

### 50 DAYS - 8 EPOCHS!

The **Eight Great Epochs In The Fabric Of Time** DVD's and work pad have been produced to help grasp the "big picture" on the God Story and to think through some of the deeper issues of life.

I have done my best to accurately represent the Living God's words about time, eternity, life, death, and the human struggle.

There are 4 DVD's that include eight presentations which are about 30 minutes in length. This work pad follows these DVD presentations, asking questions to augment your understanding of what is presented.

My work is to provide an accurate representation of the facts, not recruit you to an ideology. It is my hope that your worldview will be enhanced as you systematically think your way through each Epoch in their unfolding context.

For a 'beginner' it would be good to read the verses, but for someone looking for a fuller understanding of the God story, context is always necessary. To find context, you should read back and forth over the verses that are listed. And if you can, underline or highlight in your bible each verse you reference.

**ENJOY!** 

Dave Nadler



### EIGHT GREAT EPOCHS within the fabric of time!

EPOCH ONE (Days 1-7)	
ORIGINS	pages 7-22
EPOCHTWO (Days 8-17)	
DELIVERANCE.	pages 23-39
EPOCHTHREE (Days 18-22)	
KINGS & KINGDOMS	pages 40-51
EPOCH FOUR (Days 23-25)	
PROPHETS & CAPTIVITY	pages 52-60
EPOCH FIVE (Days 26-29)	
THE RETURN & THE SILENCE	pages 61-67
EPOCH SIX (Days 30-36)	
THE SHINING LIGHT	pages 68-99
EPOCH SEVEN (37-39)	
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH	pages 100-11
EDOCH FIGHT (D. 40.50)	
EPOCH EIGHT (Days 40-50)	
THE END OF THE AGE	pages 113-135



### How to get the most out of this experience...

The slides on these pages mirror the eight presentations included in your four DVD's. I believe if you take three different "passes" at each presentation, you will walk away with enough to evaluate and stimulate your personal worldview from a spiritual perspective.

### What do I mean by worldview?

Each of us has a series of beliefs or operating principles upon which we make our decisions. For instance, if we lost someone important to us at some point in our life, it may make us sad, depressed, thoughtful, searching, angry, or aggressive about denial. It could make us overindulge in drinking or dangerous about unhealthy choices for food intake. Our experiences, whether traumatic or pleasant, all help to shape our world view. Each of our world views is made up of hundreds of pieces to each puzzle that is uniquely us.

### **ONE: THE LISTENING & OBSERVING PASS**

I would suggest viewing one presentation, paging through the work pad as you listen. Try to grasp each part of the unfolding epochs, and to weigh each of the conclusions. Track the teaching with the slides, making sure you are weighing the story being told with whatever background you have in the scriptures.

### TWO: THE ABSORBING PASS

Next, return to each page of that section and answer the questions that are presented - slide by slide. This gives you a chance to absorb what I am communicating and then to look at the passages from which I have derived my conclusions. This should be deliberate and involve some time set aside to think things through. Do I think this is right? Is this something I have encountered or wrestled with before? Is each of these epochs relevant to how my life is unfolding?

### THREE: THE WORLD VIEW PASS

Finally, draw some conclusions about your own world view. Does this principle (and Dave's conclusions) ring true for me? Is the foundation of how I operate definite and strong? Is there any place where I should consider modifying my world view? In what ways do I feel as though I am on shaky ground with this principle? On solid ground?

If you will take the time to weigh each epoch and evaluate your personal world view, I believe you will grow in your understanding of the Kingdom, your usefulness to the King, and your satisfaction with your spiritual life.

HAPPY HUNTING!

### ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- 2. Deliverance
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return (400 silent years)
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE**

### WELCOME!

Listen to the introduction found on DVD ONE and think about the following questions.

DAY ONE

What images come to mind when you think about endless eternity?
How firm are you in your belief that there is eternity apart from the time continuum?
With which of the above eight epochs would you say you are most familiar?
Least familiar?

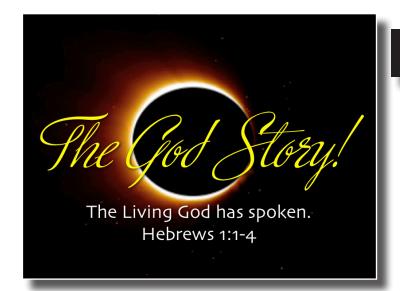
On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the most likely and 1 being the least - how well thought through are your ideas about the scientific and theological realities of existence outside of time (eternity)?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Do I believe in life after death?

Do I feel my mind and heart are prepared to enter eternity?

Do I feel I have any part in the ultimate occurrence of this event?



### DAY ONE I

### **HEBREWS 1:1-4**

Read this passage in your favorite copy of the scriptures. Search to answer these questions.

What is the significance of identifying Jesus as the Son of the Living God? Read Psalm 2 regarding the Son. What do you learn about Him?  In your world view, have you ever thought through the fact that Jesus (the Son) made the world? That in His coming to earth and birth as a human child, He accomplished something within the time continuum - and yet He also exists outside of time? Does this seem likely to you? What issues does this present?	Why are the Hebrew prophets relevant to us?
In your world view, have you ever thought through the fact that Jesus (the Son) made the world? That in His coming to earth and birth as a human child, He accomplished something within the time continuum - and yet He also exists outside of time? Does this seem likely to	
world? That in His coming to earth and birth as a human child, He accomplished something within the time continuum - and yet He also exists outside of time? Does this seem likely to	regarding the Son. What do you learn about Him?
	world? That in His coming to earth and birth as a human child, He accomplished somethic within the time continuum - and yet He also exists outside of time? Does this seem likely

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Do I believe that God has spoken? In nature? Through the God Story? Through the Jews? Do I believe He still communicates with "sons of Adam" today? With me?

# The Living God (Yahweh) The Son of the Living God (Yeshua) The Spirit of the Living God (Ruach - Breath)

### DAY TWO 2

The terms "old" and "new" testament are not something that appear within the Scriptures, but are man-made distinctions. Even our traditional teaching of the trinity presents some biblical challenges. There is little doubt that both the Creator Father and the Son reveal themselves as distinct, yet in Their very essence, One. There is only one testament, and only One Living God.

Read and Search: DEUTERONOMY 6:4
How does this passage reflect what we observe in Genesis 1:26?
Read and Search: MATTHEW 22:35-46
Why did Jesus' words preclude future questions?
Read MATTHEW 14:22-36
What made Peter come to the conclusion that he did? What would it have been like
to have talked with God face to face?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Do I believe that God is One? Does it make sense that there is only one story and one "testament?" Why would this make any difference to me as I read the God Story?





When God chose Abraham it was not because he was a Jew. God was going to fashion a chosen people for His own purposes, and Abram was His choice.

We know from Genesis 1-11 that mankind was subverting the Living God's purposes for the human race. He confused our language and scattered us to the four winds - so that His purpose of redemption could be brought about through loss. This loss was shared with the Living God - in the garden we lost our innocence - and our souls. Before the foundation of the world - the Lord God gave His Son. We cannot imagine the depth of this loss.

The God Story was given to the Jews. Through this nation the power of God would be shown. Through them the scriptures would unfold and be cared for. Through the Hebrews the Messiah would be born - to save us from our sins.

One of the questions I want to ask God when I see Him face to face is why loss was necessary for redemption. Redemption (rescuing) and loss (separation) are somehow linked to who He is on a very deep level. It is also totally entwined with who we are.

Life is a gift of amazing proportions. Loss is inevitable for any human - because death is loss. But the Living God is bringing about a great glory - and He has included mankind right in the middle of the Epic story!



# - EPOCH ONE - ORIGINS

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST**

### THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- 2. Deliverance
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
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### **ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE**

DAY THREE

WATCH VIDEO ONE "ORIGINS" as you work through this section.

It is important to realize that GENESIS 1-11 as well as the book of Job are not Hebrew. They are Human. Through the Hebrew scriptures the Living God has preserved the Story of our origins.

# Acts 17:22-31 DAY THREE 3

### THIS PASSAGE IS KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM!

So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

"Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this." So Paul went out of their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Paul had been a devoted Jew. He had encountered the Hebrew Messiah, the Son of God, Who is the Savior of the world.

What was Paul's approach to explaining the God Story to these pagans?	
What were the particulars of his explanation? What things are unexpected?	

### 17 HISTORICAL **5 POETIC** 17 PROPHETIC Genesis Job Isaiah Psalms Jeremiah Exodus Leviticus Proverbs Lamentations Numbers **Ecclesiates** Ezekiel Song of Solomon Daniel Deueronomy Joshua Judges Hosea "In you all the Ruth Joel nations of the 1 Samuel Amos 2 Samuel Obadiah earth will be Jonah 1 Kings blessed." 2 Kings Micah 1 Chronicles Nahum 2 Chronicles Habakkuk Ezra Zephaniah Nehemiah Haggai Esther Zechariah Romans 9:1-8 Malachi

### THE HEBREW CONNECTION TO OUR LIVES

As we begin to nail down the Eight Epochs of the God Story it is important to properly interpret the role of the Jewish (Hebrew) people. Not understanding this connection is like moving through life with no ties to our family history. The Hebrew story is our "roots." Our human story in GENESIS 1-11 provides the root for the Hebrew story.

Read GENESIS 12 a	nd observe God	's interaction	with Abrahan	n. What do you	see?
Read GENESIS 17.	What do you see	?			
Read ROMANS 9:1	-8. This is saying	something as	stonishing! Wl	nat do you thin	k it is?

# 8 EPOCHS #1. ORIGINS of matter, the cosmos, life Genesis Human Race Job = relational narrative Chosen Race If not for His chosen people, we would

If not for His chosen people, we would have no authentic record of man's beginnings - or our future!

### WHY DO OUR ORIGINS MATTER?

The sheer volume of knowledge that has been garnered in the last generation is astounding. Daniel prophesied that in the last days "knowledge will increase" (Daniel 12:4). Think about what has been learned since the launching of the Hubble satellite with its' amazing telescope! In science and physics, let alone quantum physics, we have made mind-blowing progress in understanding the complexities and beauties of design, right down to the molecular level. It is no wonder God said at the Tower of Babel "nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them" (GENESIS 11:6).

Genesis provides THE authoritative theological and scientific explanation of our roots. Our connection to our Creator and everything that is made is carefully and succinctly set forth for anyone who wishes to plumb the depths of the real meaning of our existence.

### **MYWORLDVIEW**

Where do I come down on harmony between science and theology?  Do I believe there is an ultimate harmony?
If there is a supernatural God, what is it about my origins that would be personal and at the same time infinite?



### WHY THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF OUR ORIGINS IS BELIEVABLE

Honest minded scientists are open to intelligent design. Randomness is simply not scientifically satisfying. The Bible's science is impeccable and super-intelligent. Natural laws do not preclude supernatural intervention.

Other religious and "modern" accounts of our origins seek to paint mankind in a flattering or self-serving manner. The Bible does not pander to the human ego. It is brutally truthful when it makes scientific, theological, or anthropomorphic claims. While other belief systems bring Creator down to created's level, the Scriptures do just the opposite. God comes near to return mankind to a restored relationship with our Creator.

# MY WORLDVIEW How much effort have I given to understanding what God has said about my origins? What about the Bible seems small or limiting to me? What about the Bible seems hard to understand to me?

### 

Why are the first 11 chanters of Genesis non-Hebrew?

## DAY FIVE 5

### I AM YOUR CREATOR - I AM THE FATHER OF ALL LIVING THINGS

For the purposes of this study it is important to recognize the connection of Job to the book of Genesis. It is also helpful to understand the unfolding story of the chosen race, and this is best done by becoming familiar with the life, faith, and foibles of the four patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

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Why did the Living God choose a people (the Jews) to display His power?
Take a few minutes and look up the references listed in the overview chart above. What do you observe?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

If you take the time to highlight each of these references in your bible, you will cover a huge amount of ground in the scriptures. Each of the passages considered in the Eight Epochs in the Fabric of Time series are "markers" that help us to understand the Story!

### DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE SAME PLACE?

The subject of other religions is an interesting one. According to scripture there are basically two religious systems. They are as old as the Garden of Eden.

There is the existence of the Living God. All things created flow from Him, the Son proceeds eternally through Him. He is simply the Father of everything.

From His created beings another "god" emerges. He is one of three archangels. He is a usurper of the glory of the Living God. His name is Lucifer, son of the morning. He is extremely powerful, though all of his authority is derived from his Creator.

From these two sources come all other "gods" and religions of the earth. Just as Lucifer tempted Adam and Eve to usurp the Father's authority over their lives, so other religions hold promise of "liberation" from accountability to our King.

I recommend taking the time to personally investigate Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and other eastern syncretism - as well as historic Christianity. Compare them to the ancient faith of Abraham, father of the True Jews. Hold each one next to the unfolded God Story from the Hebrew Messianic Scriptures (both "old and new" testaments) - and make your own determination concerning authenticity.

You owe the process to yourself - and the Honor to your Living Father!

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Am I familiar with other religious belief systems and the claims they make about spirituality? Am I firm in my choices for what I believe?



### ABRAHAM IS OUR FAITH LINK TO BELIEVING GOD

According to Paul, Jew among Jews, apostle to the Gentiles: Abraham is our Father. True Jews are those who are Jews inwardly, who have had our hearts circumcised.

Read ROMANS 9:8.
What is a "child of the promise?"
Read GALATIANS 3.
What is the relationship between the Law and faith? The purpose of the Law?
Who is the "Seed?"
who is the Beed:
Why was the Son born "under the Law?"

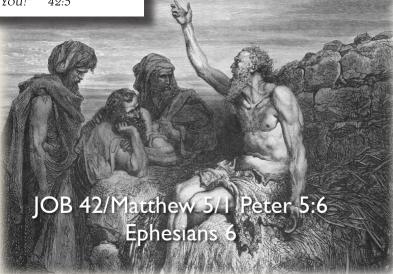
HEBREWS 11 is a really cool chapter to read when looking for the faith link between ourselves as believing Gentiles and our Jewish roots.

# JOBSovereign SufferingJob's TestFriend's SolutionGod's Solution1:6-1242:740:2-51-23-3738-42

"I had heard of You...but now I see You!" 42:5

Job is a wonderful story which expresses the fundamental truths about God and man. Read JOB 42 and answer the following questions.

This is the conclusion of a long and gut-wrenching experience for Job. What do you learn from the first two chapters about God? About Satan and angels? About the relationship with mankind?



DAY SEVEN

Read MATTHEW 5. What does humility have to do with spirituality?

Read 1 PETER 5:6 and EPHESIANS 6. What do we learn about the spiritual dimension of life?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Do I believe in the active presence of evil in my daily affairs? Am I open to the process of humility that produces growth in the deep parts of my soul?



# - EPOCH TWO - DELIVERANCE

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST** THE AGE OF TIME 1. Origins

- 2. Deliverance
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return (400 silent years)
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- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
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**ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE** 

WATCH VIDEO TWO "DELIVERANCE" as you work through

this section.

