

Maroubra Baptist Church 17 February 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 1

### NOAH: THE TYPE OF PERSON GOD USES

**By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. Hebrews 11:7**

*When the LORD saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, <sup>6</sup> the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, "I will wipe off from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them."<sup>8</sup> Noah, however, found favor in the sight of the LORD. Genesis 6:5-8*

#### Why did God choose Noah to restart the human race?

*For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth to show Himself strong for (to strengthen) those whose hearts are completely His. 2 Chronicles 16:9*

### THE TYPE OF PERSON GOD USES

#### 1. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO ARE AVAILABLE

*Noah walked with God. Genesis 6:9*

*The Lord regretted (was grieved) that he had made man. Genesis 6:6*

*But Noah found favour in the sight of the LORD. Genesis 6:8*

**Availability is much more important than ability**

**Attitude is much more important than aptitude**

#### 2. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. Genesis 6:9*

*Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. Genesis 6:11-12*

**Right is always right, even if everyone is against it and wrong is always wrong, even if everyone is for it.**

#### 3. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW HIM COMPLETELY

*He did everything that God had commanded him. Genesis 6:22  
Genesis 7:5*

**Faith is following even when it doesn't make sense**

#### 4. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO NEVER GIVE UP

##### Three Things That Will Tempt Us To Give Up

1. Problems

2. Pressures

3. People

Maroubra Baptist Church 3 March 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 2

### ABRAHAM: FOUR TESTS OF REAL FAITH

Hebrews 11:8-19

*Abraham is the father of all who believe. Romans 4:11*

*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6*

#### 1. THE TEST OF A MAJOR CHANGE

*Refer Genesis 12:1-9 p77*

*By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going. Hebrews 11:8*

**Test 1: A person of real faith will follow God's leading without knowing where**

#### 2. THE TEST OF A DELAYED PROMISE

*Refer Genesis 13 and 14 p78*

*By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. Hebrews 11:9*

**Test 2: A person of real faith will wait for God's timing without knowing when.**

#### 3. THE TEST OF AN IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM

*Refer Genesis 17:15-22 p82, 18:1-15 p82, 21:1-6 p87*

*By faith even Sarah herself, when she was unable to have children, received power to conceive offspring, even though she was past the age, since she considered that the One who had promised was faithful. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man—in fact, from one as good as dead—came offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as innumerable as the grains of sand by the seashore. Hebrews 11:11-12*

**Test 3: A person of real faith will expect a miracle without knowing how.**

#### 4. THE TEST OF A SENSELESS TRAGEDY

*Refer Genesis 22:1-14 p88*

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He received the promises and he was offering his unique son, <sup>18</sup> the one it had been said about, Your seed will be traced through Isaac. <sup>19</sup> He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead, and as an illustration, he received him back. Hebrews 11:17-19*

**Test 4: A person of real faith will trust God's purpose without knowing why.**

***I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:24***

**Maroubra Baptist Church 10 March 2013**

## **BIBLE CHARACTERS 3**

### **ISAAC: THE MEAT IN THE SANDWICH**

**Genesis 21-28**

#### **SOME FACTS ABOUT ISAAC**

**His name means laughter, and God chose that name.**

*But God said, "No. Your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. I will confirm My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his future offspring. Genesis 17:19*

**God chose to bless Isaac as an act of pure grace, and because of his father, Abraham.**

*I will confirm My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year. Genesis 17:21*

**Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born.**

*Genesis 21:5*

**God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.**

*Genesis 22*

**Abraham sent his servant to find God's ideal partner for Isaac.**

*Go to my land and my family to take a wife for my son Isaac. Genesis 24:4*

**Isaac marries Rebekah. He becomes a loving husband.**

*And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah and took Rebekah to be his wife. Isaac loved her, and he was comforted after his mother's death. Genesis 24:67*

**Isaac was 40 when he married his relative Rebekah.**

*Isaac was 40 years old when he took as his wife Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. Genesis 25:20*

**Isaac inherited Abraham's huge fortune.**

*Abraham gave everything he owned to Isaac. Genesis 25:5*

**God kept his promise to Abraham and Isaac to bless them.**

*After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who lived near Beer-lahai-roi. Genesis 25:11*

**Isaac's wife Rebekah was unable to have children... until God worked a miracle.**

*Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife because she was childless. The Lord heard his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. Genesis 25:21*

**This shows that Isaac was a man of faith and prayer.**

**Rebekah gave birth to twins, Esau and Jacob.**

*But the children inside her struggled with each other, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.<sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her: Two nations are in your womb; two people will come from you and be separated. One people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger. Genesis 25:22-23*

**Isaac was 60 when the twins were born.** *Genesis 25:26*

**Isaac and Rebekah had their favourites.**

*Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for wild game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Genesis 25:28*

**Despite his great wealth, Isaac knew what it was to experience hardship.**

*There was another famine in the land in addition to the one that had occurred in Abraham's time. And Isaac went to Abimelech, king of the Philistines, at Gerar. Genesis 26:1*

**Isaac repeated Abraham's deceptive behavior concerning his wife.**

*When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "She is my sister." Genesis 26:7*

**Isaac was an affectionate husband.**

*When Isaac had been there for some time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down from the window and was surprised to see Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. Genesis 26:8*

**God kept blessing Isaac, as promised.**

*Isaac sowed seed in that land, and in that year he reaped a hundred times what was sown. The Lord blessed him. Genesis 26:12*

**Isaac became so wealthy that he was a threat to the king of the Philistines.**

*And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Leave us, for you are much too powerful for us." Genesis 26:16*

**Isaac continued to be a spiritual man, worshipping and praying.**

*So he built an altar there (Beer-Sheba), called on the name of Yahweh. Genesis 26:25*

**God's blessing on Isaac's life was obvious.**

*We have clearly seen how the LORD has been with you. Genesis 26:28*

**Isaac was deceived into blessing the wrong son.**

*Genesis 27*

**Isaac was separated from his son Jacob for 20 years because of the deceit.**

*Isaac summoned Jacob, blessed him, and commanded him: "Don't take a wife from the Canaanite women. Genesis 28:1*

*So Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau. Genesis 28:5*

**Isaac lived to be 180** *Genesis 35:27-28*

**Isaac dug wells.**

*Isaac reopened the water wells that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham and that the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died. He gave them the same names his father had given them.*

*Then Isaac's slaves dug in the valley and found a well of spring water there.*

*But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Quarrel because they quarreled with him. Genesis 26:18-20*

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## BIBLE CHARACTERS 4

### JACOB: HIS DRAMATIC LIFE Genesis 25-50

#### DRAMATIC BIRTH

##### The twins struggled in the womb before birth

*The children inside her (Rebekah) struggled with each other, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?"<sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her: Two nations are in your womb; One will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger. Genesis 25:22-23 p94*

*When her time came to give birth..., <sup>25</sup> the first one came out red-looking, covered with hair like a fur coat, and they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup> After this, his brother came out grasping Esau's heel with his hand. So he was named Jacob. Genesis 25:24-26 p94*

**Jacob was named heel grabber, supplanter, the one who holds him back to overtake him. Deceiver**

#### DRAMATIC DECEIT

##### Jacob proved true to his name by deceiving his father into giving him the blessing meant for Esau

*Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Listen! I heard your father talking with your brother Esau. He said, <sup>7</sup> 'Bring me the game and make a delicious meal for me to eat so that I can bless you in the LORD's presence before I die.'<sup>8</sup> Now obey every order I give you, my son. <sup>9</sup> Go to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, and I will make them into a delicious meal for your father—the kind he loves. <sup>10</sup> Then take it to your father to eat so that he may bless you before he dies." Genesis 27:6-10 p96*

#### DRAMATIC ESCAPE

##### To Uncle Laban

*Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. And Esau determined in his heart: "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."<sup>42</sup> When the words of her older son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she summoned her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Listen, your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. <sup>43</sup> So now, my son, listen to me. Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran. Genesis 27:41-43 p98*

#### DRAMATIC DREAM

##### On his first night on the run

*And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground with its top reaching heaven, and God's angels were going up and down on it. <sup>13</sup> Yahweh was standing there beside him, saying, "I am Yahweh, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your offspring the land that you are now sleeping on. <sup>14</sup> Your offspring will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out toward the west, the east, the north, and the south. All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> Look, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*

*<sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, "Surely the LORD is in this place. What an awesome place this is! This is none other than the house of God. This is the gate of heaven. Genesis 28:12-17 p99*

#### DRAMATIC WEDDING

##### Brides switched on the wedding night

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is completed. I want to sleep with her."<sup>22</sup> So Laban invited all the men of the place to a feast.<sup>23</sup> That evening, Laban took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and he slept with her.

<sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah! So he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Wasn't it for Rachel that I worked for you? Why have you deceived me?" Gen 29:21-25 p100

## DRAMATIC INCREASE

### God blessed Laban because of Jacob

But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, stay... The LORD has blessed me because of you." Genesis 30:27 p102

### God blessed Jacob too

And the man (Jacob) became very rich. He had many flocks, male and female slaves, and camels and donkeys. Genesis 30:43 p103

### From just a staff to two camps

(Lord) I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown Your servant. Indeed, I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two camps. Genesis 32:10 p108

## DRAMATIC DEPARTURE

### Without telling Laban

Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean, not telling him that he was fleeing.<sup>21</sup> He fled with all his possessions, crossed the Euphrates, and headed for the hill country of Gilead. Genesis 31:20-21 p106

## DRAMATIC PROTECTION

## By God through a dream

On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled.<sup>23</sup> So he took his relatives with him, pursued Jacob for seven days, and overtook him at Mount Gilead.<sup>24</sup> But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night. "Watch yourself!" God warned him. "Don't say anything to Jacob, either good or bad." Genesis 31:22-24 p106

You didn't even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters. You have acted foolishly.<sup>29</sup> I could do you great harm, but last night the God of your father said to me: 'Watch yourself. Don't say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.' Genesis 31:28-29 p107

## DRAMATIC APPREHENSION

### Divides the family for safety

"Esau is coming to meet you—and he has 400 men with him."<sup>7</sup> Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; he divided the people with him into two camps, along with the flocks, cattle, and camels.<sup>8</sup> He thought, "If Esau comes to one camp and attacks it, the remaining one can escape." Genesis 32:6-8 p108

## DRAMATIC ENCOUNTER

### With God the night before confronting Esau

During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his 11 sons, and crossed the ford of Jabbok.<sup>23</sup> He sent them across the stream, along with all his possessions.

<sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. Genesis 32:22-24 p109

## DRAMATIC RESULT

## **Limps for ever after**

*When the man saw that He could not defeat him, He struck Jacob's hip socket as they wrestled and dislocated his hip.<sup>26</sup> Then He said to Jacob, "Let Me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me." Genesis 32:25-26, 31 p109*

## **DRAMATIC BLESSING**

### **Name changed. No longer a cheat**

*"Your name will no longer be Jacob," He said. "It will be Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28 p109*

## **DRAMATIC FORGIVENESS**

### **By his brother Esau**

*But Esau ran to meet him, hugged him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. Then they wept. Genesis 33:4 p109*

## **DRAMATIC REUNION**

### **With his brother Esau**

*Indeed, I have seen your face, and it is like seeing God's face, since you have accepted me. Genesis 33:10 p110*

## **DRAMATIC TREACHERY**

### **By his sons to eliminate his favourite son**

*Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We can say that a vicious animal ate him. Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams! Genesis 37:20 p113*

## **DRAMATIC RISE TO FAME**

### **Of his lost son Joseph**

*I am Pharaoh, but no one will be able to raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt without your permission. Genesis 41:44 p 118*

## **DRAMATIC EVENTS**

### **Severe seven year famine Genesis 41:57 p120**

## **MORE DRAMATIC FORGIVENESS**

### **By Joseph of his brothers**

*I am Joseph, your brother, the one you sold into Egypt.<sup>5</sup> And now don't be worried or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life.<sup>8</sup> Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but God. Genesis 45:4-8 p124*

## **ANOTHER DRAMATIC REUNION**

### **Of the family. Lost son returns**

*Return quickly to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: "God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me without delay."' Genesis 45:9 p125*

## **A DRAMATIC MOVE To Egypt for 400 years Genesis 46:2-4**

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 5

### JOSEPH: SUCCEEDING IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

The LORD was with Joseph and made everything that he did successful. Genesis 39:23

#### A. JOSEPH'S CIRCUMSTANCES

##### REJECTED at home

*When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not bring themselves to speak peaceably to him. Genesis 37:4 p113*

*They saw him in the distance, and before he had reached them, they plotted to kill him. Genesis 37:18 p113*

##### SEDUCED AND SLANDERED at work

*After some time his master's wife looked longingly at Joseph and said, "Sleep with me." <sup>10</sup> Although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her. Genesis 39:7,10 p115*

##### FORGOTTEN BY HIS FRIENDS in prison

*Please show kindness to me by mentioning me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this prison. <sup>23</sup> Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. Genesis 40:14, 23 p116*

#### B. JOSEPH'S CHARACTER

##### 1. FULFIL MY RESPONSIBILITIES

*Potiphar left all that he owned under Joseph's authority; he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Genesis 39:6*

*The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there. <sup>23</sup> The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him, and the LORD made everything that he did successful. Genesis 39:22-23 p115*

*Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone like this, a man who has God's spirit in him?" Genesis 41:38 p118*

*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. Luke 16:10 NIV*

##### 2. MAINTAIN MY INTEGRITY

*Although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her. Genesis 39:10 p115*

*With me here my master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has put all that he owns under my authority... How could I do such a great evil and sin against God? Gen 39:8-9*

##### 3. TRUST GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

*God sent me ahead of you... to keep you alive by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but God. Genesis 45:7-8 p125*

*You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. Genesis 50:20 p132*

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 6

### MOSES: MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

Hebrews 11:24-29

#### MOSES INSTITUTED THE PASSOVER

*By faith he instituted the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch the Israelites. Hebrews 11:28 p1558*

#### THE TEN PLAGUES

1. Rivers turned to **blood**
2. **Frogs** - everywhere. In beds, ovens, cupboards
3. **Gnats** - on all people and animals
4. **Flies** – great swarms in all houses.  
Forget the Great Aussie Salute
5. **Death of livestock** – all horses, donkeys, camels, heard. Flocks died
6. **Boils** – festering boils on everyone
7. **Hail** – worst ever. Anyone caught outside will die
8. **Locusts** – so thick that you can't see the ground, will eat everything still left after the hail
9. **Darkness** – so thick it could be felt. No-one could move for three days
10. **Death of all firstborn males** – human and animal

#### PASSOVER INSTRUCTIONS: Exodus 12:1-13 p146

- <sup>3</sup> Each select an animal of the flock, one animal per household.
- <sup>5</sup> an unblemished animal, a year-old male; you may take it from either the sheep or the goats.
- <sup>6</sup> On the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight.
- <sup>7</sup> They must take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat them.
- <sup>8</sup> They are to eat the meat that night.
- <sup>11</sup> Here is how you must eat it: you must be dressed for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in a hurry; it is the LORD's Passover.
- <sup>12</sup> "I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. I am Yahweh; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt.
- <sup>13</sup> The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

#### THE PASSOVER AND THE CROSS

- The lamb was slain at the Passover.  
Jesus was slain on the cross.
- They were saved by the blood of the lamb.  
We are saved by the blood of Jesus.
- They demonstrated their faith in God to save them by painting the blood on the doorposts.  
We demonstrate our faith in God to save us through the blood of Jesus through true repentance.
- The Angel of Death passed over those who demonstrated faith.  
God passes over us when executing judgment, if we demonstrate faith in Jesus.

- God set them free from slavery in Egypt.  
God sets us free from slavery to sin.
- God led them to the Promised Land.  
God leads us to the ultimate Promised Land of Heaven

## FACTS ABOUT MOSES

- Moses was one of the greatest men in the Bible  
*No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. <sup>11</sup> He was unparalleled for all the signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do against the land of Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to all his land, <sup>12</sup> and for all the mighty acts of power and terrifying deeds that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. Deuteronomy 34:10-12 p341*
- Moses got the Ten Commandments direct from God
- Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible
- Moses led the Children of Israel out of captivity in Egypt
- Moses was the leader when the nation of Israel was formed

## SOME QUALITIES OF MOSES

### MOSES WAS HUMBLE

*Moses was a very humble man, more so than any man on the face of the earth. Numbers 12:3 p253*

### MOSES HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

*No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. Deuteronomy 34:10 p341*

*The LORD spoke with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend. Exodus 33:11 p182*

### MOSES WAS RADIANT

*He did not realize that the skin of his face shone as a result of his speaking with the LORD. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face shone! They were afraid to come near him. <sup>33</sup> When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup> But whenever Moses went before the LORD to speak with Him, he would remove the veil until he came out. Exodus 34:29-34*

### MOSES HAD A TOUGH JOB BUT HE STUCK AT IT

*The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. Exodus 16:2 p154*

*I was provoked with that generation and said, “They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways.” <sup>11</sup> So I swore in My anger, “They will not enter My rest.” Hebrews 3:10-11 p1548*

### MOSES MADE THE GREATEST CHOICE POSSIBLE

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter <sup>25</sup> and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin. <sup>26</sup> For he considered the reproach because of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward. Hebrews 11:24-26 p1558*

***For what does it benefit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his soul? <sup>37</sup> What can a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8:36-37 p1313***

Maroubra Baptist Church 7 April 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 7

### JOSHUA: POSSESSING YOUR FUTURE

*Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own. Joshua 1:11b*

### SOME FACTS ABOUT JOSHUA

#### Joshua was Moses' assistant from a very young age

*Joshua son of Nun, assistant to Moses since his youth. Numbers 11:28*

#### Joshua led the Israelite army to its very first victory

##### ***The Amalekites Attack***

<sup>8</sup> At Rephidim, Amalek came and fought against Israel. <sup>9</sup> Moses said to Joshua, "Select some men for us and go fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the hilltop with God's staff in my hand."

<sup>10</sup> Joshua did as Moses had told him, and fought against Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> While Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, but whenever he put his hand down, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> When Moses' hands grew heavy, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat down on it. Then Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other so that his hands remained steady until the sun went down. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua defeated Amalek and his army with the sword. Exodus 17:8-13 p156

#### Joshua accompanied Moses as he climbed Mount Sinai

*So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua and went up the mountain of God. Exodus 24:13*

#### Joshua waited patiently for Moses for 40 days on Mount Sinai while Aaron made the golden calf

<sup>17</sup> When Joshua heard the sound of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a sound of war in the camp."<sup>18</sup> But Moses replied: It's not the sound of a victory cry and not the sound of a cry of defeat; I hear the sound of singing!<sup>19</sup> As he approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses became enraged and threw the tablets out of his hands, smashing them at the base of the mountain. Exodus 32:17-19 p181

#### Joshua was privileged to share deep spiritual experiences with Moses

*The LORD spoke with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his assistant, the young man Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the inside of the tent. Exodus 33:11 p182*

#### Joshua was one of the 12 spies sent to check out the land

*The LORD spoke to Moses:<sup>2</sup> "Send men to scout out the land of Canaan I am giving to the Israelites. Send one man who is a leader among them from each of their ancestral tribes." Numbers 13:1-2 p254*

## **Joshua was one of the two spies who had the faith to take the land**

### ***Israel's Refusal to Enter Canaan***

*Then the whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept that night.<sup>2</sup> All the Israelites complained about Moses and Aaron, and the whole community told them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness!<sup>3</sup> Why is the LORD bringing us into this land to die by the sword? Our wives and little children will become plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"<sup>4</sup> So they said to one another, "Let's appoint a leader and go back to Egypt."*

*<sup>5</sup> Then Moses and Aaron fell down with their faces to the ground in front of the whole assembly of the Israelite community.<sup>6</sup> Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who scouted out the land, tore their clothes<sup>7</sup> and said to the entire Israelite community: "The land we passed through and explored is an extremely good land.<sup>8</sup> If the LORD is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us.<sup>9</sup> Only don't rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land, for we will devour them. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us. Don't be afraid of them!"*

*<sup>10</sup> While the whole community threatened to stone them, the glory of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites at the tent of meeting. Numbers 14:1-10 p256*

## **Joshua was one of only two people who left Egypt to enter the land**

*<sup>30</sup> I swear that none of you will enter the land I promised to settle you in, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.<sup>31</sup> I will bring your children whom you said would become plunder into the land you rejected, and they will enjoy it.<sup>32</sup> But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness.<sup>33</sup> Your children will be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years and bear the penalty for your acts of*

*unfaithfulness until all your corpses lie scattered in the wilderness.<sup>34</sup> You will bear the consequences of your sins 40 years based on the number of the 40 days that you scouted the land, a year for each day. You will know My displeasure.<sup>35</sup> I, Yahweh, have spoken. I swear that I will do this to the entire evil community that has conspired against Me. They will come to an end in the wilderness, and there they will die." Numbers 14:30-35 p257*

*<sup>10</sup> So the LORD's anger burned that day, and He swore an oath:<sup>11</sup> 'Because they did not follow Me completely, none of the men 20 years old or more who came up from Egypt will see the land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—<sup>12</sup> none except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, because they did follow the LORD completely.' Numbers 32:10-12 p291*

## **Joshua and Caleb were the only two spies who survived the expedition**

*<sup>36</sup> So the men Moses sent to scout out the land, and who returned and incited the entire community to complain about him by spreading a negative report about the land—<sup>37</sup> those men who spread the negative report about the land were struck down by the LORD.<sup>38</sup> Only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh remained alive of those men who went to scout out the land. Numbers 14:36-38 p257*

## **Joshua became Moses' successor**

*<sup>15</sup> So Moses appealed to the LORD,<sup>16</sup> "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the community<sup>17</sup> who will go out before them and come back in before them, and who will bring them out and bring them in, so that the LORD's community won't be like sheep without a shepherd."*

*<sup>18</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. Numbers 27:15-18 p332*

## **Joshua was appointed to lead the people into the Promised Land**

<sup>37</sup> *The LORD was angry with me also because of you and said: 'You will not enter there either. <sup>38</sup> Joshua son of Nun, who attends you, will enter it. Encourage him, for he will enable Israel to inherit it.'* Deuteronomy 1:37-38

<sup>28</sup> *But commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for he will cross over ahead of the people and enable them to inherit this land that you will see. Deuteronomy 3:28*

## **Joshua sent two spies into the land as he had been sent 39 years earlier**

*Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from the Acacia Grove, saying, "Go and scout the land, especially Jericho." So they left, and they came to the house of a woman, a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there. Joshua 2:1 p347*

## **The Lord parted the Jordan for Joshua as He had parted the Red Sea for Moses 40 years earlier**

<sup>14</sup> *When the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carried the ark of the covenant ahead of the people. <sup>15</sup> Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the priests carrying the ark reached the Jordan, their feet touched the water at its edge <sup>16</sup> and the water flowing downstream stood still, rising up in a mass... and the people crossed opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup> The priests carrying the ark of the LORD's covenant stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed on dry ground until the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan. Joshua 3:14-17 p349*

## **God vindicated Joshua's leadership**

*On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they revered him throughout his life, as they had revered Moses. Joshua 4:14 p350*

## **Joshua conquered Jericho without a blow as God pushed the walls over**

*So the people shouted, and the trumpets sounded. When they heard the blast of the trumpet, the people gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. The people advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city. Joshua 6:20 p352*

## **Joshua won an amazing battle at Gibeon against five armies with great help from the Lord**

- *The Lord threw them into confusion*
- *The Lord threw large hailstones on them*
- *The Lord caused the sun to stand still for a whole day to allow Joshua to finish the job. Joshua 10:7-15 p358*

*There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man, because the LORD fought for Israel. Joshua 10:14 p359*

## **Joshua defeated a total of 31 kings to conquer the land**

*Joshua 12:7-24 p361*

## HOW TO POSSESS YOUR FUTURE

**Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own. Joshua 1:11b**

### 1. SET UP A PLAN

*Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.<sup>3</sup> I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Joshua 1:2-3 NIV*

*Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready.' Joshua 1:11a NIV*

*Don't go charging into battle without a plan. Proverbs 20:18 GN*

*Sensible people always think before they act. Proverbs 13:16 GN*

**My Plans:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. STAY IN THE WORD

*Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:7 NIV*

*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8 NIV*

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16*

**My Time With God's Word:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. STEP OUT IN FAITH

*Be strong and courageous. Joshua 1:6 NIV*

*Be strong and very courageous. Joshua 1:7 NIV*

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 NIV*

*Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge,<sup>16</sup> the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away... So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. Joshua 3:15-16 NIV*

**My Trust In God:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15 NIV*

*Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you." Joshua 3:5 NIV*

Maroubra Baptist Church 21 April 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 9

### GIDEON: FROM NOBODY TO SOMEBODY

Judges 6 p398

Gideon's life is a classic example of how God prepares us to be used in a significant way. God uses a **FOUR-STEP PROCESS** to transform Gideon from a loser into a leader.

#### 1. AFFIRMATION: GOD WILL ENCOURAGE ME v11-16

*The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. v12*

##### GIDEON'S REACTION:

*If the LORD is with us, why has all this happened? And where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about? They said, 'Hasn't the LORD brought us out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to Midian. v13*

*How can I deliver Israel? Look, my family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house. v15*

##### GOD'S RESPONSE:

*Go in the strength you have and deliver Israel from the power of Midian. Am I not sending you? v14*

*"I will be with you," the LORD said to him. "You will strike Midian down as if it were one man." V16*

#### 2. REVELATION: GOD WILL MEET ME v17-24

*Then he said to Him, "If I have found favor in Your sight, give me a sign that You are speaking with me." <sup>18</sup> Please do not leave this place until I return to You. Let me bring my gift and set it before You." And He said, "I will stay until you return." v17-18*

*<sup>22</sup> When Gideon realized that He was the Angel of the LORD, he said, "Oh no, Lord GOD! I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face!" <sup>23</sup> But the LORD said to him, "Peace to you. Don't be afraid, for you will not die." <sup>24</sup> So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it Yahweh Shalom. It is in Ophrah of the Abiezrites until today. v22-24*

The altar represents the place where I MEET GOD

The altar is a symbol of PERSONAL SACRIFICE and COMMITMENT

Gideon named the altar, The Lord Is PEACE

**THE LESSON:** Before I am ready to fight external battles, I must have internal PEACE

#### 3. CONFRONTATION: GOD WILL TEST ME v25-32

Before God will USE me significantly, he will TEST ME

**THE TEST:** *On that very night the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull and a second bull seven years old. Then tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father and cut down the Asherah pole beside it." <sup>26</sup> Build a well-constructed altar to the LORD your God on the top of this rock. Take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down." v25-26*

**THE RESULT:** *So Gideon... did as the Lord had told him. v27*

## THREE WAYS GOD TESTS US

### 1. God tests us SPIRITUALLY v25-26

#### This is the test of who is to be GOD in my life

The very first of The Ten Commandments is... "You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3

### 2. God tests us EMOTIONALLY v27

Because he was too afraid of his father's household and the men of the city to do it in the daytime, he did it at night. v27

#### Service for the Lord always begins at HOME

### 3. God tests us PHYSICALLY v28-31

The men of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die." v30

But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead Baal's case for him? Would you save him? If he is a god, let him plead his own case because someone tore down his altar." v31

## 4. TRANSFORMATION: GOD WILL EMPOWER ME v34

The Spirit of the LORD took control of Gideon, and he blew the ram's horn and the Abiezrites rallied behind him. v34

#### Power always comes after TESTING not before

## God handicaps Gideon regarding numbers

The LORD said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and hand the Midianites over to you." Judges 7:7

## God handicaps Gideon regarding weapons

Then he divided the 300 men into three companies and gave each of the men a trumpet in one hand and an empty pitcher with a torch inside it in the other. Judges 7:16

## God promises Gideon that He will win

I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped. Judges 7:7

## God encourages Gideon to be courageous

That night the LORD said to him, "Get up and go into the camp, for I have given it into your hand. <sup>11</sup> Listen to what they say, and then you will be strengthened." Judges 7:9, 11

When Gideon arrived, there was a man telling his friend about a dream...<sup>14</sup> His friend answered: "This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has handed the entire Midianite camp over to him." Judges 7:13-14

## God gives Gideon a wise strategy

The three companies blew their trumpets and shattered their pitchers. They held their torches in their left hands, their trumpets in their right hands, and shouted, "A sword for The Lord and for Gideon!" <sup>21</sup> Each Israelite took his position around the camp, and the entire Midianite army fled, and cried out as they ran. Ju 7:20-21

## God gives Gideon practical help in the battle

When Gideon's men blew their 300 trumpets, the LORD set the swords of each man in the army against each other. Judges 7:22

## Don't LIMIT what God wants to do in your life!

**Maroubra Baptist Church 28 April 2013**

## **BIBLE CHARACTERS 10**

### **SAMSON: HOW TO BECOME WEAK**

**Judges 14-16 p415**

*Your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armour so that you'll be able to stand against all the strategies and tricks of Satan. Ephesians 6:10-11 LB*

## **THREE THINGS THAT WILL WEAKEN MY LIFE**

### **1. SELF INDULGENCE WEAKENS MY LIFE 14:1-20**

*Samson went down to Timnah and saw a young Philistine woman there.<sup>2</sup> He went back and told his father and his mother: "I have seen a young Philistine woman in Timnah. Now get her for me as a wife."*

*<sup>3</sup> But his father and mother said to him, "Can't you find a young woman among your relatives or among any of our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines for a wife?" But Samson told his father, "Get her for me, because I want her." Judges 14:1-3*

**MISTAKE: To make decisions based on pleasure rather than principles.**

*Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it! A man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows!*

*If he sows to please his own wrong desires he'll be planting seeds of evil and will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death. Galatians 6:7-8*

**EXCUSE: Just this once. It's such a small thing!**

**LESSON: To maintain spiritual strength I must DISCIPLINE my desires.**

*Strengthen yourselves with Christ's way of thinking. Live your lives controlled by God's will, not by human desires." 1 Peter 4: 1-2 GN*

### **2. RESENTMENT WEAKENS MY LIFE 15:1-17**

*Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them." Judges 15:3 NIV*

*Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I swear that I won't stop until I get my revenge on you." Judges 15:7 NIV*

**MISTAKE: To react rather than act toward circumstances.**

**EXCUSE: They hurt me first!**

*I merely did to them what they did to me. Judges 15:11 NIV*

*To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do. Job 5:2 GN*

*You are only hurting yourself with your anger! Job 18:4 GN*

So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, then he ignited the torches and released the foxes into the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the piles of grain and the standing grain as well as the vineyards and olive groves. Judges 15:4-5 HCSB

**LESSON: To maintain spiritual strength I must RESTRAIN my reactions.**

### **3. CARELESSNESS WEAKEN MY LIFE 16:1-20**

You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. Proverbs 18:20 GN

**MISTAKE: To play with temptation.**

**EXCUSE: It will be different for me**

<sup>15</sup> Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength."

