

**WEEK 10: NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER**

**DAY 1: EZRA READ GOD'S LAW TO THE PEOPLE**

**Nehemiah 8 to 10**

1. This is our last week to study the twelve books of history. We will finish looking at the book of Nehemiah. Then we will look at Esther. The book of Nehemiah tells about the man, Nehemiah, who served the king of Persia. This book also tells us more about Ezra. We learn about Ezra in two books of history, Ezra and Nehemiah.

Where did the king of Persia give Nehemiah permission to go? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God help Nehemiah do there? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The king of Persia gave Nehemiah permission to go to Jerusalem. God helped Nehemiah rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Today we shall look at Nehemiah chapters 8 to 10. Nehemiah wrote about Ezra in his book. Ezra worked with Nehemiah to help the people. We shall learn:

- (1) Ezra read God's law to the Jews in Jerusalem.
- (2) The Jews promised to obey God's law.

Take your Bible now and read Nehemiah 8:1 to 8.

In which two books of history do we read about Ezra? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Last week we learned about Ezra from the book of Ezra. Today we will learn more about him from the book of Nehemiah. Remember what God's word says about Ezra.

Ezra 7:6,10:

this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses which the Lord the God of Israel had given ... For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to do it, and teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel.

You remember that Zerubbabel led the first group of Jews back to Jerusalem. Who led the second group? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Ezra led the second group of Jews to Jerusalem. You remember that the king of Persia sent Ezra to Jerusalem. He was to help the Jews know God's law.

Ezra 7:14:

For you (Ezra) are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of your God.

Nehemiah 8:1:

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate (in Jerusalem); and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law ... which the Lord had given to Israel.

From this verse, what book was Ezra to bring? \_\_\_\_\_

Who had given this book to Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Ezra was told to bring the book of the law. The Lord had given the law to Israel. The Jews wanted to hear God's law.

Nehemiah 8:2-3:

And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly ... And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday ... and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

Who read God's law to the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Ezra read to the Jews. He read God's law. He read carefully so everyone could hear. Some of the Levites helped the people to understand.

Nehemiah 8:8:

And they read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense (or meaning) so that the people understood the reading.

This verse tells us two important things to do when we read the Bible to people. Write one of them. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Perhaps you wrote that we should read God's word clearly. Or perhaps you wrote that we should explain what we read. Be ready to talk about these things in class. Ezra and the Levites did these things.



Ezra read to the Jews from the book of the law. Whose law was he reading?

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8. It was God's law. The people knew that these were God's words. They wanted to hear more. They wanted to study the words. They wanted to think about them.

Nehemiah 8:13:

On the second day the heads of the fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the law.

What did Ezra read to the Jews in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Ezra read God's law in Jerusalem. The Jews listened. They saw that God was speaking to them. They were hearing God's commands.

Nehemiah 8:14:

And they found written in the law that the Lord had commanded....

If God's law commands a person to do something, what do you think that person should do with that command? \_\_\_\_\_

10. I am sure you said that a person should obey it. Read how the Jews obeyed one of God's commands. Here is the command.

Nehemiah 8:14:

and they found it written in the law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths (or shelters) during the feast of the seventh month.

Now read what the Jews did in Nehemiah 8:17 and 18.

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11. But the Jews did not always obey God's law. Ezra was reading God's law to them. We are learning this from the book of Nehemiah. Now see what happened as Ezra read.

Nehemiah 8:9:

... all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

What do you think the Jews had been doing with God's law that made them weep?  
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What did God want them to do with His law? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. The Jews had been disobeying God's law. God wanted them to obey. Some of the Jews had married heathen wives again. The Jews had disobeyed some other commands of God also. But when they heard the reading, this is what they did.

Nehemiah 9:2-3:

And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins ... and read from the book of the law of the Lord their God for a fourth of the day; for another fourth of it they made confession and worshipped the Lord their God.

What did Ezra read to the Jews in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Ezra read God's law to them. God spoke to the Jews through His word. Some confessed their sin of marrying foreign wives. They worshipped the Lord their God only. They did not want to disobey God any more. They promised to obey God.

Nehemiah 10:28-29:

The rest of the people, the priest, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the law of God ... enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's law which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord.

