

THE BIBLE AS HISTORY
A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
VOLUME III
THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY TO THE RESTORATION
LEADERS'S STUDY GUIDE

Dr. Stanford E. Murrell



The Ridge in Jerusalem over Which the Scapegoat was Sent
Leviticus 16

THE BIBLE AS HISTORY
A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
VOLUME III
THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY TO THE RESTORATION

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY TO THE RESTORATION
LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE
CHAPTERS 1 -2
THE CAPTIVITY * THE BIBLE AS PROPHECY

Review

1. List five characteristics of apocalyptic writings.

Answer.

- Symbolism
- Visions
- Allegories
- Parables
- Symbolic Actions

2. Where were many Israelites deported to after the fall of the northern kingdom in 721 BC?

Answer.

Many Israelites were transported to the land of Media that lay to the east of Assyria. They were placed in Halah and Habor by the river of Gozan and Hara.

3. Who was Nestorius?

Answer.

Nestorius (died, c. 451) was the patriarch of Constantinople (428-431) who preached the doctrine that the divine and human natures of Christ were one in action but not one in person.

4. Identify the nine parables of Ezekiel.

Answer.

- The Parable of the Vine: Ezekiel 15:1-8
- The Parable of the Unwanted Child that Became an Adulterous: Ezekiel 16
- The Parable of the Eagles and the Cedar: Ezekiel 17
- The Parable of the Fiery Furnace: Ezekiel 22:17-22
- The Parable of the Two Harlots: Ezekiel 23
- The Parable of the Cooking Pot: Ezekiel 24:1-24
- The Parable of the Shipwreck: Ezekiel 27
- The Parable of the Irresponsible Shepherds: Ezekiel 34
- The Parable of the Valley of Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37

5. Who were the Magi?

Answer.

The Chaldeans liked to boast of their knowledge of astrology. Their Magi were held in the highest esteem, for the Magi gave themselves to tracing the movements of the heavenly bodies. They studied the qualities of metals and minerals and made predictions of the future. They explained dreams. They became the priests of the Chaldean nation teaching the worship of the sun, moon, stars and planets.

6. Which four empires are represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a colossus?

Answer.

Babylonian Empire
 Medes-Persian Empire
 Greek Empire
 Roman Empire

7. Describe Cyrus.

Answer.

Known to history as Cyrus the great, the man is often presented as a model of wisdom and virtue. In reality Cyrus was a ruthless warrior being the son of Cambyses, a Persian noble and of Mandane, daughter of Astyages, king of the Medes. As a warring king, Cyrus captured the prized possession of the ancient world, Babylon. This conquest had been foretold by Daniel the prophet (Daniel 7).

8. Translate the letters found written on the palace wall during a banquet hosted by Belshazzar of Babylon.

Answer.

- MENE: God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.
- TEKEL: Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.
- PERES: Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians"

9. List three summary observations concerning the judgment of God.

- The judgment of God is real.
- The judgment of God is severe.
- The judgment of God is measured (limited).

10. List eleven transactions the prophetic calendar of Daniel 9:24-27 would accomplish.

Answer.

- "Finish the Transgression"
- "To Make an End of Sins"
- "To make Reconciliation for Iniquity"

- *“To Bring in Everlasting Righteousness”*
- *“To Seal up the Vision and Prophecy”*
- *“To Anoint the Most High”*
- *“Messiah Shall be Cut Off”*
- *“He Shall Confirm the Covenant”*
- *“The Sacrifice and the Oblation to Cease”*
- *“The Overspreading of Abominations”*
- *“The Abomination of Desolation”*

Reflection and Discussion

1. Discuss the following terms and their meaning. Consult a dictionary if necessary.

- Symbolism
- Visions
- Allegories
- Parables
- Symbolic Actions

2. In 1738 the following song by Charles Wesley was published.

“And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?”

Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

’Tis mystery all: th’Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.

’Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
’Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father’s throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam’s helpless race:

'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 For O my God, it found out me!
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 For O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
 Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

My chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Still the small inward voice I hear,
 That whispers all my sins forgiven;
 Still the atoning blood is near,

That quenched the wrath of hostile Heaven.
 I feel the life His wounds impart;
 I feel the Savior in my heart.
 I feel the life His wounds impart;
 I feel the Savior in my heart.

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
 Alive in Him, my living Head,
 And clothed in righteousness divine,

Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
 Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Nestorius (c. 386 – c. 451) taught that no union between the human and divine is possible. If such a union of human and divine occurred, Nestorius believed that Christ could not truly be con-substantial with God and con-substantial with man because he would grow, mature, suffer and die (which, he said, God cannot do). Christ would also possess the power of God that would separate Him from being equal to humans. Was the church correct in condemning Nestorius as a heretic?