<sup>16</sup> With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

<sup>17</sup> So he told her everything. Judges 16:15-17 NIV

**LESSON: To maintain my spiritual strength, I must keep my commitments... even when I don't feel like keeping them.**

They always do what they promise, no matter how much it may cost. Psalm 15:4 GN

### **THE TRAGIC RESULTS: Judges 16:21**

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. Judges 16:21 NIV

### **GOD'S GRACE: SAMSON'S SECOND CHANCE: 16:22-30**

Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."<sup>29</sup> Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,<sup>30</sup> Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived. Judges 16:28-30

**After his greatest failure, came Samson's greatest victory.... when he got serious about his commitment.**

**What is the weak link in your life?**

**What will you do about it?**

**When?**

Maroubra Baptist Church 12 May 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 11

### HANNAH: TRUE TO HER COMMITMENT

1 Samuel 1-2 p411

#### 1. A GREAT PARTNER

##### Hannah was married to a godly man

*There was a man from... the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah...<sup>3</sup> This man would go up from his town every year to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of Hosts at Shiloh. 1 Samuel 1:1,3*

*He loved her. 1 Samuel 1:5*

##### Hannah too was godly

##### Hannah and Elkanah were soul mates

*The next morning Elkanah and Hannah got up early to bow in worship before the LORD. Afterward, they returned home to Ramah. 1 Samuel 1:19*

#### 2. A GREAT PROBLEM

##### Hannah could not have children

*The LORD had kept Hannah from conceiving. 1 Samuel 1:6*

*Hannah wept and would not eat. 1 Samuel 1:7*

#### 3. A GREAT PRAYER

##### Hannah took her broken heart to God

*Deeply hurt, Hannah prayed to the LORD and wept with many tears. 1 Samuel 1:10*

##### Hannah was so distraught that Eli the priest thought she was drunk

*Hannah was praying silently, and though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli thought she was drunk<sup>14</sup> and scolded her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" 1 Samuel 1:13-14*

*"No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the LORD.<sup>16</sup> Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment." 1 Samuel 1:15-16*

#### 4. A GREAT PROMPTING

##### Hannah made a vow to God

*It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. Ecclesiastes 5:5 p685*

*Making a vow, she pleaded, "LORD of Hosts, if You will take notice of Your servant's affliction, remember and not forget me, and give Your servant a son, I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life. 1 Samuel 1:11*

#### 5. A GREAT PURPOSE

**God had a ‘problem’ too. The nation was slipping into sin and God needed a rescuer.**

**Hannah waited for a son**

**God waited for a woman**

**... a woman who would be willing to surrender her son to God.**

## **6. A GREAT PROVISION**

*The LORD remembered her. 1 Samuel 1:19*

*After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, “I requested him from the LORD.” 1 Samuel 1:20*

## **7. A GREAT COMMITMENT**

**Hannah remembered her vow**

*Hannah... explained to her husband, “After the child is weaned, I’ll take him to appear in the LORD’s presence and to stay there permanently.” 1 Samuel 1:22*

**Hannah’s soul-mate supported her in her promise**

*Her husband Elkanah replied, “Do what you think is best. 1 Samuel 1:23*

**When the time came, true to her word, there was no hesitation with Hannah**

*When she had weaned him...though the boy was still young, she took him to the LORD’s house at Shiloh.<sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the boy to Eli. 1 Samuel 1:24-25*

**Hannah makes her commitment crystal clear  
No ambiguity**

*I prayed for this boy, and since the LORD gave me what I asked Him for,<sup>28</sup> I now give the boy to the LORD. For as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD. 1 Samuel 1:27-28*

## **8. A GREAT CO-OPERATION**

*Then he bowed in worship to the LORD there. 1 Samuel 1:28*

*Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy served the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest. 1 Samuel 2:11 p417*

**Hannah was filled with joy and gratitude 1 Samuel 2:1-10**

*My heart rejoices in the LORD... 1 Samuel 2:1*

**Hannah remembered her son constantly**

*Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 1 Samuel 2:19*

## **9. A GREAT REWARD**

*The LORD paid attention to Hannah’s need, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD. 1 Samuel 2:21*

**Maroubra Baptist Church 19 May 2013**

**BIBLE CHARACTERS 12**

**RUTH: A MODEL OF COMMITMENT**

*All the people in my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Ruth 3:11 p394*

**RUTH'S NOBLE QUALITIES**

**Faithful love**

*May the LORD show faithful love to you as you have shown to the dead and to me." Ruth 1:8 p391*

**Commitment**

*Do not persuade me to leave you or go back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people. Ruth 1:16 p392*

**Devotion to Naomi and to God**

*Your God will be my God. Ruth 1:16 p392*

**Determination**

*When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped trying to persuade her. Ruth 1:18 p392*

**Respect**

*Ruth the Moabitess asked Naomi, "Will you let me go into the fields and gather fallen grain behind someone who allows me to?" Ruth 2:2 p392*

**Impressive**

*Whose young woman is this? Ruth 2:5 p393*

**Good work ethic**

*She came and has remained from early morning until now, except that she rested a little in the shelter. Ruth 2:7 p393*

**Appreciation**

*She bowed with her face to the ground and said to him, "Why are you so kind to notice me, although I am a foreigner?" Ruth 2:10 p393*

**Well known for her kindness**

*Everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband's death has been fully reported to me. Ruth 2:11 p393*

**Spiritual/Godly**

*The LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge. Ruth 2:12 p393*

## **Favoured and blessed**

*Pull out some stalks from the bundles for her and leave them for her to gather. Ruth 2:16 p393*

## **Generous/Thoughtful/Sharing**

*Then she brought out what she had left over from her meal and gave it to her (mother-in-law). Ruth 2:18 p393*

## **Teachable/Obedient**

*So Ruth said to her, "I will do everything you say." Ruth 3:5 p394*

## **Wise to take good advice**

*She went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had instructed her. Ruth 3:6 p394*

## **Kind**

*May the LORD bless you, my daughter. You have shown more kindness now than before. Ruth 3:10 p394*

## **Famous for her good character**

*All the people in my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Ruth 3:11 p394*

## **Loving commitment over the long haul**

*Your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him. Ruth 4:15 p395*

## **Great reward**

*The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. Ruth 4:17 p395*

## **KEY CHARACTER QUALITY: COMMITMENT**

***Wherever you go, I will go,***

***and wherever you live, I will live;***

***your people will be my people,***

***and your God will be my God.***

***<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.***

***May the Lord punish me, and do so severely, if anything but death separates you and me. Ruth 1:16-17 p392***

Maroubra Baptist Church 7 July 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 13

**Samuel: A Person Dedicated To God -  
Prophet, Priest, King-Maker, Judge**

1 Samuel 3:1-12 p418

### **SAMUEL'S GREATNESS - HIS IMPACT ON HISTORY**

Samuel led the nation as a judge

Samuel led the transition from judges to kings

Samuel anointed the very first king – Saul

Samuel deposed the first king when he turned out to be a disaster

Samuel anointed the second king – David

Samuel prophesied and witnessed the end of the Aaronic Priesthood

Samuel instituted the first School Of The Prophets

### **SAMUEL'S SECRET: HE WAS DEDICATED TO GOD**

**Samuel was dedicated to God before birth**

*Making a vow, she pleaded, "LORD of Hosts, if You will take notice of Your servant's affliction, remember and not forget me, and give Your servant a son, I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life. 1 Samuel 1:11 p411*

**Samuel was given to God at the earliest possible opportunity**

*Hannah explained, "After the child is weaned, I'll take him to appear in the LORD's presence and to stay there permanently." 1 Sam 1:22*

*I prayed for this boy, and since the LORD gave me what I asked Him for, <sup>28</sup> I now give the boy to the LORD. For as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD." 1 Samuel 1:27-28 p412*

**Samuel dedicated himself to serving the Lord from early boyhood**

*Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy served the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest. 1 Samuel 2:11 p417*

**Mum and dad came once a year to sacrifice and bring a new little coat**

*Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 1 Sam 2:19*

**God rewards dedication**

*The LORD paid attention to Hannah's need, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD. 1 Samuel 2:21 p417*

**God saw that this dedicated young boy grew up well**

*The boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men. 1 Samuel 2:26 p417.*

**When we totally dedicate ourselves to God, there is no limit to what He can do in us and through us.**

*In those days the word of the LORD was rare and prophetic visions were not widespread. 1 Samuel 3:1 p418*

## **A dedicated person loves to be close to God**

*Samuel was lying down in the tabernacle of the LORD, where the ark of God was located. 1 Samuel 3:3 p418*

## **A dedicated person gets called**

*Then the LORD called Samuel, and he answered, "Here I am." 1 Samuel 3:4 p418*

## **God makes His call to a dedicated person clear and unmistakable**

*He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." 1 Sam 3:5 p418*

## **A dedicated person responds to the call**

*Samuel responded, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." Sam 3:10*

## **A dedicated person shows amazing growth**

*Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and He fulfilled everything Samuel prophesied. 1 Samuel 3:19 p418*

## **God's hand on a dedicated person is obvious**

*All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the LORD. 1 Samuel 3:20 p418*

## **A dedicated person commands God's ongoing attention**

*The LORD continued to appear in Shiloh, because there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His word. 1 Samuel 3:21 p418*

## **God speaks through a dedicated person**

*And Samuel's words came to all Israel. 1 Samuel 4:1 p421*

## **IMPACT OF DEDICATED SAMUEL'S LIFE: SAM'S ROLES**

### **Samuel was a PROPHET**

*He was the FIRST PROPHET. Acts 3:24*

### **Samuel the Seer**

*I'll tell you everything that's in your heart. 1 Samuel 9:18-19 p431.*

### **Samuel was a PRIEST**

*Samuel was a priest, sacrificing on behalf of the people and praying for the people. He built an altar to the LORD at Ramah. 1 Sam 7:17*

### **Samuel was a KING**

*As judge, Samuel was virtually a king. He led the nation into battle*

### **Samuel was a JUDGE**

*Samuel judged Israel throughout his life. <sup>16</sup> Every year he would go on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah and would judge Israel at all these locations. 1 Samuel 7:15-16 p427*

### **Samuel was the last judge. Acts 13:20**

### **But the people ask for a 'real' king, like the other nations**

### **Samuel becomes a KING-MAKER. Anoints the first two kings**

## **TWO OF SAMUEL'S GREATEST QUALITIES**

### **1. His attitude to rejection**

### **2. His great prayer ministry**

Maroubra Baptist Church 14 July 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 14

### Saul: The First king - Fabulous Potential Squandered Started Well – Finished Tragically

#### SAUL'S GOOD START

##### Saul was impressive

*He (Kish) had a son named Saul, an impressive young man. There was no one more impressive among the Israelites than he. He stood a head taller than anyone else. 1 Samuel 9:2 p430*

##### Saul was humble

*Saul responded, "Am I not a Benjaminite from the smallest of Israel's tribes and isn't my clan the least important of all the clans of the Benjaminite tribe? So why have you said something like this to me?" 1 Samuel 9:21 p430*

##### Saul was transformed

*The Spirit of the LORD will control you, and you will be transformed into a different person because God is with you. 1 Sam 10:6-7 p432*

##### Saul was Spirit- controlled

*God changed his heart... Then the Spirit of God took control of him. 1 Samuel 10:9-10 p432*

##### Saul was wise and sensitive and appropriate

*"Tell me," Saul's uncle asked, "what did Samuel say to you?"<sup>16</sup> Saul told him, "He assured us the donkeys had been found." However, Saul did not tell him what Samuel had said about the matter of kingship. 1 Samuel 10:15-16 p432*

##### Saul was doubly humble

*Finally, Saul son of Kish was selected. But when they searched for him, they could not find him.<sup>22</sup> They again inquired of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" The LORD replied, "There he is, hidden among the supplies."<sup>23</sup> They ran and got him from there. 1 Samuel 10:21-23 p432*

##### Saul was influential

*There were 300,000 Israelites and 30,000 men from Judah. 1 Samuel 11:8 p433*

##### Saul was successful

*The next day Saul organized the troops... They invaded the Ammonite camp and slaughtered them. 1 Samuel 11:11 p433*

*He fought against all his enemies in every direction... Wherever he turned, he caused havoc.<sup>48</sup> He fought bravely... and delivered Israel from the hand of those who plundered them. 1 Samuel 14:47-48 p438*

##### Saul was popular

*So all the people went to Gilgal, and there in the LORD's presence they made Saul king. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings in the LORD's presence, and Saul and all the men of Israel greatly rejoiced. 1 Samuel 11:15 p433*

## **Saul was above petty criticism**

*But some wicked men said, “How can this guy save us?” They despised him and did not bring him a gift, but Saul said nothing. 1 Samuel 10:27 p432*

*Afterward, the people said to Samuel, “Who said that Saul should not reign over us? Give us those men so we can kill them!”<sup>13</sup> But Saul ordered, “No one will be executed this day, for today the LORD has provided deliverance in Israel.” 1 Samuel 11:12-13 p433*

## **SAUL’S SAD DECLINE**

### **Saul’s stupid command that the soldiers don’t eat**

*The men of Israel were worn out that day, for Saul had placed the troops under an oath: “The man who eats food before evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies is cursed.” So none of the troops tasted any food. 1 Samuel 14:24 p437*

*Jonathan replied, “My father has brought trouble to the land.<sup>30</sup> How much better if the troops had eaten freely today from the plunder they took from their enemies! Then the slaughter of the Philistines would have been much greater.” 1 Samuel 14:29-30*

### **Saul’s disobedience to God’s command to annihilate the Amalekites**

*Saul and the troops spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, cattle, and choice animals, as well as the young rams and the best of everything else. They were not willing to destroy them, but they did destroy all the worthless and unwanted things. 1 Samuel 15:9 p439*

### **Saul’s lame excuse**

*So why didn’t you obey the LORD?<sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the LORD!” Saul answered.<sup>21</sup> The troops took sheep and cattle from the plunder—the best of what was set apart for destruction—to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal.” 1 Samuel 15:19-21 p439*

## **SAUL’S DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES**

### **God’s regret**

*I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned away from following Me and has not carried out My instructions. 1 Samuel 15:11 p439*

### **God’s rejection**

*Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king. 1 Samuel 15:23 p440*

*When Samuel turned to go, Saul grabbed the hem of his robe, and it tore.<sup>28</sup> Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingship of Israel away from you today and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you.” 1 Samuel 15:27-28 p440*

### **God’s withdrawal**

*Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and an evil spirit sent from the LORD began to torment him. 1 Samuel 16:14 p442*

## **SAUL’S FURTHER DECLINE**

### **Saul’s jealousy**

*As they celebrated, the women sang: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands.<sup>8</sup> Saul was furious and resented*

this song. "They credited tens of thousands to David," he complained, "but they only credited me with thousands. What more can he have but the kingdom?"<sup>9</sup> So Saul watched David jealously from that day forward. 1 Samuel 18:7-9 p447

### **Saul's torment**

The next day an evil spirit sent from God took control of Saul, and he began to rave inside the palace. David was playing the lyre as usual, but Saul was holding a spear,<sup>11</sup> and he threw it, thinking, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David got away from him twice. 1 Samuel 18:10-11 p447

### **Saul's unfounded fears**

Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul. 1 Samuel 18:12 p447

Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved him,<sup>29</sup> and he became even more afraid of David. As a result, Saul was David's enemy from then on. 1 Samuel 18:28-29 p449

### **Saul's neurotic hunt for David**

Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Saul's son Jonathan liked David very much,<sup>2</sup> so he told him. 1 Samuel 19:1-2 p449

Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear. As the spear struck the wall, David eluded Saul, ran away, and escaped that night.<sup>11</sup> Saul sent agents to David's house to watch for him and kill him in the morning. But his wife Michal warned David, "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow!" 1 Samuel 19:10-11 p450

When it was reported to Saul that David was at Naioth in Ramah,<sup>20</sup> he sent agents to seize David. 1 Samuel 19:19-20 p451

Then Saul became angry with Jonathan and shouted, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you are siding with Jesse's son to your own shame and to the disgrace of your mother?"<sup>31</sup> Every day Jesse's son lives on earth you and your kingship are not secure. Now send for him and bring him to me—he deserves to die." 1 Samuel 20:30-31 p455

Jonathan answered his father back: "Why is he to be killed? What has he done?"<sup>33</sup> Then Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him, so he knew that his father was determined to kill David. 1 Samuel 20:32-33 p455

Then the king ordered the guards standing by him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD because they sided with David. For they knew he was fleeing, but they didn't tell me."<sup>18</sup> So Doeg the Edomite went and executed the priests himself. On that day, he killed 85 men who wore linen ephods.<sup>19</sup> He also struck down Nob, the city of the priests, with the sword—both men and women, children and infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep. 1 Samuel 22:17-19 p461

When it was reported to Saul that David had gone to Keilah, he said, "God has handed him over to me, for he has trapped himself by entering a town with barred gates."<sup>8</sup> Then Saul summoned all the troops to go to war at Keilah and besiege David and his men. 1 Samuel 23:7-8 p465

David then stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hill country of the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand David over to him. 1 Samuel 23:14 p466

Investigate and watch carefully where he goes and who has seen him there; they tell me he is extremely cunning.<sup>23</sup> Look and find out all the places where he hides. Then come back to me with accurate information, and I'll go with you. 1 Samuel 23:22-23 p467

Saul and his men went to look for him. When David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. Saul heard of this and pursued David there.

<sup>26</sup> Saul went along one side of the mountain and David and his men went along the other side. Even though David was hurrying to get away from Saul, Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them. <sup>27</sup> Then a messenger came to Saul saying, "Come quickly, because the Philistines have raided the land!" <sup>28</sup> So Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to engage the Philistines. 1 Samuel 23:25-28 p467

When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the wilderness near En-gedi." <sup>2</sup> So Saul took 3,000 of Israel's choice men and went to look for David and his men. 1 Samuel 24:1-2 p469

Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah saying, "David is hiding on the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon." <sup>2</sup> So Saul, accompanied by 3,000 of the choice men of Israel, went to the Wilderness of Ziph to search for David there. 1 Samuel 26:1-2 p473

### **Saul's false oaths and mock repentance**

Saul listened to Jonathan's advice and swore an oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be killed." 1 Samuel 19:6 p450

Then David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe... Then Saul wept aloud <sup>17</sup> and said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you. 1 Samuel 24:4, 16-17 p469

Now look around; where are the king's spear and water jug that were by his head? Saul responded, "I have sinned. Come back, my son David, I will never harm you again because today you considered my life precious. I have been a fool! I've committed a grave error." 1 Samuel 26:16, 21 p474

## **SAUL'S TERRIBLE FINISH**

### **God's silence**

When Saul saw the Philistine camp, he was afraid and trembled violently. <sup>6</sup> He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him in dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets. 1 Samuel 28:5-6 p478

### **Saul's desperate alternative**

Saul then said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I can go and consult her." 1 Samuel 28:7 p478

### **Saul's terrifying discovery**

"Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Samuel asked Saul.

"I'm in serious trouble," replied Saul. "The Philistines are fighting against me and God has turned away from me. He doesn't answer me anymore, either through the prophets or in dreams. So I've called on you to tell me what I should do."

<sup>16</sup> Samuel answered, "The LORD has turned away from you and has become your enemy... <sup>17</sup> The LORD has done exactly what He said through me: The LORD has torn the kingship out of your hand and given it to your neighbor David.

<sup>18</sup> You did not obey the LORD... therefore the LORD has done this to you today.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD will also hand Israel over to the Philistines along with you. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me." 1 Samuel 28:15-19 p479

### **Saul's tragic end**

So on that day, Saul died together with his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his men. 1 Samuel 31:6 p479

Maroubra Baptist Church 21 July 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 15

### Jonathan: A Real Mate

The purity of Jonathan's friendship can be appreciated when we consider the circumstances of that friendship

Jonathan's close friend David was the man who was going to take Jonathan's rightful place as king

#### Saul's attitude

*Every day Jesse's son lives on earth you and your kingship are not secure. Now send for him and bring him to me—he deserves to die. 1 Samuel 20:31 p455*

#### Jonathan's attitude

*Don't be afraid, for my father Saul will never lay a hand on you. You yourself will be king over Israel, and I'll be your second-in-command. Even my father Saul knows it is true. 1 Samuel 23:17 p467*

#### Jonathan was secure in the Lord

He and David were true soul-mates when it came to spiritual matters.

*But David encouraged himself (found strength) in the LORD his God. 1 Samuel 30:6 p477*

*Then Saul's son Jonathan came to David in Horesh and encouraged him in his faith in God. 1 Samuel 23:16 p467*

## LET'S GET TO KNOW JONATHAN

### Jonathan was a general in Saul's army

*Saul was 30 years old when he became king, and he reigned 42 years over Israel. <sup>2</sup> He chose 3,000 men from Israel for himself: 2,000 were with Saul at Michmash and in Bethel's hill country, and 1,000 were with Jonathan in Gibeah. 1 Samuel 13:1-2 p435*

### Saul's army was vastly outnumbered and afraid

*The Philistines gathered to fight against Israel: 3,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and troops as numerous as the sand on the seashore. 1 Samuel 13:5 p435*

*The men of Israel saw that they were in trouble because the troops were in a difficult situation. They hid in caves, thickets, among rocks, and in holes and cisterns. 1 Samuel 13:6 p435*

*Saul, however, was still at Gilgal, and all his troops were gripped with fear. 1 Samuel 13:7 p435*

### To make matters worse, they had no weapons

*No blacksmith could be found in all the land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise, the Hebrews will make swords or spears."<sup>20</sup> So all the Israelites went to the Philistines to sharpen their plows, mattocks, axes, and sickles. <sup>22</sup> So on the day of battle not a sword or spear could be found in the hand of any of the troops who were with Saul and Jonathan; only Saul and his son Jonathan had weapons. 1 Samuel 13:19-22 p435*

### Jonathan was a great fighter 1 Samuel 14:1-23 p436

### Jonathan was courageous

*That same day Saul's son Jonathan said to the attendant who carried his weapons, "Come on, let's cross over to the Philistine garrison on the other side." However, he did not tell his father. 1 Samuel 14:1 p436*

*They let themselves be seen by the Philistine garrison, and the Philistines said, "Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they've been hiding!"<sup>12</sup> The men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armor-bearer. "Come on up, and we'll teach you a lesson!" they said. 1 Samuel 14:11-12 p436*

### **Jonathan had great faith in God**

*Perhaps the LORD will help us. Nothing can keep the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." 1 Samuel 14:6 p436*

### **Jonathan looked to God for direction**

*If they say, 'Come on up,' then we'll go up, because the LORD has handed them over to us—that will be our sign. 1 Samuel 14:10 p436*

### **God gave Jonathan great fighting skill**

*"Follow me," Jonathan told his armor-bearer, "for the LORD has handed them over to Israel."<sup>13</sup> Jonathan climbed up using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer behind him. Jonathan cut them down, and his armor-bearer followed and finished them off.<sup>14</sup> In that first assault Jonathan and his armor-bearer struck down about 20 men in a half-acre field. 1 Samuel 14:12-14 p436*

### **God gave Jonathan a great victory that day**

<sup>15</sup> *Terror spread through the Philistine camp and the open fields to all the troops. Even the garrison and the raiding parties were terrified. The earth shook, and terror spread from God.*

<sup>20</sup> *Saul and all the troops with him assembled and marched to the battle, and there, the Philistines were fighting against each other in great confusion!<sup>22</sup> When all the Israelite men who had been hiding in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they also joined Saul and Jonathan in the battle.<sup>23</sup> So the LORD saved Israel that day. 1 Samuel 14:15-23 p437*

### **Jonathan gave all the glory to God**

*The people said to Saul, "Jonathan... accomplished such a great deliverance for Israel..., for he worked with God's help today."*

### **Jonathan was a loyal friend**

*Jonathan committed himself to David, and loved him as much as he loved himself. 1 Samuel 18:1 p447*

*Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as much as himself. 1 Samuel 18:3 p447*

*If my father intends to bring evil on you, then I will tell you. 1 Samuel 20:13 p454*

### **Jonathan was committed to God's will, even though it was for someone else to get the top job**

*Don't be afraid, for my father Saul will never lay a hand on you. You yourself will be king over Israel, and I'll be your second-in-command. Even my father Saul knows it is true. 1 Samuel 23:17 p467*

### **Jonathan was God conscious**

- He asked God for help in battle, and received it.
- He had the courage to take on an army single-handed, as long as God was with him.
- He asked direction from God in battle and followed it, and won.
- He submitted to God's will when it was for another man to get his rightful position of king.
- Furthermore, he fully supported his replacement.
- He encouraged David in his faith in God.
- He made vows before God.

*The LORD will be a witness between you and me forever. 1 Samuel 20:23 p454*

## **Jonathan and David parted with tears**

*Then he and Jonathan kissed each other and wept with each other, though David wept more. 1 Samuel 20:41 p455*

## **Jonathan was true to his commitment**

*Jonathan then said to David, "Go in the assurance the two of us pledged in the name of the LORD when we said: The LORD will be a witness between you and me and between my offspring and your offspring forever." Then David left, and Jonathan went into the city. 1 Samuel 20:41 p455*

## **Jonathan died in battle**

*The Philistines fought against Israel, and Israel's men fled from them. Many were killed on Mount Gilboa. <sup>2</sup> The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons and killed his sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua. 1 Samuel 31:1-2 p479*

## **God wants Jonathans in His Church**

### **Regard others above ourselves**

*Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 p1530*

### **Build one another up**

*So then, we must pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another. Romans 14:19*

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

### **There's no telling what God will do through us when we don't mind who gets the credit**

Maroubra Baptist Church 28 July 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 16

### David Part 1: A Man Close To God

**The David story starts with God rejecting the first King of Israel.**

*Even to the day of his death, Samuel never again visited Saul. Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted He had made Saul king over Israel. 1 Samuel 15:35 p440*

**God already had the second king in mind**

*The LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected a king from his sons." 1 Samuel 16:1 p441*

**The second king was going to be one with the right heart**

*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the LORD sees, for man sees what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 p441*

**But David had more than just a good heart.**

*He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance. 1 Samuel 16:12 p441*

**The second king was the most unlikely choice in the family**

*Samuel asked him, "Are these all the sons you have?"*

*"There is still the youngest," he answered, "but right now he's tending the sheep." Samuel told Jesse, "Send for him. We won't sit down to eat until he gets here." 1 Samuel 16:11 p441*

**God knew who he wanted as king**

*So Jesse sent for him... Then the LORD said, "Anoint him, for he is the one." 1 Samuel 16:12 p441*

**God's Spirit took control of David from that day forward**

*So Samuel took the horn of oil, anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD took control of David from that day forward. 1 Samuel 16:13 p441*

**David needed the Spirit of God to take control of him, because it was going to be a long while between the anointing and the coronation.**

God's Spirit was needed

- to protect David
- to encourage David
- to keep David focused
- to keep David hope-filled

**God gets David into the palace but only to play the harp**

*Then Saul commanded his servants, "Find me someone who plays well and bring him to me." <sup>18</sup> One of the young men answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is also a valiant man, a warrior, eloquent, handsome, and the LORD is with him." 1 Samuel 16:17-18 p443*

## **Saul is pleased with David at first**

*Then Saul sent word to Jesse: “Let David remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.” 1 Samuel 16:22 p443*

## **David ministers to Saul**

*Whenever the spirit from God troubled Saul, David would pick up his lyre and play, and Saul would then be relieved, feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. 1 Samuel 16:23 p443*

## **God gives David notoriety through killing Goliath**

### **David’s reliance on God is obvious as he faces Goliath**

*Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God? 1 Samuel 17:26 p444*

*Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.”<sup>37</sup> Then David said, “The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:36-37 p446*

*David said to the Philistine: “You come against me with a dagger, spear, and sword, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel’s armies—you have defied Him.” 1 Samuel 17:45 p446*

### **David’s confidence in God is outstanding**

*Today, the LORD will hand you over to me. Today, I’ll strike you down, cut your head off, and give the corpses of the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God,<sup>47</sup> and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the LORD saves, for the battle is the LORD’s. He will hand you over to us.” 1 Samuel 17:46-47 p446*

## **David’s confidence in God is rewarded**

*He struck down the Philistine and killed him. 1 Samuel 17:50 p446*

## **God places David as head of Saul’s army**

*David marched out with the army and was successful in everything Saul sent him to do. Saul put him in command of the soldiers, which pleased all the people and Saul’s servants as well. 1 Samuel 18:5 p447*

## **The women compose a celebration song**

*As they celebrated, the women sang: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands. 1 Samuel 18:7 p447*

## **Saul’s jealousy is inflamed**

*Saul was furious and resented this song. “They credited tens of thousands to David,” he complained, “but they only credited me with thousands. What more can he have but the kingdom?”<sup>9</sup> So Saul watched David jealously from that day forward. 1 Samuel 18:8-9 p447*

## **Saul devotes the rest of his life to trying to kill David**

*The next day an evil spirit sent from God took control of Saul, and he began to rave inside the palace. David was playing the lyre as usual, but Saul was holding a spear,<sup>11</sup> and he threw it, thinking, “I’ll pin David to the wall.” But David got away from him twice. 1 Samuel 18:10-11 p447*

## **Saul’s motive**

*Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul. 1 Samuel 18:12 p447*

## DAVID'S RESPONSE TO SAUL'S ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE

### David's Secret

*Wicked and deceitful mouths open against me; they speak against me with lying tongues. <sup>3</sup> They surround me with hateful words and attack me without cause. <sup>4</sup> In return for my love they accuse me, **but I continue to pray.** Psalm 109:2-4 p463*

### David's Testimony

*He stands at the right hand of the needy to save him from those who would condemn him. Psalm 109:31 p464*

## SAUL'S NEUROTIC HUNT FOR DAVID

**Saul ordered** his son Jonathan and all his servants to **kill David.** But Saul's son Jonathan liked David very much, <sup>2</sup> so he told him. 1 Samuel 19:1-2 p449

*Psalm 19  
I have taken refuge in the Lord. Psalm 19:1 p450*

Saul tried to **pin David to the wall with the spear.** As the spear struck the wall, David eluded Saul, ran away, and escaped that night. <sup>11</sup> Saul sent agents to David's house to watch for him and **kill him in the morning.** But his wife Michal warned David, "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow!" 1 Samuel 19:10-11 p450

*Psalm 59  
Deliver me from my enemies, my God; protect me from those who rise up against me. Psalm 59:1 p451*

*You have been a stronghold for me, a refuge in my day of trouble. <sup>17</sup> To You, my strength, I sing praises, because God is my stronghold— my faithful God. Psalm 59:16-17 p451*

When it was reported to Saul that David was at Naioth in Ramah, <sup>20</sup> he sent agents to **seize David.** 1 Samuel 19:19-20 p451

*Psalm 7  
Lord my God, I seek refuge in You; save me from all my pursuers and rescue me <sup>2</sup> or they will tear me like a lion, ripping me apart with no one to rescue me. Psalm 7:1-2 p452*

*My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. <sup>11</sup> God is a righteous judge. Psalm 7:10-11 p452*

*Psalm 25  
LORD, I turn to You. <sup>2</sup> My God, I trust in You. Do not let me be disgraced; do not let my enemies gloat over me. Psalm 25:1-2 p452*

*My eyes are always on the LORD, for He will pull my feet out of the net. Psalm 25:15 p453*

Then Saul became angry with Jonathan and shouted, "Don't I know that you are siding with Jesse's son to your own shame and to the disgrace of your mother? <sup>31</sup> Every day Jesse's son lives on earth you and your kingship are not secure. Now send for him and **bring him to me—he deserves to die.**" 1 Samuel 20:30-31 p455

Jonathan answered his father back: "Why is he to be killed? What has he done?" <sup>33</sup> Then **Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him,** so he knew that his father was determined to kill David. 1 Samuel 20:32-33 p455

*Psalm 26  
Vindicate me, LORD, because I have lived with integrity and have trusted in the LORD without wavering. <sup>2</sup> Test me, LORD, and try me; examine my heart and mind. <sup>3</sup> For Your faithful love is before my eyes, and I live by Your truth. Psalm 26:1-3 p455*

LORD, I love the house where You dwell, the place where Your glory resides.<sup>9</sup> Do not destroy me along with sinners, or my life along with men of bloodshed<sup>10</sup> in whose hands are evil schemes and whose right hands are filled with bribes.<sup>11</sup> But I live with integrity; redeem me and be gracious to me. Psalm 26:8-11 p456

**David fled that day from Saul's presence and went to King Achish of Gath.**<sup>11</sup> But Achish's servants said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land? Don't they sing about him during their dances: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands?"