Write one of God's laws that you think the Jews promised to obey. \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Perhaps you wrote that they promised not to worship idols. Perhaps you wrote that they promised not to marry heathen wives. Nehemiah 10:30-39 gives a list of all the things the Jews promised God. Here are some of them:

- None would marry heathen wives.
- All would keep the Sabbath.
- All would pay the temple tax faithfully.
- They would bring wood for the temple altar.
- They would give the priests and Levites their food.
- None would stop coming to God's house.

What did the Jews promise to do with God's law? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Ezra read God's law to the Jews. The Jews promised to obey it.

What book of history are we looking at that tells us these things? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. We are looking at the book of Nehemiah. We are learning about the Jews who returned from Babylon to Jerusalem.

What did Ezra read to the Jews in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Jews promise to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Ezra read God's law to the Jews in Jerusalem. The Jews promised to obey it. The Jews heard God speaking to them as Ezra read. We have seen how the people repented of their sin. We have seen how they began to obey God's commands.

Mr. Gambere is the pastor of a small church in Kenya. He wants his people to obey God's law. He reads the Bible to them every time they meet. He explains it to them as Ezra did.

How can Mr. Gambere find out if His people understand God commands?

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What can he do to help them obey? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Be ready to share your answers in class.

What did Ezra read to the Jews in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Jews promise to do? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 10: NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER**  
**DAY 2: GOD'S LAW MUST BE OBEYED**  
**Nehemiah 11 to 13**

1. We are studying the third period of history. It was the Rule of Foreign Kings. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther tell about this period. You remember that Ezra led the second group of Jews to Jerusalem.

What did Ezra read to the Jews in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Jews promise to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Ezra read God's law to the Jews in Jerusalem. The Jews promised to obey it. Today we will look at the last three chapters of Nehemiah. Nehemiah said that the walls of Jerusalem must be set aside for God. To set aside for God is to dedicate. We will learn two things from these chapters.

- (1) Nehemiah dedicated the walls of Jerusalem to God.
- (2) Nehemiah helped the Jews obey God's law by throwing Tobiah out of the temple and shutting the city gates.

Take your Bible now and read Nehemiah 12:27 to 31. Now read verse 43.

As we learned, what had God helped Nehemiah do in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. God had helped Nehemiah rebuild the walls. Now Nehemiah wanted to praise God that the walls were finished. He planned that the walls of Jerusalem should be dedicated to God. This is one of the things we are learning from the last three chapters of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 12:27:

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgiving and with singing.

Read the verse again. What was to be dedicated? \_\_\_\_\_

4. The wall of Jerusalem was to be dedicated. Another meaning of dedicate is to give back to God for His use. You remember that Hannah dedicated her son, Samuel. She gave him back to the Lord for Him to use. God used Samuel as prophet, priest and judge. Now the walls of Jerusalem were being dedicated for God's use. The walls protected the city and God's house. The walls kept out the enemies. In the dedication service the people praised and thanked God. God had helped them rebuild the walls. The wall was a sign to everyone that God was caring for His people. Isaiah wrote something about this.

Isaiah 26:1:

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls.

Who dedicated the walls of Jerusalem to God? \_\_\_\_\_

Do we read this in the first three chapters, or the last three chapters of Nehemiah?  
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5. Nehemiah dedicated the walls of Jerusalem. We read this in the last three chapters of Nehemiah. The dedication service was well planned. Nehemiah chose two groups to walk around the city on the wall. One group was led by Ezra. The other group was led by Nehemiah. They walked in opposite directions. When they met they entered the temple.

Nehemiah 12:43:

And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.

What word do we use for setting aside something for God to use? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. To set aside something for God to use is to dedicate it. Nehemiah and the people were dedicating the walls of Jerusalem to God. This is the first thing we learn from the last three chapters of Nehemiah. The second thing we learn is that Nehemiah helped the Jews obey God's law. After dedicating the walls, Nehemiah returned to Babylon. Some years later he visited Jerusalem again.

As we learned, what did the Jews in Jerusalem promise to do with God's law?  
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7. The Jews promised to obey God's law. We have seen some of the laws they promised to obey. They had promised not to marry heathen wives. They had promised to keep the Sabbath day. They also promised to pay the temple tax faithfully and take care of God's house. Some years had passed since the Jews made these promises.