**DAY EIGHT** 

### GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS

The story of Genesis is one of understanding our roots. If the Living God is who He says He is, the implications are massive. Implicit in an understanding of our ORIGINS is our need for DELIVERANCE. The Good News means little if we are not acquainted with the Bad News.

Through Adam and Eve we were created to live forever. That was changed when our parents rejected God's Word in exchange for the serpent's word. If we are to once again acquire eternal life, it will be done through faith in the One whom God has sent.



### NOTICE THE KEY PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE TIME LINE

It is easy to think that God is not going to come through. It is clear from Scripture and from life experience that all men and women die. Whether Adam and Eve, Noah and his family, the people in the wilderness, Moses himself, or you and me - one fate awaits all men.

people!

But it becomes clear in the God Story that there is more to life than living and dying - there is reward and hope as well. This is the outcome of faith. We have meaning for more than our 80 or so years of life upon this earth. The Law and the prophets lay the foundation for this understanding. Life is good, but what good is life lived apart from God?

Israel saved Joseph's bones and buried them in the promised land (see Exodus 13:19 and Joshua 24:32). While Joseph may have been buried in an Egyptian coffin - his life and death are a picture of the delivering redemption that is on the horizon!

# EXODUS Exit Deliverance from Bondage Law Exposited Tabernacle Constructed 1:9-22;12:51 20:1-17 25:1-22 1-12 13-24 25-40

"God's sovereign redemption." 12:51

Bondage is the Bad News. God's Law is the Good News. God is among us!

### LEVITICUS Worship

	Way of Access	
Sacrifice	Priests	Ceremony
1:4;2:13;7:37-38	9:23-24; 10:10,11	16:29-34
1-7	18-10	11-16

 Way of Fellowship

 Separation
 Observances

 18:3-5; 19:36-37
 23:44; 25:8-12

 17-22
 23-27

God's Holiness Revealed! 11:44

You may come **near** to Me. You may **know** Me.

### NUMBERS Wander

	Journey I	Prepared	
Warriors	Levites	Purity	Worship
1:2,3,19	3:12,13; 4:49	5:6,7; 6:21	10:13,35,36
1-2	3-4	5-6	7-10

Journey Wanderings

Sinai to Moab	<b>Events at Moab</b>
12:1-3; 14:22-33	25:1-3; 26:64,65
10-21	22-36

"God's people as they walk!" 33:1

40 day journey = 40 years.
Because of **unbelief** (Hebrews 3)

## DAY EIGHT 8

### DAY NINE ()

The Lord God has remembered His people in Egypt. He has provided deliverance through Joseph, and now has brought His people out of Egypt with a "mighty hand."

The book of Exodus not only describes this process for the Jews, but also for all who call upon God to deliver us into eternal life. He leads them out through the fire and the cloud.

Because this generation has grown up in Egypt and does not know the Lord, He gives them His Law at Mount Horeb to explain who He is. Yahweh then provides a meeting place called the Tabernacle, where His people can experience His presence.

The priesthood is established in Leviticus to help the Hebrews draw close to their Deliverer. Faith is God's desire for His people, just as it is today.

If you take the time to read and note each of these section passages in your bible, you will establish a solid, basic understanding of His "Torah" or Law. And you will also move deeper insight into how God has chosen to deliver mankind!



### IT IS NO WONDER WE WANDER

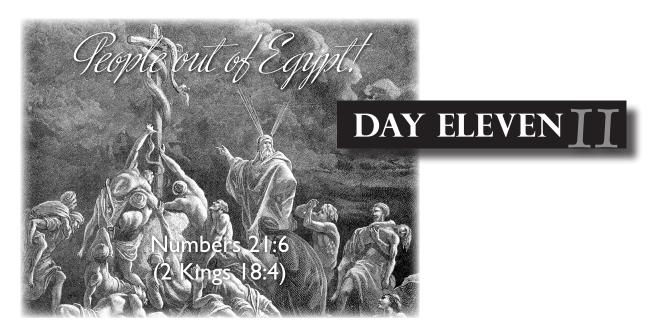
The best way to summarize the events and teaching of the book of NUMBERS is to consider chapter 14.

What was the complaint of the people, and what was their solution to their concerns?
What is the significance of Joshua and Caleb's place in the story?
What do we learn about Moses from the events of this chapter?
What was God's issue with the people and the situation?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

It appears that all grumbling is evidence of a lack of faith (Hebrews 3). Would I consider myself a grumbler? How do I avoid succumbing to negativity and cynicism? Do I have the same spiritual disposition as Moses?

You may also wish to read about Korah's rebellion in NUMBERS 26.

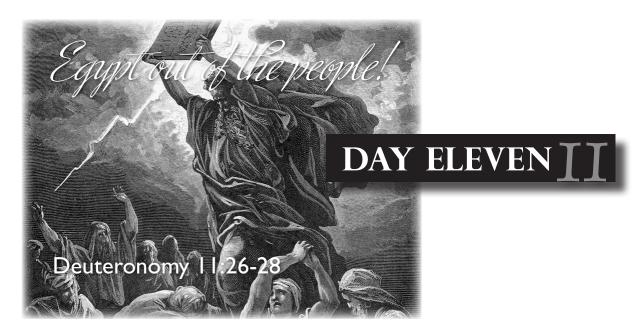


### READ NUMBERS 21:1-10

Why were the people upset?
What was God's response to their complaining?
Why was it so harsh?
What does this incident have to do with what Jesus says in JOHN 3:14,15?
What happened in 2 KINGS 18:4 that relates to this story?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

There are clear priciples in these first five books of Moses that help us to live in a way that pleases our Father. He also opens the door to eternal life. Cool.



### THE GRACE OF LAW

God's Law is not antithetical to His grace - it is a part of His grace. Read DEUTERONOMY 11:26-28.

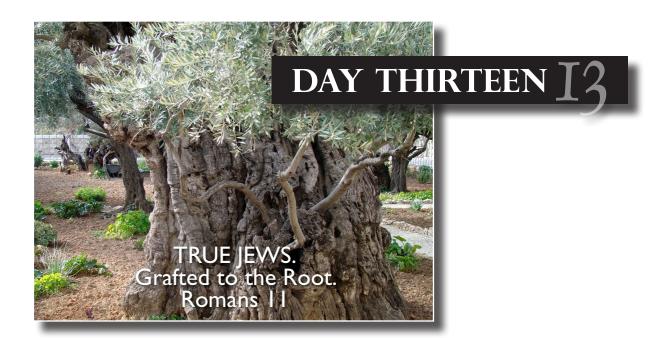
What was the purpose of His Law?
What were the upsides of following His Law?
The downsides of ignoring it?
GALATIANS 5 places the Law into the context of a person who has encountered the Son of God and found life in His Name. What is specifically explained about the purpose of the Law?

### **Standards DEUTERONOMY** Three Discourses: MOSES COVENANT HISTORICAL LAW REVIEW EXPOSITED RATIFIED GOODBYE 5:29; 6:12 30:11-20 34:6-12 1:26; 4:39 27-30 4-26 31-34 1-4

God's faithfulness and instruction! 10:12

This is Who I Am. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Matthew 22:36-40 DAY TWELVE [2]

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS
Read DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9. What do we learn about His intention for generations?
Read MATTHEW 22:36-40 and compare it to either list of the "ten commandments" from either EXODUS 20 or DEUTERONOMY 5. What similarities do you see?
Deuteronomy means "second law." What happened to the first set of tablets? Why?
MYWORLDVIEW
What place do the commandments of God play in my life? In the lives of those who lead my country? In the lives of my co-workers or fellow-students?



Read ROMANS 2:29. Paul was a dedicated Jew. But Paul knew that it was not enough to be connected to God through any blood or social status. Jesus had revealed to him (and throughout all of scripture) that the Good News belonged to the Gentile as well as the Jew.

# READ ROMANS 11. What is the result of the Jews rejecting the Messiah, the Son of God? How should I feel about being a "wild branch" that has been "grafted in" to the true root? How important is it to continue in His kindness, and what do you think this means? What were Paul's feelings and conclusion about God's plan for the Jews and the Gentiles?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Gratefulness is one of the true signs of spirituality. Would I consider myself a grateful person? Would grateful be a word others would use to describe me?



We just read ROMANS 2:29 (read it again if you need a refresher) Now read COLOS-SIANS 2:11. Circumcision was the outward sign of the covenant made with Abraham, and with the Hebrew people.

What is the "true circumcision?"

The Law is pretty poorly represented among most modern Gentile believers. Considering how much time was spent by the apostles explaining the link between what Moses said and what Jesus lived and taught, it is incredible that we are so far off base. Read DEUTERON-OMY 30. Was it possible to interact with the Law in such a way as to be right with God?

What do you think that Jesus meant in MATTHEW 5:17 as He explains righteousness through these "beatitudes?"

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

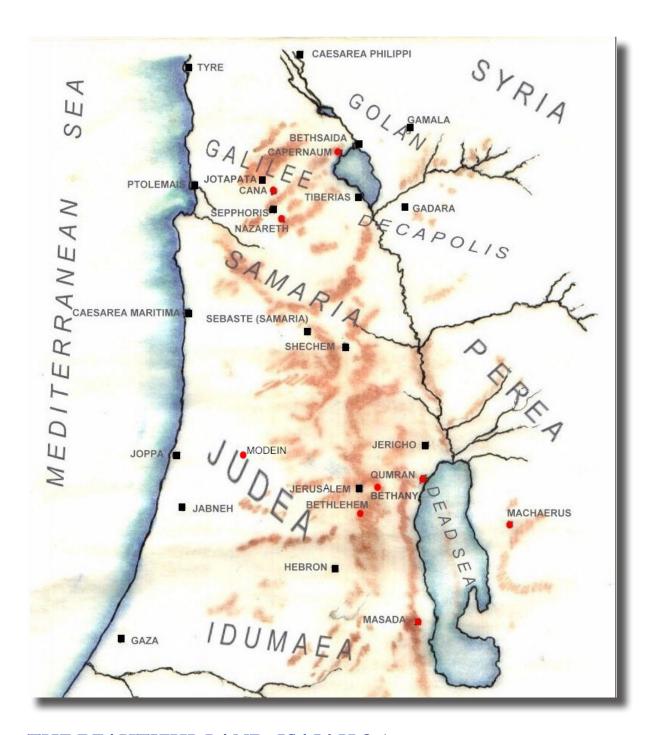
It is easy to live in a world where accountability is non-existent. Do I feel accountable to my Creator for how I choose to live my life?



READ NUMBERS 16 Who was a "son of Levi?" Why were the people upset with Moses?
Why was this situation a dangerous one for the people? For the purposes of God?
Why was the result so harsh?
READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14 What insight do we receive as Paul looks back on the events of the book of Numbers?
MY WORLDVIEW Am I a grumbler? Do I think that there are situations that merit grumbling?

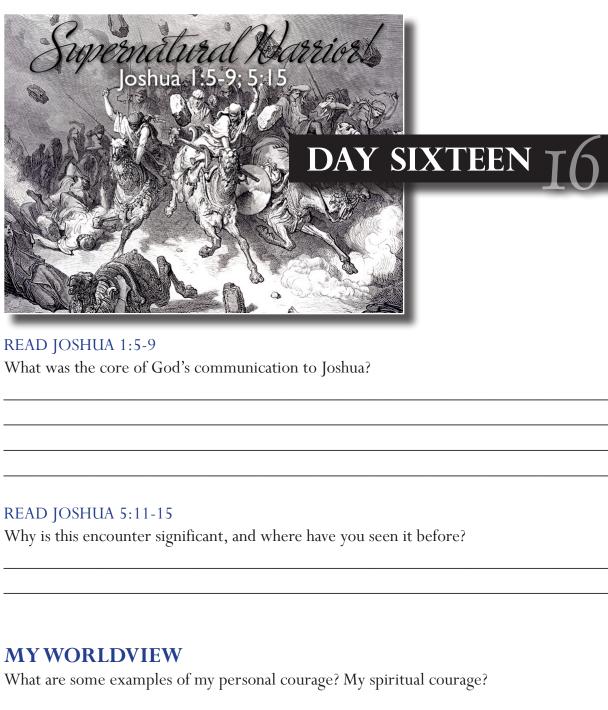
### Conquest JOSHUA LAND LAND **CONTESTED** Joshua DIVIDED Goodbye 1:5-9; 5:14,15 13:1; 14:5-9 6:10; 7:5; 9:14 DAY SIXTEEN 22-24 1-12 12-21 "The land flowing with milk and honey!" 11:23 We are more than conquerors! Romans 3:37-39; John 16:33 READ THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE Why was "the land" so important to the Jews? What is your sense for the type of leadership that Joshua provided? **READ ROMANS 8:37-39** Why is war and conquering so important to the Jews? To God? READ JOHN 16:33 Why is trouble such a big part of our lives? **MY WORLDVIEW**

Am I someone who overcomes? Do I view life like a war with a series of battles?



### THE BEAUTIFUL LAND: ISAIAH 9:1

Some basic geography is a helpful backdrop for understanding the Promised Land. Note the location of the Sea in Galilee, where Jesus spent much of His public ministry. Find Nazareth where He grew up - just west of that sea. Now trace the Jordan River, flowing out of the Sea of Galilee downward to the Dead Sea. Look to the left and you will find Jerusalem, Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and Hebron - where King David ruled. South is Masada, a site with amazing history. For our current purposes note the city of Jericho at the top of the Dead Sea. This is the city mentioned in the book of Joshua. The Living God led the children of Israel in their first "military" campaign to secure the Promised Land - a land flowing with milk and honey - as well as giants to overcome!



I feel I have experienced a "take my shoes off" moment when:

### DAY SEVENTEEN

### **JUDGES**

### Cycles

### Climate for Testing

### Climate for Compromise

No Leader (1:1) No Persistance (1:27) No Knowledge (2:10) No Power (2:20-23) No Commitment (2:1-3)

No Perspective (8:22-23) No Appreciation (8:33-35) No Loyalty (10:13) No Conscience (19:22-30) No Choice (20:3,18) No Understanding (21:3)

1-2

3-18

Every man did what was right in his own eyes! 17:6

### SIN - SERVITUDE - JUDGEMENT

Othniel, Ehud, Shagmar

Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech

Samuel

Take the time to observe each of the references in the overview chart of the

book of Judges.

Tola, Yair, Jepthah Ibzan, Elon, Abdon Samson Eli

What were the problems? Why did the cycles perpetuate?

Note the list of the Judges. Samson is one of the most familiar, and Eli and Samuel will come into focus as we transition to the time of the Kings of Israel. With which judge are you most familiar?\_

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

In	what areas	am I	susce	ptible	to	com	promis	se	?
In	what areas	am I	susce	ptible	to	com	promis	SE	

In what areas have I found cycles in my own life that I just can't seem to shake?

### **Love Story** RUTH Ruth and her: Resolve Unselfishness Reward Appeal 2:11-12 3:9-11 4:11,22 1:15-17 2 3 4

Under whose wings you have come to take refuge! 2:12

### DAY SEVENTEEN

I John 4 - God IS love.