<sup>12</sup>David took this to heart and became very afraid of King Achish of Gath,<sup>13</sup> so **he pretended to be insane in their presence.** He acted like a madman around them, scribbling on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard. 1 Samuel 21:10-13 p456

Psalm 34

I will praise the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. Psalm 34:1 p457

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him from all his troubles.<sup>7</sup> The Angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.<sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the LORD is good. How happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! Psalm 34:6-8 p457

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry for help. Psalm 34:15 p457

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them from all their troubles.<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.<sup>19</sup> Many adversities come to the one who is righteous, but the LORD delivers him from them all. Psalm 34:17-19 p457

Psalm 56

Be gracious to me, God, for man tramples me; he fights and oppresses me all day long.<sup>2</sup> My adversaries trample me all day, for many arrogantly fight against me.<sup>3</sup> When I am afraid, I will trust in You.<sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not fear. What can man do to me? Psalm 56:1-4 p457

**David left Gath and took refuge in the cave of Adullam. When David's brothers and his father's whole family heard, they went down and joined him there. 1 Samuel 22:1 p458**

Psalm 142

Listen to my cry, for I am very weak. Rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.<sup>7</sup> Free me from prison so that I can praise Your name. Psalm 142:6-7 p458

In addition, every man who was desperate, in debt, or discontented rallied around him (**at the stronghold**), and he became their leader. About 400 men were with him. 1 Samuel 22:2 p459

Psalm 141

But my eyes look to You, Lord GOD. I seek refuge in You; do not let me die.<sup>9</sup> Protect me from the trap they have set for me, and from the snares of evildoers.<sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely. Psalm 141:8-10 p459

**From there David went to Mizpeh of Moab where he said to the king of Moab,** "Please let my father and mother stay with you until I know what God will do for me."<sup>4</sup> So he left them in the care of the king of Moab, and they stayed with him the whole time David was **in the stronghold.**

<sup>5</sup>Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Don't stay in the stronghold. Leave and return to the land of Judah." So David left and went to the **forest of Hereth.** 1 Samuel 22:3-5 p459

Psalm 64

God, hear my voice. Protect my life from the terror of the enemy.<sup>2</sup> Hide me from the scheming of wicked people. Psalm 64:1-2 p460

Then the king ordered the guards standing by him, "Turn and **kill the priests of the LORD because they sided with David.**<sup>18</sup> On that day, he killed 85 men who wore linen ephods.<sup>19</sup> He also struck down Nob, the city of the priests, with the sword—both men and women, children and infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep. 1 Samuel 22:17-19 p461

Psalm 35

Oppose my opponents, LORD; fight those who fight me.<sup>2</sup> Take Your shields—large and small—and come to my aid.<sup>3</sup> Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers, and assure me: “I am your deliverance.”<sup>4</sup> Let those who seek to kill me be disgraced and humiliated; let those who plan to harm me be turned back and ashamed. Psalm 35:1-4 p461

Do not let my deceitful enemies rejoice over me; do not let those who hate me without cause look at me maliciously. Psalm 35:19 p461

Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.<sup>22</sup> Then David said to Abiathar, “<sup>23</sup> Stay with me. Don’t be afraid, for the one who wants to take my life wants to take your life. You will be safe with me.” 1 Samuel 22:21-23 p462

Psalm 52

But I am like a flourishing olive tree in the house of God; I trust in God’s faithful love forever and ever.<sup>9</sup> I will put my hope in Your name, for it is good. Psalm 52:8-9 p463

Psalm 140

Rescue me, LORD, from evil men. Keep me safe from violent men<sup>2</sup> who plan evil in their hearts. They stir up wars all day long.<sup>4</sup> Protect me, LORD, from the clutches of the wicked. Keep me safe from violent men who plan to make me stumble. Psalm 140:1-4 p464

LORD, do not grant the desires of the wicked; do not let them achieve their goals. Psalm 140:8 p465

When it was reported to Saul that David had gone to Keilah, he said, “God has handed him over to me, for he has trapped himself by entering a town with barred gates.”<sup>8</sup> Then Saul summoned all the troops to go to war at Keilah and besiege David and his men. 1 Samuel 23:7-8 p465

Psalm 31

LORD, I seek refuge in You; Save me by Your righteousness.<sup>2</sup> Rescue me quickly.<sup>3</sup> For You are my rock and my fortress; You

lead and guide me.<sup>4</sup> You will free me from the net that is secretly set for me, for You are my refuge.<sup>5</sup> Into Your hand I entrust my spirit; You redeem me, LORD, God of truth. Psalm 31:1-5 p465

<sup>7</sup> I will rejoice and be glad in Your faithful love because You have seen my affliction. You have known the troubles of my life<sup>8</sup> and have not handed me over to the enemy. You have set my feet in a spacious place. Psalm 31:7-8 p465

David then stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hill country of the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand David over to him. 1 Samuel 23:14 p466

Psalm 13

How long will I store up anxious concerns within me, agony in my mind every day? How long will my enemy dominate me?<sup>5</sup> But I have trusted in Your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in Your deliverance.<sup>6</sup> I will sing to the LORD because He has treated me generously. Psalm 13:2,5-6 p467

Investigate and watch carefully where he goes and who has seen him there; they tell me he is extremely cunning.<sup>23</sup> Look and find out all the places where he hides. Then come back to me with accurate information, and I’ll go with you. 1 Samuel 23:22-23 p467

Saul and his men went to look for him. When David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. Saul heard of this and pursued David there.

<sup>26</sup> Saul went along one side of the mountain and David and his men went along the other side. Even though David was hurrying to get away from Saul, Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them.<sup>27</sup> Then a messenger came to Saul saying, “Come quickly, because the Philistines have raided the land!”<sup>28</sup> So Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to engage the Philistines. 1 Samuel 23:25-28 p467

Psalm 54

God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my life.<sup>6</sup> I will sacrifice a freewill offering to You. I will praise Your name, Lord, because it is good.<sup>7</sup> For He has delivered me from every trouble and my eye has looked down on my enemies. Psalm 54:1-7 p467

Psalm 17

Protect me as the pupil of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings<sup>9</sup> from the wicked who treat me violently, my deadly enemies who surround me. Psalm 17:8-9 p468

**When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the wilderness near En-gedi.”<sup>2</sup> So Saul took 3,000 of Israel’s choice men and went to look for David and his men. 1 Samuel 24:1-2 p469**

Psalm 57

I will seek refuge in the shadow of Your wings until danger passes.<sup>2</sup> I call to God Most High, to God who fulfills His purpose for me.<sup>3</sup> He reaches down from heaven and saves me, challenging the one who tramples me. Psalm 57:1-3 p470

My heart is confident, God, my heart is confident. I will sing; I will sing praises.<sup>9</sup> I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.<sup>10</sup> For Your faithful love is as high as the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches the clouds.<sup>11</sup> God, be exalted above the heavens; let Your glory be over the whole earth. Psalm 57:7-11 p470

**Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah saying, “David is hiding on the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon.”<sup>2</sup> So Saul, accompanied by 3,000 of the choice men of Israel, went to the Wilderness of Ziph to search for David there. 1 Samuel 26:1-2 p473**

## **DAVID REFUSED TO LIFT HIS HAND AGAINST THE LORD’S ANOINTED**

### **David spares Saul’s life**

They said to him, “Look, this is the day the LORD told you about: ‘I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.’” Then David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul’s robe.

<sup>6</sup> He said to his men, “I swear before the LORD: I will never lift my hand against him, since he is the LORD’s anointed.” 1 Samuel 24:4-6 p469

David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of people who say, ‘Look, David intends to harm you’?”<sup>10</sup> You can see with your own eyes that the LORD handed you over to me today in the cave. Someone advised me to kill you, but I took pity on you and said: I won’t lift my hand against my lord, since he is the LORD’s anointed. 1 Samuel 24:9-10 p469

### **David spares Saul’s life again**

That night, David and Abishai came to the troops, and Saul was lying there asleep in the inner circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. Abner and the troops were lying around him.<sup>8</sup> Then Abishai said to David, “Today God has handed your enemy over to you. Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground just once. I won’t have to strike him twice!”

<sup>9</sup> But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him, for who can lift a hand against the LORD’s anointed and be blameless?”<sup>10</sup> David added, “As the LORD lives, the LORD will certainly strike him down: either his day will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.<sup>11</sup> However, because of the LORD, I will never lift my hand against the LORD’s anointed. Instead, take the spear and the water jug by his head, and let’s go.” 1 Samuel 26:7-11 p473

I wasn’t willing to lift my hand against the LORD’s anointed, even though the LORD handed you over to me today. 1 Samuel 26:23 p474

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 17

### David Part 2: A Heart After God's Own Heart

**God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'** Acts 13:22

#### In Part 1 we saw David to be a spiritual superstar

- Anointed by God to be king
- Gifted and talented to write Psalms and play music
- Permanently controlled by the Spirit of God
- Super successful amid incredible difficulties
- Displaying an amazing attitude to hardship and delay
- Refusing to lift his hand against the Lord's anointed

#### Part 2: David's amazing reign

- God takes action to remove Saul
- Saul and his sons are killed in battle on the same day
- David becomes king in 1025BC
- David makes Jerusalem the capital city
- David writes many more inspiring Psalms to God
- The kingship does not go to his head
- God gives David victory after victory
- David brings the ark to Jerusalem
- David plans to build a house for God
- God says, No. I'll build a house for you, a lasting dynasty
- You will never fail to have a descendant on the throne
- That descendant is Jesus, who still reigns

## THE STORY I DON'T WANT TO TELL 2 Samuel 11:1-27 p526

### David's Adultery with Bathsheba

<sup>2</sup> One evening David got up from his bed and strolled around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing—a very beautiful woman. <sup>3</sup> So David sent someone to inquire about her, and he reported, "This is Bathsheba, wife of Uriah the Hittite."

<sup>4</sup> David sent messengers to get her, and when she came to him, he slept with her. Afterward, she returned home. <sup>5</sup> The woman conceived and sent word to inform David: "I am pregnant."

### Uriah's Death Arranged

<sup>14</sup> The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. <sup>15</sup> In the letter he wrote: Put Uriah at the front of the fiercest fighting, then withdraw from him so that he is struck down and dies.

### God's Displeasure

<sup>26</sup> When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah had died, she mourned for him. <sup>27</sup> When the time of mourning ended, David had her brought to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son. However, the LORD considered what David had done to be evil.

## DAVID'S REPENTANCE

**Psalm 51: A Davidic psalm, when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone to Bathsheba.**

<sup>1</sup> Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithful love; according to Your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion. <sup>2</sup> Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>6</sup> Surely You desire integrity in the inner self. <sup>7</sup> Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>9</sup> Turn Your face away from my sins and blot out all my guilt.

<sup>10</sup> God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore the joy of Your salvation to me, and give me a willing spirit. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach the rebellious Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

## **GOD'S RESPONSE – COMPLETE FORGIVENESS**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

## **GOD CHOOSES TO FORGET DAVID'S SIN. OURS TOO**

It is I who sweep away your transgressions for My own sake and remember your sins no more. Isaiah 43:25

David did what was right in the LORD's eyes, and he did not turn aside from anything He had commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. 1 Kings 15:5

## **DAVID'S MODEL HEART – AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART**

**God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart.'** Acts 13:22

My servant David, whom I chose and who kept My commands and My statutes. 1 Kings 11:34

They (My people) have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes... as his father David did. 1 Kings 11:33

If you (Jeroboam) obey all I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight in order to keep My statutes and My commands as My servant David did, I will be with you. 1 Kings 11:38

**But you (Jeroboam) were not like My servant David, who kept My commands and followed Me with all of his heart, doing only what is right in My eyes.** 1 Kings 14:7-8

Abijam... was not completely devoted to the LORD his God as his ancestor David had been. 1 Kings 15:3

Asa did what was right in the LORD's eyes, as his ancestor David had done. 1 Kings 15:11

He (Amaziah) did what was right in the LORD's sight, but not like his ancestor David. 2 Kings 14:3

Ahaz... did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God like his ancestor David. 2 Kings 16:2

He (Hezekiah) did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his ancestor David had done. 2 Kings 18:3

Josiah... did what was right in the LORD's sight and walked in all the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn to the right or the left. 2 Kings 22:1-2

As for you, if you (Solomon) walk before Me as your father David walked, doing everything I have commanded you,...<sup>18</sup> I will establish your royal throne, as I promised your father David: 2 Chronicles 7:17-18

Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the former ways of his father David. 2 Chronicles 17:3

## **DAVID'S TESTIMONY**

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. Psalm 32:1-2 p529

**Maroubra Baptist Church 11 August 2013**

**BIBLE CHARACTERS 18**

**Solomon The Great**

**Great start**

*Solomon loved the LORD by walking in the statutes of his father David. 1 Kings 3:3 p597*

**Great offer**

*The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask. What should I give you?" 1 Kings 3:5 p597*

**Great request**

*So give Your servant an obedient heart to judge Your people and to discern between good and evil. 1 Kings 3:9 p598*

**Great answer**

*It pleased the Lord that Solomon had requested this. <sup>11</sup> So God said to him, "Because you have requested this and did not ask for long life or riches for yourself...", <sup>12</sup> I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again. 1 Ki 3:10-12*

**Great generosity**

*In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor, so that no man in any kingdom will be your equal during your entire life. 1 Kings 3:13 p598*

**Great peace and happiness**

*Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea; they were eating, drinking, and rejoicing. 1 Kings 4:20 p637*

**Great wisdom**

*God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore. <sup>30</sup> Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East... <sup>31</sup> He was wiser than anyone. 1 Kings 4:29-31 p637*

**Great ability**

*Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005. 1 Kings 4:32 p637*

**Great knowledge**

*He described trees, from the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing out of the wall. He also taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish. 1 kings 4:33 p637*

**Great builder**

*Solomon began to build the temple for the LORD in the four hundred eightieth year after the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of his reign. 1 Kings 6:1 p604*

**Great prayer - longest in Bible**

*Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the entire congregation of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. 1 Kings 8:22 p616*

**Great sacrifice**

*Solomon offered a sacrifice of fellowship offerings to the LORD: 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. In this manner the king and all the Israelites dedicated the LORD's temple. 1 Kings 8:63 p621*

**Great celebration**

*Solomon and all Israel with him observed the festival at that time... rejoicing for all God's goodness. 1 Kings 8:65-66*

## **Great reputation**

*The whole world wanted an audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom that God had put in his heart. 1 Kings 10:24 p635*

*But I didn't believe the reports until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, I was not even told half. Your wisdom and prosperity far exceed the report I heard. 1 Kings 10:7 p633*

## **Great gift**

*Then she gave the king four and a half tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again did such a quantity of spices arrive as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. 1 Kings 10:10 p634*

## **Great wealth**

*The weight of gold that came to Solomon annually was 25 tons,<sup>15</sup> besides what came from merchants, traders' merchandise, and all the Arabian kings and governors of the land. 1 Kings 10:14-15 p634*

## **Great throne**

*The king also made a large ivory throne and overlaid it with fine gold.<sup>19</sup> The throne had six steps; there was a rounded top at the back of the throne, armrests on either side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the armrests.<sup>20</sup> Twelve lions were standing there on the six steps, one at each end. Nothing like it had ever been made in any other kingdom. 1 Kings 10:18-20 p635*

## **Great prosperity**

*King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the world in riches and in wisdom. 1 Kings 10:23 p635*

*The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar as abundant as sycamore in the Judean foothills. 2 Chronicles 1:15 p635*

## **Great family**

*He had 700 wives who were princesses and 300 concubines. 1 Kings 11:3 p679*

## **Great mistake**

*King Solomon loved many foreign women...<sup>2</sup> from the nations that the LORD had told the Israelites about, "Do not intermarry with them, and they must not intermarry with you, because they will turn you away from Me to their gods." Solomon was deeply attached to these women and loved them. 1 Kings 11:1-2 p679*

## **Great downfall**

*When Solomon was old, his wives seduced him to follow other gods...<sup>6</sup> Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight. 1 Kings 11:4-6 p679*

## **Great tragedy**

*The LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord...<sup>10</sup> He had commanded him about this, so that he would not follow other gods, but Solomon did not do what the LORD had commanded. 1 Kings 11:9-10 p679*

## **Great loss**

*Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Since you have done this and did not keep My covenant and My statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant." 1 Kings 11:11 p679*

## **Great mercy**

*However, I will not do it during your lifetime because of your father David; I will tear it out of your son's hand. 1 Kings 11:12 ;p679*

Maroubra Baptist Church 18 August 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 19

### Jeroboam: A Stumbling Block Forever

#### Jeroboam was Solomon's servant

*Solomon's servant, Jeroboam son of Nebat, was an Ephraimite'. His widowed mother's name was Zeruah. 1 Kings 11:26 p680*

#### Jeroboam was capable. He impressed Solomon

*Now the man Jeroboam was capable, and Solomon noticed the young man because he was getting things done. So he appointed him over the entire labor force of the house of Joseph. 1 Kings 11:28*

#### Jeroboam rebelled

*Jeroboam rebelled against Solomon. 1 Kings 11:26 p680*

#### The reason for the rebellion - God initiated it

*This is the reason he rebelled against the king. 1 Kings 11:27 p680*

#### God was tearing away the kingdom from Solomon

*The prophet Ahijah met Jeroboam on the road as Jeroboam came out of Jerusalem. Now Ahijah had wrapped himself with a new cloak, and the two of them were alone in the open field.*

<sup>30</sup> Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he had on, tore it into 12 pieces,<sup>31</sup> and said to Jeroboam, "Take 10 pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I am about to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand. I will give you 10 tribes. 1 Kings 11:29-31 p680

#### God left one tribe in David's line – the tribe of Judah

*But one tribe will remain his because of my servant David and because of Jerusalem, the city I chose out of all the tribes of Israel. 1 Kings 11:32 p680*

#### God gave the northern ten tribes to Jeroboam

*I will take 10 tribes of the kingdom from his son's hand and give them to you.<sup>37</sup> I will appoint you, and you will reign as king over all you want, and you will be king over Israel. 1 Kings 11:36-37 p680*

#### God's offer to Jeroboam

*If you obey all I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight in order to keep My statutes and My commands as My servant David did, I will be with you. I will build you a lasting dynasty just as I built for David, and I will give you Israel. 1 Kings 11:38 p680*

#### Jeroboam flees to Egypt for his life

*Therefore, Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but he fled to Egypt where he remained until Solomon's death. 1 Kings 11:40 p680*

#### Solomon dies. His son Rehoboam succeeds him

*The length of Solomon's reign in Jerusalem over all Israel totaled 40 years.<sup>43</sup> Solomon... was buried in the city of his father David. His son Rehoboam became king in his place. 1 Kings 11:42-43 p692*

#### Jeroboam returns from Egypt with a proposal

*Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam:<sup>4</sup> "Your father made our yoke difficult. You, therefore, lighten your father's harsh service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."<sup>5</sup> Rehoboam replied, "Go home for three days and then return to me." 1 Kings 12:3-5 p708*

## Rehoboam rejects the good advice of the elders

*Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive, asking, "How do you advise me to respond to these people?"*

<sup>7</sup> *They replied, "Today if you will be a servant to these people and serve them, and if you respond to them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."*

<sup>8</sup> *But he rejected the advice of the elders and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and served him. 1 Kings 12:6-8 p708*

## Rehoboam accepts the bad advice of his mates

*The young men who had grown up with him told him, "This is what you should tell them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins!*

<sup>11</sup> *Although my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips.'" 1 Kings 12:10-11 p708*

## God's sovereignty at work

*The king did not listen to the people, because this turn of events came from the LORD to carry out His word, which the LORD had spoken through Ahijah to Jeroboam. 1 Kings 12:15 p708*

## The people revolt

*When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered him: "What portion do we have in David? Israel, return to your tents; David, now look after your own house!"*

*So Israel went to their tents, <sup>17</sup> but Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of Judah. <sup>19</sup> Israel is in rebellion against the house of David until today. 1 Kings 12:16-19 p708*

*Rehoboam stayed in Jerusalem, and he fortified cities in Judah... and in Benjamin. <sup>12</sup> So Judah and Benjamin were his. 1 Kings 11:5-12 p710*

## Jeroboam is made king over The North - Israel

*When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they summoned him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. No one followed the house of David except the tribe of Judah alone. 1 Kings 12:20 p708*

## Jeroboam sets up two golden calves

*Jeroboam said to himself, "The way things are going now, the kingdom might return to the house of David. <sup>27</sup> If these people regularly go to offer sacrifices in the LORD's temple in Jerusalem, the heart of these people will return to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will murder me and go back to the king of Judah."<sup>28</sup> So the king sought advice.*

*Then he made two golden calves, and he said to the people, "Going to Jerusalem is too difficult for you. Israel, here is your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt."<sup>29</sup> He set up one in Bethel, and put the other in Dan. 1 Kings 12:26-29 p709*

## Jeroboam persists in evil

*Jeroboam did not repent of his evil way but again set up priests for the high places from every class of people. He ordained whoever so desired it, and they became priests of the high places. <sup>34</sup> This was the sin that caused the house of Jeroboam to be wiped out and annihilated from the face of the earth. 1 Kings 13:33-34 p713*

## Jeroboam's son becomes sick

*Abijah son of Jeroboam became sick. <sup>2</sup> Jeroboam said to his wife, "Go disguise yourself, so they won't know that you're Jeroboam's wife, and go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there; it was he who told about me becoming king over this people. He will tell you what will happen to the boy." 1 Kings 14:1-3 p713*

## Jeroboam's wife's disguise fails

But the LORD had said to Ahijah, "Jeroboam's wife is coming soon to ask you about her son, for he is sick. You are to say such and such to her. When she arrives, she will be disguised."

<sup>6</sup> When Ahijah heard the sound of her feet entering the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam! Why are you disguised? I have bad news for you. 1 Kings 14:5-6 p713

## Jeroboam's bad news

Go tell Jeroboam, 'This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I raised you up from among the people, appointed you ruler over My people Israel, <sup>8</sup> tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you. But you were not like My servant David, who kept My commands and followed Me with all of his heart, doing only what is right in My eyes.

<sup>9</sup> You behaved more wickedly than all who were before you. In order to provoke Me, you have proceeded to make for yourself other gods and cast images, but you have flung Me behind your back.

<sup>10</sup> Because of all this, I am about to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam... <sup>14</sup> The LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel, who will eliminate the house of Jeroboam. 1 Kings 14:7-14 p713

## Israel's disaster is prophesied

The LORD will strike Israel and the people will shake as a reed shakes in water. He will uproot Israel from this good soil that He gave to their ancestors. He will scatter them beyond the Euphrates because they made their Asherah poles, provoking the LORD. <sup>16</sup> He will give up Israel because of Jeroboam's sins that he committed and caused Israel to commit." 1 Kings 14:15-16 p714

## The prophecy re Jeroboam is fulfilled

When Baasha became king, he struck down the entire house of Jeroboam. He did not leave Jeroboam any survivors but destroyed his family according to the word of the LORD He had spoken through His servant Ahijah the Shilonite. <sup>30</sup> This was because Jeroboam had provoked the LORD God of Israel by the sins he had committed and had caused Israel to commit. 1 Kings 15:29-30 p717

## Jeroboam's legacy - a perpetual stumblingbock

**Baasha** became king over all Israel and reigned 24 years. <sup>34</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight and followed the example of Jeroboam and the sin he had caused Israel to commit. 1 Kings 15:33-34 p717

Now the word of the LORD came to Jehu against Baasha: <sup>2</sup> "Because I raised you up from the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, but you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have caused My people Israel to sin, provoking Me with their sins, <sup>3</sup> take note: I will sweep away Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam. 1 Kings 16:1-3 p720 (The dogs and birds will eat your bodies)

When **Zimri** saw that the city was captured, he entered the citadel of the royal palace and burned it down over himself. He died <sup>19</sup> because of the sin he committed by doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and by following the example of Jeroboam and the sin he caused Israel to commit. 1 Kings 16:18-19 p722 (After a 7 day reign)

**Omri** did what was evil in the LORD's sight; he did more evil than all who were before him. <sup>26</sup> He followed the example of Jeroboam and in his sins that he caused Israel to commit, provoking the LORD God of Israel with their worthless idols. 1 Kings 16:25-26 p722

But **Ahab** son of Omri did what was evil in the LORD's sight more than all who were before him. <sup>31</sup> Then, as if following the sin of Jeroboam son of Nebat were a trivial matter, he married Jezebel,

the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and then proceeded to serve Baal and worship him. 1 Kings 16:30-31

Because you (**Ahab**) devoted yourself to do what is evil in the LORD's sight, <sup>21</sup> this is what the LORD says: 'I am about to bring disaster on you and will sweep away your descendants... <sup>22</sup> I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam and like the house of Baasha, because you have provoked My anger and caused Israel to sin. 1 Kings 21:20-22 p733 (The dogs and birds will eat you)

**Ahaziah** son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria... and reigned over Israel two years. <sup>52</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He walked in the way of his father, in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin. 1 Kings 22:51-52

**Joram** clung to the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. He did not turn away from them. 2 Kings 3:3 p744

**Jehu** eliminated Baal worship from Israel, <sup>29</sup> but he did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit—worshiping the gold calves that were in Bethel and Dan. 2 Kings 10:28-29 p767

**Jehu** was not careful to follow the instruction of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart. He did not turn from the sins that Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit. 2 Kings 10:31 p767

**Jehoahaz** son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria and reigned 17 years. <sup>2</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight and followed the sins that Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit; he did not turn away from them. 2 Kings 13:1-2 p769

**They** didn't turn away from the sins that the house of Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit. Jehoahaz walked in them, and the Asherah pole also remained standing in Samaria. 2 Kings 13:6 p770

**Jehoash** son of Jehoahaz became king over Israel and reigned 16 years. <sup>11</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He did not turn

away from all the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit, but he walked in them. 2 Kings 13:10-11 p776

**Jeroboam** son of Jehoash became king of Israel in Samaria and reigned 41 years. <sup>24</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He did not turn away from all the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. 2 Kings 14:23-24 p781

**Zechariah** son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in Samaria for six months. <sup>9</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight as his fathers had done. He did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. 2 Kings 15:8-9 p799

**Menahem** son of Gadi became king over Israel and reigned 10 years in Samaria. <sup>18</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. Throughout his reign, he did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. 2 Kings 15:17-18 p799

**Pekahiah** son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria and reigned two years. <sup>24</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight and did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. 2 Kings 15:23-24 p800

**Pekah** son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria and reigned 20 years. <sup>28</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. 2 Kings 15:27-28 p801

## Summary of Israel's History

<sup>21</sup> When the LORD tore Israel from the house of David, Israel made Jeroboam son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam led Israel away from following the LORD and caused them to commit great sin

<sup>22</sup> The Israelites persisted in all the sins that Jeroboam committed and did not turn away from them.