3. Do you believe it is proper to take a modern map, overlay it on historical sites mentioned in the Bible (Ezekiel 38-40), and then declare that ancient prophecy has yet to be fulfilled? Why might this be wrong to do?
4. Discuss the literal, historical, grammatical, and contextual importance in Bible study.

5. Do you believe that any of the following nations are mentioned or referenced in the Bible?

- England Yes _____ No _____
- Russia Yes _____ No _____
- America Yes _____ No _____
- Philippines Yes _____ No _____
- Israel Yes _____ No _____
- Babylon Yes _____ No _____
- Edom Yes _____ No _____
- Egypt Yes _____ No _____

The main lesson: God knows how to spell and when He wants to include a nation in prophecy He knows how to spell the name of the nation He wishes to address.

6. Do you believe that one day the burnt offerings and the sin offerings will be authorized by God to be offered again? Would this not be offensive to Christ?
7. Of the 75 messianic prophecies mentioned in the doctrinal study, which prophecy amazes you the most and touches your heart?

Personal Application

Heart Work

1. Do you believe God means what He says and says what He means?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Do you plead for the gift of gospel repentance?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Do you ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Are you careful to remove every provision for evil?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Is your mind seriously engaged in dealing with sin in your life?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Are you depending upon the Holy Spirit for spiritual victories?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Have you stopped listening to the inner voice luring the soul into temptation and then evil?
Yes _____ No _____

8. Have you put on the whole armour of God?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Do you often reaffirm your love for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?
Yes _____ No _____

Scriptural Memorization

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY TO THE RESTORATION
LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE
CHAPTER 3 - 9
THE RESTORATION * BIBLICAL TEMPLES *ZECHARIAH
ESTHER * EZRA *NEHIMIAH * MALACHI

Review

1. Briefly identify the following.

- Zerubbabel
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Cyrus
- Darius Hystapes
- Artaxerxes Longimanus

Answer.

Zerubbabel left captivity for Jerusalem when Cyrus came to the throne c. BC 535. After an interval of twenty years he was able to finish the rebuilding of the temple in the reign of Darius Hystaspes.

Ezra returned to Jerusalem from Babylon about eighty years after Zerubbabel, c. BC 458, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes Longimanus. His major desire was to restore the Law in the life of the people. The story of Esther took place a few years before the time of Ezra.

Nehemiah went up from Susa, located 150 miles east of the Tigris River, in the twentieth year of the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus, c. BC 445. He helped to rebuild the walls of the holy city and set up the gates.

Cyrus (about 576 BC - July, 529 BC) was a king of Persia, famous for his military prowess and mercy. He is considered to be the first significant king of Persia and the founder of the vast Persian Empire.

Darius Hystaspes was the son of Hystaspes and Persian Emperor from 521 to 485 BC. The principal source for his history is his own inscriptions, especially the great inscription of Behistun, in which he relates how he gained the crown and put down the rebellions.

Artaxerxes Longimanus was king of Persia from 464 BC to 424 BC. He belonged to the Achaemenid dynasty and was the successor of Xerxes I. He is mentioned in two books of the Bible, Ezra, and Nehemiah. He allowed the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem. He was followed on the throne by his son Xerxes II.

2. Why is the name “Jew” so prominent among the Hebrew people?

Answer.

Most of those who returned to Israel from the Babylonian Captivity were from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi. As a result, from this time forward the people would be known as the Jews because of the predominance of people from Judah

3. Who were the Samaritans?

Answer.

The Samaritans were the racially mixed Jewish descendants of the Assyrian colony established by Shalmaneser in the district of Samaria

4. List four important Biblical temples.

Answer.

- Solomon’s Temple
- The Second Temple
- A Spiritual Temple
- The Greatest Temple

5. What was the basic message of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah as they ministered during the days of Zerubbabel?

Answer.

Both prophets exhorted the people to work as they spoke of the coming Messiah.

6. Summarize four visions of Zechariah

Answer.

- Vision one. In one of his visions Zechariah witnesses God the Father commanding a sword to be lifted against the Shepherd and His brethren.
- Vision two. In another vision men look in agony on the Lord of Glory whom they have pierced.
- Vision three. A third vision finds the Messiah riding into Jerusalem on an ass but as a conqueror.
- Vision four. In a fourth vision the whole earth worships the Messiah and on the bells of the horses there is the inscription, “holiness unto the Lord.”

7. Summarize the story of Zopyrus.

Answer.

