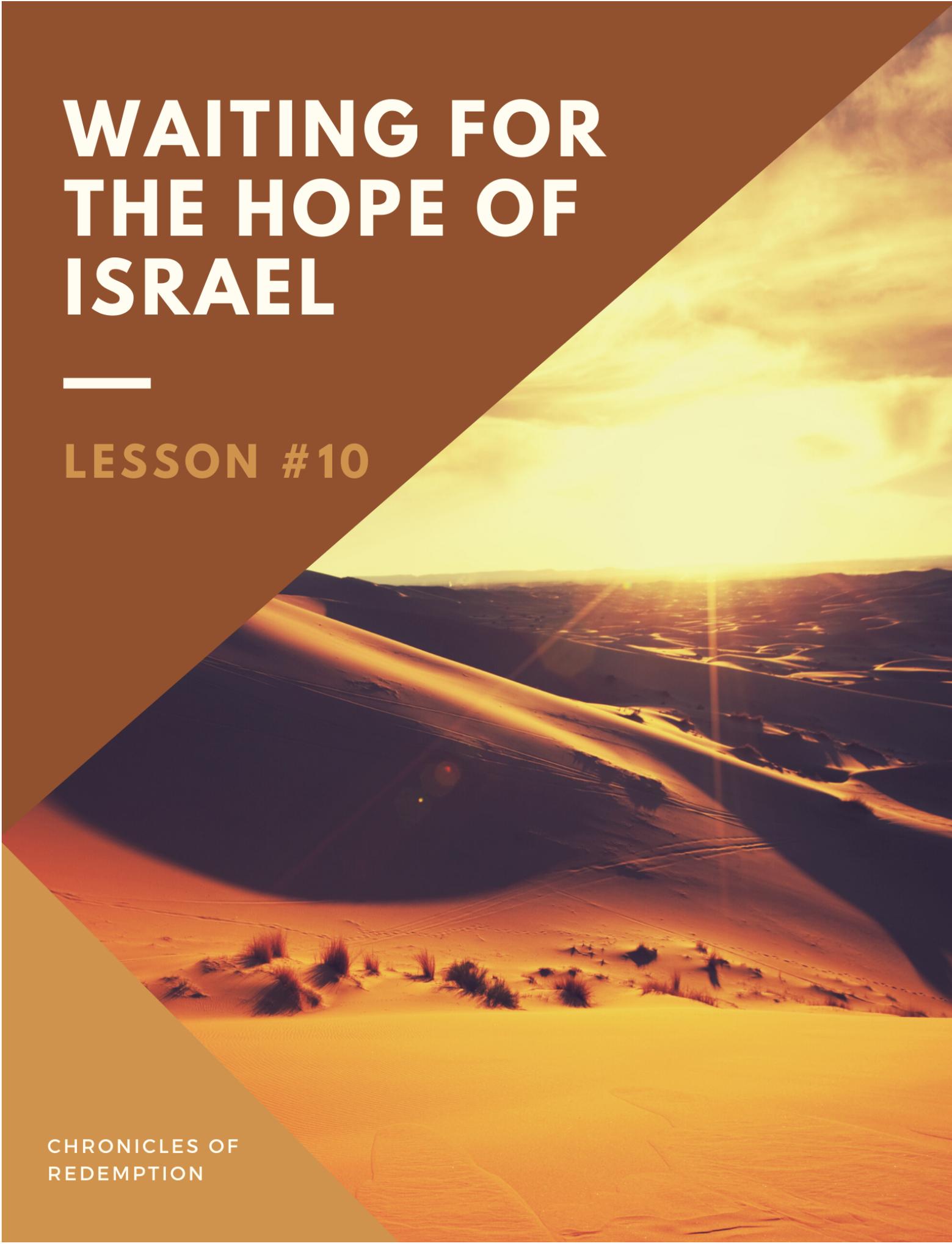


WAITING FOR THE HOPE OF ISRAEL

LESSON #10

CHRONICLES OF
REDEMPTION



Waiting for the Hope of Israel

Numbers-Malachi

INTRODUCTION

This lesson will cover the remainder of the Old Testament, spanning over 1,400 years of the history of Israel. Taking us from Mount Sinai to the Promised Land of Canaan, through times of judges, kings, and prophets, the unfolding saga of God's plan to redeem mankind moves relentlessly forward. Whether in military conquest, kingdom glory, or under foreign dominance, God's sustaining love for His needy people remained the theme in His revelation to man.