<sup>23</sup> Finally, the LORD removed Israel from His presence just as He had declared through all His servants the prophets. So Israel has been exiled to Assyria from their homeland until today. 2 Kings 17:21-23 p843

Maroubra Baptist Church 25 August 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 20

### Elijah: A Miraculous Life

**God gave Elijah many tough assignments  
But he also gave him much miraculous help**

#### TOUGH ASSIGNMENT NO 1

**Pronounce God's judgment on wicked king Ahab**

*Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, I stand before Him, and there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!" 1 Kings 17:1 p724*

*But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the LORD's sight more than all who were before him. <sup>31</sup> Then, as if following the sin of Jeroboam son of Nebat were a trivial matter, he married Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and then proceeded to serve Baal and worship him. 1 Kings 16:30-31 p722*

#### GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 1

**God hid Elijah in a safe place and sent food every day via ravens**

*<sup>2</sup> Then a revelation from the LORD came to him: <sup>3</sup> "Leave here, turn eastward, and hide yourself at the Wadi Cherith where it enters the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> You are to drink from the wadi. I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there."*

*<sup>5</sup> So he did what the LORD commanded. Elijah left and lived by the Wadi Cherith where it enters the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> The ravens kept bringing him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he drank from the wadi. 1 Kings 17:2-6 p724*

*After a while, the wadi dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 1 Kings 17:2-6 p726*

#### GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 2

**God provides flour and oil that never run out**

*<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>9</sup> "Get up, go to Zarephath. I have commanded a widow to provide for you there."*

*<sup>12</sup> But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I don't have anything baked—only a handful of flour in the jar and a bit of oil in the jug. Just now, I am gathering a couple of sticks in order to go prepare it for myself and my son so we can eat it and die."*

*<sup>13</sup> Then Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid; go and do as you have said. But first make me a small loaf from it and bring it out to me. Afterward, you may make some for yourself and your son, <sup>14</sup> for this is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the surface of the land.'" 1 Kings 17:8-14 p726*

#### GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 3

**Elijah brings the widows son back to life**

*<sup>17</sup> After this, the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. His illness became very severe until no breath remained in him.*

*<sup>19</sup> Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him from her arms, brought him up to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. <sup>20</sup> Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "My LORD God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow I am staying with by killing her son?" <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times. He cried out to the LORD and said, "My LORD God, please let this boy's life return to him!"*

*<sup>22</sup> So the LORD listened to Elijah's voice, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. 1 Kings 17:17-22 p726*

#### TOUGH ASSIGNMENT NO 2

**Present yourself again to King Ahab**

<sup>7</sup> While Obadiah was walking along the road, Elijah suddenly met him. When Obadiah recognized him, he fell with his face to the ground and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?"<sup>8</sup> "It is I," he replied. "Go tell your lord, 'Elijah is here!'"

<sup>9</sup> Obadiah said, "What sin have I committed, that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to put me to death?"<sup>10</sup> As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent someone to search for you. When they said, 'He is not here,' he made that kingdom or nation swear they had not found you.

<sup>11</sup> "Now you say, 'Go tell your lord, "Elijah is here!'"<sup>12</sup> But when I leave you, the Spirit of the LORD may carry you off to some place I don't know. Then when I go report to Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me. 1 Kings 18:7-14 p727

<sup>17</sup> When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, you destroyer of Israel?"

<sup>18</sup> He replied, "I have not destroyed Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have abandoned the LORD's commands and followed the Baals. 1 Kings 18:17-18 p727

### **TOUGH ASSIGNMENT NO 3**

#### **Take on all the prophets of Baal single-handedly**

<sup>19</sup> Now summon all Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel.<sup>21</sup> Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal, follow him."

<sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people, "Let two bulls be given to us. They are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire.

<sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of Yahweh. The God who answers with fire, He is God." All the people answered, "That sounds good." 1 Kings 18:19-24 p727

<sup>27</sup> At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, "Shout loudly, for he's a god! Maybe he's thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away or maybe he's on the road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!"

<sup>28</sup> They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed over them.<sup>29</sup> All afternoon they kept on raving until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound; no one answered, no one paid attention. 1 Kings 18:27-29 p728

<sup>36</sup> At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached the altar and said, "Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that at Your word I have done all these things.

<sup>37</sup> Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that You, Lord, are God and that You have turned their hearts back." 1 Kings 18:36-37 p728

### **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 4**

#### **God sends fire from heaven in answer to Elijah's prayer**

<sup>38</sup> Then the Lord's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 1 Kings 18:38 p728

### **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 5**

#### **That night on top of the same mountain, God sends rain in answer to Elijah's prayer**

<sup>41</sup> Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a rainstorm."<sup>42</sup> So Ahab went to eat and drink, but Elijah went up to the summit of Carmel.

He bowed down on the ground and put his face between his knees.<sup>43</sup> Then he said to his servant, "Go up and look toward the sea."

So he went up, looked, and said, "There's nothing." Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."<sup>44</sup> On the seventh time, he reported, "There's a cloud as small as a man's hand coming from the sea."

Then Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Get your chariot ready and go down so the rain doesn't stop you.'"<sup>45</sup> In a little while, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and there was a downpour. 1 Kings 18:41-45 p728

## **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 6**

### **Elijah outruns Ahab's chariot to shelter**

So Ahab got in his chariot and went to Jezreel. <sup>46</sup> The power of the LORD was on Elijah, and he tucked his mantle under his belt and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. 1 Kings 18:45-46 p729

## **ELIJAH'S DIRE SITUATION**

### **Jezebel's response to the killing of Baal's prophets**

<sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "May the gods punish me and do so severely if I don't make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow!" 1 Kings 19:2 p729

### **Elijah's response to Jezebel's threats**

<sup>3</sup> Then Elijah became afraid and immediately ran for his life. When he came to Beer-sheba that belonged to Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> but he went on a day's journey into the wilderness. He sat down under a broom tree and prayed that he might die. He said, "I have had enough! LORD, take my life..."<sup>5</sup> Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. 1 Kings 19:3-5 p729

## **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 7**

### **Elijah is fed by an angel**

Suddenly, an angel touched him. The angel told him, "Get up and eat."<sup>6</sup> Then he looked, and there at his head was a loaf of bread baked over hot stones, and a jug of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> Then the angel of the LORD returned for a second

time and touched him. He said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."<sup>8</sup> So he got up, ate, and drank. 1 Kings 18:5-8

## **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 8**

### **The angel's meal turns out to be super food**

Then on the strength from that food, he walked 40 days and 40 nights to Horeb, the mountain of God. 1 Kings 18:8 p729

## **AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT**

### **Anoint two kings and a prophet**

Then the LORD said to him, "Go and return by the way you came to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> You are to anoint Jehu as king over Israel and Elisha as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup> Then Jehu will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Jehu. 1 Kings 19:15-17 p729

## **TOUGH ASSIGNMENT NO 4**

### **Expose Ahab's sin in killing Naboth to take over his vineyard and announce the destruction of Ahab's family**

<sup>17</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: <sup>18</sup> "Get up and go to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria. You'll find him in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. <sup>19</sup> Tell him, 'This is what the LORD says: Have you murdered and also taken possession?' Then tell him, 'This is what the LORD says: In the place where the dogs licked Naboth's blood, the dogs will also lick your blood!'"

<sup>20</sup> Ahab said to Elijah, "So, you have caught me, my enemy." He replied, "I have caught you because you devoted yourself to do what is evil in the LORD's sight. <sup>21</sup> This is what the LORD says: 'I am about to bring disaster on you and will sweep away your descendants. 1 Kings 21:17-21 p733

## **TOUGH ASSIGNMENT NO 5**

## **Tell Ahab's son King Ahaziah that he is going to die of his illness because of his idolatry**

*The angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?'"<sup>4</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says: "You will not get up from your sickbed—you will certainly die." 2 Kings 1:3-4 p743*

## **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 9**

### **God sends fire from Heaven at Elijah's call**

<sup>9</sup> *So King Ahaziah sent a captain of 50 with his 50 men to Elijah. When the captain went up to him, he was sitting on top of the hill. He announced, "Man of God, the king declares, 'Come down!'"*

<sup>10</sup> *Elijah responded to the captain of the 50, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men.*

<sup>11</sup> *So the king sent another captain of 50 with his 50 men to Elijah. He took in the situation and announced, "Man of God, this is what the king says: 'Come down immediately!'"*

<sup>12</sup> *Elijah responded, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men." So a divine fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men. 2 Kings 1:9-12 p744*

## **ELIJAH'S LAST ASSIGNMENT**

### **Get ready to leave this world 2 Kings 2:1-8 p744**

## **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 10**

### **Elijah divides the waters of Jordan in order to cross over**

*Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the waters, which parted to the right and left. Then the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 2 Kings 2:8 p745*

## **GOD'S MIRACULOUS HELP NO 11**

### **Elijah is taken straight to heaven in a chariot of fire without dying**

<sup>11</sup> *As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind. 2 Kings 2:11 p745*

## **BUT THAT'S NOT THE LAST WE HEAR OF ELIJAH**

### **The Old Testament ends with the promise to send Elijah back**

<sup>4</sup> *"Remember the instruction of Moses My servant, the statutes and ordinances I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup> Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse." Malachi 4:4-6 p1242*

*Elijah has already come, and they didn't recognize him. On the contrary, they did whatever they pleased to him. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. Matthew 17:12*

### **Elijah appears with Moses at Jesus' transfiguration**

*Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Mark 9:4*

## **ELIJAH WAS AN ORDINARY PERSON JUST LIKE US**

<sup>17</sup> *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours James 5:17*

## **ELIJAH'S SECRET**

<sup>17</sup> *He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit. James 5:17-18*

Maroubra Baptist Church 1 September 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 21

### Elisha: Another Miraculous Life

#### FIRST MENTION OF ELISHA

*You (Elijah) are to anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 1 Kings 19:16 p730*

#### ELISHA JOINS ELIJAH

*Elijah left there and found Elisha son of Shaphat as he was plowing. Twelve teams of oxen were in front of him, and he was with the twelfth team. Elijah walked by him and threw his mantle over him.*

<sup>20</sup> *Elisha left the oxen, ran to follow Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow you."*

<sup>21</sup> *So he turned back from following him (his father), took the team of oxen, and slaughtered them. With the oxen's wooden yoke and plow, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he left, followed Elijah, and served him. 1 Kings 19:19-21 p730*

#### ELISHA FAREWELLS ELIJAH

*The time had come for the LORD to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind...<sup>8</sup> Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the waters (of Jordan), which parted to the right and left. Then the two of them crossed over on dry ground.*

<sup>9</sup> *After they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken from you." So Elisha answered, "Please, let me inherit two shares of your spirit."*

<sup>10</sup> *Elijah replied, "You have asked for something difficult. If you see me being taken from you, you will have it. If not, you won't."*

<sup>11</sup> *As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind.*

<sup>12</sup> *As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!" Then he never saw Elijah again. He took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. 2 Kings 2:1-12 p744*

#### ELISHA OBTAINS ELIJAH'S MANTLE

*Elisha picked up the mantle that had fallen off Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.*

<sup>14</sup> *Then he took the mantle Elijah had dropped and struck the waters himself, and they parted to the right and the left, and Elisha crossed over. 2 Kings 2:13-14 p745*

#### PARALLEL BETWEEN THE TWO PROPHETS

**Both strike the waters of the Jordan River and pass over on dry ground**

**Elijah:** *Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the waters, which parted to the right and left. Then the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 2 Kings 2:8 p745*

**Elisha:** *Then he took the mantle Elijah had dropped and struck the waters himself, and they parted to the right and the left, and Elisha crossed over. 2 Kings 2:14 p745*

## Both bring water of refreshment in times of drought

**Elijah:** *Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a rainstorm.”<sup>42</sup> So Ahab went to eat and drink, but Elijah went up to the summit of Carmel.*

*He bowed down on the ground and put his face between his knees.<sup>43</sup> Then he said to his servant, “Go up and look toward the sea.” So he went up, looked, and said, “There’s nothing.” Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.”<sup>44</sup> On the seventh time, he reported, “There’s a cloud as small as a man’s hand coming from the sea.”*

*Then Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Get your chariot ready and go down so the rain doesn’t stop you.’”<sup>45</sup> In a little while, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and there was a downpour. 1 Kings 18:41-45 p728*

**Elisha:** *Then Elisha said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Dig ditch after ditch in this wadi.’<sup>17</sup> For the LORD says, ‘You will not see wind or rain, but the wadi will be filled with water, and you will drink—you and your cattle and your animals.’<sup>18</sup> This is easy in the LORD’s sight...<sup>20</sup> The next morning, water suddenly came from the direction of Edom and filled the land. 2 Kings 3:16-20 p746*

## Both increase a widow’s supply of food

**Elijah:** *The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the surface of the land. 1 Kings 17:14 p726*

**Elisha:** *One of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant, my husband, has died. You know that your servant feared the LORD. Now the creditor is coming to take my two children as his slaves.”*

<sup>2</sup> *Elisha asked her, “What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?”*

*She said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”*

<sup>3</sup> *Then he said, “Go and borrow empty containers from everyone—from all your neighbors. Do not get just a few.”<sup>4</sup> Then go in and shut*

*the door behind you and your sons, and pour oil into all these containers. Set the full ones to one side.”<sup>5</sup> So she left.*

*After she had shut the door behind her and her sons, they kept bringing her containers, and she kept pouring.<sup>6</sup> When they were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another container.”*

*But he replied, “There aren’t any more.” Then the oil stopped.*

<sup>7</sup> *She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go sell the oil and pay your debt; you and your sons can live on the rest.” 2 Kings 4:1-7 p748*

## Both raise only sons to life who die in the homes where the prophets are given hospitality

**Elijah:** *Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times. He cried out to the LORD and said, “My LORD God, please let this boy’s life return to him!”<sup>22</sup> So the LORD listened to Elijah’s voice, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. 1 Kings 17:17-22 p726*

**Elisha:** *One day Elisha went to Shunem. A prominent woman who lived there persuaded him to eat some food. So whenever he passed by, he stopped there to eat.<sup>9</sup> Then she said to her husband, “I know that the one who often passes by here is a holy man of God,<sup>10</sup> so let’s make a small room upstairs and put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp there for him. Whenever he comes, he can stay there.” 2 Kings 4:8-10 p749*

*When Elisha got to the house, he discovered the boy lying dead on his bed.<sup>33</sup> So he went in, closed the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.<sup>34</sup> Then he went up and lay on the boy: he put mouth to mouth, eye to eye, hand to hand. While he bent down over him, the boy’s flesh became warm.<sup>35</sup> Elisha got up, went into the house, and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him again. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 2 Kings 4:32-35 p750*

## Both perform miracles for persons outside the boundaries of Israel

**Elijah:** Then the word of the LORD came to him:<sup>9</sup> “Get up, go to Zarephath. I have commanded a widow to provide for you there.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Elijah said to her..., ‘The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the surface of the land.’ 1 Kings 17:8-14 p726

**Elisha:** Naaman, commander of the army for the king of Aram, was a great man in his master’s sight... The man was a brave warrior, but he had a skin disease.

<sup>14</sup> Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, according to the command of the man of God. Then his skin was restored and became like the skin of a small boy, and he was clean. 2 Kings 5:1,14 p755

## Both anoint kings

**Elijah:** Then the LORD said to him..., “You are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> You are to anoint Jehu as king over Israel and Elisha as prophet in your place. 1 Kings 19:15-16 p729

**Elisha:** The prophet Elisha called one of the sons of the prophets and said, “Take this flask of oil with you, and go to Ramoth-gilead. <sup>2</sup> When you get there, look for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. Go in, get him away from his colleagues, and take him to an inner room. <sup>3</sup> Then, take the flask of oil, pour it on his head, and say, ‘This is what the LORD says: “I anoint you king over Israel.”’ Open the door and escape. Don’t wait.” 2 Kings 9:1-3 p761

## Both pronounce sentence on kings

**Elijah:** Ahab said to Elijah, “So, you have caught me, my enemy.” He replied, “I have caught you because you devoted yourself to do what is evil in the LORD’s sight. <sup>21</sup> This is what the LORD says: ‘I am

about to bring disaster on you and will sweep away your descendants. 1 Kings 21:20-21 p733

**Elisha:** Elisha came to Damascus while Ben-hadad king of Aram was sick, and the king was told, “The man of God has come here.” <sup>8</sup> So the king said to Hazael, “Take a gift with you and go meet the man of God. Inquire of the LORD through him, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’”

<sup>10</sup> Elisha told him, “Go say to him, ‘You are sure to recover.’ But the LORD has shown me that he is sure to die.” <sup>11</sup> Then Elisha stared steadily at him until Hazael was ashamed.

The man of God wept, <sup>12</sup> and Hazael asked, “Why is my lord weeping?” He replied, “Because I know the evil you will do to the people of Israel... The LORD has shown me that you will be king over Aram.”

<sup>14</sup> Hazael left Elisha and went to his master, who asked him, “What did Elisha say to you?” He responded, “He told me you are sure to recover.” <sup>15</sup> The next day Hazael took a heavy cloth, dipped it in water, and spread it over the king’s face. Ben-hadad died, and Hazael reigned instead of him. 2 Kings 8:7-15 p760

## Both are wanted dead by kings

**Elijah:** So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “May the gods punish me and do so severely if I don’t make your life like the life of one of them (the 450 executed prophets of Baal) by this time tomorrow!” 1 Kings 19:2 p729

**Elisha:** He (King Joram, son of Ahab) announced, “May God punish me and do so severely if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today.” 2 Kings 6:31 p758

## Both call down judgment on unbelievers

**Elijah:** *Elijah responded to the captain of the 50, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men.*

<sup>11</sup> *So the king sent another captain of 50 with his 50 men to Elijah. He took in the situation and announced, "Man of God, this is what the king says: 'Come down immediately!'"*

<sup>12</sup> *Elijah responded, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men." So a divine fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men. 2 Kings 1:9-12 p744*

**Elisha:** *Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking up the path, some small boys came out of the city and harassed him, chanting, "Go up, baldy! Go up, baldy!"*

<sup>24</sup> *He turned around, looked at them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and mauled 42 of the children. 2 Kings 2:23-24 p746*

## Both encounter chariots of fire

**Elijah:** *As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind. 2 Kings 2:11 p745*

**Elisha:** *Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes and let him see." So the LORD opened the servant's eyes. He looked and saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:17 p758*

## The one thing that Elijah had that Elisha didn't have was constant firey experiences

## ELIJAH'S FIREY EXPERIENCES

### Calls down fire to consume the sacrifice on Mount Carmel

*Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 1 Kings 18:38 p728*

### Encounters fire on Mount Sinai as did Moses

*After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was a voice, a soft whisper. 1 Kings 19:12 p729*

### Calls down fire to consume Captains and their squads of 50 men

*Elijah responded to the captain of the 50, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men.*

<sup>11</sup> *So the king sent another captain of 50 with his 50 men to Elijah. He took in the situation and announced, "Man of God, this is what the king says: 'Come down immediately!'"* <sup>12</sup> *Elijah responded, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men." So a divine fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men. 2 Kings 1:10-12 p744*

### Leaves this world in a chariot of fire

*As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind. 2 Kings 2:11 p745*

## **ELISHA'S ONE EXPERIENCE WITH FIRE**

*Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes and let him see." So the LORD opened the servant's eyes. He looked and saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:17 p758*

## **ADDITIONAL MIRACLES OF ELISHA**

### **BAD WATER MADE GOOD**

*Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Even though our lord can see that the city's location is good, the water is bad and the land unfruitful."<sup>20</sup> He replied, "Bring me a new bowl and put salt in it."*

*After they had brought him one,<sup>21</sup> Elisha went out to the spring of water, threw salt in it, and said, "This is what the LORD says: 'I have healed this water. No longer will death or unfruitfulness result from it.'"<sup>22</sup> Therefore, the water remains healthy to this very day according to the word that Elisha spoke. 2 Kings 2:19-22 p745*

### **POISONOUS STEW RENDERED HARMLESS**

*When they ate the stew they cried out, "There's death in the pot, man of God!" And they were unable to eat it."<sup>41</sup> Then Elisha said, "Get some meal." He threw it into the pot and said, "Serve it for the people to eat." And there was nothing bad in the pot. 2 Kings 4:40-41 p753*

### **LOAVES MULTIPLIED**

*A man came to the man of God with his sack full of 20 loaves of barley bread from the first bread of the harvest. Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat."<sup>43</sup> But Elisha's attendant asked, "What? Am I to set 20 loaves before 100 men?"*

*"Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said, "for this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat, and they will have some left over.'"<sup>44</sup> So he gave it to them, and as the LORD had promised, they ate and had some left over. 2 Kings 4:42-44 p748*

### **IRON CAUSED TO FLOAT**

*As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axe head fell into the water, and he cried out, "Oh, my master, it was borrowed!"<sup>6</sup> Then the man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, the man of God cut a stick, threw it there, and made the iron float.<sup>7</sup> Then he said, "Pick it up." So he reached out and took it. 2 Kings 6:5-7 p757*

### **GEHAZI STRUCK WITH LEPROSY**

*Gehazi... took the gifts from them and stored them in the house. Then he dismissed the men, and they left.<sup>25</sup> Gehazi came and stood by his master. "Where did you go, Gehazi?" Elisha asked him. "Your servant didn't go anywhere," he replied.*

*<sup>26</sup> But Elisha questioned him, "Wasn't my spirit there when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to accept money and clothes...?"<sup>27</sup> Therefore, Naaman's skin disease will cling to you and your descendants forever." So Gehazi went out from his presence diseased—white as snow. 2 Kings 5:24-27 p756*

### **MOABITES DEFEATED WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER**

*Then Elisha said, "This is what the LORD says: 'Dig ditch after ditch in this wadi.'<sup>17</sup> For the LORD says, 'You will not see wind or rain, but the wadi will be filled with water, and you will drink—you and your cattle and your animals.'<sup>18</sup> This is easy in the LORD's sight. He will also hand Moab over to you...<sup>20</sup> About the time for the grain offering the next morning, water suddenly came from the direction of Edom and filled the land.*

<sup>21</sup> All Moab had heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. So all who could bear arms, from the youngest to the oldest, were summoned and took their stand at the border. <sup>22</sup> When they got up early in the morning, the sun was shining on the water, and the Moabites saw that the water across from them was red like blood. <sup>23</sup> "This is blood!" they exclaimed. "The kings have clashed swords and killed each other. So, to the spoil, Moab!"

<sup>24</sup> However, when the Moabites came to Israel's camp, the Israelites attacked them, and they fled from them. So Israel went into the land and struck down the Moabites. 2 Kings 3:16-24 p748

## **WHOLE SYRIAN ARMY BLINDED**

When the Arameans came against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Please strike this nation with blindness." So He struck them with blindness, according to Elisha's word. <sup>19</sup> Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will take you to the man you're looking for." And he led them to Samaria. <sup>20</sup> When they entered Samaria, Elisha said, "LORD, open these men's eyes and let them see." So the LORD opened their eyes. They looked and discovered they were in Samaria. 2 Kings 6:18-20 p758

## **WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE**

The king of Aram was enraged because of this matter, and he called his servants and demanded of them, "Tell me, which one of us is for the king of Israel?" <sup>12</sup> One of his servants said, "No one, my lord the king. Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in your bedroom." 2 Kings 6:11-12

Elisha questioned Gahazi, "Wasn't my spirit there when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to accept money and clothes...? 2 Kings 5:26 p756

Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. The king sent a man ahead of him, but before the messenger got to him, Elisha said to the elders, "Do you see how this murderer has

sent someone to cut off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door to keep him out. Isn't the sound of his master's feet behind him?" 2 Kings 6:32 p758

## **UNBELIEVABLE PROPHECY FULFILLED NEXT DAY**

Elisha replied, "Hear the word of the LORD! This is what the LORD says: 'About this time tomorrow at the gate of Samaria, six quarts of fine meal will sell for a shekel and 12 quarts of barley will sell for a shekel.'"

<sup>2</sup> Then the captain, the king's right-hand man, responded to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?"

Elisha announced, "You will in fact see it with your own eyes, but you won't eat any of it." 2 Kings 7:1-20 p759

### **Four lepers find the enemy camp deserted**

Then the people went out and plundered the Aramean camp. It was then that six quarts of fine meal sold for a shekel and 12 quarts of barley sold for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> The king had appointed the captain, his right-hand man, to be in charge of the gate... <sup>19</sup> this captain had answered the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?" Elisha had said, "You will in fact see it with your own eyes, but you won't eat any of it." <sup>20</sup> This is what happened to him: the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died. 2 Kings 7:16-17 p759

## **RESURRECTION OF A MAN**

Then Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to come into the land in the spring of the year. <sup>21</sup> Once, as the Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a raiding party, so they threw the man into Elisha's tomb. When he touched Elisha's bones, the man revived and stood up! 2 Kings 13:20-1 p777

Maroubra Baptist Church 15 September 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 22

### Jehoshaphat: A Godly King

#### Summary of Judah's King Jehoshaphat's Reign

<sup>41</sup> *Jehoshaphat son of Asa became king over Judah in the fourth year of Israel's King Ahab. <sup>42</sup> Jehoshaphat was 35 years old when he became king; he reigned 25 years in Jerusalem. 1 Kings 22:41-42 p723*

<sup>51</sup> *Ahaziah son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Judah's King Jehoshaphat and reigned over Israel two years. <sup>52</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. 1 Kings 22:51-52. p742*

*Joram son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria during the eighteenth year of Judah's King Jehoshaphat and reigned 12 years. <sup>2</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. 2 Kings 3:1-2 p744*

#### Jehoshaphat followed the good example of his godly father

<sup>43</sup> *He walked in all the ways of his father Asa; he did not turn away from them but did what was right in the LORD's sight. 1 Kings 22:43 p723*

#### Jehoshaphat was close to God

<sup>3</sup> *Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the former ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals <sup>4</sup> but sought the God of his father and walked by His commands, not according to the practices of Israel. 2 Chronicles 17:3-4 p724*

#### Jehoshaphat enjoyed God's blessing

<sup>5</sup> *So the LORD established the kingdom in his hand. Then all Judah brought him tribute, and he had riches and honor in abundance.*

<sup>6</sup> *His mind rejoiced in the LORD's ways, and he again removed the high places and Asherah poles from Judah. 2 Chron 17:5-6 p724*

#### Jehoshaphat inaugurated a system of religious instruction throughout the land

<sup>7</sup> *In the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent his officials... to teach in the cities of Judah. <sup>8</sup> The Levites with them were ... The priests, Elishama and Jehoram, were with these Levites. <sup>9</sup> They taught throughout Judah, having the book of the LORD's instruction with them. They went throughout the towns of Judah and taught the people. 2 Chronicles 17:7-9 p724*

#### God protected Jehoshaphat

<sup>10</sup> *The terror of the LORD was on all the kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah, so they didn't fight against Jehoshaphat. 2 Chronicles 17:10 p724*

#### Jehoshaphat had huge military might

<sup>12</sup> *Jehoshaphat grew stronger and stronger... He had fighting men, brave warriors, in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> These are their numbers according to their ancestral families.*

*Adnah the commander and 300,000 brave warriors with him; <sup>15</sup> next to him, Jehohanan the commander and 280,000 with him; <sup>16</sup> next to him, Amasiah son of Zichri, the volunteer of the LORD, and 200,000 brave warriors with him; <sup>17</sup> from Benjamin, Eliada, a brave warrior, and 200,000 with him armed with bow and shield; <sup>18</sup> next to him, Jehozabad and 180,000 with him equipped for war. (Total 1,160,000) 2 Chronicles 17:12-18 p724*

## **Ahab asks Jehoshaphat to help him reclaim some land**

<sup>3</sup> *The king of Israel had said to his servants, "Don't you know that Ramoth-gilead is ours, but we have failed to take it from the hand of the king of Aram?"* <sup>4</sup> *So he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight Ramoth-gilead?"*

*Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." 1 Kings 22:3-4 p734*

## **Jehoshaphat shows his godliness**

<sup>5</sup> *But Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "First, please ask what the LORD's will is."*

<sup>6</sup> *So the king of Israel gathered the prophets, about 400 men, and asked them, "Should I go against Ramoth-gilead for war or should I refrain?"*

*They replied, "March up, and the Lord will hand it over to the king." 1 Kings 22:5-6 p734*

## **Jehoshaphat was discerning enough not to trust Ahab's prophets**

<sup>7</sup> *But Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of Yahweh here anymore? Let's ask him."*

<sup>8</sup> *The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man who can ask Yahweh, but I hate him because he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster. He is Micaiah son of Imlah."*

<sup>9</sup> *So the king of Israel called an officer and said, "Hurry and get Micaiah son of Imlah!" 1 Kings 22:7-9 p735*

## **All the prophets were prophesying victory**

<sup>10</sup> *Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah, clothed in royal attire, were each sitting on his own throne. They were on the*

*threshing floor at the entrance to Samaria's gate, and all the prophets were prophesying in front of them.*

<sup>12</sup> *And all the prophets were prophesying the same: "March up to Ramoth-gilead and succeed, for the LORD will hand it over to the king." 1 Kings 22:10-12 p734*

## **King Ahab tries to manipulate the prophecy**

<sup>13</sup> *The messenger who went to call Micaiah instructed him, "Look, the words of the prophets are unanimously favorable for the king. So let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably." 1 Kings 22:13 p735*

## **Micaiah refuses to be manipulated**

<sup>14</sup> *But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, I will say whatever the LORD says to me."*

<sup>15</sup> *So he went to the king, and the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go to Ramoth-gilead for war, or should we refrain?"*

*Micaiah told him, "March up and succeed. Yahweh will hand it over to the king." 1 Kings 22:14-15 p735*

## **Jehoshaphat shows further discernment**

<sup>16</sup> *But the king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear not to tell me anything but the truth in the name of Yahweh?" 1 Kings 22:16 p735*

## **The truth comes out about the prophets**

<sup>17</sup> *So Micaiah said: I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd. And the LORD said, "They have no master; let everyone return home in peace."*

<sup>18</sup> *So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster?" 1 Kings 22:17-18 p735*

## The explanation regarding the opposing prophecies

<sup>19</sup> Then Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and the whole heavenly host was standing by Him at His right hand and at His left hand. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' So one was saying this and another was saying that.

<sup>21</sup> "Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will entice him.'<sup>22</sup> "The LORD asked him, 'How?' "He said, 'I will go and become a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' "Then He said, 'You will certainly entice him and prevail. Go and do that.'