The book of RUTH is a high point during the very dark days of the judges of Israel. Because

Ruth is a Gentile, her faith in placing herself under the wings of the Living God is even more special and astonishing. Ruth is mentioned in the lineage of Christ!
READ AND NOTE THE REFERENCES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE
What do you learn about love? Disappointment? Reward?
READ 1 JOHN 4
What was the Apostle John's (and Jesus') take on the subject of love?
MYWORLDVIEW
Finish this sentence. "I have found that love"
Do I feel I have found refuge under His wings? In what ways? In what areas do I still have need?

### DAY SEVENTEEN 17

# The Fire & the Cloud!

LEVITICUS You belong to Me.

NUMBERS Will you Walk or Wander?

DEUTERONOMY I am with you JOSHUA I will carry you.

JUDGES Faith will fail/I Am faithful.

RUTH I Am your refuge.

We have encountered the first eight books of the "Old" testament, including the five books of Moses (the Pentateuch). The graphic above walks through the spiritual unity woven through these books.

Am I confident in my origins? Where faith and science and anthropology come together?

Do I feel directable by God?

### SPIRITUAL SITUATION CLARIFICATION

My sense of belonging to Him is (high) (tepid) (cold).

I feel more like I am (walking) or (wandering).

I (sense) or (do not sense) that God is with me.

I am (confident) (not confident) that He is able and interested in carrying me when I need to be carried.

I am (confident) (not confident) that God's faithfulness overrules the times my faith fails.

I feel I have found a refuge in Him (true) (false).



- EPOCH THREE - KINGS & KINGDOMS

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST**

### THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- 2. Deliverance
- DAY EIGHTEEN 18
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return (400 silent years)
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

**ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE** 

WATCH VIDEO THREE
"KINGS & KINGDOMS"
as you work through
this section.

### TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS

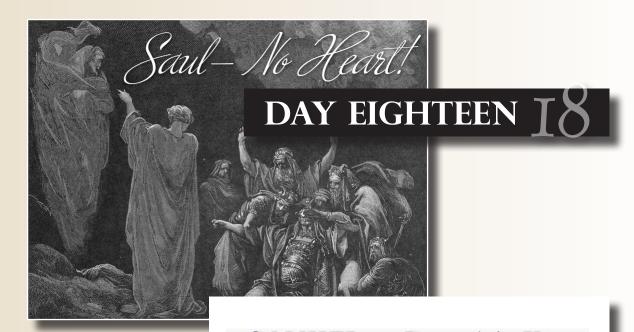
	1 Chronicles	2 Chronicles		
1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings	
	Psalms	Proverbs Ecclesiastes	ISRAEL	722 BC To Assyria
SAUL No Heart	DAVID Whole Heart	SOLOMON Half a Heart	931BC Division	CAPTIVITY
Samuel		Songs	JUDAH	586 BC To Babylon

### GOD WANTS TO BE HIS PEOPLES' CHOICE FOR A KING

Consider that Samuel is the last in a series of judges who delivered Israel. It is almost as if His People try everything except submitting to His Kingship. Notice the timeline overview above.

Who are the three kings of the united Kingdom? What was the chief difference between them?

When did the northern Kingdom of Israel go into captivity? The southern Kingdom of Judah? What were their respective destinations?



| Samuel | Reign of Saul | | Rise | Decline | 15:22,23 | 16:3,12,13 | | 1-7 | 8-16 | 16-31 |

Give us a king to rule over us! 8:6

#### READ 1 SAMUEL 8:6.

Why did the people want a king?

### READ THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE.

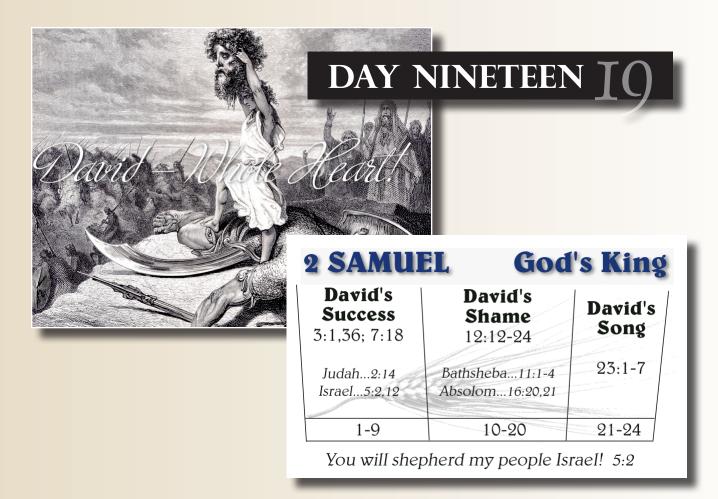
What do you learn about Samuel? He is surrounded by corruption, yet something makes him unique? What is it?\_\_\_\_\_

Why is Saul crowned as king? What made him a suitable candidate?

What appears to be Saul's downfall?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

In what ways do I find that I am more impressed with outward appearances than internal substance?



#### READ 2 SAMUEL 5:2.

Why did God cooperate and yet overrule the people's choice for a king?

### READ THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE.

What was the source of David's success?	

What was the source of his shame?

When you read David's song in chapter 23, what materializes regarding His heart? (also PSALM 51)

### **MYWORLDVIEW**

In what ways do I find myself to be a person of courage?

In what ways would I consider myself "whole-hearted" toward God?

# DAY NINETEEN

\]	PSALMS	Prayer & Praise	
	PRAYERS of Reliance	PRAISES for His Providence	
Fn	20; 51; 90	77; 92 iving and His courts with praise! 10	0.4
sa th	crifice of <mark>praise</mark> to the distribution of the	let us continually offer up God, that is, the fruit of lip is name." - Heb. 13:15 are written by king David. Why	os — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
	Psalms you are most fa		,
	PSALMS 100:4 bes someone living on t	he earth enter into the presence	e of God?
	HEBREWS 13:15. re songs and Psalms no	urishment for the heart?	
	COLOSSIANS 3:15,16 e songs and Psalms goo	d for spiritual relationships?	
Psalms		for my heart. How might I in	



MANY THINK SOLOMON WROTE **SONGS** AS A YOUNG MAN, **PROVERBS** IN HIS PRIME, AND ECCLESI-**ASTES** AT THE BEGIN-NING OF HIS OLD AGE.

### Solomon/Split

### **REIGN OF SOLOMON**

ascension...1:47; 2:46 wisdom...3:9,28; 4:29,30 work...6:12,38; 7:8 splendor...10:23,24

1-11

### REIGN **OVER JUDAH**

Divided Kingdom 12:8,19 Divided Kings 11:11,12; 14:22

12-22

None but the tribe of Judah followed the House of David. 12:20

UNITED KINGDOM.....Saul, David, Solomon DIVIDED KINGDOM......Israel and Judah

READ THE PASSAGES ABOVE LISTED UNDER THE REIGN OF SOLOMON
What sense do you get for Solomon as a man?
white believe do you get for boromon us a main.
What appear to be the advantages of being a second generation king?
The state of the s
DEADTHE OVERVIEW PASSAGES DESCRIBING THE SPIRIT INTHE VINCEON
READ THE OVERVIEW PASSAGES DESCRIBING THE SPLIT IN THE KINGDOM
What appear to have been the reasons for the captivity?
MYWORLDVIEW
What are the things that make my heart prone to wander?

### **PROVERBS** Wisdom Above

Wisdom to	Wisdom	Wisdom's
be Acquired	is Superior	Voice
1:20-25,32,33	3:1-12	10:1; 29:7-9
1	2-9	10-31

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. 1:7

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

- Proverbs 9:10

### DAY TWENTY 2 ()

# The Vanity of: Be Wise! DOING HAVING 9:11; 10:5-7 1-2 3-6 7-10 11-12

"And behold, all was vanity and striving after wind." - 2:11

SONG OF SOLOMON.....the days of his youth. PROVERBS.....the years of his strength. ECCLESIASTES.....In his old age.

#### READ THE PASSAGES IN EACH SECTION OF PROVERBS

It appears that "fearing" or reverencing our Creator is quite important. Why would fear be the beginning of wisdom?

### READ THE PASSAGES IN EACH SECTION OF ECCLESIASTES

How does the tone of this book differ from Proverbs?\_\_\_\_\_

#### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Do I consider myself a reflective person? In what ways could I benefit from more of a reflective approach to life?



### READ THE KEY VERSE LISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CHART ABOVE

What is th	e reason g	given here	for the	Kingdom	falling a	apart?_	
	(	3		0	G	1	

### READ THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW OF 2 KINGS

What did Elijah bring to the situation and how do you think he was received?

What appears to have constituted reform and rebellion among the people?\_\_\_\_\_

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

How does my life usually respond to the truth?\_\_\_\_\_



# REQUIEM FOR A SERVANT OF GOD MOST HIGH **READ MATTHEW 11** What did Jesus have to say about John the Baptist? Why did Jesus choose to talk about John at this juncture? READ MALACHI 4 and ISAIAH 40 What here refers to John the Baptist? **MY WORLDVIEW** In what ways does my life reflect the courage and devotion of John the Baptist?

### **Throne Secured** 1 CHRONICLES **GENEOLOGIES** DAVID'S REIGN 9:1 17:7,8; 29:29,30 Adam to Noah Saul...10:13,14 Kingdom...14:2 Abraham to Isaac Returning Remnant Temple...22:18,19 1-9 10-29 "And David realized that the Lord had established him." 14:2 rillen for the return.

### DAY TWENTY-TWO 22

# SOLOMON'S REIGN 1:12-22; 2:5.6 DIVIDED KINGDOM 11:16; 12:1,2 Temple Revered JUDAH Kings...13:18 Captivity...36:11-21

"Behold, heaven and highest heaven cannot contain Thee."
- 6:18

The content of 1 and 2 CHRONICLES was compiled years later when Israel returned from captivity and resettled her land - under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Take a few minutes and look up the references within the overview charts above. What is reinforced about what you already know of these kings?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

WII WORLDVIEW
Three kings - three hearts. In what ways do I reflect the heart of Saul?
David?
Solomon?

### DAY TWENTY-TWO 22

# The Fire & the Cloud!

EXODUS	I will direct you.
LEVITICUS	You belong to Me.
NUMBERSWIII yo	
<b>DEUTERONOMY</b>	I am with you.
JOSHUA	I will carry you.
JUDGESFaith wi	III fail/I Am faithful.
RUTH	I Am your refuge.

# The Lings of Israel. 1 SAMUEL The Carnal Heart 2 SAMUEL The Soft Heart 1 KINGS The Extled heart 2 KINGS We reap what we sow 1 CHRONICLES Throne Secured 2 CHRONICLES Temple Revered

# The Goets of Israel!

JOB	The truth about life
PSALMS	he living power of praise
PROVERBS	The lear of the Lord
<b>ECCLESIASTES</b>	Perspective
SONGS	The beauty of true love

Take this opportunity to think through the books we have looked at so far. Do you feel you have a strong sense for the story of these first 19 books of the Hebrew scriptures?



# - EPOCH FOUR - PROPHETS & CAPTIVITY

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST**

### THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- DAY TWENTY-THREE 23
- 2. Deliverance
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return (400 silent years)
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

**ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE** 

WATCH VIDEO FOUR
"PROPHETS"
as you work through
this section.

# WELCOME TO THE PROPHETS & THE STORY OF ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY

The early prophets began to explain to the people why they were headed for captivity. Even their best kings were unable to deliver them spiritually. It is in God's eternal plan to bring all honor and glory to Himself. Men and women of God are instruments in this process.

The particulars and purpose of Israel's fall and subsequent captivity is two-fold. First is to recount the story of these two disobedient "sisters" and the consequences for placing idols above the Living God. But there is also a deep companion message communicated through the prophets: "If you will return to Me - I will return to you."

The Lord is gracious with humanity - and gracious with His people. He "longs to be gracious" to us (ISAIAH 30).

As you encounter this section and observe the severity of captivity - remember that God will move heaven and earth to restore a soul. Life is for 80 years if we are fortunate. Eternity is forever!

# DAY TWENTY-THREE 23

### TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS

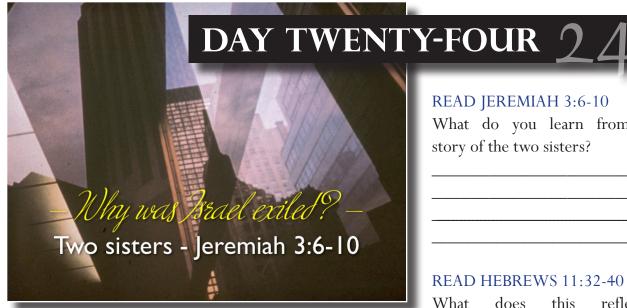
Genesi	S	Exodus	Leviticus	Joshua
Job			Numbers	Judges
			Deuteronomy	Ruth
			2 Step Deliverance:	
Human Race Creation Fall Flood Tower	Chosen Race Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	420 Years of Bondage	Israel out of Egypt  Egypt out of the people!	CONQUEST!  8 Cycles
PATRI/	ARCHS	N	1OSES	IUDGES

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND RECOUNT OUR JOURNEY THUS FAR. DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE GETTING A STRONG SENSE FOR THE GOD STORY?

# TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS

	1 Chronicles	2 Chro	nicles	
1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings	
	PsaIms	Proverbs Ecclesiastes	ISRAEL	722 BC To Assyria
SAUL No Heart	DAVID Whole Heart	SOLOMON Half a Heart	931BC Division	CAPTIVITY
SamueI	1	Songs	JUDAH	586 BC To Babylon

JUDGES KINGS PROPHETS



# Who were the prophets Hebrews 11:32-40

The Prophets of Grace! Face to face reinforcement Face to face consolution
Messianic preparation
Deuteronomy 30:1-6

-1(	:6-1	3:	Н	IA	M	E	R	JE	D	ΞA	RI
.1	:6-1	3:	Н	IA	M	E	R	JE	D	ΞA	RI

What do you learn from the story of the two sisters?

### **READ HEBREWS 11:32-40**

What does this reflective passage teach us about the role of the prophets?

#### **READ DEUTERONOMY 30:1-6**

What does this passage teach us about the threefold grace of the prophets?

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What would be the potential purposes of the prophets in my life?

# DAY TWENTY-FOUR 24

# The Prophets of Israel!

PRE-EXILE	Samaria & Judah
CAPTIVITY	Ezekiel & Daniel
RETURN Haggai,	Zechariah, Malachi

DIVIDED KINGDOM = GOOD & EVIL KINGS NORTHERN KINGDOM = SAMARIAVISRAEL SOUTHERN KINGDOM = JUDAH

HERE ARE SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE PROPHETS THAT PROVIDE A HELPFUL BACKDROP FOR YOUR STUDY OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL:

Before the EXILE prophets were speaking to both the Northern Kingdom (known both as Israel and Samaria) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Ezekiel followed Israel into CAPTIVITY and Daniel was taken as a young man - and prophesied there all of his life. During the RETURN three prophets were raised up to encourage the returning remnant of Jews: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Prophesies found their fulfillment sometimes in the current time they prophesied, sometimes in the Messiah, others in the future - and some in more than one time period.