With the Law given at Sinai and the tabernacle erected, God would bring Israel to the Promised Land. As He had led His people from Egypt, manifesting His presence by cloud and fire, so He would lead them now...

Numbers 9:15-18



"Now on the day that the tabernacle was erected, the cloud covered the tabernacle... And whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would then set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp. At the command of the Lord the sons of Israel would set out, and at the command of the Lord they would camp."



Waiting Through Years of Unbelief



Read Numbers 10:11-12



ISRAEL JOURNEYS TO KADESH-BARNEA, THE BORDER OF THE PROMISED LAND

Thirteen _____ after the nation's deliverance from Egypt, the cloud moved from over the tabernacle. Israel began its ordered, military-style march from Sinai towards Canaan, the land which God had promised to Abraham.



Deuteronomy 1:8,19

"See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them... "Then we set out...and went through all that great and terrible wilderness...and we came to Kadesh-barnea."

When Israel arrived at Kadesh, the northern edge of Paran bordering the Promised Land, the people asked Moses to send in spies to see what its inhabitants were like (cf. Deut. 1:22). At God's direction, Moses sent twelve, one representative from each of the tribes (cf. Num. 13:1-2). When they returned after forty days, ten of the men _____ the people from entering the land, citing fortified cities, fierce warriors, and probable death. Only two—Joshua, the protégé of Moses, and Caleb—encouraged the people to faith, saying, *"We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it"* (Num. 13:30).

Even while on the threshold of their greatest blessing, the nation was nevertheless swayed by the negative report. Fearing for their lives and families, Israel drew back in _____ and refused to take the land God had given them.



Deuteronomy 1:26, 32

"...You were not willing to go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God... You did not trust the Lord your God."



Read Numbers 14:1-9



THE FAITHLESS HEART

Israel's attitude, masked behind fear and self-protection, was in reality defiant _____. The same God Who tenderly gave His people manna from heaven and water from a rock, Israel now irrationally accused of desiring to kill them in the wilderness. The people turned their rage on Joshua and Caleb to stone them, but God intervened (cf. Num. 14:10).



Deuteronomy 1:34-35, 39-40

"Then the Lord heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying, 'Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers... Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons...shall enter there, and I will give it to them, and they shall possess it. But as for you, turn around and set out for the wilderness.'"

Israel *would not* _____ God. Although their fear may have been genuine, not one excuse for their disloyalty could be justified before the Lord. Furthermore, God judged their unbelief as rebellion—calling the entire generation *evil* for rejecting the land, spurning His good and generous character, and denying His power to protect them.

God banished the unbelieving generation to the wilderness where they were condemned to wander until they died. Of that generation, only _____ and _____ would enter the land. Consequently, a journey which could have been done in only eleven days stretched out to thirty-eight years, making the total time from Egypt to the entrance of the Promised Land *forty years*—one year for every day the spies were in the land (cf. Deut. 1:2-3). The tragic story of Israel's unbelief is fully recorded in Numbers 10:11-14:45, and reiterated in Deuteronomy 1:1-46.

► **Unbelief**, closely connected to disobedience, simply means not taking God at His Word.

The Bible is not silent concerning this prevalent temptation in the lives of men. It refers to unbelief as _____ (Matt. 7:26-27) and evidence of a hard and evil heart (cf. Acts 19:9; Heb. 3:12). The unbeliever willfully forgets God (cf. Hos. 13:6), denies God (cf. Psa. 10:4), and cannot please God (cf. Heb. 11:6). He rejects the truth for his love of sin and thus forfeits his life in the end (cf. John 3:18-21,36). Israel knew the will of God, but did not act on it and perished. Likewise it is possible for any person to hear God's Word, but lose his soul through unbelief (cf. Mark 8:36ff). That is why God warns man to guard against unbelief.



Hebrews 3:15

"Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

NOTES:

► THE BRONZE SERPENT

The history of Israel's forty years in the wilderness was a continuous stream of complaints and dissatisfaction even though God continued to sustain them in every way (cf. Deut. 29:5). One example serves to illustrate that whole period in Israel's history.