<sup>23</sup> "You see, the LORD has put a lying spirit into the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you." 1 Kings 22:19-23 p736

## Micaiah is imprisoned for his true prophecy

<sup>26</sup> Then the king of Israel ordered, "Put this guy in prison and feed him only bread and water until I come back safely."

<sup>28</sup> But Micaiah said, "If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me." 1 Kings 22:26-28 p736

## Ahab tries to hide

<sup>30</sup> The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your royal attire." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. 1 Kings 22:29-30 p737

## God's providence finds Ahab out

<sup>34</sup> But a man drew his bow without taking special aim and struck the king of Israel through the joints of his armor. He died that evening. 1 Kings 22:34-35 p737

## Ahab's son Joram seeks Jehoshaphat's help

<sup>7</sup> Then he sent a message to King Jehoshaphat of Judah: "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" Jehoshaphat said, "I will go. I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

<sup>9</sup> So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom set out. After they had traveled for seven days, they had no water for the army or their animals. <sup>10</sup> Then the king of Israel said, "Oh no, the LORD has summoned three kings, only to hand them over to Moab." 2 Kings 3:7-10 p746

## Jehoshaphat again enquires of the Lord

<sup>11</sup> But Jehoshaphat said, "Isn't there a prophet of the LORD here? Let's inquire of Yahweh through him."

One of the servants of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha, who used to pour water on Elijah's hands, is here."<sup>12</sup> So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went to him.

<sup>13</sup> However, Elisha said to King Joram of Israel, "We have nothing in common. Go to the prophets of your father and your mother! <sup>14</sup> If I did not have respect for King Jehoshaphat of Judah, I would not look at you; I wouldn't take notice of you." 2 Kings 3:7-14 p746

## Jehoshaphat always turns to God for help

<sup>2</sup> People came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast number from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom has come to fight against you; they are already in En-gedi.

<sup>3</sup> Jehoshaphat was afraid, and he resolved to seek the LORD. Then he proclaimed a fast for all Judah, <sup>4</sup> who gathered to seek the LORD. They even came from all the cities of Judah to seek Him. 2 Chronicles 20:2-4 p739

## Jehoshaphat's Prayer

<sup>5</sup> Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the LORD's temple before the new courtyard. He said: <sup>12</sup> Our God... We are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You.  
2 Chronicles 20:5,12 p739

## God's Answer

<sup>13</sup> All Judah was standing before the LORD with their infants, their wives, and their children. <sup>14</sup> In the middle of the congregation, the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel (a Levite from Asaph's descendants), <sup>15</sup> and he said, "This is what the LORD says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's.'"

<sup>16</sup> Tomorrow, go down against them... <sup>17</sup> You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD. He is with you. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for Yahweh is with you."

<sup>18</sup> Then Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD to worship Him. <sup>19</sup> Then the Levites... stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel shouting with a loud voice. 2 Chronicles 20:13-19 p740

## Jehoshaphat encourages faith in God

<sup>20</sup> In the morning they got up early... As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me... Believe in Yahweh your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed." 2 Chronicles 20:20-28 p741

## Jehoshaphat appoints worship leaders

<sup>21</sup> Then he appointed some to sing for the LORD and some to praise the splendor of His holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing: Give thanks to the LORD, for His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>22</sup> The moment they began their shouts and praises, the LORD set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir... and they were defeated. <sup>23</sup> The Ammonites and Moabites turned against the inhabitants of Mount Seir and completely annihilated them. When they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped destroy each other.

<sup>27</sup> Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem turned back with Jehoshaphat their leader, returning joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD enabled them to rejoice over their enemies. <sup>28</sup> So they came into Jerusalem to the LORD's temple with harps, lyres, and trumpets.  
2 Chronicles 20:20-28 p741

## Jehoshaphat's weakness - alliances with wicked kings

<sup>2</sup> Then Jehu son of Hanani the seer went out to confront him and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Do you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the LORD's wrath is on you."  
2 Chronicles 19:1-2 p738

## God sinks Jehoshaphat's navy

<sup>35</sup> After this, Judah's King Jehoshaphat made an alliance with Israel's King Ahaziah, who was guilty of wrongdoing. <sup>36</sup> Jehoshaphat formed an alliance with him to make ships to go to Tarshish (for gold).

<sup>37</sup> Then Eliezer prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you formed an alliance with Ahaziah, the LORD has broken up what you have made." So the ships were wrecked and were not able to go to Tarshish. 2 Chronicles 20:35-37 p743

Maroubra Baptist Church 22 September 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 23

### Joash: Protected By God's Providence

#### HOW DID GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID ALMOST COME UNSTUCK?

##### Jehoshaphat links his family with Ahab's evil family

*2 Chronicles 18:1 p724*

##### His son Jehoram marries Ahab's daughter Athaliah

##### Jehoshaphat dies. His son Jehoram becomes king (Athaliah is queen) *2 Chronicles 21:1-3 p750*

##### Jehoram removes the threat of his brothers taking over

*When Jehoram had established himself over his father's kingdom, he strengthened his position by killing with the sword all his brothers as well as some of the princes of Israel. 2 Chronicles 21:4 p750*

##### Athaliah is an evil influence over her husband Jehoram

*<sup>18</sup> He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's daughter was his wife. He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. 2 Kings 8:18 p752*

##### God's promise to David was the only thing that stopped God destroying Judah under Jehoram and Athaliah

*<sup>19</sup> The LORD was unwilling to destroy Judah because of His servant David, since He had promised to give a lamp to David and his sons forever. 2 Kings 8:19 p752*

#### God sends Jehoram a letter from Elijah

*<sup>12</sup> Then a letter came to Jehoram from Elijah the prophet, saying:*

*Because you have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat... <sup>13</sup> but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel... and also have killed your brothers, your father's family, who were better than you, <sup>14</sup> Yahweh is now about to strike your people, your sons, your wives, and all your possessions with a horrible affliction.*

*<sup>15</sup> You yourself will be struck with many illnesses, including a disease of the intestines, until your intestines come out day after day because of the disease." 2 Chronicles 21:12-15 p755*

#### Jehoram dies of a terrible illness from God

*<sup>19</sup> This continued day after day until two full years passed. Then his intestines came out because of his disease, and he died from severe illnesses... He reigned eight years in Jerusalem. He died to no one's regret 2 Chronicles 21:19-20 p755*

#### Athaliah is now a widow

#### Athaliah's son Ahaziah becomes king. 2 Kings 8:24 p755

#### Ahaziah's reign over Judah is short and evil

*<sup>26</sup> Ahaziah was 22 years old when he became king and reigned one year in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> He walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did what was evil in the LORD's sight like the house of Ahab, for he was a son-in-law to Ahab's family. 2 Kings 8:26-27 p760*

*<sup>3</sup> He walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother gave him evil advice. <sup>4</sup> So he did what was evil in the LORD's sight like the house of Ahab, for they were his advisers after the death of his father, to his destruction. 2 Chronicles 22:3-4 p760*

#### Ahaziah is killed by Jehu, who has been commissioned by God to wipe out Ahab's family in judgment. 2 Kings 9:27 p763

## Queen Athaliah springs into murderous action

*When Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs. 2 Kings 11:1 p763*

## Joash is rescued by his auntie and uncle Jehoida

*<sup>11</sup> Jehoshabeath, the king's daughter, rescued Joash son of Ahaziah from the king's sons who were being killed. Now Jehoshabeath was the wife of Jehoiada the priest. She hid Joash from Athaliah so that she did not kill him. 2 Chronicles 22:11 p764*

## Jehoida hides Joash in the temple for six years

*<sup>12</sup> While Athaliah ruled over the land, he was hiding with them in God's temple six years. 2 Chronicles 22:12 p764*

## Jehoida crowns Joash king at seven years of age

*Then, in the seventh year, Jehoiada summoned his courage and took the commanders of hundreds into a covenant with him:  
<sup>3</sup> Jehoiada said to them, "Here is the king's son! He must reign, just as the LORD promised concerning David's sons.*

*<sup>10</sup> Then he stationed all the troops with their weapons in hand surrounding the king. <sup>11</sup> They brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and made him king. Jehoiada and his sons anointed him and cried, "Long live the king!" 2 Chronicles 23:1-11 p766*

## Jehoida has Athaliah executed

*<sup>12</sup> When Athaliah heard the noise from the troops, the guards, and those praising the king, she went to the troops in the LORD's temple.  
<sup>13</sup> As she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance. The commanders and the trumpeters were by the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets while the singers with musical instruments were leading the praise.*

*Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, "Treason, treason!"*

*<sup>14</sup> Then Jehoiada the priest sent out the commanders of the army, saying, "Take her out... Don't put her to death in the LORD's temple."  
<sup>15</sup> So they arrested her, and she went to the king's palace, where they put her to death. 2 Chronicles 23:12-15 p767*

## Jehoida leads a revival

*<sup>16</sup> Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the king, and the people that they would be the LORD's people. <sup>17</sup> So all the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They broke its altars and images into pieces and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, at the altars. 2 Chronicles 23:16-17 p768*

## Jehoida organizes Joash's marriage

*Jehoiada acquired two wives for him, and he was the father of sons and daughters. 2 Chronicles 24:3 p769*

## Joash organizes to repair the temple

*<sup>4</sup> Afterward, Joash took it to heart to renovate the LORD's temple.  
<sup>5</sup> So he gathered the priests and Levites and said, "Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all Israel to repair the temple of your God as needed year by year... <sup>7</sup> For the sons of that wicked Athaliah broke into the LORD's temple and even used the sacred things of the LORD's temple for the Baals." 2 Chronicles 24:4-7 p769*

## Jehoida makes a big offering box

*<sup>9</sup> Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar on the right side as one enters the LORD's temple; in it the priests who guarded the threshold put all the money brought into the LORD's temple.*

*<sup>10</sup> Whenever they saw there was a large amount of money in the chest, the king's secretary and the high priest would go to the LORD's temple and count the money found there and tie it up in bags. <sup>11</sup> Then they would put the counted money into the hands of those doing the work... to repair the damage to the LORD's temple and for all spending for temple repairs. 2 Kings 12:9-12 p770*

## **Joash lives a good life as long as Jehoida is around**

<sup>2</sup> Throughout the time of Jehoiada the priest, Joash did what was right in the LORD's sight. 2 Chronicles 24:2 p768

## **Jehoida dies**

<sup>15</sup> Jehoiada died when he was old and full of days; he was 130 years old at his death. <sup>16</sup> He was buried in the city of David with the kings because he had done what was good in Israel with respect to God and His temple. 2 Chronicles 24:15-16 p776

## **Joash backslides**

<sup>17</sup> However, after Jehoiada died, the rulers of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them, <sup>18</sup> and they abandoned the temple of Yahweh, the God of their ancestors and served the Asherah poles and the idols. So there was wrath against Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. 2 Chron 24:17-18 p776

## **The people refuse to listen to God's appeals**

<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, He sent them prophets to bring them back to the LORD; they admonished them, but the people would not listen. 2 Chronicles 24:19 p776

## **God appeals through Jehoida's son**

<sup>20</sup> The Spirit of God took control of Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood above the people and said to them, "This is what God says, 'Why are you transgressing the LORD's commands and you do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the LORD, He has abandoned you.'"

## **Joash forgets Jehoida's kindness and kills his son**

<sup>21</sup> But they conspired against him and stoned him at the king's command in the courtyard of the LORD's temple.

<sup>22</sup> King Joash didn't remember the kindness that Zechariah's father Jehoiada had extended to him, but killed his son. While he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and demand an account." 2 Chronicles 24:20-22 p776

## **God allows Judah to be attacked and defeated**

<sup>23</sup> An Aramean army went to war against Joash. They entered Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the leaders of the people and sent all the plunder to the king of Damascus.

<sup>24</sup> Although the Aramean army came with only a few men, the LORD handed over a vast army to them because the people of Judah had abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors. So they executed judgment on Joash. 2 Chronicles 24:23-24 p776

## **Joash is wounded in battle and murdered at home**

When the Arameans saw that Joash had many wounds, they left him. His servants conspired against him, and killed him on his bed, because he had shed the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest. 2 Chronicles 24:25 p777

## **LET'S BE GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING**

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him... overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7 p1521

Be thankful. Colossians 3:15 p1522

Whatever you do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Col 3:17 p1522

Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2 p1523

Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 p1446

Give thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20 p1528

Maroubra Baptist Church 29 September 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 24

### Hezekiah: The Greatest King Of Judah

#### Hezekiah's good reign

*In the third year of Israel's King Hoshea, Hezekiah son of Ahaz became king of Judah. <sup>2</sup> He was 25 years old when he became king and reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. 2 Kings 18:1-2 p821*

#### Hezekiah obeyed God

*<sup>3</sup> He did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his ancestor David had done. 2 Kings 18:3 p821*

#### Hezekiah trusted God

*<sup>5</sup> Hezekiah trusted in the LORD God of Israel; not one of the kings of Judah was like him, either before him or after him. 2 Kings 18:5p821*

#### Hezekiah remained faithful to God

*<sup>6</sup> He remained faithful to Yahweh and did not turn from following Him but kept the commands the LORD had commanded Moses. 2 Kings 18:6 p821*

#### Hezekiah removed temptation

*<sup>4</sup> He removed the high places, shattered the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. 2 Kings 18:4 p832*

#### Hezekiah opened the temple

*<sup>3</sup> In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the LORD's temple and repaired them. 2 Chronicles 29:3 p822*

#### Hezekiah consecrated the priests and Levites

*<sup>4</sup> Then he brought in the priests and Levites and gathered them in the eastern public square. <sup>5</sup> He said to them, "Hear me, Levites. Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of Yahweh, the God of your ancestors. 2 Chronicles 29:4-5 p822*

#### Hezekiah removed everything impure

*Remove everything impure from the holy place. <sup>6</sup> For our fathers were unfaithful and did what is evil in the sight of the LORD our God. They abandoned Him... and turned their backs on Him. 2 Chronicles 29:5-6 p822*

#### Hezekiah destroyed an ancient relic – Moses' bronze snake

*He broke into pieces the bronze snake that Moses made, for the Israelites burned incense to it up to that time. 2 Kings 18:4 p832*

#### Hezekiah made a covenant with God

*<sup>10</sup> It is in my heart now to make a covenant with Yahweh, the God of Israel so that His burning anger may turn away from us. <sup>11</sup> My sons, don't be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand in His presence, to serve Him, and to be His ministers and burners of incense." 2 Chronicles 29:10-11 p822*

#### Hezekiah cleansed the temple

*<sup>16</sup> They took all the unclean things they found in the LORD's sanctuary to the courtyard of the LORD's temple. Then the Levites received them and took them outside to the Kidron Valley... <sup>17</sup> They consecrated the LORD's temple for eight days. <sup>18</sup> Then they went inside to King Hezekiah and said, "We have cleansed the whole temple of the LORD... <sup>19</sup> We have set up and consecrated all the utensils that King Ahaz rejected during his reign when he became unfaithful. They are in front of the altar of the LORD." 2 Chronicles 29:12-19 p822*

## Hezekiah restored temple sacrifice

<sup>20</sup> King Hezekiah got up early, gathered the city officials, and went to the LORD's temple. <sup>21</sup> They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. Then he told the descendants of Aaron, the priests, to offer them on the altar of the LORD. 2 Chronicles 29:20-21 p822

## Hezekiah restored temple worship

<sup>25</sup> Hezekiah stationed the Levites in the LORD's temple with cymbals, harps, and lyres according to the command of David... <sup>28</sup> The whole assembly was worshiping, singing the song, and blowing the trumpets—all of this continued until the burnt offering was completed. <sup>29</sup> When the burnt offerings were completed, the king and all those present with him bowed down and worshiped. 2 Chronicles 29:25-29 p823

## Hezekiah restored temple praise

<sup>30</sup> Then King Hezekiah and the officials told the Levites to sing praise to the LORD in the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with rejoicing and bowed down and worshiped. 2 Chronicles 29:30 p823

## Hezekiah called for an offering

<sup>31</sup> Hezekiah concluded, "Now you are consecrated to the LORD. Come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the LORD's temple." So the congregation brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all those with willing hearts brought burnt offerings. 2 Chronicles 29:31 p823

## God gave the people willing hearts

So the service of the LORD's temple was established. <sup>36</sup> Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over how God had prepared the people, for it had come about suddenly. 2 Chron 29:35-36 p823

## Hezekiah re-established tithing

<sup>4</sup> He told the people who lived in Jerusalem to give a contribution for the priests and Levites so that they could devote their energy to the law of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> When the word spread, the Israelites gave liberally of the best of the grain, new wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field, and they brought in an abundance, a tenth of everything. 2 Chronicles 31:4-5 p833

## God blessed the people for their generosity

<sup>9</sup> Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the piles. <sup>10</sup> Azariah, the chief priest... answered him, "Since they began bringing the offering to the LORD's temple, we eat and are satisfied and there is plenty left over because the LORD has blessed His people; this abundance is what is left over." 2 Chronicles 31:9-10 p833

## Hezekiah restored the celebration of the Passover

Then Hezekiah sent word throughout all Israel and Judah, and he also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh to come to the LORD's temple in Jerusalem to observe the Passover of Yahweh, the God of Israel... <sup>5</sup> so they... spread the message throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba to Dan, to come to observe the Passover of Yahweh, the God of Israel in Jerusalem, for they hadn't observed it often, as prescribed.

<sup>6</sup> So the couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the hand of the king and his officials, and according to the king's command, saying, "Israelites, return to Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel so that He may return to those of you who remain, who have escaped from the grasp of the kings of Assyria." 2 Chronicles 30:1-6 p827

## God gave the people unity of purpose

The power of God was at work in Judah to give them one heart to carry out the command of the king and his officials by the word of the LORD. 2 Chronicles 30:12 p828

## God gave them great joy. The people celebrated the Passover twice

<sup>21</sup> The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread seven days with great joy, and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day after day with loud instruments.

<sup>23</sup> The whole congregation decided to observe seven more days, so they observed seven days with joy, <sup>24</sup> for Hezekiah king of Judah contributed 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for the congregation. Also, the officials contributed 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep for the congregation. 2 Chronicles 30:21-24 p828

## God caused great rejoicing before the Lord

<sup>26</sup> There was great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for nothing like this was known since the days of Solomon son of David, the king of Israel. 2 Chronicles 30:26 p828

## God was pleased to receive their prayer

<sup>27</sup> Then the priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard their voice, and their prayer came into His holy dwelling place in heaven. 2 Chronicles 30:27 p828

## Hezekiah was diligent in everything for the Lord

<sup>20</sup> Hezekiah... did what was good and upright and true before the LORD his God. <sup>21</sup> He was diligent in every deed that he began in the service of God's temple, in the instruction and the commands, in order to seek his God, and he prospered. 2 Chronicles 31:20 p833

## God prospered Hezekiah

<sup>7</sup> The LORD was with him, and wherever he went he prospered. 2 Kings 18:7-8 p848

God gave him abundant possessions. <sup>30</sup> Hezekiah succeeded in everything he did. 2 Chronicles 32:29-30 p929

## Hezekiah is about to die

In those days Hezekiah became terminally ill. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Put your affairs in order, for you are about to die; you will not recover.'" 2 Kings 20:1 p864

## God heals Hezekiah and adds 15 years to his life

<sup>2</sup> Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, <sup>3</sup> "Please LORD, remember how I have walked before You faithfully and wholeheartedly and have done what pleases You." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah had not yet gone out of the inner courtyard when the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>5</sup> "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of My people, 'This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Look, I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the LORD's temple. <sup>6</sup> I will add 15 years to your life. 2 Kings 20:2-6 p864

## God gives Hezekiah a sign

<sup>8</sup> Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the LORD's temple on the third day?"

<sup>9</sup> Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD that He will do what He has promised: Should the shadow go ahead 10 steps or go back 10 steps?"

<sup>10</sup> Then Hezekiah answered, "It's easy for the shadow to lengthen 10 steps. No, let the shadow go back 10 steps." <sup>11</sup> So Isaiah the prophet called out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow back the 10 steps it had descended on Ahaz's stairway. 2 Ki 20:8-11 p865

## Hezekiah makes provision for war

<sup>2</sup> Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he planned war on Jerusalem, <sup>3</sup> so he consulted with his officials and his warriors about stopping up the waters of the springs that were outside the city, and they helped him. <sup>4</sup> They said, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?" 2Chron 32:2-4p910

## Hezekiah encourages the people

Then he encouraged them, saying, <sup>7</sup> “Be strong and courageous! Don’t be afraid or discouraged before the king of Assyria or before the large army that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. <sup>8</sup> He has only human strength, but we have Yahweh our God to help us and to fight our battles.” So the people relied on the words of King Hezekiah of Judah. 2 Chronicles 32:6-8 p910

## Hezekiah is threatened by Sennacherib

<sup>30</sup> Don’t let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD... <sup>32</sup> Don’t listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you, saying: The LORD will deliver us. 2 Kings 18:30, 32 p912

## Hezekiah humbles himself

When King Hezekiah heard their report, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the LORD’s temple. 2 Kings 19:1 p921

## Hezekiah consults Isaiah

<sup>5</sup> So the servants of King Hezekiah went to Isaiah, <sup>6</sup> who said to them, “Tell your master this, ‘The LORD says: Don’t be afraid because of the words you have heard, that the king of Assyria’s attendants have blasphemed Me with. <sup>7</sup> I am about to put a spirit in him, and he will hear a rumor and return to his own land where I will cause him to fall by the sword.’” 2 Kings 19:5-7 p922

## Hezekiah is the target of intimidation

<sup>10</sup> “Say this to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Don’t let your God, whom you trust, deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria. <sup>11</sup> Look, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries: they completely destroyed them. Will you be rescued? <sup>12</sup> Did the gods of the nations that my predecessors destroyed rescue them?’” 2 Ki 19:10-12 p924

## Hezekiah and Isaiah join together in prayer

<sup>20</sup> King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz prayed about this and cried out to heaven. 2 Chronicles 32:20 p924

## Hezekiah’s prayer

<sup>14</sup> Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers, read it, then went up to the LORD’s temple, and spread it out before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD:

LORD God of Israel who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are God—You alone—of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth. <sup>16</sup> Hear the words that Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God. <sup>17</sup> LORD, it is true that the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their lands. <sup>19</sup> Now, LORD our God, please save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God-You alone. 2 Ki 19:14-19p924

## God answers

<sup>20</sup> Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: “The LORD, the God of Israel says: ‘I have heard your prayer to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria.’ <sup>32</sup> Therefore, this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or build up an assault ramp against it. <sup>33</sup> He will go back on the road that he came and he will not enter this city. This is the LORD’s declaration. <sup>34</sup> I will defend this city and rescue it for My sake and for the sake of My servant David.” 2 Kings 19:20, 32-34 p926

## God acts on behalf of Hezekiah

<sup>35</sup> That night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! <sup>36</sup> So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and left. 2 Kings 19:35-36 p928

<sup>22</sup> So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the power of King Sennacherib of Assyria and from the power of all others. He gave them rest on every side. 2 Chron 32:22 p928

Maroubra Baptist Church 6 October 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 25

### Isaiah: Greatest Of All Prophets

#### WHY WERE THE PROPHETS NEEDED?

To call the nation into line

#### THE PROPHET'S JOB

To speak for God

#### HOW MANY PROPHETS WERE THERE?

16 writing prophets, wrote 17 books in the Bible

4 major prophets and 12 minor prophets

#### Moses was the greatest prophet

*No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. Deuteronomy 32:10*

#### Samuel was the first prophet

*All the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, have also announced these days. Acts 3:24*

*All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the LORD. 1 Samuel 3:20*

#### Samuel set up an institution for prophets... a school of the prophets.

*They saw the group of prophets prophesying with Samuel leading them. 1 Samuel 19:20*

#### Elijah was a prophet

*Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men." 1 Kings 18:22*

#### Elisha was a prophet

*You (Elijah) are to anoint... Elisha... as prophet in your place. 1 Kings 19:16*

*Have him (the King) come to me, and he will know there is a prophet in Israel. 2 Kings 5:8*

#### Other prophets in the Bible

48 prophets are mentioned in the Bible  
Plus 7 prophetesses

#### THE PERIOD OF THE WRITING PROPHETS

400 years

From about 800BC to 400BC

## WHY IS ISAIAH THE GREATEST PROPHET?

His book is bigger

He prophesied longer. 50-64 years

His language is more brilliant

His content is more about Jesus

He is quoted more in the NT

## THE TIMES OF ISAIAH

In 734 BC, he watched Assyria carry away all the northern part of Israel.

13 years later, in 721 BC, the capital city Samaria, fell, and the rest of Israel was carried away.

That left only Judah, the southern kingdom.

Isaiah enjoyed the beautiful reforms under his good partner King Hezekiah.

Unfortunately, this revival didn't last long.

And Isaiah, who had seen the northern kingdom fall, was called by God to warn the southern kingdom that it would fall too, if it didn't turn back to God.

## ISAIAH THE MAN OF ROYAL BLOOD

Isaiah's dad Amoz was son of King Joash.

That means that King Joash was Isaiah's grand father.

King Joash's other son, Amaziah succeeded him as king.

King Amaziah's son Uzziah became king after him.

King Uzziah was Isaiah's first cousin

## ISAIAH THE WILLING SERVANT

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Who should I send? Who will go for Us?' I said: 'Here I am. Send me.' Isaiah 6:8*

## ISAIAH THE ROYAL ADVISER

### Hezekiah consults Isaiah

*<sup>5</sup> So the servants of King Hezekiah went to Isaiah, <sup>6</sup> who said to them, "Tell your master this, 'The LORD says: Don't be afraid... <sup>7</sup> I am about to put a spirit in him (the King of Assyria), and he will hear a rumor and return to his own land where I will cause him to fall by the sword.'" 2 Kings 19:5-7 p922*

### Isaiah prayed with Hezekiah

*<sup>20</sup> King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz prayed about this and cried out to heaven. 2 Chronicles 32:20 p924*

## Isaiah announces 15 years added to Hezekiah's life

<sup>4</sup> *Isaiah had not yet gone out of the inner courtyard when the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>5</sup>“Go back and tell Hezekiah... ‘I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Look, I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the LORD’s temple. <sup>6</sup>I will add 15 years to your life. 2 Kings 20:2-6 p864*

## Isaiah arranges a sign from God for Hezekiah

<sup>8</sup> *Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, “What is the sign that the LORD will heal me..?” <sup>11</sup> So Isaiah the prophet called out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow back the 10 steps it had descended on Ahaz’s stairway. 2 Ki 20:8-11 p865*

## ISAIAH'S GRAND ACHIEVEMENT

### The deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrians

It was through Isaiah's prayer, and by his advice to King Hezekiah, and by the direct miraculous intervention of God that the Assyrian army was destroyed before the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>35</sup> *That night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians... <sup>36</sup> So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and left. 2 Kings 19:35-36 p928*

<sup>22</sup> *So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the power of King Sennacherib of Assyria and from the power of all others. He gave them rest on every side. 2 Chron 32:22 p928*

## ISAIAH THE SCHOLAR/WRITER

Isaiah wrote other books which have been lost.

### The Life Of Uzziah

<sup>22</sup> *Now the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz wrote about the rest of the events of Uzziah's reign, from beginning to end. 2 Chronicles 26:22 p801*

### Book of The Kings Of Israel And Judah

*As for the rest of the events of Hezekiah's reign and his deeds of faithful love, note that they are written in the Visions of the Prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, and in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 2 Chronicles 32:32*

## ISAIAH THE DEAD SEA SCROLL

The greatest manuscript discovery of modern times.

It assures us that Bible manuscripts are accurate.

## ISAIAH THE TWO BOOKS

There is such a change in theme and tone as chapter 40 starts that scholars have debated about two different authors.

## 1-39 Theme: God's judgment because of the nation's sins

<sup>6</sup> 'The time will certainly come when everything in your palace ... will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the LORD. Isaiah 39:5-7

## 40-66 Theme: comfort and hope

"Comfort, comfort My people," says your God. <sup>2</sup> "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and announce to her that her time of forced labor is over, her iniquity has been pardoned. Isaiah 40:1-2

## ISAIAH THE MINI BIBLE

Isaiah 1-39 represent the 39 books of the OT.  
About law and judgment

Isaiah 40-66 represent the 27 books of the NT.  
About grace.

## Isaiah 40 starts as the NT starts, with John the Baptist.

A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. Isaiah 40:3

## Isaiah 40 = Matthew: Jesus is King

See, the Lord GOD comes with strength, and His power establishes His rule. Isaiah 40:10

## Isaiah 41 = Mark: Jesus is Servant

But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham, My friend. Isaiah 41:8

## Isaiah 42 = Luke: Jesus is Perfect Man

The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. Isaiah 42:13 NKJV

## Isaiah 43 = John: Jesus is God

I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43:3

I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior. <sup>12</sup> ... You are My witnesses," Says the LORD, "that I am God." Isaiah 43:10-12

## Isaiah 44 = Acts: Holy Spirit – Pentecost

I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants and My blessing on your offspring. Isaiah 44:3

## Isaiah 66 = Revelation – The End

For the LORD will execute judgment on all flesh with His fiery sword, and many will be slain by the LORD. Isaiah 66:16

The new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will endure before Me"— this is the LORD's declaration. Isaiah 66:22

## **Isaiah 53 - Central book of Isaiah's New Testament is all about Christ dying for our sins**

*He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 NIV*

## **ISAIAH THE MESSIANIC PROPHET**

### **Isaiah's prophecies about Jesus**

#### **His advent**

*And the glory of the LORD will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 40:5*

#### **His virgin birth**

*The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

#### **Galilee to be the scene of his ministry**

*In the future He will bring honor to the Way of the Sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee. Isaiah 9:1*

#### **His deity and eternity**

*For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign*

*on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7*

#### **His sufferings Isaiah 53**

*<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; He was despised, and we didn't value Him. 53:3*

#### **His payment of our sins**

*<sup>5</sup> But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. 53:5*

*<sup>10</sup> Yet the LORD was pleased to crush Him severely. 53:10*

#### **His death as our substitute**

*<sup>6</sup> We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all. 53:6*

*He bore the sin of many. 53:10*

#### **His voluntary sacrifice for us**

*He submitted Himself to death. 53:12*

#### **His silence before his accusers**

*<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, He did not open His mouth. 53:7*

## **To die with the wicked**

<sup>9</sup> *They made His grave with the wicked. 53:9*

*He was counted among the rebels. 53:10*

## **To be buried with the rich**

*And with a rich man at His death. 53:9*

## **To justify us – make us right with God**

*My righteous Servant will justify many, and He will carry their iniquities. 53:11*

## **He was the sin offering that accomplished our salvation**

*When You make Him a restitution offering... by His hand, the LORD's pleasure will be accomplished. 53:10*

## **He prayed for his killers**

*He interceded for the rebels. 53:10*

## **He paid a ransom price to redeem us**

<sup>12</sup> *Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion, and He will receive the mighty as spoil. 53:12*

## **Might and gentleness of his reign**

*See, the Lord GOD comes with strength, and His power establishes His rule. His reward is with Him, and His gifts accompany Him. <sup>11</sup> He protects His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them in the fold of His garment. He gently leads those that are nursing. Isaiah 40:10-11*

## **Righteousness and beneficence of his reign**

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the LORD to glorify Him. Isaiah 61:1-3*

## **His justice and kindness**

*He will not break a bruised reed, and He will not put out a smoldering wick; He will faithfully bring justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow weak or be discouraged. Isaiah 42:3-4*

## **ISAIAH THE MARTYR**

After the great king Hezekiah died, his terrible son Manasseh came to the throne.

