

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

FOR

STANDARD 8

BY ZIKOMO MASESE BANDA

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UNIT 1 THE PROPHETS

Written by Zikomo Masese Banda

A prophet is a messenger of God.

FOUR MAIN PROPHETS SENT TO THE ISRAELITES

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Amos
- Micah

IMPORTANCE OF PROPHETS (THE DUTIES OF THE PROPHETS)

- They remind people to be faithful
- They condemn people against their sins
- They warn people about God's punishment
- They foretell the future
- They preach the word of God

HOW THE MESSAGES OF PROPHETS WERE CARRIED OUT

- Through sermons
- Through their behaviours
- Through their written words

THE MESSAGE OF ISAIAH (Isaiah 3:16-26)

Isaiah warned the Israelites that if they continued to rebel, God would punish them.

Isaiah's message was important because he was protecting them from God's punishment.

THE MISSION OF JEREMIAH (Jeremiah 1:1-19; 2:9-13; 4:1-4)

Jeremiah's mission was to warn the people of Jerusalem against idol worshipping.

Jeremiah told them to repent and come back to God.

Jeremiah's message was important because it teaches about reverence, love and protection of each other.

THE MESSAGE OF AMOS (Amos 2:6-8; 8:4-14; 9:1-4)

The mission of Amos was to preach the word of God to the people of the northern kingdom of Israel.

His message was against injustice, corruption, insecurity and oppression of the poor.

Amos' message is important because it teaches about love, empathy, patience, mercy and justice.

THE MESSAGE OF MICAH (Micah 2:1-13; 3:1-12; 7:1-7)

The mission of Micah was to warn the people of Judah against planning and doing evil.

His message was that God would punish them because of their injustice, corruption and oppression of the poor.

Micah's message is important because it teaches about justice, love and humility.

HOW GOD RULED THROUGH ISAIAH (Isaiah 1:2-31; 3:16-26)

Isaiah, son of Amoz, was one of the prophets that God chose to guide the Israelites.

God showed and revealed the message to Isaiah through a vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem during the time when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah were kings of Judah.

Isaiah warned the people of the two cities that God would punish them if they did not change from evil doing.

HOW GOD RULED THROUGH JEREMIAH (Jeremiah 1:1-19; 2:9-13; 4:1-4)

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests of the town of Anathoth.

The Lord spoke to Jeremiah when Josiah and his son Jehoiakim were kings of Judah.

He also spoke to him many times when Zedekiah son of Josiah was in his eleventh year of reign as king of Judah.

God guided Jeremiah by giving him words to speak to the people.

He was given authority over nations and kingdoms, to uproot and pull down, destroy and overthrow and to build and to plant.

God was with him throughout his mission.

HOW GOD RULED THROUGH AMOS (Amos 2:6-8; 8:4-14; 9:1-4)

God chose Amos, one of the shepherds from Tekoa to guide Israelites.

This was when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam, son Jehoash, was king of Israel.

God appointed Amos to guide the people of Israel against the oppression of the poor.

He told them about God's judgement that He would destroy them because of their sins.

HOW GOD RULED THROUGH MICAH (Micah 2:1-13; 3:1-12; 7:1-7)

Micah of Moresheth had a vision about a downfall of Samaria and Jerusalem.

God chose him when Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah were kings of Judah.

He was given responsibility to warn the people of Samaria and Jerusalem not to plan and do evil against others.

He guided them against the oppression of the poor and denounced the leaders of Israel for their corrupt practices.

UNIT 2 JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Triumphant entry means visiting a place as an honourable person.

OCCASIONS WHEN HONOURABLE PEOPLE VISIT A PLACE

- Political gatherings
- Wedding ceremonies
- Funeral ceremonies
- Chief's installation ceremonies
- Tribal gatherings
- Inauguration ceremonies

HOW PEOPLE REACT WHEN THEY ARE VISITED BY AN HONOURABLE PERSON

- ★ By singing
- ★ By dancing
- ★ By ululating
- ★ By eating special food
- ★ By giving them souvenir gifts

HOW JESUS ENTERED JERUSALEM (Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-9; Luke 19:28-48; John 12:12-19)

On the first day of the Passion Week, Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem in a humble manner while riding on a donkey.

People spread their clothes and branches of trees on the road.

They did this while singing in praise of God.

His entry into Jerusalem testified that he was the Messiah.

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE DURING THE PASSION WEEK (Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48)

When Jesus entered the temple, He found people trading and exchanging money.

Angrily, He drove them out and overturned their tables as a way of cleansing the temple.

The chief priests and other religious leaders felt offended and were angered by His actions.

As a result, they plotted to kill Him.

UNIT 3 HUMAN RIGHTS

THE VALUE OF LIFE (Genesis 2:7; 4:14-15; Exodus 2:1-5; 20:13)

The value of life is that it makes every person a living being as created by God and that has the right to be alive and live freely.

