

# **THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS**

## **SESSION 4**

### **QUESTIONS**

- 1. Although God lived among the Israelites and guided them in battle, the Gibeonites still were able to deceive Joshua and other leaders. How did this happen? ( See Josh. 9,)**
- 2. What was God's intent in repeatedly commanding the Israelites to destroy the Canaanites? Why was God so harsh in dealing with paganism? What does this reveal about God and his view of sin?**
- 3. To what extent had the people of Israel assimilated into the Canaanite culture by the end of the book of Judges? In what ways does Samson's life illustrate the effects of sin? What does Samson's life reveal about the unlikely people and events through which God sometimes works?**
- 4. What tragedies and unfortunate events befell Naomi and Ruth? What themes surfaced as these events played out in their story?**
- 5. When the Israelites asked Samuel to appoint a king, what were they communicating about God and his kingship over them? (See I Sam. 8.)**
- 6. As you read about David's life following his anointing and before he became king, what did you learn about him that you hadn't realized before? What kind of a man was he?**

**Reading Outline: I Sam 28:20 - 2 King 25:30**

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## **SESSION 5**

### **QUESTIONS**

- 1. What important promise did God make to David concerning the future of his dynasty? (see 2 Sam. 7:11b, 16.)**
- 2. Which character weaknesses and failures played a dramatic role in David's life? What was God's forgiveness? In what ways did the consequences of David's extramarital affair affect his family and, eventually, the entire nation?**
- 3. How would you describe Solomon? What do you find admirable (and not so admirable) about him? What drew him away from God? Why did the people eventually rebel against him?**
- 4. What factors caused the nation of Israel to split into the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah)?**
- 5. When you consider the bravery of Elijah and Elisha in opposing idol worship in the northern kingdom of Israel, what stands out to you concerning their relationship with God and/or the people? Why?**
- 6. What would you identify as the dominate tendency of the various kings who lead Israel and Judah? In what ways did they disobey God? What distinguished King Josiah from many other kings? (See 2 Kings 22-23.)**

**Reading Outline: 1 Chron. 1:1 - Neh. 13:14**

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## **SESSION 6**

### **QUESTIONS**

- 1. Imagine that you were an exile returning to Jerusalem . What in 1 Chronicles would you have found inspiring about Israel's history and God's promises concerning David's dynasty? About the need to remain faithful to God?**
- 2. Which themes did you notice in David's prayer shortly before his death ( 1 Chron. 29) and Solomon's prayer at the temple's dedication (2Chron. 6)?**
- 3. As you read 2 Chronicles, what did you notice about the activities of the kings of Judah?**
- 4. Describe Ezra and the challenges he faced when he returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. How did the people respond when Ezra helped them finally know God's standards and recognize their own wrongdoing? Why was it so important for them to confess their sins and follow God's law?**
- 5. Why was ethnic purity so vital to the nation's existence? (see Ezra 10 and Neh. 9).**
- 6. Where did Nehemiah's loyalties lie? In what ways did he demonstrate his reliance on God and deep commitment to prayer as he accomplished a great work in what the Persians considered to be a rebellious city?**

**Reading Outline: Neh 13:15 - Ps. 89:13**

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### **SESSION 7**

#### **QUESTIONS**

- 1. Since the word *God* never appears in the book of Ester, why do you think this book is included in the Bible?**
- 2. What does Esther's story reveal to you about faith and trust in God and the relationship between human responsibility and divine sovereignty?**
- 3. Many people view Job as a book about suffering and patience. Build a case for the contention that the book is really about faith.**
- 4. How did God answer Job's questions? In what ways does God's response to Job answer the difficult questions in your life? How satisfactory is the response to you?**
- 5. Which psalm(s) that you read this week particularly connected with you? Why?**
- 6. In What ways did this week reading impact your thinking on a current event of personal experience?**

**Reading Outline: Ps 89:14 - Isa. 13:22**

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## SESSION 8

### QUESTIONS

1. Many of the psalms in this week's reading were psalms of thanksgiving and praise to God for who he is and what he has done. In what ways can you praise and thank God as a result of your reading?
2. Although the book of Proverbs offers abundant wisdom for making choices that usually yield more desirable outcomes in life, why is it important to remember that God doesn't *guarantee* particular outcomes if we adopt these general principles?
3. What is your favorite proverb, and why is it meaningful to you? What changes might occur in the world if more people practiced the general principles expressed in that proverb?
4. In what ways was your perspective on life challenged or changed as you read Ecclesiastes? What do you believe is the foundation of true wisdom and a meaningful life?
5. Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs are both attributed to Solomon, but they are very different books. The dominant spirit of Ecclesiastes could be described in three questions: What can I get? Where can I find pleasure? What will life do for me? In contrast, how would you describe the spirit of Song of Songs?
6. Song of Songs has been interpreted many ways including (1) an allegory describing God's love, (2) wisdom literature describing an ideal relationship between a husband and his wife, (3) a love song from Solomon to a peasant girl (perhaps his first wife), or (4) a combination of the above. What do you think it is?

Reading Outline: Isa. 14:1 - Jer 33:22