Isaiah spoke out against his reintroduction of idolatry and so the king had him executed. He was tied between two planks, and sawn in half.

*They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword... Hebrews 11:37*

Maroubra Baptist Church 13 October 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 26

### Jeremiah: The Weeping Prophet

#### JEREMIAH'S PERIOD OF MINISTRY

*The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests living in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah. <sup>3</sup> It also came throughout the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah, king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile. Jeremiah 1:1-3 p939*

#### JEREMIAH'S CALL – Jeremiah 1 p939

##### I chose you before you were born

*<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>5</sup> I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.*

##### Don't be intimidated by a sense of inadequacy

*<sup>6</sup> But I protested, "Oh no, Lord, GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth."*

*<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said to me: Do not say, "I am only a youth," for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you.*

##### Don't be afraid of anyone

*<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to deliver you. This is the LORD's declaration.*

##### Don't be worried about what to say

*<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with My words.*

##### Here's your assignment

*<sup>10</sup> See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant. Jeremiah 1:10 p940*

##### This is what you'll be announcing

*The word of the LORD came to me inquiring, "What do you see?" And I replied, "I see a boiling pot, its lip tilted from the north to the south."*

*<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to me, "Disaster will be poured out from the north on all who live in the land. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, I am about to summon all the clans and kingdoms of the north... They will attack all Jerusalem's surrounding walls and all the other cities of Judah.*

*<sup>16</sup> "I will pronounce My judgments against them for all the evil they did when they abandoned Me to burn incense to other gods and to worship the works of their own hands. Jeremiah 1:13-16 p940*

##### Do not be intimidated by any opposition

*Now, get ready. Stand up and tell them everything that I command you. Do not be intimidated by them or I will cause you to cower before them. <sup>18</sup> Today, I am the One who has made you a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the population.*

*<sup>19</sup> They will fight against you but never prevail over you, since I am with you to rescue you. Jeremiah 1:17-19 p940*

*Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to deliver you. This is the LORD's declaration. Jeremiah 1:8 p940*

## GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH JEREMIAH

### Lament for how it used to be

*Go and announce directly to Jerusalem that this is what the LORD says: I remember the loyalty of your youth, your love as a bride—how you followed Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.  
Jeremiah 2:2 p942*

### What have I done to turn you off?

*What fault did your fathers find in Me that they went so far from Me, followed worthless idols, and became worthless themselves?  
Jeremiah 2:5 p942*

### Look at all my kindness to you

*I brought you to a fertile land to eat its fruit and bounty, but after you entered, you defiled My land; you made My inheritance detestable.  
Jeremiah 2:7 p942*

### Look at their response

*My people have exchanged their Glory for useless idols. <sup>12</sup> Be horrified at this, heavens; be shocked and utterly appalled. This is the LORD's declaration.*

*<sup>13</sup> For My people have committed a double evil: They have abandoned Me, the fountain of living water, and dug cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that cannot hold water. Jeremiah 2:11-14 p942*

### Judah is now worse than Israel

*<sup>6</sup> In the days of King Josiah the LORD asked me, "Have you seen what unfaithful Israel has done? She has ascended every high hill and gone under every green tree to prostitute herself there.*

*Her treacherous sister Judah was not afraid but also went and prostituted herself... Her treacherous sister Judah didn't return to Me with all her heart—only in pretense."*

*<sup>11</sup> The LORD announced to me, "Unfaithful Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Jeremiah 3:6-11 p952*

### Judah will suffer a seventy-year exile

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon)...*

*<sup>3</sup> "From the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah, until this very day—23 years—the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken to you time and time again, but you have not obeyed."*

*<sup>8</sup> "Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'Because you have not obeyed My words, <sup>9</sup> I am going to send... My servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will bring him against this land, against its residents, and against all these surrounding nations, and I will completely destroy them.'*

*<sup>11</sup> 'This whole land will become a desolate ruin, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon for 70 years. <sup>12</sup> When the 70 years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation... <sup>14</sup> and I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.'" Jeremiah 25:1-14 p982*

## INDIFFERENCE TO JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

### Jeremiah dictates a scroll

*In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup> "Take a scroll, and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah, and all the nations from the time I first spoke to you during Josiah's reign until today. <sup>3</sup> Perhaps when the house of Judah hears about all the disaster I am planning to bring on them, each one of them will turn from his evil way. Then I will forgive their wrongdoing and their sin."*

*<sup>4</sup> So Jeremiah summoned Baruch son of Neriah. At Jeremiah's dictation, Baruch wrote on a scroll all the words the LORD had spoken to Jeremiah. <sup>5</sup> Then Jeremiah commanded Baruch, "I am*

restricted; I cannot enter the temple of the LORD,<sup>6</sup> so you must go and read from the scroll. Jeremiah 36:1-6 p982

### **Baruch reads the scroll**

<sup>10</sup> Then at the LORD's temple... in the hearing of all the people, Baruch read Jeremiah's words from the scroll.

<sup>16</sup> When they had heard all the words, they turned to each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must surely tell the king all these things." Jeremiah 36:10-16 p992

### **Jehoiakim burns the scroll**

<sup>21</sup> The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll... Jehudi then read it in the hearing of the king and all the officials who were standing by the king. <sup>22</sup> Since it was the ninth month, the king was sitting in his winter quarters with a fire burning in front of him. <sup>23</sup> As soon as Jehudi would read three or four columns, Jehoiakim would cut the scroll with a scribe's knife and throw the columns into the blazing fire until the entire scroll was consumed by the fire in the brazier...

<sup>26</sup> Then the king commanded them to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD had hidden them. Jeremiah 36:21-26 p992

### **Jeremiah dictates another scroll**

<sup>27</sup> After the king had burned the scroll with the words Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: <sup>28</sup> "Take another scroll, and once again write on it the very words that were on the original scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah burned.

<sup>29</sup> You are to proclaim concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: <sup>31</sup> I will punish him, his descendants, and his officers for their wrongdoing. I will bring on them, on the residents of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the disaster, which I warned them about but they did not listen. Jeremiah 36:27-31 p993

## **OPPOSITION TO JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE – HIS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE MESSAGE**

### **Jeremiah is beaten by Pashhur**

Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer and chief official in the temple of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. <sup>2</sup> So Pashhur had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put him in the stocks at the Upper Benjamin Gate in the LORD's temple. Jeremiah 20:1-2 p1003

### **Jeremiah is imprisoned**

An officer of the guard...apprehended Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "You are deserting to the Chaldeans."

<sup>14</sup> "That's a lie," Jeremiah replied. "I am not deserting to the Chaldeans!" Irijah would not listen to him but apprehended Jeremiah and took him to the officials. <sup>15</sup> The officials were angry at Jeremiah and beat him and placed him in jail in the house of Jonathan the scribe, for it had been made into a prison. <sup>16</sup> So Jeremiah went into a cell in the dungeon and stayed there many days. Jeremiah 37:11-16 p1067

### **Jeremiah is transferred to a different prison**

<sup>17</sup> King Zedekiah later sent for him and received him, and in his house privately asked him, "Is there a word from the LORD?"

"There is," Jeremiah responded, and he continued, "You will be handed over to the king of Babylon." <sup>18</sup> Then Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, "How have I sinned against you or your servants or these people that you have put me in prison? <sup>20</sup> So now please listen, my lord the king. Don't send me back to the house of Jonathan the scribe, or I will die there."

<sup>21</sup> So King Zedekiah gave orders, and Jeremiah was placed in the guard's courtyard. He was given a loaf of bread each day from the baker's street until all the bread was gone from the city. So Jeremiah remained in the guard's courtyard. Jeremiah 37:17-21 p1067

## Jeremiah is thrown into a cistern

Now Shephatiah, Gedaliah, Jucal, and Pashhur heard the words Jeremiah was speaking to all the people: <sup>2</sup> “This is what the LORD says: ‘Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine, and plague, but whoever surrenders to the Chaldeans will live. He will keep his life like the spoils of war and will live.’” <sup>3</sup> This is what the LORD says: ‘This city will most certainly be handed over to the king of Babylon’s army, and he will capture it.’”

<sup>4</sup> The officials then said to the king, “This man ought to die, because he is weakening the morale of the warriors who remain in this city and of all the people by speaking to them in this way. This man is not seeking the well-being of this people, but disaster.”

<sup>5</sup> King Zedekiah said, “Here he is; he’s in your hands...” <sup>6</sup> So they took Jeremiah and dropped him into the cistern of Malchiah the king’s son, which was in the guard’s courtyard, lowering Jeremiah with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

<sup>7</sup> But Ebed-melech, a Cushite court official employed in the king’s palace, heard Jeremiah had been put into the cistern. <sup>8</sup> Ebed-melech went and spoke to the king: <sup>9</sup> “My lord the king, these men have been evil in all they have done to Jeremiah the prophet. They have dropped him into the cistern where he will die from hunger, because there is no more bread in the city.”

<sup>10</sup> So the king commanded Ebed-melech, the Cushite, “Take from here 30 men under your authority and pull Jeremiah the prophet up from the cistern before he dies...” They pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the cistern, but he continued to stay in the guard’s courtyard. Jeremiah 38:1-13 p1072

## Jeremiah complains to God

<sup>7</sup> You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived. You seized me and prevailed. I am a laughingstock all the time; everyone ridicules me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I cry out, I proclaim, “Violence and

destruction!” because the word of the LORD has become for me constant disgrace and derision. Jeremiah 20:7-8 p1003

## Jeremiah is compelled to preach

<sup>9</sup> If I say, “I won’t mention Him or speak any longer in His name,” His message becomes a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones. I become tired of holding it in, and I cannot prevail. Jer 20:9 p1003

## God is with him, as promised

<sup>10</sup> For I have heard the gossip of many people, “Terror is on every side! Report him; let’s report him!” Everyone I trusted watches for my fall. <sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me like a violent warrior. Therefore, my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. <sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD! Praise the LORD, for He rescues the life of the needy from the hand of evil people. Jeremiah 20:10-13 p1003

## But it’s tough – Jeremiah’s Lament

<sup>14</sup> May the day I was born be cursed. May the day my mother bore me never be blessed. <sup>15</sup> May the man be cursed who brought the news to my father, saying, “A male child is born to you,” bringing him great joy.

<sup>18</sup> Why did I come out of the womb to see only struggle and sorrow, to end my life in shame? Jeremiah 20:14-18 p1004

## THE FALL OF JERUSALEM TO BABYLON

In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon advanced against Jerusalem with his entire army and laid siege to it. <sup>2</sup> In the fourth month of Zedekiah’s eleventh year, on the ninth day of the month, the city was broken into. <sup>3</sup> All the officials of the king of Babylon entered and sat at the Middle Gate:

<sup>4</sup> When he saw them, Zedekiah king of Judah and all the soldiers fled. They left the city at night by way of the king’s garden through

the gate between the two walls.<sup>5</sup> However, the Chaldean army pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, arrested him, and brought him to Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon's king, at Riblah. The king passed sentence on him there.

<sup>6</sup> At Riblah the king of Babylon slaughtered Zedekiah's sons before his eyes, and he also slaughtered all Judah's nobles.<sup>7</sup> Then he blinded Zedekiah and put him in bronze chains to take him to Babylon.<sup>8</sup> The Chaldeans next burned down the king's palace and the people's houses and tore down the walls of Jerusalem.<sup>9</sup> Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, deported the rest of the people to Babylon. Jeremiah 39:1-9 p1074

### Jeremiah is freed by Nebuchadnezzar

<sup>11</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon gave orders concerning Jeremiah, saying: <sup>12</sup> "Take him, look after him, and don't let any harm come to him; do for him whatever he says."<sup>13</sup> Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard,...<sup>14</sup> had Jeremiah brought from the guard's courtyard and turned him over to Gedaliah to take him home. So he settled among his own people. Jeremiah 39:11-14 p1091

### Jeremiah prophesies the end of Babylon

<sup>60</sup> Jeremiah wrote on one scroll about all the disaster that would come to Babylon; all these words were written against Babylon.

<sup>61</sup> Jeremiah told Seraiah, "When you get to Babylon, see that you read all these words aloud.<sup>62</sup> You must say, 'LORD, You have threatened to cut off this place so that no one will live in it—man or beast. Indeed, it will remain desolate forever.'<sup>63</sup> When you have finished reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates River.<sup>64</sup> Then say, 'In the same way, Babylon will sink and never rise again because of the disaster I am bringing on her. They will grow weary.'"

The words of Jeremiah end here. Jeremiah 51:60-64 p1149

## THE POSITIVE SIDE – GOD'S LOVE & RESTORATION

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD...<sup>3</sup> The days are certainly coming when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah. The LORD's declaration. "I will restore them to the land I gave to their ancestors and they will possess it." Jeremiah 30:1-3 p1021*

### Jeremiah 31 p1022

*"At that time"—this is the LORD's declaration—"I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be My people." Jeremiah 31:1*

*I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you. Jeremiah 31:3*

*I will bring them back with consolation... for I am Israel's Father, and Ephraim is My firstborn. Jeremiah 31:9*

<sup>20</sup> *Isn't Ephraim a precious son to Me, a delightful child? Whenever I speak against him, I certainly still think about him. Therefore, My inner being yearns for him; I will truly have compassion on him. This is the LORD's declaration. Jeremiah 31:20*

<sup>10</sup> *Nations, hear the word of the LORD... The One who scattered Israel will gather him. He will watch over him as a shepherd guards his flock...<sup>12</sup> They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will be radiant with joy because of the LORD's goodness Jeremiah 31:10-12*

### The New Covenant

<sup>31</sup> *"Look, the days are coming"—this is the LORD's declaration—"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... I will put My teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people."<sup>34</sup> ... For I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sin. Jeremiah 31:31-34*

## Jeremiah 33 p1070

<sup>3</sup> Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and incomprehensible things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

<sup>10</sup> “This is what the LORD says: In this place, which you say is a ruin, without man or beast—that is, in Judah’s cities and Jerusalem’s streets ... there will be heard again <sup>11</sup> a sound of joy and gladness, the voice of the groom and the bride, and the voice of those saying, Praise the LORD of Hosts, for the LORD is good; His faithful love endures forever as they bring thank offerings to the temple of the LORD. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as in former times, says the LORD. Jeremiah 33:10-11

## THE HEART IN JEREMIAH

### The people’s stubborn and rebellious hearts

Yet in spite of all this, her treacherous sister Judah didn’t return to Me with all her heart—only in pretense. Jeremiah 3:10 p952

Wash the evil from your heart, Jerusalem, so that you will be delivered. Jeremiah 4:14 p954

But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts. They have turned aside and have gone away. Jeremiah 5:23 p957

Yet they didn’t listen or pay attention but followed their own advice and according to their own stubborn, evil heart. They went backward and not forward. Jeremiah 7:24 p963

But you have eyes and a heart for nothing except your own dishonest profit... Jeremiah 22:17 p988

Your presumptuous heart has deceived you. Jeremiah 49:16 p1009

### Jeremiah’s heart

My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in agony! Oh, the pain in my heart! My heart pounds; I cannot be silent. For you, my soul, have heard the shout of battle. Jeremiah 4:19 p954

My joy has flown away; grief has settled on me. My heart is sick. Jeremiah 8:18 p965

My heart is broken within me, and all my bones tremble. I have become like a drunkard, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD, because of His holy words. Jeremiah 23:9 p1016

Your words became a delight to me and the joy of my heart. Jeremiah 15:16 p997

### God examines the heart

The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> I, Yahweh, examine the mind, I test the heart. Jeremiah 17:9-10 p999

As for You, LORD, You know me; You see me. You test whether my heart is with You. Jeremiah 12:3 p971

LORD of Hosts, testing the righteous and seeing the heart and mind... Jeremiah 20:12 p1003

### A good heart

I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord. They will be My people, and I will be their God because they will return to Me with all their heart. Jeremiah 24:7 p1018

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 p1019

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days. I will put My teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. Jeremiah 31:33 p1025

I will give them one heart and one way so that for their good and for the good of their descendants after them, they will fear Me always. <sup>40</sup> “I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never turn away from doing good to them, and I will put fear of Me in their hearts so they will never again turn away from Me. <sup>41</sup> I will take delight in them to do what is good for them, and with all My heart and mind I will faithfully plant them in this land. Jer 32:39-41 p1070

Maroubra Baptist Church 20 October 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 27

### Ezekiel: The Weird Prophet

#### THE THREE STAGES OF THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

606 BC Some captives taken to Babylon, incl Daniel

597 BC More captives taken to Babylon, incl Ezekiel

586 BC Jerusalem burned

#### THE MISSION OF THE PROPHETS

##### **Jeremiah's Mission - Last 40 years before captivity.**

To call Jerusalem to repentance and warn of God's judgment if they refused.

##### **Ezekiel's Mission - First half of the 70 year captivity.**

To explain God's actions in sending His people into captivity and to encourage them that restoration and a glorious future lay ahead.

#### STRUCTURE OF EZEKIEL'S BOOK

The destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC is the centrepiece and pivotal point of the book.

**Ch 1-24:** Ezekiel predicts the certainty of Captivity

**Ch 25-32:** Ezekiel prophesies the overthrow of the surrounding heathen nations.

**Ch 33-48:** Ezekiel prophesies a glorious future of Israel.

**DOMINANT THEME:** "They shall know that I am God."

The phrase occurs 66 times throughout the prophecy.

#### THE WEIRD PROPHET

Ezekiel was weird because God gave him weird experiences and assignments.

#### CONTENTS OF THE BOOK

##### FOUR VISIONS

##### 1. Vision of God. Ezekiel 1 p1027

*While I was among the exiles by the Chebar Canal, the heavens opened and I saw **visions** of God. <sup>4</sup> I looked and there was a whirlwind coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing back and forth and brilliant light all around it. In the center of the fire, there was a gleam like amber. <sup>5</sup> The form of four living creatures came from it.*

<sup>28</sup> *The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the form of the LORD's glory. When I saw it, I fell facedown and heard a voice speaking. Ezekiel 1 p1027*

##### 2. Visionary Journey to Jerusalem. Ezekiel 8-11 p1034

*In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting in front of me, and there the hand of the Lord GOD came down on me. <sup>3</sup> He ... took me by the hair of my head. Then the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and carried me in visions of God to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> I saw the glory of the God of Israel there, like the vision I had seen in the plain. Ezekiel 8:1-4 p1034*

*Vision of Slaughter in Jerusalem. Ezekiel 9 p1035*

*Vision of Israel's Corrupt Leaders. Ezekiel 11 p1037*

*Vision of God's Glory Leaving Jerusalem. Ezek 11:22-25 p1037*

### **3. Vision of The Valley of Dry Bones Ezek 37:1-14 p1112**

*The hand of the LORD was on me, and He brought me out by His Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them. There were a great many of them on the surface of the valley, and they were very dry.*

*<sup>4</sup> He said to me, "Prophesy concerning these bones and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live. <sup>6</sup> I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you so that you come to life. Then you will know that I am Yahweh."*

*<sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as He commanded me; the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army. <sup>11</sup> Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel... <sup>14</sup> I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I am Yahweh. I have spoken, and I will do it." This is the declaration of the LORD. Ezekiel 37:1-14 p1112*

### **4. Vision of The New Temple Ezekiel 40-42 p1116**

*<sup>2</sup> In visions of God He took me to the land of Israel and set me down on a very high mountain. On its southern slope was a structure resembling a city. <sup>3</sup> He brought me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. He was standing by the gate. <sup>4</sup> He spoke to me: "Son of man, look with your eyes, listen with your ears, and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for you have been brought here so that I might show it to you. Report everything you see to the house of Israel." Ezekiel 40 p1116*

### **Return of the LORD's Glory**

*He led me to the gate, the one that faces east... I fell facedown. <sup>4</sup> The glory of the LORD entered the temple by way of the gate that faced east. <sup>5</sup> Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.*

*<sup>7</sup> He said to me: "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place for the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel and their kings will no longer defile My holy name by their religious prostitution. Ezekiel 43:1-7 p1123*

## **TWELVE SYMBOLIC ACTS**

### **1. Sign of the bound mute**

*He spoke with me and said: "Go, shut yourself inside your house. <sup>25</sup> And you, son of man, they will put ropes on you and bind you with them so you cannot go out among them. <sup>26</sup> I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth, and you will be mute and unable to rebuke them, for they are a rebellious house." Ezek 3:22-26 p1030*

### **2. Sign of the brick**

*Now you, son of man, take a brick, set it in front of you, and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. <sup>2</sup> Then lay siege against it: construct a siege wall, build a ramp, pitch military camps, and place battering rams against it on all sides. <sup>3</sup> Take an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between yourself and the city. Turn your face toward it so that it is under siege, and besiege it. This will be a sign for the house of Israel. Ezekiel 4:1-3 p1030*

### **3. Sign of lying down**

*<sup>4</sup> "Then lie down on your left side and place the iniquity of the house of Israel on it. You will bear their iniquity for the number of days you lie on your side. <sup>5</sup> For I have assigned you the years of their iniquity*

according to the number of days you lie down, 390 days. <sup>6</sup> When you have completed these days, lie down again, but on your right side, and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year. <sup>7</sup> You must turn your face toward the siege of Jerusalem and prophesy against it. Ezekiel 4:4-8 p1030

#### 4. Sign of eating and drinking

<sup>9</sup> Take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt. Put them in a single container and make them into bread for yourself. You are to eat it during the number of days you lie on your side, 390 days.

<sup>10</sup> The food you eat each day will be eight ounces by weight; you will eat it from time to time. <sup>11</sup> You are also to drink water by measure, which you will drink from time to time. Ezekiel 4:9-11 p1030

#### 5. Sign of unclean food

<sup>12</sup> You will eat it as you would a barley cake and bake it over dried human excrement in their sight.” <sup>13</sup> The LORD said, “This is how the Israelites will eat their bread—ceremonially unclean—among the nations where I will banish them.” <sup>14</sup> But I said, “Oh, Lord GOD, I have never been defiled. From my youth until now... impure meat has never entered my mouth.”

<sup>15</sup> He replied to me, “Look, I will let you use cow dung instead of human excrement, and you can make your bread over that.” Ezekiel 4:12-15 p1030

#### 6. Sign of the sharp sword

##### **Ezekiel Dramatizes Jerusalem’s Fall**

Now you, son of man, take a sharp sword, use it as you would a barber’s razor, and shave your head and beard. Then take a set of scales and divide the hair. <sup>2</sup> You are to burn up a third of it in the city when the days of the siege have ended; you are to take a third and slash it with the sword all around the city; and you are to scatter a third to the wind, for I will draw a sword to chase after them. <sup>3</sup> But you are to take a few strands from the hair and secure them in the folds of your robe. Ezekiel 5:1-3 p1031

#### 7. Sign of the packed bags

##### **Ezekiel Dramatizes the Exile**

<sup>3</sup> “Son of man, get your bags ready for exile and go into exile in their sight during the day. You will go into exile from your place to another place while they watch; perhaps they will understand, though they are a rebellious house. <sup>4</sup> During the day, bring out your bags like an exile’s bags while they look on. Then in the evening go out in their sight like those going into exile. <sup>5</sup> As they watch, dig through the wall and take the bags out through it. <sup>6</sup> And while they look on, lift the bags to your shoulder and take them out in the dark; cover your face so that you cannot see the land. For I have made you a sign to the house of Israel.” Ezekiel 12:3-6 p1038

#### 8. Sign of the trembling prophet

##### **Ezekiel Dramatizes Israel’s Anxiety**

<sup>17</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>18</sup> “Son of man, eat your bread with trembling and drink your water with shaking and anxiety.

<sup>19</sup> Then say to the people of the land: This is what the Lord GOD says about the residents of Jerusalem in the land of Israel: They will eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water in dread, for their land will be stripped of everything in it. <sup>20</sup> The inhabited cities will be destroyed, and the land will become a desolation. Then you will know that I am Yahweh.” Ezekiel 12:17-20 p1039

#### 9. Sign of the groaning prophet

<sup>6</sup> “Son of man, groan! Groan bitterly with a broken heart right before their eyes. <sup>7</sup> And when they ask you, ‘Why are you groaning?’ then say: Because of the news that is coming. Every heart will melt, and every hand will become weak. Every spirit will be discouraged, and every knee will turn to water. Yes, it is coming and it will happen.” This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. Ezekiel 21:6-7 p1052

#### 10. Sign of the crossroads

<sup>19</sup> “Now, son of man, mark out two roads that the sword of Babylon’s king can take. Both of them should originate from the same land.

And make a signpost at the fork in the road to each city.<sup>20</sup> Mark out a road that the sword can take to Rabbah of the Ammonites and to Judah into fortified Jerusalem.<sup>21</sup> For the king of Babylon stands at the split in the road, at the fork of the two roads, to practice divination: he shakes the arrows, consults the idols, and observes the liver.<sup>22</sup> The answer marked Jerusalem appears in his right hand, indicating that he should set up battering rams, give the order to slaughter, raise a battle cry, set battering rams against the gates, build a ramp, and construct a siege wall...<sup>24</sup>...you will be captured by them. Ezekiel 21:18-24 p1053

## 11. Sign of the dead wife

<sup>15</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>16</sup> “Son of man, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you with a fatal blow. But you must not lament or weep or let your tears flow.

<sup>17</sup> Groan quietly; do not observe mourning rites for the dead. Put on your turban and strap your sandals on your feet; do not cover your mustache or eat the bread of mourners.” Ezekiel 24:15-24 p1059

## 12. Sign of the two sticks

### **The Reunification of Israel**

<sup>16</sup> “Son of man, take a single stick and write on it: Belonging to Judah. Then take another stick and write on it: Belonging to Joseph—the stick of Ephraim. <sup>17</sup> Then join them together into a single stick so that they become one in your hand.

<sup>20</sup> “When the sticks you have written on are in your hand and in full view of the people, <sup>21</sup> tell them: This is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them into their own land. <sup>22</sup> I will make them one nation in the land. They will no longer be two nations and will no longer be divided into two kingdoms.

<sup>27</sup> My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people. <sup>28</sup> When My sanctuary is among them forever, the nations will know that I, Yahweh, sanctify Israel.” Ez 37:15-28 p1113

## SIX PARABLES

### 1. Parable of the Useless Vine. Ezekiel 15:1-8 p1042

- Not only are they not fruitful. They have become totally worthless; like a wild vine. Suitable only for firewood.

### 2. Parable of the Adulterous Wife. Ezekiel 16 p1042

- Judah is like an adulterous wife who, despite the love and affection and kindness of her adoring husband, turns her back on him and plays the prostitute.

### 3. Parable of the Two Eagles. Ezekiel 17 p1045

- First eagle, King Nebuchadnezzar, came and took off the top shoot of the huge cedar tree, King Jehoiachin, and took him to Babylon.
- The first eagle then planted a seed in the land and appointed him king over the remnant. That seed was Zedekiah.
- The second eagle was Pharaoh, King of Egypt. Zedekiah betrayed Nebuchadnezzar by turning to Pharaoh for help.
- Therefore, Nebuchadnezzar imprisoned Zedekiah in Babylon, executing his sons before his eyes and then gauging his eyes out.

### 4. Parable of the Lions. Ezekiel 19:1-9 p1049

- The lioness was Judah.
- The first young lion was King Jehoahaz who was taken captive to Egypt after just 3 months' reign.
- The second young lion was either King Jehoiachin or King Zedekiah. Both were taken captive to Babylon.
- Lament because this was David's throne that was falling.

### 5. Parable of The Two Immoral Sisters Ezekiel 23 p1055

- Oholah represents Samaria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Oholibah represents Jerusalem and the Southern Kdom of Judah
- Both were insatiable, promiscuous adulterers, just like God's people

### 6. Parable of the Boiling Pot Ezekiel 24 p1057

- The pot of destruction is about to be poured out on Judah.
- The siege starts today.