We are looking at the last three chapters of Nehemiah. To whom did Nehemiah dedicate the walls?  
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8. Nehemiah dedicated the walls of Jerusalem to God. Now Nehemiah returned the second time from Babylon. He found that the Jews had not kept their promise. They were not obeying God's law. One law God had given was that Ammonites should not enter the temple unless their family had lived with people of Israel for 10 generations.

Deuteronomy 23:3:

No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation.

Nehemiah 13:7-8:

I then discovered the evil that Eliashib (a priest) had done for Tobiah (an Ammonite), preparing for him a chamber (or room) in the courts of the house of God. And I was very angry.

What had the Jews disobeyed that made Nehemiah angry? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. The Jews had disobeyed God's law. The Jews were God's people. Nehemiah wanted the Jews to obey God's law and honour God. God is honoured when his people obey Him. Nehemiah said that the Jews must obey. Tobiah was an Ammonite and should not have been living in the temple.

Nehemiah 13:8-9:

And I (Nehemiah) was angry and threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber. Then I gave orders and they cleansed the chambers; and I brought back thither the vessels of the house of God.

Who became angry and helped the Jews stop disobeying god's law? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Nehemiah helped the Jews stop disobeying. He also found that the Jews were not keeping the Sabbath day. Read what he told them to do.

Nehemiah 13:19,22:

When it began to be dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the sabbath...And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates to keep the sabbath day holy.

Whose law did Nehemiah help the Jews to obey? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. As he threw Tobiah out of the temple and shut the city gates, Nehemiah helped them obey God's law.

In the last three chapters of the book of Nehemiah, what did Nehemiah dedicate to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Nehemiah dedicated the walls of Jerusalem to God. In these chapters he also helped the Jews in Jerusalem to obey God's law. Read about another law that they had disobeyed.

Nehemiah 13:23-24:

In those days I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab and half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah.

From this verse, who had married heathen wives? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. The Jews had married heathen wives. They had disobeyed God's law. Read what Nehemiah helped them to do.

Nehemiah 13:25:

... I made them take oath (or promise) in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.

What was Nehemiah helping the Jews to do to God's law? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Nehemiah was helping the Jews obey God's law. He commanded them to obey God's law about the temple. They must no longer let heathen people come into God's house. He commanded them to obey God's law about the Sabbath. They must remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. Nehemiah commanded them to obey God's law about marriage. They must no longer marry heathen wives.

In the last three chapters of the book of Nehemiah, what did Nehemiah dedicate to God?  
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15. Nehemiah dedicated the walls of Jerusalem to God.

As he threw Tobiah out of the temple and shut the city gates, what was Nehemiah helping the Jews to do?  
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16. Nehemiah was helping the Jews obey God's law. As leaders we need to help our people obey God too.

If Nehemiah visited your church would he find the people obeying all God's commands?  
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What command might he find some people in your church breaking? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Be ready to talk about this in class.

In the last three chapters of the book of Nehemiah, what did Nehemiah dedicate to God?  
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As he threw Tobiah out of the temple and shut the city gates, what was Nehemiah helping the Jews to do?  
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**WEEK 10: NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER**  
**DAY 3: THE JEWS WERE TO BE KILLED**  
**Esther 1 to 4**

1. We will look at the last of the 12 books of history today. It is the book of Esther. You remember that story of Israel is divided into three periods.

Write the names of the periods of history. Then write the names of the books which tell about each period.

The Books of History		
Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
_____	_____	_____
(1) _____	(4,5) _____	(10) _____
(2) _____	(6,7) _____	(11) _____
(3) _____	(8,9) _____	(12) _____

2. Joshua, Judges and Ruth tell about the Rule of God. 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles tell about the Rule of Kings. Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther tell about the Rule of Foreign Kings.

In the last three chapters of Nehemiah, what did Nehemiah dedicate to God?

As he threw Tobiah out of the temple and shut the city gates, what was Nehemiah helping the Jews to do?

3. Nehemiah dedicated the walls of Jerusalem. He helped the Jews obey God's law. You remember that the land of Judah was now part of Persia. It was ruled by foreign kings. But the kings of Persia let the Jews return to Jerusalem. Though they were ruled by foreign kings, they were still God's people. God had not forgotten them. We shall see this again in the book of Esther. Let us learn two things from this book today.

- (1) Esther became queen of Persia instead of Vashti.
- (2) Haman, the enemy of the Jews planned to destroy them.