Read Numbers 21:4-9

- ***“We loathe this miserable food” (21:5).***

As unbelievable as it may sound, the “miserable food” that Israel loathed referred to the heavenly manna God had given them. Their sin of ingratitude resulted in _____ by venomous snakebite.

- ***“We have sinned” (21:7).***

When the people _____ their sin and asked for mercy, God graciously and supernaturally prepared a way of escape in the bronze serpent.

- ***“If a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived” (21:9).***

The individual was saved by God’s grace, through the individual’s obedient faith. Anyone *could* look, but only one who _____ *would* look and be saved from certain death. Gazing at a bronze serpent for healing made no sense except through the eyes of faith.

2

Waiting Through Years of Apostasy



JOSHUA

The land which God had promised to Abraham by covenant, He now commanded His people to take by conquest. The book of Joshua records the history of these military campaigns. The inhabitants of Canaan were fully given to idolatry, even burning their own children in sacrifice to their false gods (Deut. 12:29-31). Knowing that the Canaanites would eventually draw Israel into idolatry, God commanded His people to drive them entirely out of the land and destroy their _____ (Num. 33:50-53, 55). In a seven-year invasion led by Joshua, the armies of Israel routed many of the Canaanite tribes—but not all. Later, the territory was divided and settled by the tribes of Israel, God Himself having established their _____ (Josh. 13-19).



Joshua 21:43-45

“So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. . . Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.”

THE JUDGES

God had been faithful to His Word and His people, but Israel continued to fail Him, for they did not drive out all the Canaanites as God had commanded (cf. Josh. 15:63; 16:10; 17:12-13; 23:12-13). The book of Judges records the events which took place in Israel's history directly after the death of Joshua.



Judges 2:10

"...That generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel."

Israel's younger _____ had not experienced the slavery in Egypt nor the miraculous Exodus. They had not seen God part the waters of the Red Sea or witnessed His majesty as He descended on Sinai in thunderings and whirlwind. They did not know the Lord and therefore were easily enticed into mixed marriages with the Canaanites and were led astray by their idols.



Read Judges 2:11-19

Thus began a dismal pattern of sin, oppression, deliverance, and a return to sin which would span the entire era of the judges, a period of 350 years. The downward cycle looked like this...

1 Idolatry

• "...They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtaroth" (2:13).

The Canaanites served Baal, the male fertility god, and his female counterpart Ashtoreth. The worship rituals included temple prostitution as well as child sacrifice. Tragically, Baal worship took root early in the history of Israel, eventually leading to the sacrifice of their own children as burnt offerings (cf. Jer. 19:3-5). The Bible consistently links idolatry to the worship of _____, for Satan deceptively uses all forms of false worship to influence the mind and advance rebellion against God's truth and His purpose for humankind (cf. Deut. 32:17; Rev. 9:20).



Psalm 106:34-43

"They did not destroy the peoples, as the Lord commanded them, but they mingled with the nations, and learned their practices, and served their idols, which became a snare to them..."

(Continued on next page...)



Psalm 106:34-43

They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons...to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with the blood..."
"...Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against His people, and He abhorred His inheritance. Then He gave them into the hand of the nations; and those who hated them ruled over them... Many times He would deliver them; They, however, were rebellious...and so sank down in their iniquity."

2 Oppression

- ***"The anger of the Lord burned...and He sold them into the hands of their enemies" (2:14).***

God would _____ His people through military defeat and dominance by foreign invaders.

3 Pleading

- ***"...For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning" (2:18).***

Israel would plead to God for mercy only when their condition became desperate. God's _____ moved Him to act on behalf of His rebellious people.

4 Deliverance

- ***"Then the Lord raised up judges who delivered them" (2:16).***

The judges were local military and civil leaders sent by God to _____ Israel from the tyranny of their enemies.

5 Return to idolatry

- ***"But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly" (2:19).***

The nation failed to regard the counsel of the judges while they lived (cf. 2:17), and returned to _____ after they died.

During the 350-year period of the judges, there were at least seven cycles of sin and fifteen judges sent to deliver Israel. The final words in the book of Judges best summarize the condition of the nation during this time.