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 28

### Daniel: Superstar Prophet

#### WHO WERE THE INVADING ARMY LOOKING FOR IN THE FIRST BATCH OF CAPTIVES?

<sup>3</sup> The king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some of the Israelites from the royal family and from the nobility—  
<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, good-looking, suitable for instruction in all wisdom, knowledgeable, perceptive, and capable of serving in the king's palace—and to teach them the Chaldean language and literature. Daniel 1:3-5 p982

#### DANIEL'S INITIAL QUALITIES

##### Daniel was from the nobility

<sup>3</sup> The king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some of the Israelites from the royal family and from the nobility. Daniel 1:3 p987

##### He was impressive

<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, good-looking. Daniel 1:4

##### He was bright

suitable for instruction in all wisdom, knowledgeable, perceptive. Daniel 1:4 p987

##### He was capable

capable of serving in the king's palace. Daniel 1:4 p987

## DANIEL HAD A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

How the Queen described Daniel

<sup>11</sup> There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the days of your predecessor he was found to have insight, intelligence, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the diviners, mediums, Chaldeans, and astrologers. Your own predecessor, the king, <sup>12</sup> [did this] because Daniel was found to have an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and perception, and the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems. Daniel 5:11-12

## FOUR EXAMPLES OF DANIEL'S EXCELLENT SPIRIT

### 1. Daniel's great attitude in the face of in FOOD

#### He was faithful

<sup>8</sup> Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. Daniel 1:8 p987

#### He was gracious, tactful, wise

So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself. Daniel 1:8 p987

#### God honoured Daniel's faithfulness

<sup>9</sup> God had granted Daniel favor and compassion from the chief official. Daniel 1:9 p987

#### Daniel was faith-filled

<sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for 10 days. Daniel 1:12 p987

#### God's reward for Daniel's excellent spirit

<sup>15</sup> At the end of 10 days they looked better and healthier than all the young men who were eating the king's food. Daniel 1:15 p987

<sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king consulted them about, he found them 10 times better than all the diviner-priests and mediums in his entire kingdom. Daniel 1:20

## **God caused them to excel**

<sup>17</sup> God gave these four young men knowledge and understanding in every kind of literature and wisdom.

Daniel also understood visions and dreams of every kind.

<sup>19</sup> The king interviewed them, and among all of them, no one was found equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

<sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king consulted them about, he found them 10 times better than all the diviner-priests and mediums in his entire kingdom. Daniel 1:17-20 p987

## **2. Daniel's great attitude in the face of FRIGHT**

### **Daniel displayed tact and discretion**

<sup>14</sup> Then Daniel responded with tact and discretion. Daniel 2:14 p990

### **Daniel again displayed confidence in God**

<sup>16</sup> So Daniel went and asked the king to give him some time, so that he could give the king the interpretation. Daniel 2:16 p990

### **Daniel was a man of prayer**

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went to his house and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah about the matter, <sup>18</sup> urging them to ask the God of heaven for mercy concerning this mystery. Daniel 2:17-18 p990

## **God's reward for Daniel's excellent spirit**

<sup>19</sup> The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night. Daniel 2:19 p990

## **Daniel sought no credit for himself**

<sup>26</sup> The king said in reply to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to tell me the dream I had and its interpretation?"

<sup>27</sup> Daniel answered the king: "No wise man, medium, diviner-priest, or astrologer is able to make known to the king the mystery he asked about. <sup>28</sup> **But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries,** and He has let King Nebuchadnezzar know what will happen in the last days. Daniel 2:26-28 p990

## **Daniel reiterated that all credit was due to God**

The revealer of mysteries has let you know what will happen. <sup>30</sup> As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but in order that the interpretation might be made known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind. Daniel 2:29-30 p991

## **3. Daniel's friends' great attitude in the face of FIRE**

<sup>5</sup> When you hear the sound of the... music, you are to fall down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Daniel 3:5

<sup>17</sup> If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you,

the king. <sup>18</sup> But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.” Daniel 3:17-18

## **God’s reward for their excellent spirit**

### **God was with them in the fire**

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm. He said to his advisers, “Didn’t we throw three men, bound, into the fire?” “Yes, of course, Your Majesty,” they replied to the king. <sup>25</sup> He exclaimed, “Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” Daniel 3:24-25

### **God protected them in the fire**

<sup>27</sup> When the satraps, prefects, governors, and the king’s advisers gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men: not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them. Daniel 3:27

### **God gets glory through the fire**

<sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent His angel and rescued His servants who trusted in Him. They violated the king’s command and risked their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Daniel 3:28 p1105

## **4. Daniel’s great attitude in the face of FEROCIOUS LIONS**

<sup>10</sup> When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upper room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before. Daniel 6:10

## **God’s reward for Daniel’s excellent spirit**

So Daniel was taken out of the den, uninjured, for he trusted in his God. Daniel 6:23

## **GOD’S CONTINUING WITNESS THROUGH DANIEL**

### **1. Prophecying the future through Nebuchadnezzar’s dream**

<sup>31</sup> “My king, as you were watching, a colossal statue appeared. That statue, tall and dazzling, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was terrifying.

<sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its stomach and thighs were bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs were iron, and its feet were partly iron and partly fired clay.

<sup>34</sup> As you were watching, a stone broke off without a hand touching it, struck the statue on its feet of iron and fired clay, and crushed them. Daniel 2:31-34

<sup>44</sup> In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not be left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever.

<sup>45</sup> You saw a stone break off from the mountain without a hand touching it, and it crushed the iron, bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its interpretation certain.” Daniel 2:44-45

### **2. Announcing Nebuchadnezzar’s madness p1133**

<sup>24</sup> This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the sentence of the Most High that has been passed against my lord the king: <sup>25</sup> You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals. You will feed on grass like cattle and be drenched with dew from the

sky for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men, and He gives it to anyone He wants.

<sup>29</sup> At the end of 12 months, as he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon, <sup>30</sup> the king exclaimed, "Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built by my vast power to be a royal residence and to display my majestic glory?"

<sup>31</sup> While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared that the kingdom has departed from you. <sup>32</sup> You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals, and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men, and He gives it to anyone He wants."

<sup>33</sup> At that moment the sentence against Nebuchadnezzar was executed. He was driven away from people. He ate grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky, until his hair grew like eagles' [feathers] and his nails like birds' [claws]. Daniel 4:29-33

### King Nebuchadnezzar's testimony

<sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar, To those of every people, nation, and language, who live in all the earth: <sup>2</sup> I am pleased to tell you about the miracles and wonders the Most High God has done for me. <sup>3</sup> How great are His miracles, and how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation. Daniel 4:1-3

<sup>35</sup> He does what He wants with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can hold back His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?" Daniel 4:35

### King Darius' testimony

<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to those of every people, nation, and language who live in all the earth: <sup>26</sup> I issue a decree that in all my

royal dominion, people must tremble in fear before the God of Daniel: For He is the living God, and He endures forever; His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His dominion has no end.

<sup>27</sup> He rescues and delivers; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." Daniel 6:25-27

### 3. Reading the writing on the wall

<sup>1</sup> King Belshazzar held a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles and drank wine in their presence. <sup>3</sup> So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup> They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup> At that moment the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the king's palace wall next to the lampstand. As the king watched the hand that was writing, <sup>6</sup> his face turned pale, and his thoughts so terrified him that his hip joints shook and his knees knocked together. Daniel 5:1-6

### 4. Prophecying the 70 weeks

<sup>24</sup> Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city. <sup>25</sup> Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and 62 weeks.

<sup>26</sup> After those 62 weeks the Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the coming prince will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come..., and until the end there will be war; desolations are decreed. Daniel 9:20-26 p1152

### God's final instruction to Daniel

<sup>4</sup> "But you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam about, and knowledge will increase." Daniel 12:4

Maroubra Baptist Church 3 November 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 29

### Ezra: A Man Of The Word

Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.

Ezra 7:10 p1205

### CYRUS'S AMAZING PROCLAMATION

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia... The LORD put it into the mind of King Cyrus to issue a proclamation throughout his entire kingdom and [to put it] in writing. <sup>2</sup> This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and has appointed me to build Him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Ezra 1:1-2

### THE AMAZING PROCLAMATION CONTINUES

<sup>3</sup> Whoever is among His people, may his God be with him, and may he go to Jerusalem in Judah and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. Ezra 1:3

### SOMETHING EVEN MORE AMAZING

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, the word of the LORD spoken through Jeremiah was fulfilled...Ezra 1:1

### JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY

<sup>10</sup> For this is what the LORD says: "When 70 years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm My promise concerning you to restore you to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you—plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:10-11

### ISAIAH'S PROPHECY

I am the Lord, who made everything; <sup>28</sup> who says to Cyrus, "My shepherd, he will fulfill all My pleasure" and says to Jerusalem, "She will be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Its foundation will be laid." Isaiah 44:24,28

<sup>1</sup> The LORD says this to Cyrus, His anointed... <sup>13</sup> I have raised him up in righteousness, and will level all roads for him. He will rebuild My city, and set My exiles free." Isaiah 45:1,13

### WHY IS THIS SO AMAZING?

Isaiah mentions Cyrus by name 200 years before the event.

### THE AMAZEMENT CONTINUES

<sup>4</sup> Let every survivor, wherever he lives, be assisted by the men of that region with silver, gold, goods, and livestock, along with a freewill offering for the house of God in Jerusalem." Ezra 1:4

**The king instructs the previous enemy to give them gifts and take a freewill offering for the work.**

<sup>5</sup> So the family leaders of Judah and Benjamin, along with the priests and Levites—everyone God had motivated—prepared to go up and rebuild the LORD's house in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> All their neighbors supported them with silver articles, gold, goods, livestock, and valuables, in addition to all that was given as a freewill offering.1:5-6

### BUT THAT'S NOT ALL

<sup>7</sup> King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the LORD's house that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and had placed in the house of his gods. <sup>8</sup> King Cyrus of Persia had them brought out under the supervision of the treasurer, who counted them out to the prince of Judah. Ezra 1:7-8

## THE RETURN

### The numbers

<sup>1</sup> These now are the people of the province who came from those captive exiles King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had deported to Babylon. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town. Ezra 2:1

<sup>64</sup> The whole combined assembly numbered 42,360 <sup>65</sup> not including their 7,337 male and female slaves, and their 200 male and female singers. Ezra 2:64-65

### Offerings for the building of the temple

<sup>68</sup> After they arrived at the LORD's house in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders gave freewill offerings for the house of God in order to have it rebuilt on its original site. Ezra 2:68

### The people settle in their towns

<sup>70</sup> The priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, and some of the people settled in their towns, and the rest of Israel settled in their towns. Ezra 2:70

### Sacrifice is re-established

<sup>1</sup> By the seventh month, the Israelites had settled in their towns, and the people gathered together in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Jeshua and his brothers the priests along with Zerubbabel and his brothers began to build the altar of Israel's God in order to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God. Ezra 3:1-2

### Temple re-building is commenced

<sup>8</sup> In the second month of the second year after they arrived at God's house in Jerusalem... they began to build. They appointed the Levites who were 20 years old or more to supervise the work on the LORD's house. Ezra 3:8

### Temple foundations are laid

<sup>10</sup> When the builders had laid the foundation of the LORD's temple, the priests, dressed in their robes and holding trumpets, and the Levites descended from Asaph, holding cymbals, took their positions to praise the LORD, as King David had instructed.

<sup>11</sup> They sang with praise and thanksgiving to the LORD: "For He is good; His faithful love to Israel endures forever." Then all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD because the foundation of the LORD's house had been laid. Ezra 3:10-11

### Disappointment on the part of some

<sup>12</sup> But many of the older priests, Levites, and family leaders, who had seen the first temple, wept loudly when they saw the foundation of this house, but many others shouted joyfully. Ezra 3:12

### Mixed emotions

<sup>13</sup> The people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shouting from that of the weeping, because the people were shouting so loudly. And the sound was heard far away. Ezra 3:13

### Opposition to the work Ezra 4

- Through sabotage by offering to work with them
- Through discouragement
- Through a slanderous letter to the king

<sup>12</sup> Let it be known to the king that the Jews... are rebuilding that rebellious and evil city... <sup>13</sup> Let it now be known to the king that if that city is rebuilt and its walls are finished, they will not pay tribute, duty, or land tax, and the royal revenue will suffer. Ezra 4:12-13

### The work stops

<sup>21</sup> Issue an order for these men to stop, so that this city will not be rebuilt until a further decree has been pronounced by me. Ezra 4:21

Work resumes 15 years later under Haggai and Zechariah

Within 4 years the temple is completed

Restoration of the city stops for 70 years

Between Ezra chapters 6 and 7 there is a gap of 60 years

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

536 BC Babylon overthrown after 70 years by Persia under Cyrus.

536 BC Return from captivity permitted by King Cyrus of Persia.

49,897 Jews return with Zerubbabel.

535 BC Work on the temple is begun and stopped.

520 BC Work renewed by Haggai and Zechariah.

516 BC Temple completed.

478 BC Esther becomes queen of Persia by marrying King Xerxes.

473 BC Esther saves The Jews from massacre.

457 BC Ezra goes from Babylon to Jerusalem.

## EZRA COMES ONTO STAGE IN CHAPTER 7

### Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem

<sup>1</sup> After these events, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Ezra...<sup>6</sup> came up from Babylon.

He was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given.

The king had granted him everything he requested because the hand of Yahweh his God was on him.

<sup>7</sup> Some of the Israelites, priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and temple servants accompanied him to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

<sup>10</sup> Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel. Ezra 7:1-10

### Letter from Artaxerxes

<sup>11</sup> This is the text of the letter King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest and scribe, an expert in matters of the LORD's commands and statutes for Israel: <sup>12</sup> Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, an expert in the law of the God of heaven: Greetings.

<sup>13</sup> I issue a decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including their priests and Levites, who want to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

### Ezra's assignment

<sup>14</sup> You are sent by the king and his seven counselors to evaluate Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of your God, which is in your possession.

<sup>15</sup> You are also to bring the silver and gold the king and his counselors have willingly given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, <sup>16</sup> and all the silver and gold you receive throughout the province of Babylon, together with the freewill offerings given by the people and the priests to the house of their God in Jerusalem.

<sup>17</sup> Then you are to buy with this money as many bulls, rams, and lambs as needed, along with their grain and drink offerings, and offer them on the altar at the house of your God in Jerusalem.

<sup>18</sup> You may do whatever seems best to you and your brothers with the rest of the silver and gold, according to the will of your God. <sup>19</sup>

You must deliver to the God of Jerusalem all the articles given to you for the service of the house of your God.

<sup>20</sup> You may use the royal treasury to pay for anything else needed for the house of your God.

<sup>21</sup> I, King Artaxerxes, issue a decree to all the treasurers in the region west of the Euphrates River: Whatever Ezra the priest, an expert in the law of the God of heaven, asks of you must be provided promptly.

<sup>23</sup> Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven must be done diligently for the house of the God of heaven, so that wrath will not fall on the realm of the king and his sons.

<sup>24</sup> Be advised that tribute, duty, and land tax must not be imposed on any priests, Levites, singers, doorkeepers, temple servants, or [other] servants of this house of God.

<sup>25</sup> And you, Ezra, according to God's wisdom that you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to judge all the people in the region west of the Euphrates who know the laws of your God and to teach anyone who does not know them. Ezra 7:11-25

## Ezra's response

<sup>27</sup> Praise Yahweh the God of our fathers, who has put it into the king's mind to glorify the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, <sup>28</sup> and who has shown favor to me before the king, his counselors, and all his powerful officers. So I took courage because I was strengthened by Yahweh my God, and I gathered Israelite leaders to return with me. Ezra 7:27-28

## Preparing to return

<sup>21</sup> I proclaimed a fast by the Ahava River, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask Him for a safe journey for us, our children, and all our possessions. <sup>22</sup> I did this because I was ashamed to ask the king for infantry and cavalry to protect us from enemies during the journey, since we had told him, "The hand of

our God is gracious to all who seek Him, but His great anger is against all who abandon Him."

<sup>23</sup> So we fasted and pleaded with our God about this, and He granted our request. Ezra 8:21-23

## Arrival in Jerusalem

<sup>31</sup> We set out from the Ahava River on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem. We were strengthened by our God, and He protected us from the power of the enemy and from ambush along the way. <sup>32</sup> So we arrived at Jerusalem and rested there for three days. Ezra 8:31-32

## Burnt offerings

<sup>35</sup> The exiles who had returned from the captivity offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel... <sup>36</sup> They also delivered the king's edicts to the royal satraps and governors of the region west of the Euphrates, so that they would support the people and the house of God. Ezra 8:35-36

## Israel's intermarriage with pagans

<sup>1</sup> After these things had been done, the leaders approached me and said: "The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the surrounding peoples whose detestable practices are like those of the Canaanites... etc

<sup>2</sup> Indeed, the Israelite men have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed has become mixed with the surrounding peoples. The leaders and officials have taken the lead in this unfaithfulness!" Ezra 9:1-2

## Ezra's grief

<sup>3</sup> When I heard this report, I tore my tunic and robe, pulled out some of the hair from my head and beard, and sat down devastated. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me, because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles, while I sat devastated until the evening offering. Ezra 9:3-4

## Ezra's prayer Chapter 9

<sup>5</sup> At the evening offering, I got up from my humiliation, with my tunic and robe torn. Then I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to Yahweh my God.

<sup>6</sup> And I said: My God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face toward You, my God, because our iniquities are higher than [our] heads and our guilt is as high as the heavens.

<sup>7</sup> Our guilt has been terrible from the days of our fathers until the present. Because of our iniquities we have been handed over, along with our kings and priests, to the surrounding kings, and to the sword, captivity, plundering, and open shame, as it is today.

<sup>8</sup> But now, for a brief moment, grace has come from Yahweh our God to preserve a remnant for us and give us a stake in His holy place...<sup>9</sup> Though we are slaves, our God has not abandoned us in our slavery. He has extended grace to us in the presence of the Persian kings, giving us new life, so that we can rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins.

<sup>13</sup> After all that has happened to us because of our evil deeds and terrible guilt...<sup>14</sup> should we break Your commands again and intermarry with the peoples who commit these detestable practices? Wouldn't You become [so] angry with us that You would destroy us, leaving no survivors? Ezra 9:5-14

## Foreign wives divorced

<sup>1</sup> While Ezra prayed and confessed, weeping and falling facedown before the house of God, an extremely large assembly of Israelite men, women, and children gathered around him. The people also wept bitterly.

<sup>2</sup> Then Shecaniah, responded to Ezra: "We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the surrounding peoples, but there is still hope for Israel in spite of this."<sup>3</sup> Let us therefore make a covenant before our God to send away all the [foreign] wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the command of our God. Ezra 10:1-3

## EZRA WAS A MAN OF THE WORD IN EVERY RESPECT

### Ezra loved the bible

### Ezra studied the Bible

<sup>10</sup> Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel. Ezra 7:10

### Ezra wrote the Bible. Most likely Chronicles and Ezra

### As a scribe, Ezra copied the Bible.

### Ezra is the first person to be given the title 'scribe.'

He was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. Ezra 7:6

### Ezra first collated the books of the Bible into the Old Testament canon of Scripture, according to reliable Jewish tradition.

### Ezra taught the Bible. Ezra was the first exegetical preacher/teacher of the Bible as we have today

<sup>1</sup> all the people gathered together at the square in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses that the LORD had given Israel.

<sup>3</sup> While he was facing the square in front of the Water Gate, he read out of it from daybreak until noon before the men, the women,

and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Nehemiah 8:1-3

<sup>8</sup> They read out of the book of the law of God, translating and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was read. Nehemiah 8:8

### **Ezra was the first man to use a pulpit**

<sup>4</sup> Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform made for this purpose. <sup>5</sup> Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people, since he was elevated above everyone. Nehemiah 8:4-5

### **Ezra's favourite saying: The gracious hand of the Lord is on me**

The king had granted him everything he requested because the hand of the lord his God was on him. Ezra 7:6

He began the journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month and arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month since the gracious hand of his God was on him. Ezra 7:9

Since the gracious hand of our God was on us, they brought us Sherebiah—a man of insight from the descendants of Mahli, a descendant of Levi son of Israel—along with his sons and brothers, 18 men, Ezra 8:18

I did this because I was ashamed to ask the king for infantry and cavalry to protect us from enemies during the journey, since we had told him, "The hand of our God is gracious to all who seek Him, but His great anger is against all who abandon Him." Ezra 8:22

Maroubra Baptist Church 10 November 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 30

### Haggai: Holes In Your Money Bags

#### THE DATE: 520BC

<sup>1</sup> In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel..., the governor of Judah, and to Joshua..., the high priest: Haggai 1:1 p1175

#### THE SITUATION: God's temple lies in ruins

<sup>4</sup> This house lies in ruins. Haggai 1:4

#### THE REASON: Opponents had stopped the building work 15 years earlier

<sup>4</sup> Then the people around them tried to discourage the people of Judah by making them afraid to build. <sup>5</sup> Their enemies hired others to delay the building plans during the time Cyrus was king of Persia. And it continued to the time Darius was king of Persia. Ezra 4:4-5

#### THE ATTITUDE: It's not yet time

<sup>2</sup> These people say: The time has not come for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt." Haggai 1:2

#### THE PRIORITY: Your house first. God's second

<sup>3</sup> The word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet: <sup>4</sup> "Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?" Haggai 1:3-4

#### THE EXPERIENCE: Handicap

<sup>6</sup> You have planted much but harvested little.  
You eat but never have enough to be satisfied.  
You drink but never have enough to become drunk.  
You put on clothes but never have enough to get warm.  
The wage earner puts his wages into a bag with a hole in it." Haggai 1:6

<sup>9</sup> "You expected much, but then it amounted to little. When you brought [the harvest] to your house, I ruined it. Haggai 1:9

<sup>10</sup> So on your account, the skies have withheld the dew and the land its crops. <sup>11</sup> I have summoned a drought on the fields and the hills, on the grain, new wine, olive oil, and whatever the ground yields, on man and beast, and on all that your hands produce." Haggai 1:10-11

#### THE REASON: Neglect of God

<sup>9</sup> Why?" This is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts. "Because My house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house. Haggai 1:9

#### THE REMEDY: Rebuild God's house

<sup>5</sup> Now, the LORD of Hosts says this: "Think carefully about your ways:

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "Think carefully about your ways.

<sup>8</sup> Go up into the hills, bring down lumber, and build the house. Then I will be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD. Hagg1:5-8

#### THE RESPONSE: Repentance

<sup>12</sup> Then Zerubbabel..., the high priest Joshua..., and the entire remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and

the words of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. So the people feared the LORD. Haggai 1:12

### **THE PROMISE: I am with you**

<sup>13</sup> Haggai delivered the LORD's message to the people, "I am with you"—this is the LORD's declaration. Haggai 1:13

### **THE INSPIRATION: God's Spirit**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel..., governor of Judah, the spirit of the high priest Joshua..., and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. Haggai 1:14

### **THE ACTION: They began God's work**

They began work on the house of the Lord of Hosts, their God, <sup>15</sup> on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius. Haggai 1:14-15

### **THE EXHORTATION: Be strong**

<sup>4</sup> "Be strong, Zerubbabel"—this is the LORD's declaration. "Be strong, Joshua..., high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land." Haggai 2:4

### **THE MOTIVATION: God's help**

This is the LORD's declaration. "Work! For I am with you"—the declaration of the LORD of Hosts. Haggai 2:4

### **THE PROMISE REPEATED: God's presence**

<sup>5</sup> "This is the promise I made to you when you came out of Egypt, and My Spirit is present among you; don't be afraid." Haggai 2:5

### **THE GLORY: Belongs to God**

<sup>7</sup> I will fill this house with glory," says the LORD of Hosts. <sup>8</sup> "The silver and gold belong to Me"—this is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>9</sup> "The final glory of this house will be greater than the first," says the LORD of Hosts. "I will provide peace in this place"—this is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts. Haggai 2:7-9

### **THE BLESSING: Daily**

<sup>19</sup> From this day on I will bless you. Haggai 2:19

### **SPIRITUAL PARALLEL: We are God's temple**

<sup>16</sup> Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? <sup>17</sup> God's sanctuary is holy, and that is what you are. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

### **THE SOLUTION: Give careful thought to your ways**

<sup>5</sup> Now, the LORD of Hosts says this: "Think carefully about your ways." Haggai 1:5

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of Hosts says this: "Think carefully about your ways." Haggai 1:7

**Repent, rebuild the temple so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured.**

<sup>8</sup> Go up into the hills, bring down lumber, and build the house. Then I will be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD. Haggai 1:8

### **GOD'S RESPONSE: Daily bleasing**

From this day on I will bless you. Haggai 2:19

BIBLE CHARACTERS 31

Nehemiah: The Godly Motivator

*They said to me, "The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem's wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned down." Nehemiah 1:3 p1209*

1. Nehemiah has a heart that beats with God's heart. 1:4

*<sup>4</sup> When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:4 p1209*

2. Nehemiah takes his broken heart to God. 1:5

**Principle: Prayer is always the first thing**

*<sup>5</sup> I said, Yahweh, the God of heaven, the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps His gracious covenant with those who love Him and keep His commands, <sup>6</sup> let Your eyes be open and Your ears be attentive to hear Your servant's prayer that I now pray to You day and night for Your servants, the Israelites. Nehemiah 1:5-6*

3. Nehemiah gets off his knees and risks everything for God. 2:1-3

**But not before praying first**

*<sup>11</sup> Please, Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and to that of Your servants who delight to revere Your name. Give Your servant success today, and have compassion on*

*him in the presence of this man (the king). At the time, I was the king's cupbearer. Nehemiah 1:11*

*<sup>1</sup> During the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was set before him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had never been sad in his presence, <sup>2</sup> so the king said to me, "Why are you sad, when you aren't sick? This is nothing but depression." I was overwhelmed with fear <sup>3</sup> and replied to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should I not be sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Nehemiah 2:1-3*

4. Nehemiah knows what he wants for the task and asks for it. 2:4-8

*<sup>4</sup> Then the king asked me, "What is your request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven <sup>5</sup> and answered the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it." Nehemiah 2:4-5*

(1) Time 2:6

*<sup>6</sup> The king, with the queen seated beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you return?" So I gave him a definite time, and it pleased the king to send me. Nehemiah 2:6*

(2) Authority 2:7

*<sup>7</sup> I also said to the king: "If it pleases the king, let me have letters written to the governors of the region west of the Euphrates River, so that they will grant me safe passage until I reach Judah. Nehemiah 2:7*

(3) Resources 2:8

<sup>8</sup> *And let me have a letter written to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so that he will give me timber to rebuild the gates of the temple's fortress, the city wall, and the home where I will live." The king granted my requests, for I was graciously strengthened by my God. Nehemiah 2:8*

## **5. Nehemiah inspects the ruins. 2:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> *After I arrived in Jerusalem and had been there three days, <sup>12</sup> I got up at night and took a few men with me. I didn't tell anyone what my God had laid on my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I took was the one I was riding.*

<sup>13</sup> *I went out at night through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup> I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through. <sup>15</sup> So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned.*

<sup>16</sup> *The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles, officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work. Nehemiah 2:11-16*

## **6. Nehemiah motivates his people. 2:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> *So I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned down. Come, let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall, so that we will no longer be a disgrace."*

<sup>18</sup> *I told them how the gracious hand of my God had been on me, and what the king had said to me.*

*They said, "Let's start rebuilding," and they were encouraged to do this good work. Nehemiah 2:17-18*

*The God of heaven is the One who will grant us success. Nehemiah 2:20*

## **What makes Nehemiah a godly motivator?**

- 1. The cultivation of a heart that beats with God's heart.**
- 2. The development of a vital prayer life.**
- 3. The willingness to risk everything for God.**
- 4. A great confidence in his God. Dependence upon God for all that he needs and the belief that God would supply it.**
- 5. A willingness to inspect the ruins with a view to doing something about them.**

## **7. Nehemiah gets everyone onto the wall. (Chapter 3)**

*Next to him... Next to him... Next to him... Nehemiah 3*

## **8. There were some who refused to work. 3:5**

*The Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not lift a finger to help their supervisors. Nehemiah 3:5*

## **9. Nehemiah reaches crisis point - the half way mark. 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> *So we rebuilt the wall until the entire wall was joined together up to half its height. Nehemiah 4:6*

## **10. The crisis comes from...**

- (a) Opposition from without 4:1-3, 7-9**

<sup>1</sup> When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious. He mocked the Jews <sup>2</sup> before his colleagues and the powerful men of Samaria, and said, "What are these pathetic Jews doing? Can they restore it by themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they ever finish it? Can they bring these burnt stones back to life from the mounds of rubble?" <sup>3</sup> Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, "Indeed, even if a fox climbed up what they are building, he would break down their stone wall!" Nehemiah 4:1-3

<sup>4</sup> Listen, our God, for we are despised. Make their insults return on their own heads and let them be taken as plunder to a land of captivity. <sup>5</sup> Do not cover their guilt or let their sin be erased from Your sight, because they have provoked the builders. Neh 4:4-5

<sup>7</sup> When Sanballat, Tobiah, and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they became furious. <sup>8</sup> They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw it into confusion.

<sup>9</sup> So we prayed to our God and stationed a guard because of them day and night. Nehemiah 4:7-9

### **(b) Discouragement from within 4:10-12**

The people worked with all their heart. Nehemiah 4:6 NIV

<sup>10</sup> In Judah, it was said: The strength of the laborer fails, since there is so much rubble. We will never be able to rebuild the wall.

<sup>11</sup> And our enemies said, "They won't know or see anything until we're among them and can kill them and stop the work."

<sup>12</sup> When the Jews who lived nearby arrived, they said to us time and again, "Everywhere you turn, they attack us." Neh 4:10-12

## **12. Nehemiah gets their focus back on to God. 4:14**

Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome. Neh 4:14 NIV

## **13. The people's strength is renewed 4:16-18, 21-23**

<sup>16</sup> From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers supported all the people of Judah, <sup>17</sup> who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other. <sup>18</sup> Each of the builders had his sword strapped around his waist while he was building, and the trumpeter was beside me. Nehemiah 4:16-18

<sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the trumpet sound, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us!" <sup>21</sup> So we continued the work, while half of the men were holding spears from daybreak until the stars came out. <sup>22</sup> At that time, I also said to the people, "Let everyone and his servant spend the night inside Jerusalem, so that they can stand guard by night and work by day." <sup>23</sup> And I, my brothers, my men, and the guards with me never took off our clothes. Each carried his weapon, even when washing. Nehemiah 4:20-23

## **14. Nehemiah stops work on the wall to attend to a greater priority 5:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> There was a widespread outcry from the people and their wives against their Jewish countrymen. <sup>3</sup> Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, vineyards, and homes to get grain during the famine."

<sup>4</sup> Still others were saying, "We have borrowed money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards. <sup>5</sup> We are subjecting our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters are already enslaved, but we are powerless because our fields and vineyards belong to others."