After the split in the Kingdom there were two dynasties of kings. Each prophet had a particular audience and a specific role. They came from both low and high places in society. Each prophet's desire and mission can be summarized in the phrase "return to Me." God wanted the hearts of His people to RETURN to Him.

# Each leing & prophet brings insight into human isolatry and Gathweh's everlasting love. Micah 7:18; 1 John 5:20,21

READ MICAH 7:18-20
What does this teach us about God's hopes for His wandering people?
READ 1 JOHN 5:20,21
What does this teach us about the presence of idols in our lives?
MYWORLDVIEW
What premium do I place upon everlasting life? In what ways do the prophets articulate the wandering of America? Of the Church? My own wandering?

# DAY TWENTY-FIVE 25

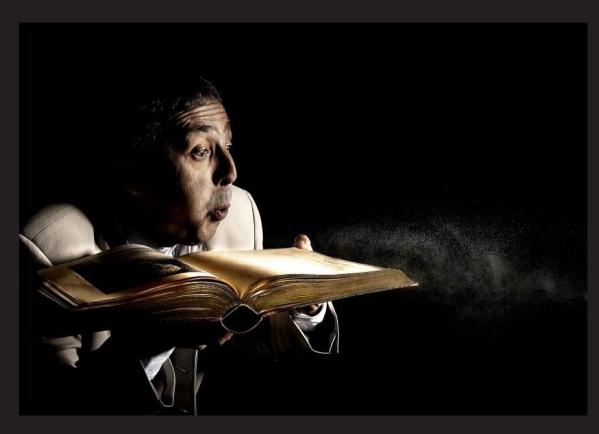
Take a few minutes to study this chart. These are the prophets and the corresponding kings and kingdoms to which they prophesied. Note where each captivity begins, and which prophet spoke to which king(s). This should help in your future analysis of the kings. There are many helpful principles that can be distilled from these chapters found in 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles.

Take the time to highlight the key verses from the following page in each respective book.

	Kings of JUDAH	Prophets	Kings of ISRAEL
950 bc	Rehoboum (17 yrs) Abijam (3 yrs)	ELDAH 875-848 bc	Jeroboam (22 yrs) RSC ( Nadab (2 yrs)
900 bc	Ast. (41 yrs) Jehoshtaphist (25 yrs) Jehoshtaphist (12 yrs)	BLUSTIA BAS-TU7 DC	Bandin (94 yrs) Biah (2 yrs)
	Abadish (1 yr) Athalish (8 yrs)	OBADIAH R55-840 bc JOHL	Zimri (1 week) Omri (12 yrs) Ahab (22 yrs) Ahadah (2 yrs)
acc bc	Joach (40 yrs)	JONAH 785-775 bc	Jehoram (8 yrs) Jeho (28 yrs)
	American (199 yrs)  According (Litzinh) (59)  Joshum (18 yrs)	AMOS TRO-TSO DC HOSEA	Jehoshit (17 yrs) Jehosh (18 yrs)
	Abat (16 yrs)	T50-T15 bc MICAFI T50-T10 bc USAIAFI	Jeroboam 2 (41 yrs)  Zesharinii (6 months)  Shalkan (1 month)
	Hannesch (55 ym)	740-881 bc NAHUM 715 bc	Hennhem (10 yrs) Pehablak (2 yrs)
7928 bc 700 bc	Amon (2 yo)	ZEPHANIAH 630 bc	Pehah (20 yrs) 722 6 Hoshen (8 yrs) 700 6
	Josiak (51 yrs) Jekoniak (5 mcs) Jekolakia (11 yrs) Jekolakia (5 mcs)	BABAKKUK 688 bc	ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY
500 bc	Zedekinh (11 yrs)  BABYLONIAN	15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 1	722 bc 500 b
	CAPTIVITY First: 538 bc	EZEKIEL, SUS-571 bc HAGGAI	ENGAGEI
450 bc	Second: 458 bc Final: 432 bc	590 bc 2ECHARIAH 590-480 bc	400 SILENT YEARS
	400 Silent Years	440-430 bc	

# DAY TWENTY-FIVE 25

	5 LAW	
Genesis	Origins	12:2
Exodus	Exit	12:51
Leviticus	Worship	11:44
Numbers	Wander	33:1
Deuteronomy	Standards	10:12
Beateronemy	12 HISTORICAL	10.12
Joshua	Conquest	11:23
Judges	Cycles	17:6
Ruth	Love Story	2:12
1 Samuel	People's King	8:6
2 Samuel	God's King	5:2
1 Kings	Solomon/Split	12:20
2 Kings	Exile/Scatter	17:7
1 Chronicles	Throne Secured	14:2
2 Chronicles	Temple Revered	6:18
Ezra	Return/Reformthe Temple	7:10
Nehemiah	Renew/Rebuildthe Walls	5:16
Esther	God Delivers	4:14
Dottrer	5 POETS	1.11
Job	Sovereign Suffering	1:21-22
Psalms	Prayer/Praise	100:4
Proverbs	Wisdom Above	1:7
Ecclesiastes	Vanity Below	2:11
Song of Solomon	Intimate Love	8:6
5 I	MAJOR PROPHETS	
Isaiah	Christ is Salvation	53:6
Jeremiah	Sin's Condemnation	6:16
Lamentations	Weeping Prophet	1:16
Ezekiel	Exiles-Ruined/Restored	21:27
Daniel	Future Things	7:27
	MINOR PROPHETS	
Hosea	Love/Apostasy	14:4
Joel	Blow the Trumpet	2:31,32
Amos	Roaring Punishment	1:2
Obadiah	Brother Violence	1:10
Jonah	Compassion's Voice	1:3
Micah	Unchanging Love	7:18
Nahum	Nineveh's Doom	3:19
Habakkuk	Just/Rejoice	2:4
Zephaniah	Last Chance	2:3
Haggai	Obedient Building	1:4,5
Zechariah	Lord of Hosts	4:6
Malachi	Sin's Dialogue	2:2



# - EPOCH FIVE THE RETURN & THE 400 SILENT YEARS

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST**

### THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- DAY TWENTY-SIX 26
- 2. Deliverance

**MY WORLDVIEW** 

- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

**ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE** 

WATCH VIDEO FIVE "THE RETURN" as you work through this section.

5

Israel paid a severe price for her idolatrous heart. True to His word, Yahweh is bringing His people back from the futility of captivity. But only a few will return - a "remnant." It appears that those who cling to God are a very small group! (see MATTHEW 7:13,14).

In what ways do I feel I have returned to God?						
In what ways do I have yet to surrender to God?						

# DAY TWENTY-SIX 26

# TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS

Esther CAPTIVITY

**70** YEARS

Ezekiel Daniel

Ezra Nehemiah

RETURN REFORM REBUILD

Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

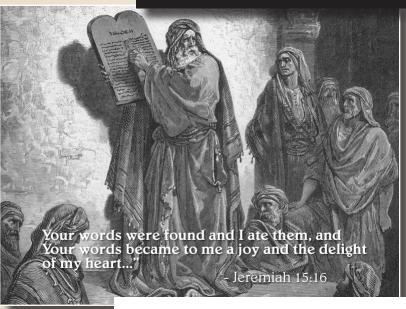
400 SILENT YEARS

John the Baptist!

### TAKE SOME TIME TO OBSERVE THE TIMELINE ABOVE

In what ways do you feel that the overall timeline is coming into focus?	
In what ways is it still fuzzy?	
How does John the Baptist fit in with "old" and "new" testament prophets?	

### DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27



EZRA	Return/Reform
RECONSTRUCTION under Zerubbabel	REFORMATION under Ezra
1:3,5; 2:1,2 Return2:1,2,68 Rebuild6:15	7:25-28 Return7:6; 8:31,32 Reform10:19
1-6	7-10

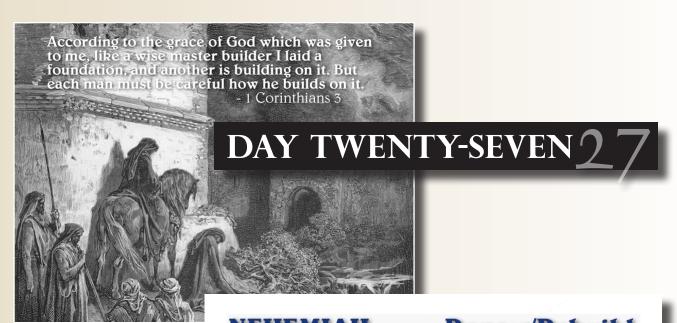
"For Ezra had set his heart." 7:10

### READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about reformation of heart?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Life reform follows a return to Him. How do I feel about the reconstruction He is accomplishing in my heart?



NEHEMIAH	Renew/Rebuild				
Nehemiah	Walls	People			
Arrives	Restored	Revived			

Arrives	Restored	Revived
2:11,12	6:15,16	8:3,17,18
		And the state of t
1-2	3-6	7-13

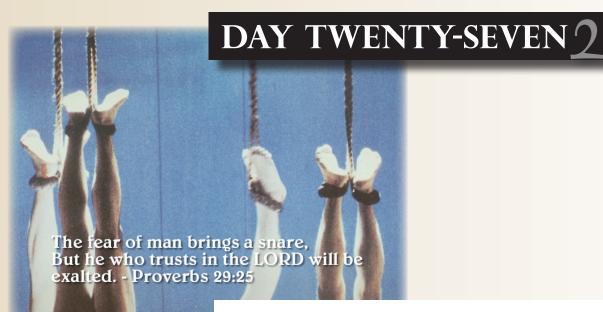
<sup>&</sup>quot;I also applied myself to the work on this wall." 5:16

### READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about principles for rebuilding?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

The rebuilding of the Temple was the first task, and it was accomplished under the leadership of Ezra. Now it was time to rebuild the walls of the city to protect the people. In what ways is my spiritual rebuilding process protecting my heart? The hearts of those I love and care for?



# DANGER TO THE JEWS 3:1-15 The plot is set...2:21-23 The plot is formed...3:5,6 1 - 3 God Defivers DELIVERANCE OF THE JEWS The plot is frustrated...6:1-3 The plot is dissolved...7:8-10

"Relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews..." 4:14

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
- Romans 8:31

### READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about deliverance from this basic sketch of the book of ESTHER?

How does PROVERBS 29:25 fit with the theme of Esther?

### **MY WORLDVIEW**

In what ways do I feel others are against me? That God is against me?

# DAY TWENTY-EIGHT 28

### **HAGGAI** Obedient Building

REVERENCE	ENCOURAGEMENT	
FOR GOD	FROM GOD	
Priorities1:2-6	Vision2:3-5	
Produce1:7-14	Acceptance2:20-23	
1	2	

"Consider your ways" 1:4,5

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

- 1 Corinthians 3:10

What does HAGGAI appear to offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

### **ZECHARIAH** Lord of Hosts

EIGHT NIGHT VISIONS 1:1-6,9	HOLY PROPHECIES 6:12-13; 14:20
1-6	6-14

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit." 4:6

Then he said to me... "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit" says the Lord of Hosts.

- 1 Corinthians 3:10

What does ZECHARIAH appear to offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

### MALACHI Sin's Dialogue

God's Love? 1:2

Priests Despise? 1:6,7
Covenant Profaned?
2:13-14

- SIX QUESTIONS -

"Your words have been arrogant." 3:13

There is a big difference between asking God and seeking answers and questioning His authority. Why ask questions that have been asked - and answered?

What does MALACHI appear to offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

# – 400 (fears of Silence –

Decline of the Greek Empire.
The iron fist/civilization of Rome.
The story of the priests of Moden.
The thirst for a deliverer.
The choice of 30 Messiahs.
Why the Jews missed Yeshua.

— The "fullness of times" —

# DAY TWENTY-NINE 29

With the transfer from the Greek to the Roman empire, the world entered a new phase of sophistication and domination. No one would be able to stand before Rome. But before the coming of the Messiah, Judas Maccabeus and the priests of Moden delivered Israel from the emerging iron fist of Rome. This political independence was highly valued by the Jews, and once Rome's grip re-emerged and crushed any rebellion in the empire, it left them longing for a promised "Messiah" who would, in their minds, bring national sovereignty once again.

There are apparently accounts of about 30 "messiahs" in Jerusalem as the public ministry of Christ took place. The religious leaders investigated the authenticity of the claims of each, and in the "fullness of times" the Son of God was revealed. The four hundred years of silence (no prophets) was anything but silent. Culture, power, and universal language (Greek) all were shaped into the backdrop for the Good News to launch to "the nations."

Remarkable times indeed!



# - EPOCH SIX - SHINING LIGHT

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST**

### THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- 2. Deliverance
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

### **ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE**

WATCH VIDEO SIX
"THE SHINING LIGHT"
as you work through
this section.

As you can see though our study thus far, the coming of the Son in human form is not whimsical or reactionary. God's Son literally "incarnates" into a human child and grows to adulthood for the express purpose of "buying back" the souls of mankind.

DAY THIRTY

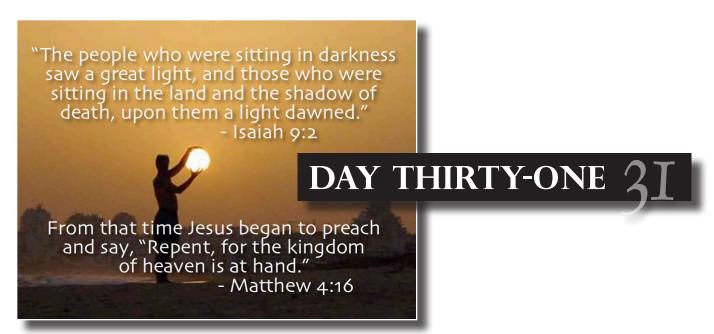
This is what the concept of "Messiah" is all about. The word means "to smear" or anoint - and clearly is the fulfilled promise of acceptable blood sacrifice foreshadowed in Adam and Eve and their two sons, Cain and Abel.

This SHINING LIGHT is none other than the Creator Himself. There is no doubt that a "covenant" or agreement was made before the foundations of the world between the eternal Father and His Son. This is the prophesied "Shiloh" of GENESIS 49, the prophet of DEUTERONOMY 18, and the Shining Light spoken of in ISAIAH 9. He is the great High Priest of all who believe in Him (HEBREWS 3).

John the Baptist knew who He was (JOHN 2). His followers knew as well (MATTHEW 16). All that remains is for us to believe or disbelieve.



READ HEBREWS 9
List the things that you learn about the copies on earth and the "real thing" in heaven.
What do you think "a copy" means?
The state of the s
What light does this shed on the "one story" of the scriptures?



# **READ ISAIAH 9.** List the things you find in this prophecy that teach you about the coming Messiah. How does the message of the last "old testament" prophet (Malachi 4) differ from that of "God's Prophet" in MATTHEW 4:17? MY WORLDVIEW When I consider the prophetic preparation and evidence for the coming Messiah, it makes me feel...

# DAY THIRTY-ONE 31

# Is Geshua Gos's Son?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- John 1:1-3

All of humanity is left with one all-or-nothing question. Is Yeshua (Jesus) God's Son?
DID THE SON CREATE THE WORLD?
MY WORLDVIEW
When I disentangle the Son from a supposed 2000 year old religion, all kinds of possibilities arise. Who is Jesus to me?