Judges 21:25

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

THE KINGS

After failure under the judges, Israel requested a king in order to be like the nations surrounding them (cf. 1 Sam. 8:4-6). The period of the kings would span the next ____ years of Israel's history. It would bring organization and structure to the nation by uniting the tribes of Israel into one central kingdom. The books of 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles record the lives, exploits, and failures of the nation's forty-two kings.

1 The qualifications for the kings

Although the expectations of the people were for their kings to lead in battle (cf. 1 Sam. 8:20), God required that kings be governed by specific principles. Most importantly, the king was to lead a blameless life, always in dependence upon God and His ____ (cf. Deut. 17:16-20).

2 The rule of the kings

The position of God as the supreme Ruler over man and all creation has remained unchanged throughout history. Nonetheless, God has _____ authority to man (cf. Gen. 1:28). The kings of Israel were chosen by God to rule over His people as representatives of His authority on earth. They were to carry out God's will, not their own. Like the High Priest, kings were chosen by ____ and not men (cf. 1 Sam. 10:24; 16:1, 11-13). For this reason, both kings and priests were called the Lord's anointed, meaning chosen by God (cf. Lev. 4:5; 1 Sam. 24:6; 2 Sam. 19:21).

NOTES:

3 Two most prominent kings

The reign of _____ and his son _____ raised Israel to its zenith as a nation on the world scene. The Bible honestly records both the greatness and the failures of these kings (cf. 1 Sam. 16-1 Kings 12).

▶ DAVID:

The reign of David came the closest to God's ideal of divine rule. In spite of his failings and sin, God called him "a man after My heart, who will do all My will" (Acts 13:22; cf. 1 Sam. 13:14). David eloquently expressed his tender love for God and personal recognition of sin in the book of _____ (cf. Psa. 23; 51).

By far, the most significant event to take place during the time of the Kings was the covenant God made with David.

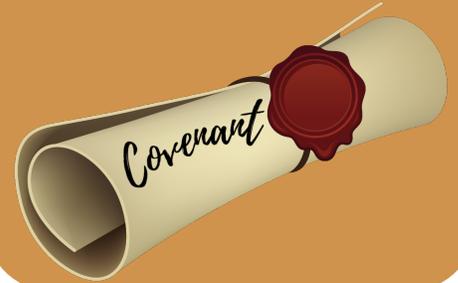


Psalm 89:3-4, 30-37

"I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 'I will establish your seed forever, and build up your throne to all generations'... If his sons forsake My law...and do not keep My commandments, then I will visit their transgressions with the rod... But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him... My covenant I will not violate... Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His descendants shall endure forever."

God's unconditional covenant with David was both a link to the past, connecting him with God's promise of a Seed to _____, and a window into the future, relating him to the coming _____ (cf. 2 Sam 7:8-17). One of David's descendants would be *the Lord's anointed*, the chosen long-promised Redeemer. Regardless of Israel's future failures, God's covenant with David would endure until fulfillment because it was based on the holiness of God, and not the faithfulness of man.

DAVIDIC COVENANT



▶ SOLOMON:

Under the reign of Solomon, David's son, Israel enjoyed unprecedented _____ (cf. 1 Kings 4:20-21; 5:4-5). God blessed Solomon with untold wisdom and wealth.

1 Kings 4:29-32; 10:21



"Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore... He was wiser than all men...and his fame was known in all the surrounding nations. He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005..."

"And all King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold... So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. And all the earth was seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart. And they brought every man his gift...silver and gold, garments, weapons, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year... And the king made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem."

The portable tabernacle, which had been the center of worship during the years of Israel's wandering, would now be replaced by a glorious _____ in Jerusalem. Solomon utilized all the wealth of his kingdom to build this magnificent tribute to God. The temple became the center of the kingdom and was clearly Solomon's most significant contribution to the nation (cf. 1 Kings 5 - 8:21).

Tragically, toward the end of his life, Solomon spurned God's commands and married hundreds of foreign women. Many of these marriages were formed to create political alliances with surrounding nations, but nonetheless these foreign women turned his heart away from God and toward their _____. The idolatry of Solomon sent his kingdom into a decline from which it never recovered (cf. Deut. 17:14-17; 1 Kings 11:9-13).