In your Bible read Esther 1:10 to 12. About which period of history does the book of Esther tell us?

4. It tells us about the Rule of Foreign Kings. God himself is not spoken of in this books. But the story shows us how God worked for His people, the Jews. The story began when Ahasuerus was king of Persia. See what happened during the feast.

Esther 1:10-11:

On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded the chamberlains (or servants) to bring Queen Vashti (his wife) before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the people and the princes her beauty.

From this verse, whom did the king of Persia want to be brought to him? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. He wanted his wife, Vashti, to be brought. But Queen Vashti did not come. We are not told why she refused. Queen Vashti disobeyed the king's command. The king was very angry. He talked to his wise men. He wanted to know the right punishment for Vashti. This is what they decided.

Esther 1:19:

... that Vashti is to come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

Vashti's husband was king of what country? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Queen Vashti's husband was the king of Persia. Because Queen Vashti disobeyed, he sent her away. He wanted to choose another wife. His servants told him what he should do.

Esther 2:2,4:

... "let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king.. And let the maiden who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so.

The king thought he was choosing another queen. But who do you think would make the king choose the queen who would save God's people? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. The book of Esther does not talk about God. But we shall see that it was God who chose the new queen.

Read about her now in Esther 2:5 to 8. The man who took care of Esther was Mordecai. Read verse 5 again. Of what people was Mordecai? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Mordecai was a Jew. Esther was a Jew also. Her cousin took care of her when her parents died. Esther was one of the young women taken into the king's house. After a year of preparing, each girl was taken to see the king.

Esther 2:16-17:

And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus into his royal palace ...the king loved Esther more than all the women, and ...he sent the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

From this verse, who was made queen instead of Vashti? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Esther was made queen instead of Vashti. At this time no one knew that Esther was a Jew. But God knew. God had a purpose in letting Esther become queen.

The last part of Esther 2 tells about some men who wanted to kill the king. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, heard about it. He told this to Esther. She told the king and his life was saved. The writers in the king's house wrote how this happened. Tomorrow we shall see how God used this good work of Mordecai. God was planning to save the Jews.

Of what country did Esther become queen? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Esther became queen of Persia instead of Vashti. This is the first thing we are learning from the book of Esther. We will also learn something else from this book. Haman was an enemy of the Jews. He planned to destroy them.

The king had put Haman over all the princes of the kingdom. Haman was the most important man next to the king. The king commanded that everyone should bow down to Haman.

Esther 3:2-3:

And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and did obeisance (or submitted) to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down... Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

From these verses, who refused the king's command to bow down to Haman? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman. Haman was very angry. His anger made him do something very evil.

Esther 3:6:

But he disdained (or refused) to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

From this verse, what did Haman, the Jews' enemy want to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Haman wanted to destroy all the Jews. He began to make plans to have them killed. He tried to find the best day to carry out his plan. Then he went to the king.

Read what Haman said to the king in Esther 3:8 to 11.

Who was made queen of Persia instead of Vashti? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Esther was made queen of Persia. Esther was a Jew, but Haman did not know this. Haman went to the king. He told lies about the Jews. He said they were enemies who did not keep the king's laws. He offered the king money to help pay for killing them.

Who was the enemy of the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Haman was the enemy of the Jews. The Jews were not enemies of the king. But Haman hated Mordecai and all his people. The king agreed to Haman's plan. He turned the money back to Haman. Haman commanded that a letter should be written. The king gave Haman his ring to seal the letter. Nothing could change this command after the king's seal was on it.

Esther 3:13:

Letters were sent by couriers (or messengers) to all the king's provinces, to destroy, to slay, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women children, in one day.

What did Haman, the Jew's enemy, plan to do to all of them? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. He planned to destroy them. The command went to every province. The Jews in every part of the kingdom were to be killed. But God had a plan to save His people. We shall learn tomorrow how God saved them.

If Haman's plan had been carried out, could Jesus have come to this earth as God planned?  
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16. God had promised to send the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He promised to send Him through the Jews. If they had been destroyed, Jesus could not have come. The Bible says that all who sin against God must die. But God had a plan to save men. Satan was using Haman to try to stop God's plan.

Who was made queen of Persia instead of Vashti? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Haman, the Jews's enemy, plan to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Esther became queen of Persia. Haman, the Jews' enemy, planned to destroy all of them. Tomorrow we shall see why God chose Esther to be queen. We shall see how God used her to save the Jews.