RE-READ THE PASSAGE ABOVE FROM JOHN 1

# DAY THIRTY-TWO 32 Matthew — for the Jewish mind Mark — for the Gentile mind Luke — for the Greek mind John — for the human heart

#### FOUR GOSPELS - FOUR PROPHETIC PURPOSES

If you were the Creator and You were going to present Yourself to thousands of cultures over a period of thousands of years, what approach would you take? Yahweh (the Living God) chose to give one people His Torah - His Law. This Law would suffice for speaking His truth until the "fullness of times," when His own dear Son would come to conquer death and rescue mankind.

The Jewish mind would trace everything to an authentic Messiah. His pedigree would be important, for Israel was God's chosen people to bring the Light to all the nations. The historic Hebrew context for the Good News would present the seamless Gospel - where those who live by Faith in the Living God will find life. This is the purpose of MATTHEW.

The Gentile would be much more interested in what Jesus did. MARK is a book of action, and the thoughtful reader who listened to the testimony was struck with the authority by which the Word made flesh commanded the blind and the sick.

The Greek mind would be interested in a chronological account regarding such an amazing appearance. This is where Dr. LUKE came in, placing the weight of Jesus' deeds into the greater Story - a "meta-story!"

JOHN, arguably the closest person to the Son of God during His public ministry, wrote for the human heart in every nation under heaven. Here was a personal Gospel, and even though it was contained in an historic context, we have only a small part of all that Jesus taught and did! Read JOHN 21:24,25.



The prophetic Word concerning the Messiah is significant to every human being who ever has or ever will live on the face of the earth. Check out 2 PETER 1:19. The Morning Star was a re-set point for travelers in the ancient world. It is a reset point for us as well!

	nink this prophecy is pertinent to you?
READ DEUTERONOMY 18:15-19Wh	ny do you think this prophecy is pertinent to you?
READ ISAIAH 9:1-7Why do you think	k this prophecy is pertinent to you?
READ JOHN 5:46Why do you think t	his statement is pertinent to you?

## DAY THIRTY-THREE 22

"This is the same disciple who was eyewitness to all these things and wrote them down. And we all know that his eyewitness account is reliable and accurate.

There are so many other things Jesus did. If they were all written down, each of them, one by one, I can't imagine a world big enough to hold such a library of books."

- John 21:24,25

#### EYE WITNESSES

We have recorded approximately 30 days of Jesus' 3-4 year public ministry with about 35 of what must have been thousands of miracles (LUKE 4:40). There were many eyewitness encounters with the resurrected Messiah. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:6 indicates that over 500 people saw Him at one time! And here is a mind-blower. Read MATTHEW 27:50-53.

READ 2 PETER 1:16 What do you learn about first century witnesses?	
MY WORLDVIEW  If you were writing your own account of your encounter with the Messiah would you describe it?	, how



#### **BIRTH**

These portions are limited in scope. LUKE gives us the full account of the amazing event. This is the birth of the True King!

### **BAPTIST**

John the Baptist was the one spoken of in ISAIAH 40 who would "prepare the way" of the coming Messiah. While his ministry was brief, he accomplished all that the scriptures prophesied about this "Elijah."

## TRAINING THE TWELVE

Jesus spent most of His time in GALILEE, training His followers, preaching the Gospel to the non-religious poor, and healing the sick and suffering.

#### JERUSALEM TEACHING

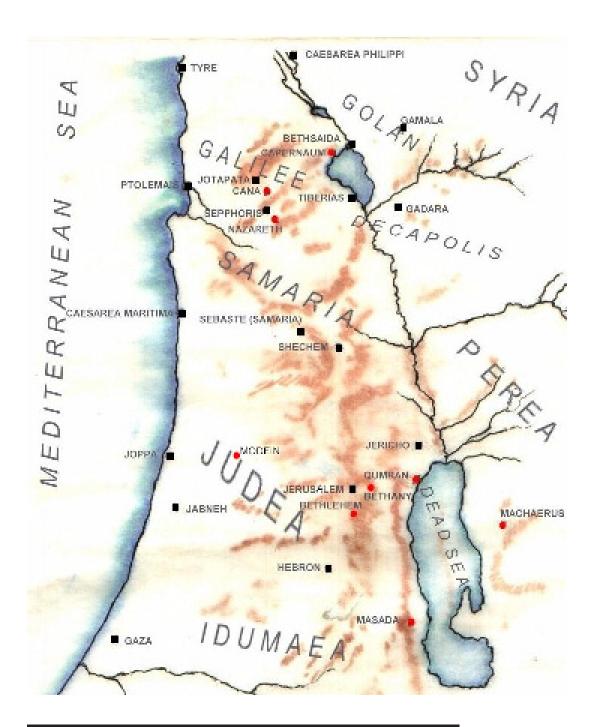
He would often come to JERUSALEM for feasts and celebrations, most often spending the night in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is where He twice scourged the money-lenders in the Temple.

#### JERUSALEM KILLING

Jesus' destiny was completely in His own hands. He is "laying down His life" willingly and on His timetable. He is more a LAMB than a King - for now!

#### **RISEN LORD!**

As if the many who saw Him after His resurrection were not enough, men and women from every NATION under heaven are experiencing Him - every day in every year!



# DAY THIRTY-THREE 33

## The center of spiritual life: GALILEE The center of religious life: JERUSALEM

Take a moment and familiarize yourself with the regions, cities, and geographical markers. Doesn't it seem odd that Jesus would work from Galilee rather than Jerusalem?

# DAY THIRTY-THREE 33



## TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND REVIEW THE CURRENT SNAPSHOT OF THE NATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Egypt and Africa are to the south and west.

Asia and Rome are to the west and north - above the Mediterranean.

Afghanistan, Russia, and China to the east and north.

It is truly incredible that the tiny nation of Israel is right in the middle of everything - and she will be until the end of time!

What does this map reveal about current and end time events?				

# DAY THIRTY-FOUR 34 FOURTILEY OF A LIFETIME. VALLEY OF JEZREEL FROM MOUNT CARMEL

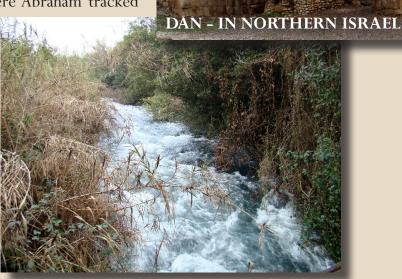
Our trip to Israel was expensive, long, and truly amazing. After reading the bible for so long, it was almost surreal to see the sites in this whirlwind 10 day trip. I am no expert on Israel, but we had a multi-generational Jewish guide who was amazing. I felt as though we were traveling through the Promised Land with a professor who not only knew his facts, but had "lived it" and was immersed in what it meant to be a modern Jew - with amazing historical roots.

We flew in to Tel-Aviv which is in the Southwest corner of Israel on the Mediterranean Sea. Tel-Aviv resembles a modern capital with Jerusalem being more tradional and religious. We then moved up the coast and stopped at Caesaria and toured some remarkable Roman excavations. This was Herod's port city and point of sea entry for Roman goods, culture, and influence. It is worth checking out online!

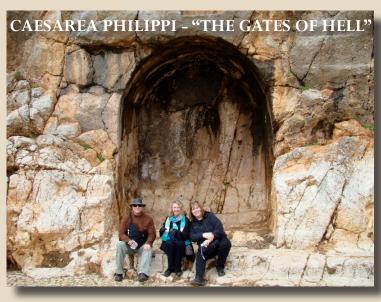
We then traveled north to Mt. Carmel (above), the traditional site of Elijah's encounter with the prophets of Baal (1 KINGS 18). From the top of this mountain you can see the plains of Megiddo or Jezreel. It took my breath away. I remember thinking that this valley really will be able to hold the armies of the earth! We then headed east through Nazareth (where Jesus grew up) and into Galilee. Israel is tiny! (about the size of Rhode Island). We moved northward to the head-waters of the Jordan, to the city of Dan (1 KINGS 12).

Through Dan (the historic northernmost city of the Kingdom) run the head waters of the Jordan, coming down from Mount Hermon in the North (Psalm 133). Water has been a perennial issue for Israel in that much of the Land is irrigated. The entire Valley of Jezreel was a tangled swamp in the early 1900's, and it has been irrigated and tamed into some of the most productive farmland in the world today. Seventy percent of Israel's water comes from this water system, flowing into the Sea of Galilee and then to the Dead Sea. Dan was the northern site for worship (1 KINGS 12). There is currently an excavation of the site of the old city of Dan where Abraham tracked

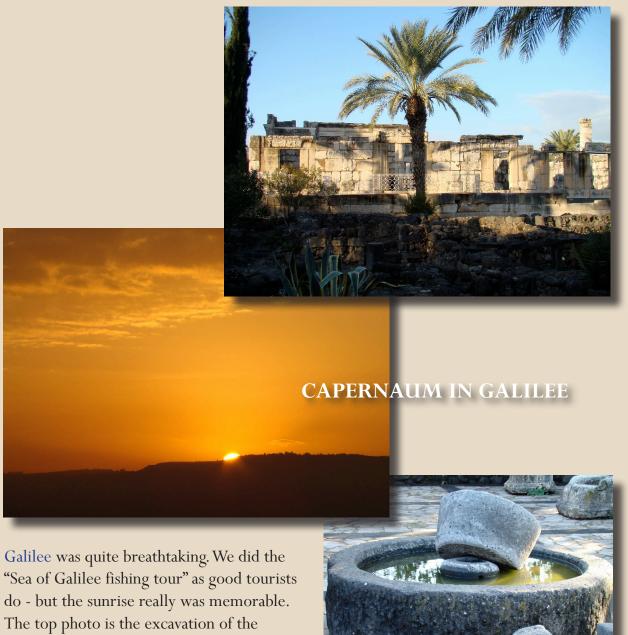
down and defeated the Kings that had taken his family (GENESIS 14).



In this northern area is the city of Caesaria Philippi, where there is a worship shrine for the honor of the Greek god Pan. It was known as the "gates of hell." A stream used to flow out of this mountain - hence the site of cultic civilization. This is the place where Jesus said to Peter that upon this truth He would "build His Church (MATTHEW 16:18) - and the "gates of hell" would not prevail against it." Amazing!



Page 81 - The Shining Light



Galilee was quite breathtaking. We did the "Sea of Galilee fishing tour" as good tourists do - but the sunrise really was memorable.

The top photo is the excavation of the synagogue in the fishing village of Capernaum, where Peter's house has been excavated.

To the right is an example of one of the many excavated items - this being a grinding mill.

Probably the coolest thing was to look at the surrounding bluffs and try to imagine how Jesus used the water and the hillsides to speak His words of life. The whole region is a natural amphitheater - far from the religious bustle of Jerusalem - or the influence of the Roman cities of the Decapolis.

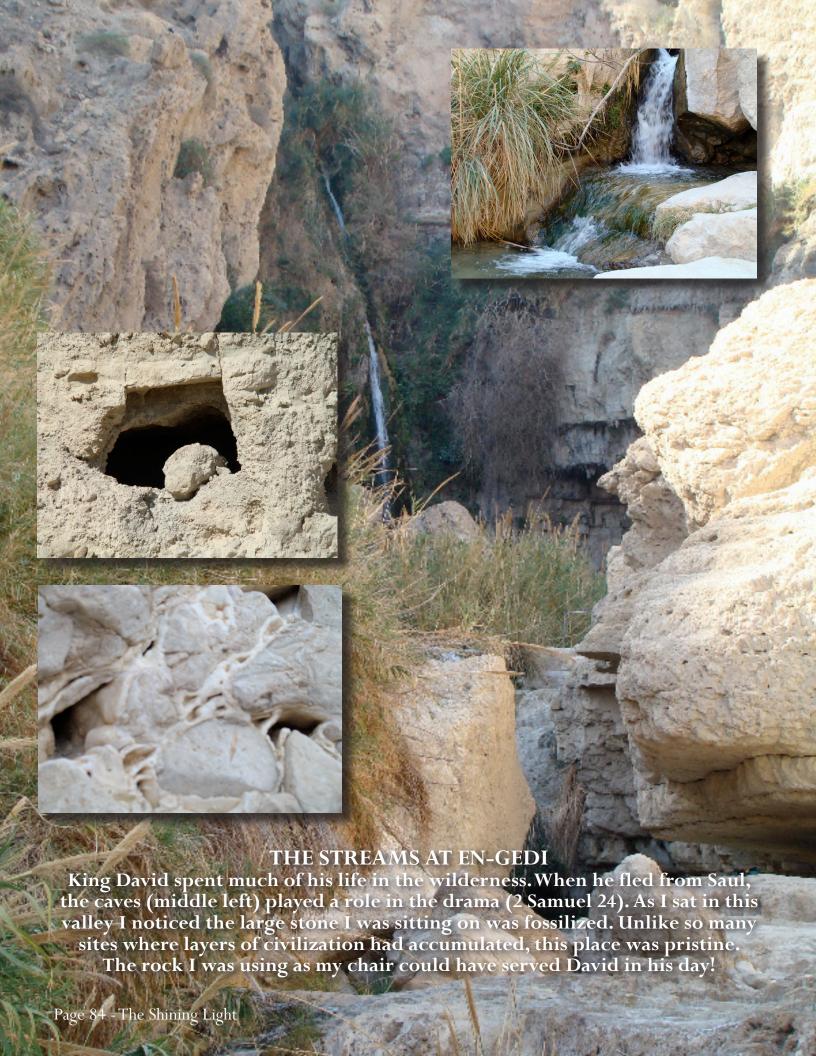
It is striking that Jesus spent most of His three to four year public ministry traversing Galilee. But then, after all, He was to come as the "shining light by way of the sea!" (ISAIAH 9:1 and MATTHEW 4:15)

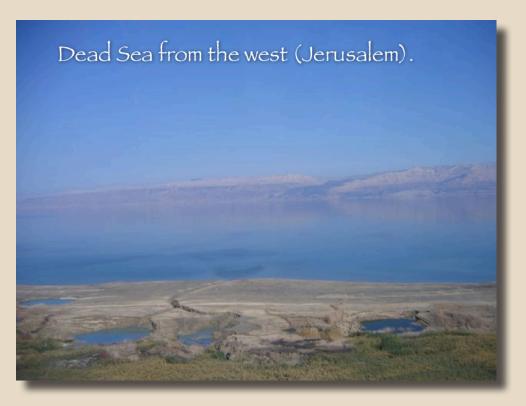


The city of Bet' Shean was next on our agenda. It was one of the ten cities of the Decapolis - huge feats of imported marble, columns, and civilization. Much of the Roman architecture was delivered by boat to Caesarea on the sea and then brought across land, or came down on the trade routes via the King's Highway. Bet' Shean was destroyed by an earthquake in the first century - so it is a preserved archeological find of amazing proportions. The photo below doesn't do the amphitheater justice. This visit gave a real sense for the extent, power, and glory of the Roman Empire during the time of the Messiah.