The Bible teaches that killing through abortion or any other means is a sin.

It does not recommend capital punishment.

People violate the right to life through abortion and capital punishment.

They may also violate the right to life through abuse of power.

Christians should observe the value of life and promote good behaviour such as peace, unity, tolerance, love, justice, fairness and equality in society.

THE ABUSE OF POWER (Exodus 1:15-21; John 7:24; Romans 12:19)

Abuse of power is when a person uses his or her position for personal gains.

Or

Abuse of power is using one's position for personal gains.

This happens when a person holding a position is exercising his or her powers negatively against the demands of the law.

Power is usually abused through corrupt practices and unfair judgement.

It is important to fight against corruption by reporting all cases of abuse of power to the responsible authorities.

The Bible teaches people to make the right judgement.

Therefore, Christians should fight against corruption by spreading the spirit of love, tolerance and observing human rights.

UNIT 4 THE ARREST AND TRIALS OF JESUS

Arrest means taking and keeping somebody prisoner with the authority of the law.

Or

Arrest is to take and keep somebody prisoner with the authority of the law.

A trial is a process of finding out whether a person accused of a crime is guilty or innocent.

Or

Trial is a formal examination of evidence in a court of law to prove a suspect guilty or innocent.

THE ARREST OF JESUS (Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:47-53)

At the Passover feast, Jesus told His disciples about His arrest leading to His death.

He revealed that one of the disciples would betray Him.

After the Passover feast, Jesus went with His disciples to Gethsemane to pray.

After that, He took three of His disciples and went further.

Jesus left the three on one place and went a step further to pray alone.

Soon after praying for the third time, Judas, one of the disciples came with chief priests, officers of the temple guards and elders to arrest Jesus.

Judas identified Jesus with a kiss and the armed men arrested Jesus.

THE TRIALS OF JESUS (Matthew 27:11-26; Luke 22:66-71; 23:1-25)

There were many accusations made against Jesus.

ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST JESUS

- He was accused of refusing to pay tax
- He was accused of calling Himself a king
- He was accused of stirring up the people all over Judea by His teachings

When Jesus was arrested, two kings tried Him in Jerusalem.

Pilate asked Jesus questions and found Him not guilty of any offence.

Pilate then sent Jesus to Herod for another trial.

Herod asked Jesus many questions but Jesus did not answer them.

Herod also found nothing wrong in Jesus but ridiculed, mocked and sent Him back to Pilate.

Pilate then called the chief priests, rulers and the people and told them that Jesus did not commit any offence to deserve the death sentence.

The people insisted that Jesus should be crucified and Barabbas be released.

Then Pilate handed over Jesus to the people and released Barabbas.

UNIT 5 FORGIVENESS

MEANING OF THE TERM 'FORGIVENESS'

Forgiveness is the act of not taking into account other people's wrongs.

WHY DO PEOPLE ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS (Genesis 50:2-21; Isaiah 38:1-5; Luke 15:11-31; Luke 23:39-43; Acts 7:60; 2 Timothy 4:16)

- To create good relationships
- To restore good relationships

SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE FORGIVENESS

- Fighting
- Stealing
- Killing
- Insulting others

UNIT 6 WORK AND LEISURE

WORK

Work is an activity in which the effort of the body and mind produces something or gains a result.

Every person is expected to do some work to live a productive life.

The amount of work people do varies with age, health, attitudes and responsibility.

LEISURE

Leisure is the time when one is free from work or duties of any kind.

During leisure time people do many activities such as chatting with family members and friends, reading story books and newspapers, fishing, sewing, playing games and other sporting activities, swimming, visiting relatives, visiting friends and visiting the sick.

IMPORTANCE OF WORK

- ★ It provides them with basic needs
- ★ It provides them with body exercises
- ★ It protects one from effects of laziness
- ★ It earns them respect and favour from others

IMPORTANCE OF LEISURE TIME

- ❖ It allows people to relax
- ❖ It allows people to rest

- ❖ It allows to do their hobbies

BIBLE TEACHINGS ON WORK AND LEISURE (Genesis 2:1-3; 2 Kings 5:20-27; Proverbs 12:24; Proverbs 24:30-34; Proverbs 10:4; Matthew 25:26; Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 5:13)

The Bible teaches about the importance of work and condemns laziness because laziness brings poverty.

God is not pleased with laziness because God was the first one to work by creating the universe and everything in it.

God valued leisure time by resting on the seventh day after the creation of the universe.

God made Adam and Eve as God's co-workers.

Jesus worked as a carpenter.

Paul worked as a tent maker

Simon Peter worked as a fisherman

Paul also taught that lazy people must not eat because work was ordained by God.

Parents, guardians and teachers should teach their children and learners to be hard workers at school and home.

