things expected of a priest?  
A priest should speak with knowledge. People should go to a priest for instruction because he was Yahweh's messenger.
8. [2:8] What had these priests, Levi's descendants, actually done?  
They stopped doing what was right. They caused other people to stumble. They corrupted the covenant with Levi.
9. [2:8] What do you think it means in this passage to turn away from the true path and to cause other people to stumble?  
It probably means here that a person would stop doing what is right and would cause other people to stop doing what is right.
10. [2:9] Why did Yahweh humiliate the priests before all the people?  
He did this because the priests did not keep his ways but instead showed partiality.

**Comment Section:**

## Malachi 3:6-12 Israel has robbed God

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ Yahweh does not change. Therefore, the descendants of Jacob were not destroyed. [3:6]
- ☐ Israel had turned away from Yahweh. But if they returned to Yahweh, he would return to them. [3:7]
- ☐ Israel robbed God in tithes and offerings. [3:8-9]
- ☐ If the people brought in their full tithe, Yahweh promised he would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing on them. [3:10-11]
- ☐ All the nations would call Israel blessed in a land of delight. [3:12]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:6] Even though the descendants of Jacob turned aside from Yahweh's laws, why were they not destroyed?  
They were not destroyed because Yahweh does not change.
2. [3:7] How did Israel turn away from Yahweh?  
They turned away by not keeping his statutes.
3. [3:7] What would Yahweh do if they came back to him?  
Yahweh would return to them.
4. [3:8] How had Israel robbed God?  
They had robbed God in their tithes and offerings.
5. [3:10] What did Yahweh tell the people to do with their tithe?  
He told them to bring their full tithe into the storehouse.
6. [3:10-12] What did Yahweh promise would happen if Israel brought the full tithe into the storehouse?  
Yahweh would send down great blessings from heaven on them. He would rebuke the one who destroyed their crops. All the nations would call Israel blessed.

**Comment Section:**

## Malachi 4:1-6 The great day of Yahweh's judgment

*Read the passage.*

### Part 1

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

- ☐ On the day that was coming, the arrogant and evildoers would be burned up with nothing left. [4:1]
- ☐ The sun of righteousness would rise for those who feared Yahweh's name. [4:2]
- ☐ On the day that was coming, the righteous would trample down the wicked. The wicked would be ashes under their feet. [4:3]
- ☐ Yahweh would send Elijah to turn the heart of the fathers to their children, and the heart of the children to their fathers. [4:5-6]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [4:1] On the day that was coming, burning like a furnace, what would happen to those who were proud and to evildoers?  
The proud and the evildoers would be burned up. They would become like stubble, with no root or branch left.
2. [4:2] What would happen for those who feared Yahweh?  
The sun of righteousness would rise with healing in its wings, and they would go leaping like calves from the stall.
3. [4:2] What do you think it means for the sun of righteousness to rise with healing in its wings?  
This figure of speech could mean that those who feared Yahweh would become more and more righteous and would be healed. It could also be a prophecy about the righteous light of the world, the Messiah, who would come to heal people from their sin.
4. [4:3] What do you think it means for the people who feared Yahweh to leap like calves from the stall?  
This figure of speech seems to indicate that these people would experience freedom and joy, like some animals appear to show when they are freed from an enclosure.
5. [4:3] What would those who feared Yahweh's name do to the wicked on that day?  
They would trample down the wicked.
6. [4:3] What would happen to the wicked on the day that Yahweh would act?  
On that day the wicked would be trampled down and would be ashes under the feet of the righteous.

**Malachi 4:1-6 continued**

7. [4:4] What did Yahweh command all Israel to do?  
He commanded them to obey the law of his servant Moses.
  
8. [4:5-6] What would Yahweh do before the day of Yahweh?  
He would send Elijah to turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, so that Yahweh would not attack and completely destroy the land.

**Comment Section:**