Page 83 - The Shining Light

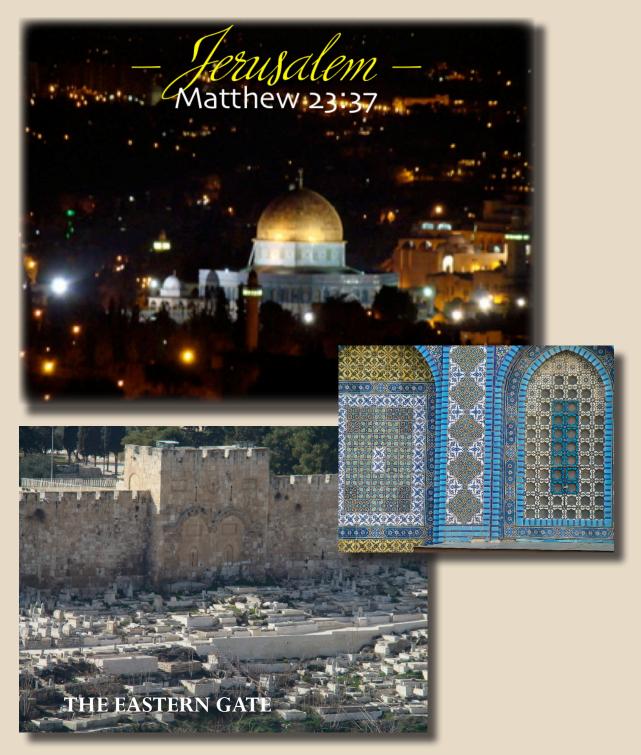




The Dead Sea (Salt Sea); Is totally unique. You can see the salt in the water (and very few water-skiers!) The extracted minerals continue to be a valuable commodity. The region between the seas and Jerusalem is miles of rocky terrain, and the stronghold of Masada was breathtaking (below). Used by Herod the Builder as a palace to entertain his Roman guests, it became a symbol of Jewish resistance to Roman rule during the time after Christ. This the area where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, providing many excellent original manuscripts. Some of these scrolls are on display at a museum in Jerusalem. It is quite sobering to gaze upon a Dead Sea manuscript of a portion of the book of Isaiah!



Page 85 - The Shining Light



Driving into Jerusalem at dusk was pretty cool. The lighting makes a surreal statement as you gaze at the mosque called the "Dome of the Rock." Jerusalem is a holy site of Islam - second only to Mecca. The dome structure is actually quite ornate. Notice that the Eastern Gate of the Temple Mount has been filled in. The King will come from the East, His feet will touch down on the Mount of Olives, and He will enter the Temple. This is why a Muslim cemetery was built in front of the Eastern gate - because surely the Messiah will not defile Himself by walking through a graveyard. This presupposes, of course, that Messiah is not the God of the living AND the dead!



Above: Under the Temple Mount on the bedrock of the mountain you will find Mount Moriah (GENESIS 22:2; 2 CHRONICLES 3:1). It is incredible to think that Abraham's site for sacrificing his son - is the same place Yahweh chose to offer His Son!

Below: In 70 AD the Temple was destroyed and the ruins were pushed over the western edge of the Temple Mount. Many levels of civilization have been built upon the site. Excavation begun in secret has only recently been pursued in earnest. You can imagine the historical significance of such interesting work!



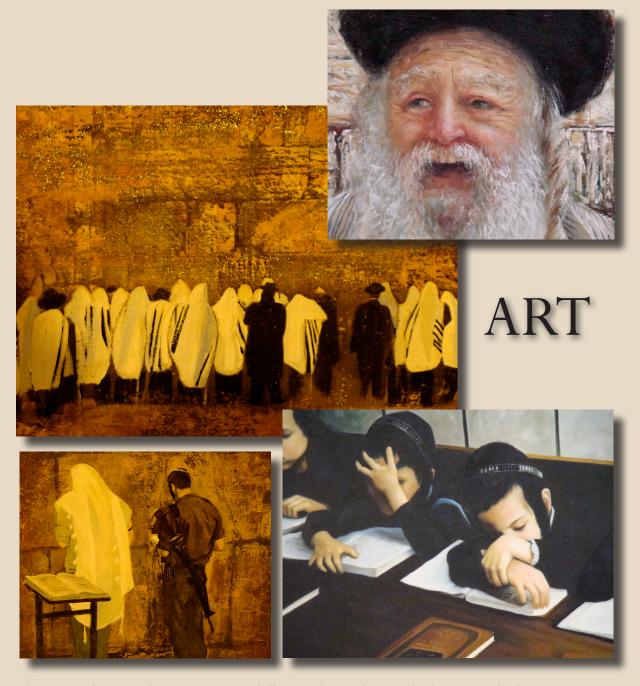
Page 87 - The Shining Light





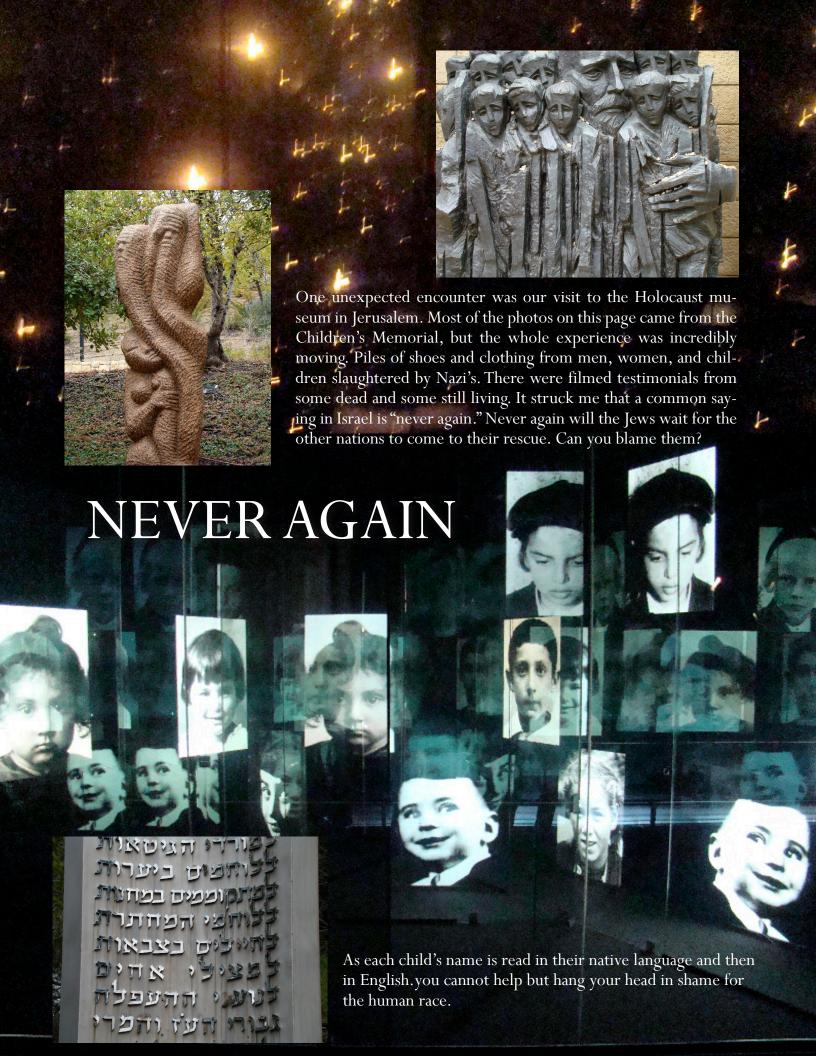
Page 89 - The Shining Light



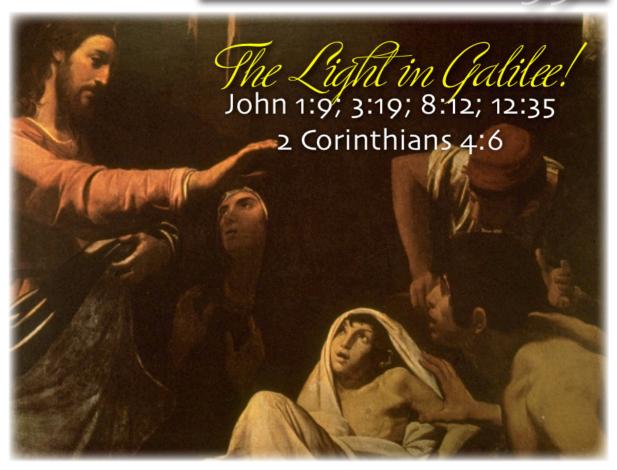


The art and atmosphere was quite different than what we had imagined. I'm sure our experience was not a broad one artistically, but we did find a few pieces that captured our cultural experience. Upper right: a painting of an old rabbi who reminded us of Simeon (it was snatched from our hands and purchased by our travelling companions. We have been granted visiting rights.)

Prayer devotees at the "wailing wall" - a wall which at any one part of the day finds Muslim, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, and other "pilgrim" worshippers (not at the same time!). By the same artist: a soldier and shawl-clad prayer participant - capturing the reality of the military presence - just a part of the Jewish every day experience. We purchased the print of the students struggling to stay awake during their training. It struck a chord in our Gentile imaginations!



## DAY THIRTY-FIVE 35



#### THE ABOVE PASSAGES ARE A "STUDY IN LIGHT"

What does each one teach us about the nature and impact of light?

JOHN 1:9

JOHN 3:19

JOHN 8:12

JOHN 12:35

#### **MY WORLDVIEW**

Read 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6. In what specific ways has Light shone into my life?



READ LUKE 4:16-21	
What were the signs that the Promised One had arrived?	
MY WORLDVIEW	
The most stirring thing I see from Christ's life is	

# DAY THIRTY-SIX 26

## TAKE THE TIME TO NOTE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING "KEY VERSE" REFERENCES IN YOUR BIBLE.

What do you notice about the variety and cohesiveness of these basic themes?

Book	Theme	Key Verse
	5 HISTORICAL	
Matthew	King Comes	4:17
Mark	Servant Sacrificed	10:45
Luke	Man Suffers	19:10
John	God Revealed	20:31
Acts	Church Witnesses	1:8
19	CHURCH LETTERS	
Romans	Our Salvation	1:16,17
1 Corinthians	Carnality's Consequences	3:1,3
2 Corinthians	Authority's Care	2:17
Galatians	True Gospel	3:3
Ephesians	Christ's Body	4:16
Philippians	Christ's Joy	3:1
Colossians	Christ's Headship	1:17,18
1 Thessalonians	Excel More	4:1
2 Thessalonians	Day of the Lord	2:1,2
5 PASTO	RAL & 7 GENERAL LE	TTERS
1 Timothy	Church's Ministry	3:15
2 Timothy	Church's Minister	2:15
Titus	Sound Teaching	1:9
Philemon	Forgive & Beget	10
Hebrews	Better Covenant	8:6
James	Tested Faith	1:12
1 Peter	Trust in Trials	4:19
2 Peter	Full Knowledge	1:19
1 John	True Fellowship	1:3
2 John	Wrong Hospitality	10
3 John	Right Hospitality	6
Jude	Contend & Build	3,20
	PROPHETIC	
Revelation	Judge Revealed	19:16

## DAY THIRTY-SIX 26

"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

- 1 John 5:11-13

#### READ 1 JOHN 5

How do we know we belong to God?
What does it mean to overcome in this life?
What does it mean to "have God?"
How do you feel about the "power of the evil one?"
Why do you think John ended this letter the way He did?
MYWORLDVIEW
On the basis of 1 JOHN 5 I would say that my spiritual life is

## THE LIFE OF JESUS

It is important to grasp the events of the life of Christ in order to understand His role in our present and future. Just as He walked this earth in submission to His Father's will, we are to pursue the will of the Lord Jesus Christ for our own lives. By understanding the chronological sequence of events, we can clearly see the plan of the Master as He accomplished His purposes. In the Gospels we see firsthand "the author (beginner) and perfecter (finisher) of our faith."

As we observe the "Footsteps of Jesus" we see the pattern for a spiritually productive life; lived perfectly by the only One who was able to do so. This chronology will help us to learn more about this effective pattern for living to help us please the One who created us. The four Gospels give four harmonizing perspectives on this miraculous life!

#### **GOD COMES NEAR**

Christ is prepared as the perfect submitted human heart coming to seek and to save what has been lost. Here are the major events of His preparation.

The Method God Chose	Matthew	Mark	Luke 1:1-4	John
The "Word" Revealed The "Word" Introduced (by genealogy)	1:1-17		3:23-28	1:1-18
The word infroduced (by genealogy)	1.1 11		3.23 20	
THE BIRTH				
Baptist Announced			1:5-25	
Jesus Announced			1:26-38	
Elizabeth's Song			1:39-45	
Mary's Song			1:46-56	
Baptist's Childhood & Birth			1:57-80	
Joseph Prepared	1:18-25			
JESUS IS BORN			2:1-7	
Angels and Shepherds			2:8-20	
Jesus is Circumcised			2:21	
Simeon and Anna			2:22-38	
Visit of the Magi	2:1-12			
Flight to Egypt/Children Slain	2:13-18			
To Nazareth	2:19-23		2:39	
Jesus in the Temple			2:41-50	
Childhood at Nazareth			2:51-52	
THE BAPTIST				
Beginnings		1:1	2:1	
Message	3:1-6	1:2-6	3:3-6	
Preaching	3:7-10		3:7-14	
Baptism	3:13-17	7:9-11	3:21-23	
Temptation	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	

#### **ALONEWITH HIS OWN**

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
TRAINING THE TWELVE				
Resting/Feeding	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-14
Prevented Proclamation	14:22-23	6:45-46		6:14-15
Water Walk	14:24-33	6:47-52		6:16-21
Parable for Traditions	15:1-20	7:1-23		7:1
Open Opposition	15:39-16:4		8:10-12	
Faith Test	16:13-20	8:27-30	9:18-21	
Death Predicted	16:21-26	8:31-37	9:22-25	
Transfiguration	17:1-8	9:2-8	9:28-36	
Future Resurrection	17:22-23	9:30-32	9:43-45	
A Child's Lesson	18:1-5	9:33-37	9:46-48	
Mistaken Zeal Rebuked	18:6-14	9:38-50	9:49-50	
Forgiveness	18:15-35			
Forsaking All	8:19-22		9:57-62	
Private Approach			9:51-56	7:10

#### PREPARING FOR THE END

Jesus knew when His time had come to give Himself to be crucified.