However, they should be guarded against over-working, child abuse and child labour.

PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE FACED BY IDLE OR LAZY PEOPLE

- Poverty
- Drug and substance abuse
- Prostitution
- Theft
- Violence
- Discrimination

WHAT MAKES GOD THE FIRST WORKER

- God was the first one to work by creating the universe and everything in it

UNIT 7 THE ROLES OF THE PROPHETS

Meaning of the term 'role'

A role is a part taken by someone in life or in any activity.

Meaning of the term 'prophets'

Prophets were messengers of God.

ROLES OF THE PROPHETS (Isaiah 1:2-31; 3:16-26; Jeremiah 1:4-19; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Amos 2:6-8; Amos 8:4-14; Amos 9:1-4; Micah 2:1-13; Micah 3:1-12; Micah 7:1-7)

- ★ Carrying messages from God to people
- ★ Preaching God's message to the people
- ★ Guiding kings and God's people in difficult circumstances
- ★ Anointing leaders
- ★ Condemning the evil
- ★ Prophesying or foretelling the future events
- ★ Acting as a bridge between God and people
- ★ Acting as a bridge between God and leaders

PROPHETIC ROLES OF CHRISTIANS (Romans 12:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 28-31)

- Preaching
- Prophesying
- Baptising
- Guiding
- Counselling
- Praying for the sick
- Teaching the word of God
- Administering the church

HOW GOD RULES THROUGH CHRISTIANS (Matthew 28:19-20)

God rules the world through different Christian missions.

These missions are fulfilled through:

- Praying for those in bondage
- Relief provision
- Mediating
- Counselling
- Preaching the word of God
- Praying for peace

UNIT 8 THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

The meanings of the terms 'crucifixion' and 'resurrection'.

Crucifixion

Crucifixion is the death of Jesus on the cross.

Resurrection

Resurrection is the state of coming back to life.

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS (Matthew 27:32-66; Mark 15:12-32; Luke 23:26-55; John 19:16-79)
Jesus died a painful and cruel death.

The Jews crucified Jesus because they thought Jesus was blasphemous.

Jesus was mocked, whipped and spat at.

He was wounded, tired and failed to carry the cross.

Instead, Simon of Cyrene carried the cross for Jesus to Golgotha.

After crucifying Jesus, they shared Jesus' garments by casting lots.

They then put an inscription on Jesus' cross which read, "This is Jesus the King of Kings".

Jesus was mocked by soldiers, passers-by and one of the two robbers who were also crucified together with Jesus.

Thereafter, there was darkness all over the land for three hours, and later on, Jesus cried and died.

Soon after his death, a curtain of the temple was torn in two parts, the earth shook, rocks were split, tombs were opened and bodies of the saints were raised and seen walking in the city of Jerusalem.

Those who were watching over Jesus at the cross were filled with awe and believed that Jesus was the son of God.

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pontius Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus and laid it in his own new tomb.

When Joseph was doing all these, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were there.

EVENTS THAT HAPPENED WHEN JESUS WAS ON THE CROSS

- curtain of the temple was torn in two parts
- the earth shook
- rocks were split
- tombs were opened
- bodies of the saints were raised

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (Matthew 28:1-20; Luke 24:1-12, 43; John 20:1-20)
Jesus resurrected after three days.

The women were the first to visit the tomb.

They found that the stone was rolled away and did not find the body of Jesus.

Two angels told them that Jesus had risen.

After his resurrection Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene.

Later, Jesus appeared to two men who were going to Emmaus.

He appeared again to his disciples who were gathered in the upper room and they were frightened thinking that they had seen a spirit.

Jesus told them to look at his hands and feet to believe that he had risen.

OCCASIONS JESUS APPEARED TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE AFTER HIS RESURRECTION

- Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene
- Jesus appeared to two men who were going to Emmaus
- Jesus appeared to his disciples

UNIT 9 REASONS FOR FORGIVENESS

People offend each other and it is their responsibility to behave morally in order to live in harmony with others in communities.

Therefore it is important to forgive each other because it assists in restoring or creating a good relationship.

SITUATIONS WHERE PEOPLE ARE FORGIVEN (Genesis 50:15-21; Isaiah 38:1-5; Matthew 6:12; Luke 15:11-31; Corinthians 3:13)

The Bible has stories where people were forgiven.

For example,

- a. The prodigal son was forgiven by his father after spending his money carelessly. He decided to go back to his father who forgave and accepted him.
- b. Hezekiah was forgiven by God by adding more years to his life when he was about to die.
- c. Joseph forgave his brothers while he was a governor in Egypt by assisting them with a place to live and food when there was famine in Canaan.

Today, people forgive each other whenever one pleads for forgiveness.

Therefore, forgiveness is important in any society.

REFERENCE

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