Washuka teaches a Sunday School class each Sunday. She enjoys teaching from the Old Testament. One Sunday she was teaching from the book of Esther. She told how Satan tried to stop God's plan of salvation. She wanted her students to think about this for themselves. She asked them to think of another time when Satan tried to stop Jesus' coming. She asked what Satan did to keep Jesus from being our Saviour.

Think of another time when Satan tried to keep Jesus from being our Saviour. Write a few words about it.  
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18. Be ready to talk about this in class.

Who was made queen of Persia instead of Vashti? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Haman, the Jews' enemy, plan to do? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 10: NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER**  
**DAY 4: THE JEWS WERE DELIVERED**  
**Esther 5 to 10**

1. We will finish looking at the book of Esther today. It is the last book of history telling about the Rule of Foreign Kings. There were Jews in many places ruled by these kings. Some Jews were back in their own land of Judah. The Jews in Judah were still ruled by king of Persia.

Who became queen of Persia instead of Vashti? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Haman, the Jews' enemy plan to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Esther became queen of Persia. Haman planned to destroy all the Jews. We saw that he sent a letter to every province in Persia. The Jews everywhere were to be killed. But today we shall learn:

- (1) God used Esther to deliver the Jews.
- (2) Haman's hatred led to death for himself.

What is the last book of history which tells about the Rule of Foreign Kings?

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3. Esther is the last book about the Rule of Foreign Kings. Many of these foreign king were kind to the Jews. But the Jews had many enemies in the kingdom of Persia. We have learned about the Samaritans who troubled Nehemiah. Yesterday we learned about Haman.

The letter telling everyone to kill the Jews arrived in the provinces of Persia. There was great sorrow. Esther's cousin, Mordecai went into the city crying with a loud voice.

In your Bible read Esther 4:1 to 8. What did Mordecai want Esther to do?

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4. Mordecai wanted Esther to go to the king. He wanted her to help save her people. Mordecai gave the messenger a copy of the letter.

Esther 4:8:

...that he might show it to her and explain it to her and charge  
(or command) her to the king to make supplication to him and entreat  
him for her people.

Who were Esther's people who needed to be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Esther's people were the Jews. Mordecai wanted Esther to help deliver the Jews. Esther knew that no one could go to the king, without being called. If he did he could be put to death. But if the king received him, the person's life would be saved. If Esther went to the king her life would be in danger. Esther told Mordecai this. But he sent her another message.

Esther 4:13-14:

... Think not that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews ... who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Whose plan do you think it was that Esther was queen just at that time?

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6. Perhaps you said that it was God's plan. God wanted to use Esther to deliver the Jews. We see that God is not named in the book of Esther. But we see God working for His people all the time. Esther told Mordecai to gather the Jews for a time of fasting. She promised to do the same with her servants. This is how she ended her message.

Esther 4:16:

... then I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.

Who was willing to go to the king of Persia to deliver the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Esther was willing to go to the king. Her people, the Jews, were in danger. She would ask the king to deliver them.

Take your Bible now and read Esther 5:1 to 3. Did Esther keep her promise?

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8. Esther kept her promise. She knew she could die for going to the king. But she went. God was protecting her. When the king saw Esther something wonderful happened. He received her. Esther would not have to die. God answered the prayers of His people.

Esther did not tell the king at first what she wanted. God was guiding her. She invited the king and Haman to dinner. God's time still had not come for her to ask. She invited the king and Haman to dinner again the next day.

What was God using Queen Esther to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. God was using Esther to deliver the Jews. Haman was very proud to be invited by Queen Esther the second time. He left the first dinner feeling very happy. But when he saw Mordecai. His heart was filled with hatred for Mordecai. He told his wife and friends how he felt. Read what they said.

Esther 5:14:

... "Let a gallows (or frame) fifty cubits (or 25 metres) high be made, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged upon it; then go merrily with the king to the dinner." This counsel pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.

Does hatred ever bring good into our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Hatred does not bring us good. In the end, it brought death to Haman. Early the next morning Haman went to see the king. He planned to ask the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows. We shall see that this was not God's plan for Mordecai.

In your Bible read Esther 6:1 to 4.