4 Failure of the kings

After the death of Solomon, the nation _____ into northern and southern kingdoms (cf. 1 Kings 12). Both kingdoms were increasingly disobedient to God and His Law. Out of the twenty kings of Judah, the southern kingdom, only eight were righteous before God. Not one of the nineteen kings of Israel, the northern kingdom, knew the Lord. Israel spiraled downward into apostasy and corruption, both political and religious. Even though God's chosen channel for world redemption had abandoned Him, God did not forsake His covenant to Abraham or David, nor did He leave His people without a voice.

THE PROPHETS

Throughout the period of the kings, God used special messengers through whom He communicated His will to Israel and her kings. These Old Testament _____, "who spoke in the name of the Lord" (cf. James 5:10), were God's mouthpiece and the spiritual conscience of the nation. So important was the clarity of their message to Israel that the punishment for a counterfeit or faked prophecy was death (cf. Deut. 18:20).

As Israel abandoned God, the prophets denounced their sin, called them to repentance, and warned them of coming _____. But the nation did not listen.

2 Kings 17:13-14



"...The Lord warned Israel and Judah, through all His prophets and every seer, saying, 'Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the Law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.' However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God."

The walls of Jerusalem were breached in 586 B.C., and the city completely overthrown. The Babylonians ravaged the magnificent temple built by Solomon, stealing valuables and burning the rest to the ground. Those who escaped death by starvation or murder by the sword were _____ to Babylon where they remained for seventy years (cf. 2 Kings 25:1-21; Jer. 39:1-10).

2 Chronicles 36:15-21



"And the Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His Word, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, until there was no remedy. Therefore he brought up against them the king of [Babylon] who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin or infirm; He gave them all into their hand. And all the articles of the house of God, great and small... he brought them to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem... And those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him... to fulfill the word of the Lord... until seventy years were complete."

The seventy-year captivity of Israel ended with the overthrow of Babylon by the Persians in 539 B.C. and the subsequent decree by King _____ of Persia allowing the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem (cf. Ezra 6:3-5). The exiles did return to their devastated homeland, but gone was the temple, the king, and the kingdom. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah record this moving historical account (cf. Ps. 126:1-2; Isa. 48:20).

The temple was rebuilt and filled with the original temple furnishings stolen by Nebuchadnezzar when the Temple of Solomon was ransacked. However, smaller and without extravagant embellishments, the new temple lacked the _____ of the old (cf. Hag. 2:3). And so it was viewed with mixed emotion.

Ezra 3:12-13



"...Many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundations of this house were laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy; so that the people could not distinguish the sound of joy from the sound of weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away."

Israel never regained the stature of the former kingdom under David and Solomon. Furthermore, they lost full political autonomy, although priests and religious leaders were permitted to exercise a measure of civil authority. From this time forward, the nation was _____ by one world power after another: first Persia, then Greece, and finally Rome.

4

Prophecies of Hope for the Remnant of God

Throughout Israel's 1400-year history of failure, God did not abandon His channel for world redemption (cf. Psa. 106:44-46). He graciously sent judges and prophets to call the wandering nation back through messages of warning and doom. Yet not all of Israel had turned away. In every generation, God kept a faithful _____ of believers who loved and obeyed Him (cf. Isa. 1:9; 10:20; Rom. 9:27-29). This minority of survivors steadfastly rejected the idolatry of their peers and waited—through years of unbelief, apostasy, and even captivity—for the promised Messiah to restore all things. To this remnant the prophets brought a message of hope, a glimpse into the future, pointing to a time of blessing and peace. Their prophecies centered around these three distinct areas...

1 HOPE IN THE MESSIAH

God's covenant to Abraham would be fulfilled in the Messiah, the *Seed* of Abraham, who would bring blessing to all the earth. According to prophecies written hundreds of years before His birth, the Messiah would be...

- Preceded by a _____ who would announce His arrival (cf. Mal. 3:1; Isa. 40:3-5).
- A descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Judah, and in the royal line of _____ (cf. Gen. 12:3; Isa. 11:1; Mic. 5:2).
- Supernaturally conceived (cf. Isa. 7:14).
- Born in the city of _____ (cf. Mic. 5:2).
- Called *Immanuel*, meaning "God with Us" (cf. Isa. 7:14).
- Born to restore and redeem (cf. Isa. 61:1).
- Falsely accused and betrayed by a friend for _____ (cf. Ps. 27:12; 41:9; Zech. 11:12-13).
- Mistreated and murdered by men (cf. Isa. 50:6; 53:4-7; Ps. 22:6-8).