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
IN JUDEA				
Messiah at the Feast				7:11-52
Adulterous Woman				7:53-8:11
"Light of the World"				8:12-20
Attempted Stoning				8:21-59
"The Good Shepherd"				10:1-21
70 Sent Forth			10:1-24	
Martha and Mary			10:38-42	
Prayer			11:1-13	
Parable of the Fig Tree			14:1-9	
Repeated Parables			13:10-21	
Attempted Stoning				10:22-39
N. DDDDA				
IN PEREA				
Messiah at the Feast				
Withdrawal to Safety				10:40-42
Count the Cost			14:25-35	
Three Parables			15:1-32	
Lazarus Raised				11:1-44
To Jerusalem			17:11-37	
Rich Young Ruler	19:16-20	10:17-31	18:18-30	
Rebuke For the Future	20:17-28	10:32-45	18:31-34	

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
IN JERUSALEM TEACHING				
Triumphal Entry	21:1-11,14,17	11:1-11	19:29-44	12:12-19
Fig Tree Cursed/Second Cleansing	21:18-29,12-13	11:12-18	19:45-48	
"If I Am Lifted Up:				12:20-50
The Greatest Commandment	22:34-40	12:28-34		
Religious Leaders Denounced	23:1-39	12:38-40	20:45-47	
Future Things	24:25	13:1-37	21:5-36	
Foot Washing				13:1-20
Desertion Warning	26:31-35	14:27-31	22:31-38	13:31-38
Lord's Supper	26:26-29	14:22-25	22:17-20	Co 11:23-26
Upper Room Farewell				14
On the Way to Gethsemane				15:16
Intercessory Prayer				17
Agony in the Garden	26:20,36-46	14:26,32-42	22:36-39	18:1
TAKEN IN JERUSALEM				
Betrayed, Arrested, Forsaken	26:47-56	14:43-52	22:47-53	18:2-12
Peter's Denial	26:58,69-75	14:54,66-72	22:54-62 18	3:15-18,25-27
Before Pilate	27:2,11-14	15:1-5	23:1-5	18:28-38
Before Herod			23:6-12	
Before Pilate	27:15-26	15:6-15	23:13-25	18:39-19:16
First Three Hours	27:35-44	15:24-32	23:33-43	19:18-27
Three Hours of Darkness	27:45-50	15:33-37	23:44-46	19:28-30
Death's Phenomena	27:51-56	15:38-4[	23:45-47,49	
Burial	27:57-60	15:42-46	23:50-54	19:31-42
Tomb Watch	27:61-66	15:47	23:55-56	

## A NEW BEGINNING!

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, "For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in you sins...If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most to be pitied."

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
RISEN				
Rolling Earthquake	28:2-4			
Sunday Sunrise Visit	28:5-8	16:2-8	24:1-8	20:1
Guard Report	28:11-15			
The Road to Emmaus		16:12-13	24:13-32	
Catch of Fishes				21
Appearance of 500/Commission Given	28:16-20	16:15-18		1Co 15:6
Another Commission			24:44-49	Acts 1:3-8
Final Appearance/Ascension		16:19-20	24:51-53	Acts 1:9-12



- EPOCH SEVEN -TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- 2. Deliverance
- DAY THIRTY-SEVEN 37
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

## **ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE**

WATCH VIDEO SEVEN
"TO THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH"
as you work through
this section.

Within the age of time we have found the Bible's explanation of our roots and the ORIGINS of both the human and chosen races. The CHOSEN RACE was delivered from bondage and given the privilege of honoring the Living God among the nations. They inhabit the PROMISED LAND after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and are given judges, prophets, and kings to guide them as a spiritual nation.

The Chosen people reject God's Law (the Torah) and in so doing reject Him. The Creator gives them over to 80 years of CAPTIVITY, and afterwards supernaturally restores them to the Promised Land. 400 years of SILENCE ensue during which God is anything but silent. The last prophet speaks, and John the Baptist emerges as the "one crying out in the wilderness." (ISAIAH 40).

The "fullness of times" has arrived, and the spiritual, social, and political sovereignty are all in place. The Roman Empire and the Greek language form a conduit that simply launches the Good News throughout the world, upon the foundation of the Hebrew experience. Jesus or "Yeshua" is the SHINING LIGHT - God Himself. He makes many "disciples" or followers and send them to the ENDS of the earth!

#### THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT

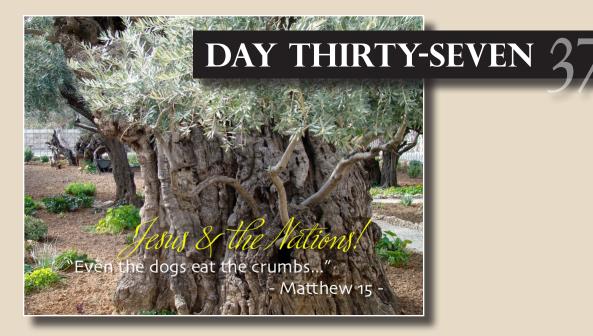
READ IOHN 10:16 AND GENESIS 12:3

During Jesus' time on earth He deeply impacted family, friends, and followers. He brought the Good News to the Jews because it was theirs by birthright - He brought the Good News to the nations (Gentiles) because this was His plan from the beginning.

What do you learn about the above statement from these two passages?	

Jesus carefully selected 12 "disciples" and about 70 other men and women to accompany Him during His public ministry. For 3-4 years they lived, ate, and slept the Kingdom. Their home base was Galilee, with many forays into Jerusalem, Samaria, and "beyond the Jordan." This band of men and women, along with the Jewish network throughout the empire, would together turn the world upside down!

What they all seemed to have in common was an understanding that Jesus is the Light of the world. What are the revolutionary aspects to my personal encounter with Jesus Christ, God's Son?



READ MATTHEW 15:20-28
Jesus almost seems cruel in dealing with this woman. Why would the fact that she is a
Gentile have been held against her?
Why had the woman come to Jesus?
What did her persistence reveal about who she was spiritually? This is what Jesus was
talking about in MATTHEW 5:1-11!
tanding about in military 3.1 11.
MYWORLDVIEW
Do I feel like I deserve spiritual favor, or am I content to take the crumbs which fall
from the table?
nom the tuble.

# DAY THIRTY-EIGHT 38



## ACTS & The New Testament Letters

This study is provided to help you see a general chronology of where the church letters fit in relation to the events of the book of Acts. This will prove valuable as you try to determine the circumstances of the author (particularly Paul) at the time each book was penned.

Pentecost (Acts 2)

Stephen martyred (Acts 6:8-7:60)

JAMES written

Agrippa's persecution, James martyred (Acts 12:1-23)

First Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)

Peter at Antioch (Galatians 2:11-16)

GALATIANS written from Antioch

Jerusalem council, Paul's third visit (Acts 15)

Second Missionary Journey

1 THESSALONIANS written

2 THESSALONIANS written

Third Missionary Journey

1 CORINTHIANS written

2 CORINTHIANS written

ROMANS written

Paul's arrest and trial before Felix (Acts 21:26-24:22)

Paul before the Sanhedrin

Appearance of the Lord (night)

Trial before Festus (Acts 25:7-12)

Trial before Agrippa (Acts 26)

Voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1-28:29)

MATTHEW written

Arrival in Rome

EPHESIANS written

COLOSSIANS and PHILEMON written

PHILIPPIANS written

MARK written

LUKE written

1 TIMOTHY written

1 PETER written

JUDE written

HEBREWS written (author unknown)

TITUS written

2 TIMOTHY written

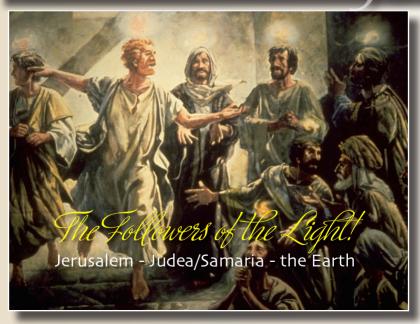
2 PETER written

**ACTS** written

REVELATION written

JOHN, 1-2-3 JOHN written

## DAY THIRTY-EIGHT 28



#### **READ ACTS 2**

It is important to recognize that the book of Acts is more the "acts of the Holy Spirit" than the "acts of the apostles." There were Jews and converts from "every nation under heaven" for the Feast of Pentecost, which occurred 50 days after Passover.

Jesus was very clear with His disciples: "You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." Some people mistakenly believe that the Holy Spirit was not present before Pentecost, but He was present at the Creation of everything (GENESIS 1:2) - as was the Son (HEBREWS 1:2).

This outpouring occurred for the express purpose of launching the Good News to both Jews and Gentiles, and to make it clear that the "fullness of times" was at hand. The effect was electric. These participants dispersed to every corner of the empire - testifying to the reality of the resurrection. Remember, the bold "sermon" of ACTS 1 is a backdrop for the outpouring of ACTS 2.

## How we know we know.

"For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty...

...so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

- 2 Peter 1

# DAY THIRTY-EIGHT 38

READ 2 PETER 1

What did the	eyewitnesses supply to the tesimony of the Good News?
Why should v	we be able to count on the testimony that has been given to us?
MY WOR What part do	LDVIEW  Des the Holy Spirit play in my life with regard to illuminating truth?



## DAY THIRTY-NINE 39

# DAY THIRTY-NINE 39

#### **JERUSALEM**

The Gospel poured out of Jerusalem into the world after the Day of Pentecost. That day (ACTS 1-2) there were Jews celebrating the feast from "every nation under heaven." Peter, James, and John were "pillars" in this work, along with the other apostles.

This platform for the Good News was built upon the emerging Kingdom and was rooted in the Hebrew scriptures. Her enemies (see the Jewish leaders) were arrogance and the idolatry of tradition and achieved standing among men.

The roots in Jerusalem were very Hebrew, and through the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms, grounded the fledgling church in a deep, rich history.

#### **ANTIOCH**

The Gospel launched to the Gentiles out of Antioch, primarily under the leadership of men such as Paul, Silas, Barnabas, and Apollos. Antioch was hundreds of miles north of Jerusalem, and poised strategically to reach all the way to Rome - and everything in between.

Antioch was built upon the expanding Kingdom, a "called out" group of Gentiles taken from the "nations." Rooted in the Gospel and the letters, the early "church" stormed the bastions of false gods and worthless idols, calling lost Jews and Gentiles from all over the world to become "one new man" in Christ.

Their chief enemy was paganism and syncretism, against brash idolatry and hybrids that seem to be in never-ending supply when the Kingdom is expanding in the world.

## DAY THIRTY-NINE 39

## **ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

THE MINISTRY OF THE RISEN CHRIST **JERUSALEM ACTS 1:8 JUDEA &** ENDS OF THE EARTH SAMARIA JOURNEY 1 JOURNEY 2 **JOURNEY 3** ROME WOMEN **JAMES ROMANS** THESSALO-**GALATIANS** PETER DISCIPLES **HEBREWS** 1 & 2 NIANS **JOHN** 500 CORINTHIANS **PHILIPPIANS** TIMOTHY **JUDE TITUS** COLOSSIANS

#### THINK THROUGH THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

#### **READ ACTS 1:8**

Notice how the Gospel grows just as Jesus said it would - to the Jew first and then to the Greek (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria - then the world!). (page 108)

There were three "missionary journeys" as the Good News spread from the Jews throughout the world to the Gentiles.

Notice how each "letter" is placed somewhere on this historic growth continuum. From a handful of men and women disciples the world was literally turned upside down by the power of God in and through their lives!

Each of these letters is a tool for the Holy Spirit as we devote our hearts to the King of Kings, and await His coming from heaven.

THE BOOK OF ACTS CONTINUES TO UNFOLD IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES!

# DAY THIRTY-NINE 39

Upon the foundation of the Kingdom.

The Hebrew demonstration

Within the Mystery of the Church. "One New Man" of all the nations

It is important to understand that the word "church" is used only a few times in the Gospels - but the word Kingdom is used over 100 times.

The historic church has somehow switched this emphasis, not realizing that by diminishing the Kingdom (which is organic, growing in the hearts of Kingdom followers) and focusing on building the church (which is organizational, focused on visibility) - a theological hybrid has been produced that has trouble reproducing in the soil of the world.

The Hebrew demonstration is the foundation. The Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms revealed the Messiah. The Gospels and the apostles work together to build the house upon the deep roots of the Hebrew faith. (LUKE 24:44)

At the end of the age our Hebrew roots will unfold with the Mystery of the Church and fulfill the Kingdom Heart of the Messiah and His Father (EPHESIANS 2:15).

When the end comes we will be separated into sheep and goats (MATTHEW 25:32). The sheep will move into life. The goats will not.

This is the story of the Biblical Kingdom.



# - EPOCH EIGHT - END OF THE AGE

#### ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- 2. Deliverance
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

#### **ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE**

WATCH VIDEO EIGHT
THE END OF THE AGE"
as you work through
this section.

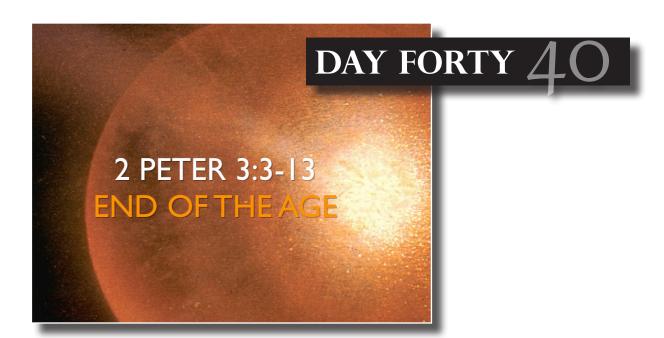
Within the age of time we have found the Bible's explanation of our roots and the ORIGINS of both the human and chosen races. The CHOSEN RACE was delivered from bondage and given the privilege of honoring the Living God among the nations. They inhabit the PROMISED LAND after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and are given judges, prophets, and kings to guide them as a spiritual nation.

DAY FORTY 4

The Chosen people reject God's Law (the Torah) and in so doing reject Him. The Creator gives them over to 80 years of CAPTIVITY, and afterwards supernaturally restores them to the Promised Land. 400 years of SILENCE ensue during which God is anything but silent. The last prophet speaks, and John the Baptist emerges as the "one crying out in the wilderness." (ISAIAH 40).

The "fullness of times" has arrived, and the spiritual, social, and political sovereignty are all in place. The Roman Empire and the Greek language form a conduit that simply launches the Good News throughout the world, upon the foundation of the Hebrew experience. Jesus or "Yeshua" is the SHINING LIGHT - God Himself. He makes many "disciples" or followers and send them to the ENDS of the earth!

The Church has accomplished Her purpose - the Kingdom has grown to include every predestined soul within the scope of God's sovereign grace - now it is time to roll up the scroll of time and return to ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE!

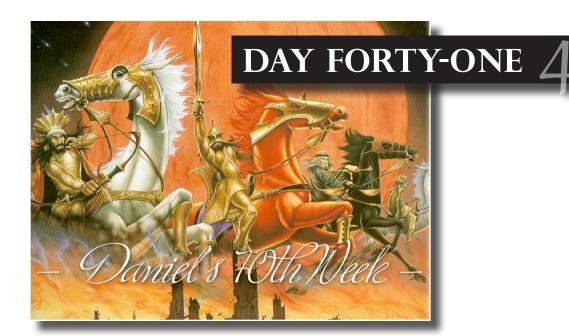


#### READ 2 PETER 3:3-13

What are the specifics about the end of the age from this Peter passage?
MY WORLDVIEW
I would place myself in the role of a mocker in the sense that
I would place myself in the role of a Christ follower about these things in the sense that



READ JOEL 2:28-32
List the particulars of what this passage says about the end of the age:
READ ACTS 2:1-47
What similarities do you see to the Joel passage? What differences?
MYWORLDVIEW
It is hard to imagine such a hard end for mankind. What do you think is the bigge
story here (Read EPHESIANS 6:10-17)?