<sup>6</sup> I became extremely angry when I heard these complaints. <sup>7</sup> After seriously considering the matter, I accused the nobles and officials, saying to them, "Each of you is charging his countrymen interest." So I called a large assembly against them. Nehemiah 5:1-7

**Nehemiah's private prayer:** <sup>19</sup> Remember me favorably, my God, for all that I have done for this people. Nehemiah 5:19

## 15. Nehemiah refuses to be distracted. 6:1-5

<sup>1</sup> When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and that no gap was left in it—though at that time I had not installed the doors in the gates—<sup>2</sup> Sanballat and Geshem sent me a message: “Come, let’s meet together in the villages of the Ono Valley.” But they were planning to harm me.

<sup>3</sup> So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”

<sup>4</sup> Four times they sent me the same proposal, and I gave them the same reply. <sup>5</sup> Sanballat sent me this same message a fifth time by his aide, who had an open letter in his hand. Nehemiah 6:1-5

## 16. Nehemiah refuses to be discouraged. 6:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Then I replied to him, “There is nothing to these rumors you are spreading; you are inventing them in your own mind.”<sup>9</sup> For they were all trying to intimidate us, saying, “They will become discouraged in the work, and it will never be finished.” But now, my God, strengthen me. Nehemiah 6:8-9

## 17. Nehemiah refuses to be intimidated. 6:10-14

<sup>10</sup> Shemaiah said: “They are coming to kill you tonight!”<sup>11</sup> But I said, “Should a man like me run away?”<sup>13</sup> He was hired, so that I would be intimidated.

<sup>14</sup> My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat for what they have done, and also the other prophets who wanted to intimidate me. Nehemiah 6:10-14

## 18. Nehemiah completes the wall. 6:15

<sup>15</sup> The wall was completed in 52 days. Nehemiah 6:15

## 19. Nehemiah's enemies lose their self confidence 6:16

<sup>16</sup> When all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence, for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God. Nehemiah 6:16

## 20. Nehemiah and Ezra lead a revival (Ch 8-10)

<sup>1</sup> All the people gathered together at the square in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses that the LORD had given Israel. <sup>3</sup> He read out of it from daybreak until noon before the men, the women, and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively.

<sup>4</sup> Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform made for this purpose. <sup>6</sup> Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and with their hands uplifted all the people said, “Amen, Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup> They read out of the book of the law of God, translating and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was read. Nehemiah 8:1-8

<sup>12</sup> Then all the people began to eat and drink, send portions, and have a great celebration, because they had understood the words that were explained to them. Nehemiah 8:12

<sup>17</sup> The whole community made booths and lived in them. They had not celebrated like this from the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day. And there was tremendous joy. <sup>18</sup> Ezra read out of the book of the law of God every day, from the first day to the last. The Israelites celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day there was an assembly, according to the ordinance. Ne8:17-18

<sup>2</sup> They stood and confessed their sins and the guilt of their fathers. <sup>3</sup> While they stood in their places, they read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day and spent another fourth of the day in confession and worship of the LORD their God. Nehemiah 9:2-3

Maroubra Baptist Church 24 November 2013

## BIBLE CHARACTERS 32

Esther: Queen for such a time as this

Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.” Esther 4:14 p1197

### God prompts Queen Vashti to refuse the king

<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the king was feeling good from the wine, Ahasuerus commanded the seven eunuchs who personally served him, <sup>11</sup> to bring Queen Vashti before him with her royal crown. He wanted to show off her beauty to the people and the officials, because she was very beautiful.

<sup>12</sup> But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command that was delivered by his eunuchs. The king became furious and his anger burned within him. Esther 1:10-12

### God has Queen Vashti removed

Vashti is not to enter King Ahasuerus's presence, and her royal position is to be given to another woman who is more worthy than she. Esther 1:19

<sup>20</sup> The decree the king issues will be heard throughout his vast kingdom, so all women will honor their husbands, from the least to the greatest.” Esther 1:20

### God oversees the search for a new queen

<sup>1</sup> Some time later, when King Ahasuerus's rage had cooled down, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what was decided against her. <sup>2</sup> The king's personal attendants suggested, “Let a search be made for beautiful young women for the king. <sup>3</sup> Put them under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the

women, and give them the required beauty treatments. <sup>4</sup> Then the young woman who pleases the king will become queen instead of Vashti.” This suggestion pleased the king, and he did accordingly. Esther 2:1-4

### God positions Esther for the job

<sup>5</sup> In the fortress of Susa, there was a Jewish man named Mordecai son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite. <sup>6</sup> He had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the other captives when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took King Jeconiah of Judah into exile.

<sup>7</sup> Mordecai was the legal guardian of his cousin Hadassah (that is, Esther), because she didn't have a father or mother. Esther 2:5-7

### God sees to it that Esther is noticed

The young woman had a beautiful figure and was extremely good-looking. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter.

<sup>8</sup> When the king's command and edict became public knowledge, many young women gathered at the fortress of Susa under Hegai's care. Esther was also taken to the palace and placed under the care of Hegai, who was in charge of the women. Esther 2:7-8

### God gives Esther favour with the man in charge

<sup>9</sup> The young woman pleased him and gained his favor so that he accelerated the process of the beauty treatments and the special diet that she received. He assigned seven hand-picked female servants to her from the palace and transferred her and her servants to the harem's best quarters. Esther 2:9

### God gives Esther wisdom and tact through Mordecai

<sup>10</sup> Esther did not reveal her ethnic background or her birthplace, because Mordecai had ordered her not to. Esther 2:10

## God gives Esther great support and encouragement through Mordecai

<sup>11</sup> Every day Mordecai took a walk in front of the harem's courtyard to learn how Esther was doing and to see what was happening to her. Esther 2:11

## God's sets Esther up for success

<sup>15</sup> Esther won approval in the sight of everyone who saw her. Esther 2:15

## God gives Esther favour with the king

When her turn came to go to the king... <sup>17</sup> The king loved Esther more than all the other women. She won more favor and approval from him than did any of the other young women. Esther 2:16-17

## God has Esther crowned

He placed the royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti. Esther 2:17

<sup>18</sup> The king held a great banquet for all his officials and staff. It was Esther's banquet. <sup>20</sup> Esther still had not revealed her birthplace or her ethnic background, as Mordecai had directed. She obeyed Mordecai's orders, as she always had while he raised her. Esther 2:18

## God gives Mordecai a chance to win favour with the king

<sup>21</sup> During those days while Mordecai was sitting at the King's Gate, two eunuchs who guarded the king's entrance, became infuriated and planned to assassinate King Ahasuerus. <sup>22</sup> When Mordecai learned of the plot, he reported it to Queen Esther, and she told the king on Mordecai's behalf.

<sup>23</sup> When the report was investigated and verified, both men were hanged on the gallows. This event was recorded in the Historical Record in the king's presence. Esther 2:21-23

## God sets up Haman for a fall

<sup>1</sup> After all this took place, King Ahasuerus honored Haman, the Agagite. He promoted him in rank and gave him a higher position than all the other officials. <sup>2</sup> The entire royal staff at the King's Gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, because the king had commanded this to be done for him. But Mordecai would not bow down or pay homage.

<sup>3</sup> The members of the royal staff at the King's Gate asked Mordecai, "Why are you disobeying the king's command?" <sup>4</sup> When they had warned him day after day and he still would not listen to them, they told Haman to see if Mordecai's actions would be tolerated, since he had told them he was a Jew. Esther 3:1-3

## God allows Haman to make a plan to kill the Jews

<sup>5</sup> When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down or paying him homage, he was filled with rage. <sup>6</sup> And when he learned of Mordecai's ethnic identity, Haman decided not to do away with Mordecai alone. He planned to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout Ahasuerus's kingdom.

<sup>8</sup> Then Haman informed King Ahasuerus, "There is one ethnic group, scattered throughout the peoples in every province of your kingdom, yet living in isolation. Their laws are different from everyone else's and they do not obey the king's laws. It is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. <sup>9</sup> If the king approves, let an order be drawn up authorizing their destruction.

<sup>10</sup> The king removed his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the enemy of the Jewish people.

<sup>13</sup> Letters were sent by couriers to each of the royal provinces telling the officials to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jewish people—young and old, women and children—and plunder their possessions on a single day, the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month. Esther 3:5-13

## God calls Esther to make a courageous stand

<sup>1</sup> When Mordecai learned all that had occurred, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, went into the middle of the city, and cried loudly and bitterly. <sup>3</sup> There was great mourning among the Jewish people in every province. They fasted, wept, and lamented, and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> Esther's female servants and her eunuchs came and reported the news to her, and the queen was overcome with fear. <sup>5</sup> Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to her, and dispatched him to Mordecai to learn what he was doing and why. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai told him everything that had happened... <sup>8</sup> Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa ordering their destruction, so that Hathach might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and command her to approach the king, implore his favor, and plead with him personally for her people.

<sup>9</sup> Hathach came and repeated Mordecai's response to Esther. <sup>10</sup> Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to tell Mordecai, <sup>11</sup> "All the royal officials and the people of the royal provinces know that one law applies to every man or woman who approaches the king in the inner courtyard and who has not been summoned—[the] death [penalty]. Only if the king extends the gold scepter will that person live. I have not been summoned to appear before the king for the last 30 days."

<sup>12</sup> Esther's response was reported to Mordecai. <sup>13</sup> Mordecai told [the messenger] to reply to Esther, "Don't think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king's palace. Esther 4:1-12

## God gives Esther her royal position 'for such a time as this'

<sup>14</sup> If you keep silent at this time, liberation and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's house will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." Esther 4:14

## God prompts Esther to call for prayer

<sup>15</sup> Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, day or night. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went and did everything Esther had ordered him. Esther 4:15-17

## God gives Esther a safe meeting with the king

<sup>1</sup> On the third day, Esther dressed up in her royal clothing and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace facing it. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the royal courtroom, facing its entrance.

<sup>2</sup> As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she won his approval. The king extended the gold scepter in his hand toward Esther, and she approached and touched the tip of the scepter. Esther 5:1-2

## God gives Esther extra favour with the king

<sup>3</sup> "What is it, Queen Esther?" the king asked her. "Whatever you want, even to half the kingdom, will be given to you."

<sup>4</sup> "If it pleases the king," Esther replied, "may the king and Haman come today to the banquet I have prepared for them." <sup>5</sup> The king commanded, "Hurry, and get Haman so we can do as Esther has requested." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared.

<sup>6</sup> While drinking the wine, the king asked Esther, "Whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you want, even to half the kingdom, will be done."

<sup>7</sup> Esther answered, "May the king and Haman come to the banquet I will prepare for them. Tomorrow I will do what the king has asked." Esther 5:3-7

## God allows Haman's pride to swell

<sup>9</sup> That day Haman left full of joy and in good spirits. <sup>10</sup> ... and went home. He sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh to join him.

<sup>11</sup> Then Haman described for them his glorious wealth and his many sons. He told them all how the king had honored him and promoted him in rank over the other officials and the royal staff. <sup>12</sup> "What's more," Haman added, "Queen Esther invited no one but me to join the king at the banquet she had prepared. I am invited again tomorrow to join her with the king. Esther 5:9-12

## God allows Haman to build a gallows

<sup>13</sup> Still, none of this satisfies me since I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the King's Gate all the time." <sup>14</sup> His wife Zeresh and all his friends told him, "Have them build a gallows 75 feet high. Ask the king in the morning to hang Mordecai on it. Then go to the banquet with the king and enjoy yourself." The advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows constructed. Esther 5:13-14

## God gives the king a sleepless night

<sup>1</sup> That night sleep escaped the king, so he ordered the book recording daily events to be brought and read to the king. Esther 6:1

## God shows the king how Mordecai had saved his life

<sup>2</sup> They found the written report of how Mordecai had informed on Bigthana and Teresh, two eunuchs who guarded the [king's] entrance, when they planned to assassinate King Ahasuerus. <sup>3</sup> The king inquired, "What honor and special recognition have been given to Mordecai for this act?" The king's personal attendants replied, "Nothing has been done for him." Esther 6:2-3

## God brings Haman along just at the right time

<sup>4</sup> The king asked, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman was just entering the outer court of the palace to ask the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had prepared for him. (Irony) <sup>5</sup> The

king's attendants answered him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." "Have him enter," the king ordered. Esther 6:4-5

## God draws Haman in, hook, line and sinker

<sup>6</sup> Haman entered, and the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king wants to honor?" Haman thought to himself, "Who is it the king would want to honor more than me?" (Irony) Esther 6:6

## God sets up Haman for a big fall

<sup>7</sup> Haman told the king, "For the man the king wants to honor: <sup>8</sup> Have them bring a royal garment that the king himself has worn and a horse the king himself has ridden, which has a royal diadem on its head. <sup>9</sup> Put the garment and the horse under the charge of one of the king's most noble officials. Have them clothe the man the king wants to honor, parade him on the horse through the city square, and proclaim before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king wants to honor.'" (Irony) Esther 6:7-9

## God humiliates Haman

<sup>10</sup> The king told Haman, "Hurry, and do just as you proposed. Take a garment and a horse for Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the King's Gate. Do not leave out anything you have suggested." (Irony)

<sup>11</sup> So Haman took the garment and the horse. He clothed Mordecai and paraded him through the city square, crying out before him, "This is what is done for the man the king wants to honor." (Humiliation)

<sup>12</sup> Then Mordecai returned to the King's Gate, but Haman, overwhelmed, hurried off for home with his head covered. <sup>13</sup> Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "...your downfall is certain."

<sup>14</sup> While they were still speaking with him, the eunuchs of the king arrived and rushed Haman to the banquet Esther had prepared. Esther 6:10-14

## God sets the scene for Esther's request

<sup>1</sup> The king and Haman came to feast with Esther the queen. <sup>2</sup> Once again, on the second day while drinking wine, the king asked Esther, "Queen Esther, whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you seek, even to half the kingdom, will be done." 7:1-2

## God allows Esther's request to be made

<sup>3</sup> Queen Esther answered, "If I have obtained your approval, my king, and if the king is pleased, spare my life—this is my request; and spare my people—this is my desire. <sup>4</sup> For my people and I have been sold out to destruction, death, and extermination. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept silent. Indeed, the trouble wouldn't be worth burdening the king." Esther 7:3-4

## God exposes Haman's evil plan

<sup>5</sup> King Ahasuerus spoke up and asked Queen Esther, "Who is this, and where is the one who would devise such a scheme?" <sup>6</sup> Esther answered, "The adversary and enemy is this evil Haman." Haman stood terrified before the king and queen. Esther 7:5-6

## God humiliates Haman one last time

<sup>7</sup> Angered by this, the king arose from where they were drinking wine and went to the palace garden. Haman remained to beg Queen Esther for his life because he realized the king was planning something terrible for him.

<sup>8</sup> Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the house of wine drinking, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Would he actually violate the queen while I am in the palace?" (Irony) Esther 7:7-8

## God has Haman executed

As soon as the statement left the king's mouth, Haman's face was covered.

<sup>9</sup> Harbona, one of the royal eunuchs, said: "There is a gallows 75 feet tall at Haman's house that he made for Mordecai, who gave the report that saved the king." The king commanded, "Hang him on it."

<sup>10</sup> They hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. (Irony) Then the king's anger subsided. Esther 7:8-10

## God has Mordecai honoured and promoted

<sup>1</sup> That same day King Ahasuerus awarded Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews (Irony). Mordecai entered the king's presence because Esther had revealed her relationship to Mordecai. <sup>2</sup> The king removed his signet ring he had recovered from Haman and gave it to Mordecai (Irony), and Esther put him in charge of Haman's estate (Irony). Esther 8:1-2

## God gives Esther a good hearing with the king

<sup>3</sup> Then Esther addressed the king again. She fell at his feet, wept, and begged him to revoke the evil of Haman the Agagite, and his plot he had devised against the Jews.

<sup>7</sup> King Ahasuerus said to Esther the Queen and to Mordecai the Jew, <sup>8</sup> "You may write in the king's name whatever pleases you concerning the Jews, and seal it with the royal signet ring. A document written in the king's name and sealed with the royal signet ring cannot be revoked." Esther 8:3-7

## God gives Mordecai an open cheque

<sup>10</sup> Mordecai wrote in King Ahasuerus's name and sealed the edicts with the royal signet ring. He sent the documents by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses bred from the royal racing mares.

<sup>11</sup> The king's edict gave the Jews in each and every city the right to assemble and defend themselves, to destroy, kill, and annihilate every ethnic and provincial army hostile to them, including women and children, and to take their possessions as spoils of war.

<sup>12</sup> This would take place on a single day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar. Esther 8:10-12

## God turns the tables

<sup>1</sup> The king's command and law went into effect on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar. On the day when the Jews' enemies had hoped to overpower them, just the opposite happened (Irony). The Jews overpowered those who hated them. Esther 9:1

## God gives Mordecai great power

<sup>2</sup> In each of King Ahasuerus's provinces the Jews assembled in their cities to attack those who intended to harm them. Not a single person could withstand them; terror of them fell on every nationality. <sup>3</sup> All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the royal civil administrators aided the Jews because they were afraid of Mordecai. <sup>4</sup> For Mordecai [exercised] great power in the palace, and his fame spread throughout the provinces as he became more and more powerful. Esther 9:2-4

## God gives the Jews a great victory

<sup>5</sup> The Jews put all their enemies to the sword, killing and destroying them. They did what they pleased to those who hated them.

<sup>12</sup> The king said to Queen Esther, "In the fortress of Susa the Jews have killed and destroyed 500 men, including Haman's 10 sons. What have they done in the rest of the royal provinces?" Esther 9:5,12

## God rubs it in

Whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you seek will also be done."<sup>13</sup> Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, may the Jews who are in Susa also have tomorrow to carry out today's law, and may the bodies of Haman's 10 sons be hung on the gallows."

<sup>14</sup> The king gave the orders for this to be done...<sup>15</sup> The Jews in Susa assembled again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed 300 men in Susa, but they did not seize any plunder. <sup>16</sup> The rest of the Jews in the royal provinces assembled, defended

themselves, and got rid of their enemies. They killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they did not seize any plunder. Esther 9:12-16

## God sets up a perpetual memorial

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these events and sent letters to all the Jews in all of King Ahasuerus's provinces, both near and far. <sup>21</sup> He ordered them to celebrate the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month Adar every year <sup>22</sup> because during those days the Jews got rid of their enemies. That was the month when their sorrow was turned into rejoicing and their mourning into a holiday. They were to be days of feasting, rejoicing, and of sending gifts to one another and the poor.

<sup>28</sup> These days are remembered and celebrated by every generation, family, province, and city, so that these days of Purim will not lose their significance in Jewish life and their memory will not fade from their descendants.

<sup>29</sup> Queen Esther, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote this second letter with full authority to confirm the letter about Purim. <sup>32</sup> So Esther's command confirmed these customs of Purim, which were then written into the record. Esther 9:20-32

## God elevates Mordecai to great fame and fortune

<sup>2</sup> All of his powerful and magnificent accomplishments and the detailed account of Mordecai's great rank to which the king had honored him, have they not been written in the Historical Records of the Kings of Media and Persia?

<sup>3</sup> Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus, famous among the Jews, and highly popular with many of his relatives. He continued to seek good for his people and to speak for the welfare of all his descendants. Esther 10:2-3

**Maroubra Baptist Church 1 December 2013**

**BIBLE CHARACTERS 33**

**Malachi: Stop Robbing God**

**An oracle: The word of the LORD to Israel  
through Malachi. 1:1 p1239**

**ORACLE 1: RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE 1:2-5**

<sup>2</sup> *"I have loved you," says the LORD.*

*But you ask: "How have You loved us?" 1:2*

**Respond to God's love...**

**By appreciating it**

**By showing our appreciation through actions**

**ORACLE 2: HONOUR GOD 1:6-2:9**

<sup>6</sup> *"You priests despise My name."*

*Yet you ask: "How have we despised Your name?"*

<sup>7</sup> *"By presenting defiled food on My altar."*

*You ask: "How have we defiled You?" 1:6-7*

<sup>8</sup> *"When you present a blind animal for sacrifice, is it not wrong? And when you present a lame or sick animal, is it not wrong? Bring it to your governor! Would he be pleased with you or show you favor?" asks the LORD of Hosts. Malachi 1:8*

<sup>10</sup> *"I wish one of you would shut the temple doors, so you would no longer kindle a useless fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of Hosts, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. Malachi 1:10*

<sup>13</sup> *You also say: "Look, what a nuisance!" "And you scorn it," says the LORD of Hosts. "You bring stolen, lame, or sick animals. You bring this as an offering! Am I to accept that from your hands?" asks the LORD. Malachi 1:13*

**Honour God...**

**By giving him nothing but the best**

**By counting it a privilege to serve Him**

**ORACLE 3: BE FAITHFUL AS GOD'S PEOPLE 2:10-16**

<sup>13</sup> *"God no longer respects your offerings or receives them gladly."*

<sup>14</sup> *Yet you ask, "For what reason?" 2:13-14*

**Be faithful...**

**By repenting of all sin**

*'If I hold on to sin in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.' Psalm 66:18*

**By displaying the fruit of repentance**

## ORACLE 4: HOPE IN GOD 2:17-3:6

<sup>17</sup> “You have wearied the LORD with your words.”

**Yet you ask, “How have we wearied Him?” 2:17**

*When you say, “Everyone who does what is evil is good in the LORD’s sight, and He is pleased with them,” or “Where is the God of justice?” Malachi 2:17*

**Hope in God...**

**By putting away all unbelieving talk**

**By not blaming God**

## ORACLE 5: OBEY GOD 3:7-12

<sup>7</sup> “Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Hosts.

**But you ask: “How can we return?”**

<sup>8</sup> “You are robbing Me!”

**You ask: “How do we rob You?” 3:7-8**

*“By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions. <sup>9</sup> You are suffering under a curse, yet you—the whole nation—are still robbing Me. Malachi 3:7-9*

**Obey God...**

**By ceasing to rob God**

**By giving Him what rightfully belongs to Him**

## ORACLE 6: FEAR GOD 3:13-4:3

<sup>13</sup> “Your words against Me are harsh,” says the LORD.

**Yet you ask: “What have we spoken against You?” 3:13**

<sup>14</sup> You have said: “It is useless to serve God. What have we gained by keeping His requirements and walking mournfully before the LORD of Hosts? <sup>15</sup> So now we consider the arrogant to be fortunate. Not only do those who commit wickedness prosper, they even test God and escape.” Malachi 3:13-15

**Fear God...**

**By not envying the ungodly who prosper**

**By not speaking negatively about God**

## CHALLENGE: TEST GOD 3:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way,” says the LORD of Hosts. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.

<sup>11</sup> I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not ruin the produce of your land and your vine in your field will not fail to produce fruit,” says the LORD of Hosts. <sup>12</sup> “Then all the nations will consider you fortunate, for you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD of Hosts. Malachi 3:10-12

**Test God...**

**By bringing all the tithes into the storehouse**

**By giving faithfully in faith**

**Maroubra Baptist Church 15 December 2013**

**BIBLE CHARACTERS 34**

**John The Baptist: Forerunner To Jesus**

**BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS – 400 YEARS**

**1. The Persian Period 430-332 B.C. 98 years**

- The story of the Old Testament ends around 430 B.C. with the prophet Malachi.
- The Babylonians, who had destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C., had been conquered by the Medes and Persians.
- The Persian king Cyrus allowed the Jews to go back to Jerusalem in 536 B.C.
- Under Ezra and Nehemiah, the temple and the city walls were rebuilt.
- Thus, at the close of the Old Testament, Judah was a Persian province.

**2. The Greek Period 331-167 B.C. 164 years**

- In 336 B.C., at the age of 20, Alexander the Great assumed command of the Greek army and swept eastward over the lands that had been under the rule of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Persia.
- By 331 B.C. the whole world lay at his feet.
- When Alexander invaded Palestine in 332 B.C., he showed great consideration toward the Jews, spared Jerusalem, and offered the Jews inducements to settle in Alexandria, Egypt. He established Greek cities all over his conquered domains, with the intent of

spreading Greek culture and the Greek language throughout the world.

- After a brief reign, he died in 323 B.C. at the age of 33.
- His empire did not last, but his dream did: Greek language and culture (Hellenism) would dominate the world for many centuries

**3. The Maccabean Period, 167-63 B.C. 104 years**

- A Century of Independence.
- Brought about by the valiant efforts of John Maccabeas and his heroic five sons, in the face of extreme persecution by the mad, bad and dangerous Syrian King, who tried to wipe out the Jews.

**4. The Roman Period (63 B.C.- A.D. 636) 63 years to Christ**

- General Pompey made Palestine part of the Roman Empire in 63BC.

**GOD'S PREPARATION FOR THE GOSPEL**

In this period of 400 years of silence from God, God was preparing the world for the coming Saviour and for the spread of the Gospel message.

**1. The Greeks brought in a common language throughout the world.** That allowed the NT, written in Greek, to be understood throughout the world.

**2. The Romans built roads throughout the world.** 'All roads lead to Rome.' That allowed the Gospel message to be carried along those roads to all parts of the world at that time.

## AND NOW JESUS

And so, it was into this world, totally prepared in every detail by Sovereign God, that His Son Jesus was born.

And now, after 400 years of silence, God was going to speak in the greatest way possible.

<sup>1</sup> *In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,* <sup>2</sup> *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.* Hebrews 1:1-2 NIV

**And so, God announces the birth of Jesus to Mary.**

**A few months earlier, God had announced the birth of another baby - John the Baptist – to Mary's cousin Elizabeth**

**John's birth foretold**

<sup>13</sup> *The angel (Gabriel) said to him: Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.* Luke 1:13

**God's hand on John even before birth**

<sup>15</sup> *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord... He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb.* Luke 1:15

**John's mission foretold**

<sup>17</sup> *And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people.* Luke 1:17

**John's mum Elizabeth and Jesus' mum Mary were related**

<sup>36</sup> *And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless.* <sup>37</sup> *For nothing will be impossible with God.”* Luke 1:36-37

**Mary visits Elizabeth when they are both pregnant**

<sup>39</sup> *In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah* <sup>40</sup> *where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.* Luke 1:39-40

**Unborn baby John leaps when unborn baby Jesus enters**

<sup>41</sup> *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* Luke 1:41

**John is named**

<sup>59</sup> *When they came to circumcise the child on the eighth day, they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father.* <sup>60</sup> *But his mother responded, “No! He will be called John.”*

<sup>61</sup> *Then they said to her, “None of your relatives has that name.”* <sup>62</sup> *So they motioned to his father to find out what he wanted him to be called.* <sup>63</sup> *He asked for a writing tablet and wrote: **HIS NAME IS JOHN.*** And they were all amazed. Luke 1:59-63

**John's childhood**

*The child grew up and became spiritually strong, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.* Lu 1:80

**John's call**

<sup>2</sup> *during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, God's word came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.* Luke 3:2

## **John's ministry**

<sup>3</sup> He went into all the vicinity of the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 3:3

## **John's ministry foretold 700 years beforehand**

<sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Luke 3:4

## **John's model - Elijah**

<sup>5</sup> Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of the LORD comes. Malachi 4:5

He is the Elijah who is to come. Matthew 11:14

<sup>10</sup> So the disciples questioned Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" <sup>12</sup> "I tell you: Elijah has already come, and they didn't recognize him. On the contrary, they did whatever they pleased to him. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them about John the Baptist. Matthew 17:10-13

<sup>21</sup> "What then?" they asked him. "Are you Elijah?" "I am not," he said. "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered. John 1:21

## **John's food - Like Elijah**

His food was locusts and wild honey. Matthew 3:4

## **John's clothing. Like Elijah**

<sup>4</sup> John himself had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist. Matthew 3:4

## **John's mission**

Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight! <sup>5</sup> Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low; the crooked will become straight, the rough ways smooth, <sup>6</sup> and everyone will see the salvation of God. Luke 3:4-6

## **John's mission foretold**

<sup>3</sup> For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said: A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight! Matthew 3:3

## **John's message - Repent**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" Matthew 3:1-2

<sup>7</sup> He then said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

<sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance.

<sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is ready to strike the root of the trees! Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> "What then should we do?" the crowds were asking him. Luke 3:7-10

**That was to pave the way for the message that Jesus was to preach... repent.**

## **John's humility**

<sup>15</sup> Now the people were waiting expectantly, and all of them were debating in their minds whether John might be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but One is coming who is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to untie the strap of His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Lu 3:15-16

## **John's success. Great multitudes came to be baptized**

<sup>5</sup> Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were flocking to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. Matthew 3:5-6

## **Even Herod liked to listen to him**

<sup>20</sup> Herod was in awe of John and was protecting him, knowing he was a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard him he would be very disturbed, yet would hear him gladly. Mark 6:20

## **John's disciples. Two of them became Jesus' disciples**

<sup>35</sup> Again the next day, John was standing with two of his disciples.

<sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this and followed Jesus. John 1:35-37

## **John's baptism of Jesus**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?" <sup>15</sup> Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him to be baptized. Matt 3:13-15

## **John's imprisonment**

But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him about Herodias, his brother's wife, and about all the evil things Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added this to everything else—he locked John up in prison. Luke 3:19-20

## **John's death**

<sup>6</sup> But when Herod's birthday celebration came, Herodias's daughter danced before them and pleased Herod. <sup>7</sup> So he promised with an

oath to give her whatever she might ask. <sup>8</sup> And prompted by her mother, she answered, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter!" <sup>9</sup> Although the king regretted it, he commanded that it be granted because of his oaths and his guests. <sup>10</sup> So he sent orders and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup> His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. Mat14:6-11

## **Jesus' reaction to John's death**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard about it, He withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed Him on foot from the towns. Matthew 14:13

## **Jesus' response to the crowd that robbed him of the opportunity to grieve John's death**

<sup>14</sup> As He stepped ashore, He saw a huge crowd, felt compassion for them, and healed their sick... <sup>21</sup> Now those who ate were about 5,000 men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:14, 21

## **John's reputation. None greater than John, says Jesus**

<sup>11</sup> "I assure you: Among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared. Matthew 11:11

## **CHALLENGE**

### **Can I say, as Jesus said,**

*I must be about My Father's business? Luke 2:49*

### **So that I can then say what Jesus also said...**

<sup>4</sup> *I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. John 17:4*

### **Am I willing to say what John said...**

<sup>30</sup> *He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30*