2 HOPE IN AN ETERNAL KINGDOM

God's covenant to David would be fulfilled in the Messiah, an eternal King ruling over an _____ kingdom. According to prophecy, this kingdom will be:

- Ruled justly by a direct descendant of David (cf. Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-2).
- Filled with _____, joy, and righteousness, where sorrow will be no more (cf. Isa. 11:3-9; 25:8; 61:7).
- Healing for the world (cf. Isa. 35:5-6).
- A return to the abundance of Eden (cf. Ezek. 47:12).
- Fed by a _____ filled with life-giving water (Ezek. 47:12).
- Free from the effects of sin's curse – even the desert will break forth in bloom (cf. Isa. 35:1-2,6-7).
- The place of God's _____, where He will dwell with Israel forever (cf. Ezek. 43:7).
- An end to Israel's waiting (cf. Isa. 25:9).

3 HOPE IN A NEW COVENANT

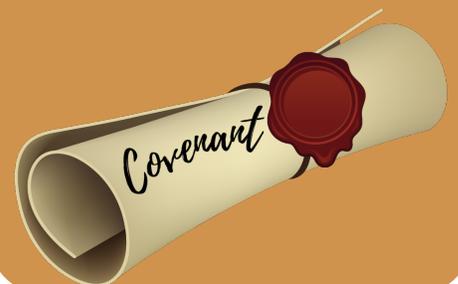
For an individual to benefit from the blessings of the covenants to Abraham and David he had to be a part of true Israel—the holy nation which was God's Own possession (cf. Exod. 19:5-6)—and this was conditioned upon keeping the Law. But even the most devout worshiper knew that keeping the Law was _____, because it only exposed the sin rooted in their hearts. The magnificent blessings so clearly laid out by God in the covenants were unattainable because of sin. And the sacrifices—which had to be offered continually—could cover their sin but failed to cleanse their heart. This dilemma created a craving for deliverance which only God could resolve. He would compassionately make a New Covenant with Israel.



Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

The New Covenant, also fulfilled in the Messiah, was to be God's answer to man's sinful heart. Old Testament prophecies foretold that the New Covenant would be:

**THE NEW
COVENANT**



- An _____ and supernatural work of God in the hearts of men (Jer. 31:33).
- Complete forgiveness of sin by God—“...*Their sin I will remember no more*” (Jer 31:34).
- A cleansing of the whole person—body and _____ (cf. Ezek. 36:25; Ps. 51:7-10; Heb. 10:22-23).
- The gift of a new heart which would be inclined to love God and enabled to obey His commands (cf. Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 36:26).
- A fulfilled relationship with _____, unmarred by sin (Jer. 31:33-34).

CONCLUSION

After Israel’s return from Babylonian captivity, they were only a shadow of the nation they once were. The faithful remnant of true believers, armed with the promises of God and the knowledge that His Word is true, persevered in hope. But most people, including the religious leaders paid only lip service to the worship of God. God’s voice through His prophets fell silent during that time. There was no revelation for the next _____ years.

The Old Testament records human history from the Divine perspective.
Its singular message is written over every page:

The desperate need of man for His God,
and the power of God to supply;
the awful state of the sinner without God,
and the mercy of God to forgive.



Questions

1. After Israel left Sinai, where did they go and why?

2. What was the underlying cause of Israel not entering the Promised Land?

3. What was God's judgment on Israel for not entering the land?

4. What does the Bible teach about unbelief?

5. How did God provide a way of escape from the bite of the fiery serpents?

6. What was Israel's cycle of failure during the era of the Judges?

7. What was the covenant God made with King David?

8. What was King Solomon's contribution to Israel?

9. Why did Israel decline after the reign of King Solomon?



Questions

10. What was the message of the prophets to the kings of Israel?

11. Who is called "the remnant of God"?

12. What was the hope-giving message of the prophets to the faithful remnant?

13. How was Israel to recognize the Messiah?

14. Why did God promise a New Covenant? What are its characteristics?