A loyal Persian nobleman named Zopyrus (c. 500 BC) had his nose cut off and his ears and his body mangled in order to present himself to the Babylonians as having been abused. The Babylonians believed his story and gave him command of their armies. Zopyrus then surrendered the city of Babylon to Darius.

8. Explain the core doctrinal position of Zoroaster.

Answer.

Zoroaster taught about one eternal God. However, there were two principles or angels in the universe, the one good and the other evil. The emblem of the good principle was light called Ormuzd. The principle of darkness was called Ahriman. Between these contending principles a great battle was being fought and would continue until the end of time, though good would eventually win. A day of judgment would follow. The devotees of each principle would be judged and separated forever, the one being rewarded and the other punished. Ormuzd was always worshipped in the presence of fire which was a cause of light, and especially the sun which was believed to be the most perfect light in the universe. Darkness was feared and hated as the perfection of evil. The name of evil, Ahriman, was written backwards and upside down as a sign of disrespect.

9. Who was the successor of Darius as ruler of the Persian Empire?

Answer.

The successor of Darius was Xerxes, whose main objective was to establish his sovereignty over all his subjects. He is best known in history for his invasion of Greece.

10. Define the three fold distinctions of a “Jew” in Scripture.

Answer.

- There is the racial Jew. A racial Jew is anyone who has the genes of Abraham, Isaac or Jacob in the bloodline.
- There is the religious Jew. A religious Jew is someone who has embraced the faith of Judaism with its ceremonial rules and regulations.
- There is the regenerate Jew. A regenerate Jew is someone who has received Jesus Christ as personal savior by believing that He is the Son of the Living God and the Savior of the world.

11. What was of particular concern to Ezra, a descendant of the high priest Seraiah?

Answer.

Of particular concern to Ezra was the establishment of the Law in the life of the Hebrew community.

12. What was of particular concern to Nehemiah who arrived in Jerusalem thirteen years after Ezra?

Answer.

What Nehemiah saw when he arrived at Jerusalem shocked him. He found the walls in disrepair and crumbling. Moved to action he stirred the people to repair the walls within fifty-two days.

13. What ten point message did Malachi have for the people of God of the Old Testament dispensation?

Answer.

- Malachi rebuked the sins of the people
- and called them to repentance.
- The priests in particular were preached against for they had allowed the marriage covenant to be violated.
- Divorce was far too common.
- The people worshipped without heart
- and were careless in the manner in which they approached God.
- Malachi reminded the people that God would move to discipline His people.
- But then in grace He would restore them to favor.
- The Messiah would come
- but before His coming there would be a forerunner in the spirit and power of Elijah

14. Provide Biblical proof that the prophecy of Malachi

Answer.

Jesus himself said the prophecy of Malachi 4:5 has been fulfilled in the person of John the Baptist.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

Matthew 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. 12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. 13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

Mark 9:11 And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come? 12 And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought. 13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

Special Note.

While John the Baptist in his humility did not take the mantel of Elijah back to himself, Jesus corrected the fact that he was the fulfillment of prophecy. *John 1:21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.*

Reflection and Discussion

1. Would it have been wrong for the Samaritans to have taken part in rebuilding the Temple?
2. Is it morally wrong for people from different nations and cultures to intermarry?
3. What is the source of nationalism and racial superiority? What is the general outcome of an ideology of a superior nation or a superior race?
4. Will the world ever be dominated by a one world confederation of United Nations? Is there any evidence to support your view? Study Acts 17:26.
5. Was it morally wrong for Mordecia to prepare his niece for a one night stand with the king? Would you personally ever encourage your wife, your daughter, or your niece to prepare herself for a sexual encounter with the king as Mordecai prepared Esther?
6. Do you believe that the situation demands the morality of the moment?
7. Dispensational theology challenges the idea of a unity between the “regenerate” Jew and the church for a great divide is insisted upon between Israel and the church. Discuss whether or not Dispensational theology can successfully make its case that “Israel is Israel and the church is the church and never the two shall meet”.
8. Are you satisfied that the prophesy of Malachi 4:5 has been fulfilled according to promise?

Personal Application**Heart Work**

1. Do you hate and oppose those sins which you once embraced and engaged?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Have you ever discouraged or stopped someone from helping in the work of the Lord?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Do you believe people should have the freedom to sacrifice animals in worship?
Yes _____ No _____

4. Do you financially contribute in a generous way to advance the work of the Lord?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Have you neglected the Word of God so that it is not read on a regular basis?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Is your body the temple of the Holy Spirit?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Have you personally heard the voice of the Lord speak to your heart?
Yes _____ No _____
8. Does your heart seek pleasure more than holiness?
Yes _____ No _____

Scriptural Memorization

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him