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11. The king decided to honour Mordecai for saving his life. Just then Haman arrived to see the king. The king asked what should be done for someone he wanted to honour. Haman thought the king wanted to honour him. He said that the man should be dressed in the king's clothes. He should be put on the king's horse. He should have a crown on his head. Then someone should lead him through the city for the people to see. The king thought this was good. He told Haman that he should do it for Mordecai!

What was in Haman's heart that brought him this trouble? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. There was hatred in Haman's heart. He wanted to destroy the Jews and Mordecai. But God was working for His people. At the dinner, the king asked Esther what she wanted. It was God's time for her to answer.

Esther 7:3-4:

... If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed.

Whom was God using to deliver the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. God was using Esther to deliver them. The king was very angry when he heard what Haman was doing. Someone told him about the gallows that Haman had made.

Esther 7:10:

And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai.

What did Haman's hatred lead to for himself? \_\_\_\_\_  
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14. Haman's hatred led to death for himself. Hatred may lie quiet for a long time in someone's heart. But in the end, sin brings us death.

Esther begged the king to save her people. The king said that another letter should be sent.

Esther 8:10-11:

The writings was in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's ring, and letters were sent.. By these the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives.

What did God use Queen Esther to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
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15. God used Esther to deliver the Jews. The Jews were allowed to fight for themselves. When the people heard this they were afraid. They did not try to fight against the Jews. Instead many enemies of the Jews were killed. Haman and his family were killed. God gave the Jews a great victory. A special feast was planned to remember how God saved them. It reminded the Jews of how God delivered them from death.

The Lord Jesus has delivered us from death. What special service do we have in our churches to remind us of Christ's death? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. We have the service of Holy Communion. This reminds us of Christ's death for us. If we receive Christ we can be saved from sin, hatred, and death.

What did Haman's hatred lead to for himself? \_\_\_\_\_  
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17. Haman's hatred led to death. We need to bring our sins to Jesus. He can deliver us. He can also protect us from our enemies.

In East Africa a certain pastor had a car to visit his churches. There were some people who hated this pastor. They decided to steal his car. That night the pastor returned from a journey. He started to put his car in its usual place. But then he felt that he should put it somewhere else. He put it down the street near his friend's house. That night the thieves could not find the car. They thought the pastor had not come home. Later someone told the pastor what had happened. The pastor said that God delivered him from that trouble.

Perhaps you know someone who was delivered from certain trouble. Write his name here. \_\_\_\_\_

From what did God deliver him? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Be ready to tell the class about it.

What did God use Queen Esther to do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Haman's hatred lead to for himself? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 10: NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER**  
**DAY 5: THE BOOKS OF HISTORY HELP US.**  
**REVISION**

This is the last lesson on the 12 books of history in the Old Testament. The lesson today will be a short one. Then you will go over the questions from Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

From the books of history you have learned the story of God's people. You have studied the three periods of Israel's history. Yesterday you saw how Haman tried to destroy these people.

What did God use Queen Esther to do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Haman's hatred lead to for himself? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. God used Esther to deliver the Jews. Haman's hatred led to death for himself. Soon you will go over everything you have learned in this class. You will need to work carefully. We want you to do well in your exam. But we hope you will do more than study for the exam. We hope you will find more help for your own life. Then you will be able to help others more.

Today let us learn what the books of history help us know about God.

- (1) They help us know what God is like.
- (2) They help us know what God can do.

In what kind of books in the Bible do we find the story of God's people Israel?

\_\_\_\_\_

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3. The books of history tell us this story. But there is more than just a story in these books. God chose Israel because He wanted to show Himself to the world. Through Israel God wanted the nations to know that He is the true God. He wanted people to know that He is a loving and faithful God. He wanted them to know that He has great power. God wants all nations to trust and worship Him.

God used Israel to show the nations these things. It was through Israel that God would send the Lord Jesus. We too can learn from the story of Israel. From the books of history we learn what God is like. We learn what He can do.

Stop now and pray. Thank God for the books of history. Ask Him to help you learn more about Himself as you go over them.

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4. Today the believers are God's people. The God of Israel is our God. God can do for us what He did for Israel. If we know what God is like and what He can do, our faith will be strong.

Daniel 11:32:

... the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

What kind of books have we been studying, which show what God is like and what He can do?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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5. We have been studying the books of history.

- (1) They help us know what God is like.
- (2) They help us know what God can do.

You remember in Joshua that God dried up the River Jordan. His people walked over on dry ground.

Think about this wonderful thing that God did. What does it teach us about God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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6. Perhaps you wrote that it shows God's power. Or you wrote that it teaches us what God can do. God did this wonderful thing so people would honour Him. He did it so everyone on earth would know His power. This means you and me too.

Joshua 4:23-24:

For the Lord your God dried up the waters of Jordan ... so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty; that you may fear (or honour) the Lord your God for ever.

The books of history help us know what God can do. What is the other thing they help us know?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. The books of history help us know what God is like. You remember King David. We learned that he was a man after God's own heart. We also learned that he sinned against God. When he repented, God forgave him. From this story we see that God is a loving God. He is ready to forgive those who truly repent. He helps them turn from their sin.

The books of history help us know what God is like. What else do they help us know about Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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8. The books of history help us know what God can do. We have learned how God delivered the Jews from Haman. We have learned how He helped Israel defeat Jericho.

Perhaps you know other things God did for Israel. From one of the books of history, write something that God did for His people Israel.

What does this teach you about God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. Be ready to share your answers in class.

What two things do the books of history help us know about God?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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10. They help us know what God is like. They help us know what God can do. Keep these two things in your mind as you go over these books. What you learn will help you know God better. Read again this promise for those who know their God.

Daniel 11:32:

... the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

What is something you want to do for God now that you have studied the books of History? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. King David knew how to learn to know God better. Read what he did.

Psalms 143:5:

I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that thou hast done; I muse (or think for a long time) on all thy hands have wrought (or done).

Do what this verse says as you go over the 12 books of history. God will show Himself to you.

What two things do the books of history help us know about God?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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Now go over the questions from Week 9.

12. Who prophesied that after 70 years the Jews would return from Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Whose spirit did God stir up so that he allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Who led the first group of Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What two things did the Jews do when they returned to Jerusalem?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

16. Who discouraged the Jews so that they stopped building the temple?

17. What did the Jews do when the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, encouraged them? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Who led the second group of Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

19. The Jews in Jerusalem had sinned. What two things did they do when Ezra prayed for them?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

20. To what city did the king of Persia give Nehemiah permission to go?

What did God help Nehemiah to do there? \_\_\_\_\_

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Questions from Week 10.

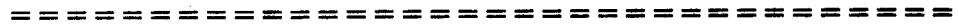
21. What did Ezra read to the Jews in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Jews promise to do? \_\_\_\_\_

22. In the last three chapters of the book of Nehemiah, what did Nehemiah dedicate to God? \_\_\_\_\_

23. As he threw Tobiah out of the temple and shut the city gates, what was Nehemiah helping the Jews to do? \_\_\_\_\_

- 24. Who was made queen of Persia instead of Vashti? \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. What did Haman, the Jews' enemy, plan to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. What did God use Queen Esther to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- 27. What did Haman's hatred lead to for himself? \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. What two things do the books of history help us know about God?
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_



When you know all these answers go back to pages 84, and 134, and 219. Try to answer all the questions. Try to take three or four days for this revision. May God help you put all these truths into your life!

## TEE IN CAMEROON

Each week there is a special day for many church leaders in Cameroon. This day is very important to those who have not had a chance to get Bible College training. It is the day that they are attending a TEE seminar meeting with other church workers and teachers. A discussion leader, who is usually a trained pastor, helps them to discuss and learn from the TEE book. Each day a lesson was read at home and thought about but it is at the seminar time that questions are answered.

In Cameroon TEE started among the church leaders and teachers of the CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION from 1972 to 1974. It is an important part of the Bible training from the Cameroon Baptist Theological College. It is now possible to earn a Certificate of Religious Studies from the College by completing extension studies through TEE. The Cameroon Baptist Convention is not keeping this good thing for itself only. It is sharing with other churches and denominations by supplying the TEE books and giving guidance and encouragement. Presbyterian, Full Gospel, and Lutheran churches in Cameroon join in using the same courses in their training programmes. This is helping to build Christ's Church in this progressive and stable country in West Africa.

Extension centers are being held at hospitals, churches, youth centers and in homes. The result is that leaders are growing stronger in their own Christian lives and are better able to help their followers.

Cameroon thanks God for TEE.

A TEE class in the Northern area of Cameroon.