READ DANIEL 9
What framework is given for the "end of the age?"
What are your impressions of what this time will be like and how long it will last?
How is it possible to apply what is in the book of Daniel to the content of Revelation?
Do I believe that the earth will end the way it is described here?

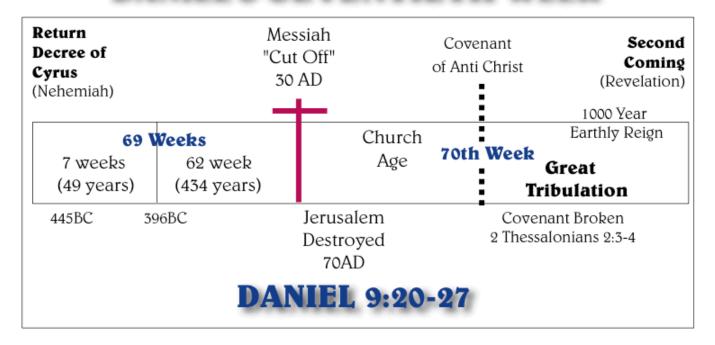
## DAY FORTY-TWO 42

# DANIEL Future Things DANIEL EXALTED FUTURE PRESENTED 1:8; 2:9-21; 3:16-18; 4:25-31; 6:10:11 2:31-35; 7:13,14; 9:24-27; 12:8-13 1-11 12-22 "Then the sovereignty will be given." 7:27

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE.
What do you learn about Daniel the man from these verses?
What do you learn about the future from these verses?
MYWORLDVIEW
When I think about the end of time it makes me feel

# DAY FORTY-THREE 43

#### DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK



READ DANIEL 9:20-27
What do you see from this passage that reflects upon the chart above?
MYWORLDVIEW
What do I believe about the eternal nature of my soul?
About the end of the world?

### DAY FORTY-THREE 43

#### REVELATION Judge Revealed

HIS AUTHORITY	HIS SUBJECTS	HIS POWER
2:17, 18	3:19-22	Mercy5:1-8 Terror16:17-2 Joy22:1-5
1	2-3	4-22

He has a name written, "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." 19:16

What do you learn about Jesus from this basic sketch of the book of Revelation?
MYWORLDVIEW
When I think about Jesus in the manger, Jesus the Healer, Jesus dying on the cross,
and Jesus' second coming that is talked about in this book, it makes me feel

# DAY FORTY-THREE 43

#### YET TO COME!

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST

#### **REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

THE VISION - SEALS - TRUMPETS - BOWLS

RAPTURE - MILLENNIUM - JUDGMENT - ETERNAL LIFE

Daniel's Seventieth Week (Daniel 9:24-27)

"But in those days, after that tribulation, 'the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven,' and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

"Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven." - Mark 13

(Luke 21: Matthew 24)

#### NOTICE THE OUTLINE OF REVELATION IN THE BLUE SHADED AREA ABOVE.

What have you been taught about end time events?
Why is it important to be aware about the end of the age?
Take a few minutes and read MARK 13, LUKE 21, and MATTHEW 24. Jesus provides the framework for understanding end times events (after all - He IS God!). What are the things He says with clarity?

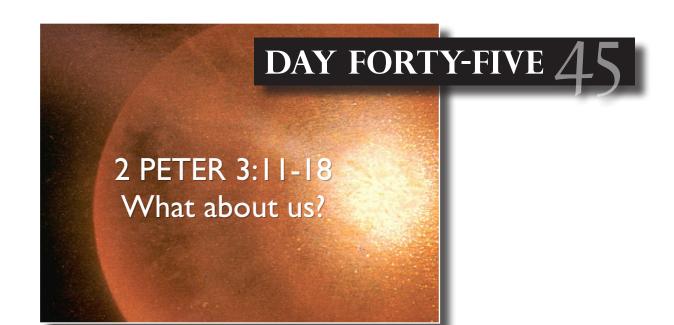


#### READ EZEKIEL 38, REVELATION 20, and ISAIAH 49.

The end of the age will include Jerusalem being surrounded by armies (LUKE 21). It appears that many of the current nations will play a part in the end of the age. Russia, Iran, Libya, China, and Israel will all be key to the events of the end.

It is quite fascinating that this tiny country (Israel) continues to be in the middle of world events - and will continue to be until the end of time!

# MY WORLDVIEW How strong is my belief that the end of time will unfold the way it is described here? How does this fact change how I am making choices in my life?



# How is it possible to "hasten" the coming day of the Lord? How is it possible to be "diligent" to be "spotless" and "blameless?" Why are humans so susceptible to error? MY WORLDVIEW How strong is my belief that the end of time will unfold the way it is described here?

How does this fact change how I am making choices in my life?



# DAY FORTY-SIX 4

These two charts help to show how the God Story unfolds. Notice the grouping of the books in each "testament." What do you learn about purposes that are being revealed?



Page 124 - End of the Age

# DAY FORTY-SIX 46

Carefully think your way through the story of the "old" testament. What do you notice about the flow of the story? What in the story do you find amazing? Compelling? Scary?

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Joshua
Job		Numbers	Judges
		Deuteronomy	Ruth
		2 Step Deliverance:	

Human Race Creation	Chosen Race Abraham	400	Israel out of Egypt	CONQUEST!
Fall	Isaac	420	01 22) Pt	0
Flood	Jacob	Years of Bondage	Eggpt out	$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{O} \\ \mathbf{Crolor} \end{pmatrix}$
Tower	Joseph	Doridage	Egypt out of the	Cycles
		_	people!	

	1 Chronicles	2 Chronicles		
1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings	
	Psalms	Proverbs Ecclesiastes	ISRAEL	722 BC To Assyria
SAUL No Heart	DAVID Whole Heart	SOLOMON Half a Heart	931BC Division	CAPTIVITY
Samuel		Songs	JUDAH	586 BC To Babylon

Esther Ezra Nehemiah

CAPTIVITY
RETURN
400
REFORM
REBUILD
YEARS

Ezekiel Daniel Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

John the

Baptist!

# DAY FORTY-SEVEN 47

Carefully think your way through the story of the "new" testament. What do you notice about the flow of the story? What in the story do you find amazing? Compelling? Scary?

\_\_\_\_\_

Jews	Greeks	Romans	World
KING COMES	SERVANT SACRIFICED	MAN SUFFERS	<b>GOD REVEALED</b>
MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN

#### MESSIAH'S GOOD NEWS!

THE SACRIFICIAL SERVING MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

BIRTH BAPTIST

TRAINING THE TWELVE

JERUSALEM TEACHING

**JERUSALEM KILLING** 

#### THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

**JERUSALEM** 

JUDEA & SAMARIA

THE MINISTRY OF THE RISEN CHRIST ACTS 1:8

#### **ENDS OF THE EARTH**

JOURNEY 1

JOURNEY 2

JOURNEY 3

ROME

WOMEN DISCIPLES 500

JAMES HEBREWS ROMANS 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS EPHESIANS PHILIPPIANS COLOSSIANS THESSALO-NIANS TIMOTHY TITUS

PETER JOHN JUDE

#### YET TO COME!

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST

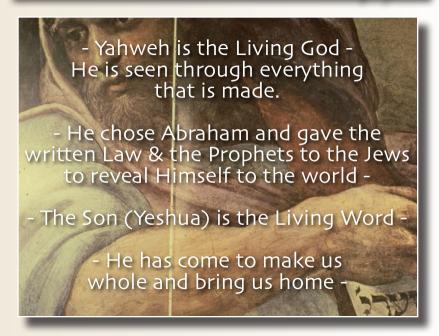
#### **REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

THE VISION - SEALS - TRUMPETS - BOWLS

RAPTURE - MILLENNIUM - JUDGMENT - ETERNAL LIFE

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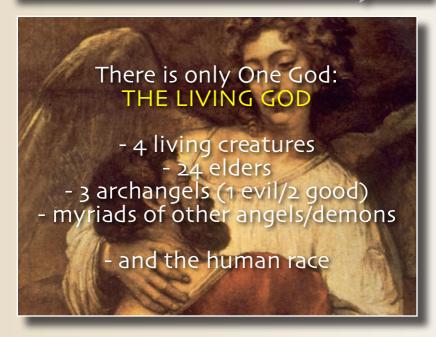
# DAY FORTY-SEVEN 47



#### **MYWORLDVIEW**

READ ROMANS 1:20.
How is it possible to see the Living God through everything that is made?
Why would He work primarily among the Hebrews to reveal His power to the earth?
RETURN TO ACTS 17, a passage we considered at the beginning of our quest. How is this
passage helpful in defining roots for my beliefs about coming to know God?
Have I become convinced that Jesus (Yeshua) is the Living Word?

# DAY FORTY-EIGHT 48



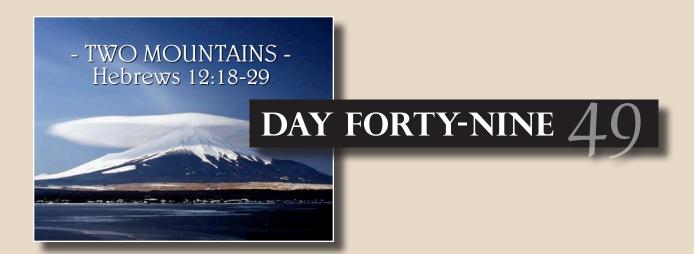
#### **MYWORLDVIEW**

Do I believe in the existence of angels and demons, good and evil, Satan and God?
Is there any practical difference in the world if there is more than one god?
READ 1 JOHN 5:12  How can all other religions be incorrect, and how could Jesus be so exclusive about eternal life?



#### **MY WORLDVIEW**

How does the perspective of "One Testament" differ from what I have learned in the past?
In what ways do I think my Hebrew roots connect to my own walk of faith?
What does the "Jewishness" of Jesus or Yeshua imply about the authenticity of faith?
HOW CAN JESUS THE MESSIAH BE BORN OF JEWISH VIRGIN AND AT THE SAME TIME BE GOD'S SON - THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF HIS FATHER?
Why is this important to consider in light of my personal faith?
HOW CAN JESUS THE MESSIAH BE BORN OF JEWISH VIRGIN AND AT THE SAME TIME BE GOD'S SON - THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF HIS FATHER?



READ HEBREWS 12:18-29
List the unique features of Mount Sinai (Mt. Horeb):
List the unique features of Mount Zion:
What are the similarities between the two mountains?
What are the differences?
The Living God is the same Inhabitant of both mountains. What is the same about Him? What is different?
MY WORLDVIEW Gratitude appears to be a gift that I possess to give back to God. In what ways is my life a grateful gift?

#### **DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE!**

DAY FIFTY 50

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword,

and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12

YOU HAVE JUST SPENT A NUMBER OF HOURS LEARNING MUCH ABOUT THE OVERALL STORY OF THE BIBLE.

#### YOU NOW KNOW:

- the designations "old" and "new" testament are man-imposed
- the origins of all we see have been scientifically and spiritually explained
- all men are born fallen in our human nature, and the Lord God is our only hope
- the Living God intervened by presenting His only Son to buy back the souls of man
- God has spoken through Creation, His Word, and finally through His Son
- through each of the Eight Epochs in the fabric of time we are taught more about the Story, who God is, who we are, and the existence of a specific Plan
- each of our lives are significant in the Big Story
- in fact the Big Story is made more full by each of our stories
- the scriptures are knowable for those who will devote time and reflection
- the goal of knowing the scriptures is to come to know the Living God more fully

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF WHAT HE HAS CHOSEN TO REVEAL TO US THROUGH HIS WORD!

# **ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST**THE AGE OF TIME

- 1. Origins
- 2. Deliverance
- 3. Kings & Kingdoms
- 4. Prophets & Captivity
- 5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
- 6. The Shining Light
- 7. To the Ends of the Earth
- 8. The End of the Age

#### **ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE**



# DAY FIFTY 50

EACH OF THESE "EPOCHS" fill in more of the Story, and prepare us for what will happen as we transition out of time and return to our never-ending future.

Think your way through each part of the story and the parts of scripture that are represented in each of the eight epochs.

What were some of the sections you found to be most interesting?	
To which will you return for more interaction?	
In what ways do you feel you are better prepared to draw more out of the God Stor	ry?
CAN YOU THINK OF ANYONE WHO WOULD ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT EIGHT EPOCHS JUST AS YOU HAVE?	THESE

# HOW TO GET A LOT OUT OF THE BIBLE WHEN I READ!

What are the elements
of the passage?

What did it mean to the original
participants?

What does to mean to me?

It is key to care enough to investigate faith stories from the Word of God, and to make room for asking the question: "what are the basic facts of the story before me?"

We then EXPOSE the meaning by placing ourselves into the particular context from which truth is emerging. What did it mean to the characters involved? The one telling the story? The original recipients of the story? What were the sounds?

The smells? The feelings? The vivid pictures that such a situation exposes?

Once we have been careful to ENCOUNTER and EXPOSE it is time to experience an ENLIGHTENED HEART. What principles have been presented for my personal growth in faith? What does the Holy Spirit have to teach me from this passage? How will adapting such a principle enrich my life as well as the lives of those around me?

It is a true joy in life to live in Light and to help others interact with truth. Our world views dictate how we will live - and how we live is inseparably tied to our eternal glory in Christ!

# ENCOUNTER THE WORD! EXPOSE THE MEANING! ENLIGHTEN YOUR HEART!

A number of things contribute to our world view. Our upbringing and culture, our life-experiences and those who have been our teachers, our personal philosophical conclusions, and how we view faith and eternity.

JESUS invites us to consider His context for life and eternity, and to allow our personal **worldview** to be shaped by His Good Spirit. Such a quest is big enough to give substance to even the longest or most obscure life!

#### Always a great question:

How has this particular truth shaped my world view and the way I choose to treat others - and commit my time, my talents, and my treasures?

#### HOW THE PSALMS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO MY HEART!

#### Whatever passage you are reading, always look for the heart connection!

The human body is fragile. Even in strength and good health it takes very little to turn everything upside down when our physical health is impaired. Our emotional life is similar. We can be high as a kite on life one moment, and then a simple word or change of circumstances can send us plummeting to earth, often to a very rude landing!

The soul is the indestructible part of us. It is where the true battles are fought and it is the arena of our conscience and our spirit as well. You could say it is where the essence of a man or woman exists. This is where our interior life is thought out, forged, and where we are won or lost. The soul is crucial to the measure of our lives. Giving attention to our interior lives is critical to the sum of who we are.

The Psalms are probably the best representations of an interior life that we have in all of human recorded history. The struggle with good and evil, desire and want, and anger and joy are all arrayed before us in the lives of the Psalmists - David, King of Israel owning the lion's share of these helpful snapshots into our interior lives.

To put this into perspective, we must understand that David probably enjoyed one of the most intimate and spiritually favored lives with the Living God of any human who has ever lived. We can look into his writings and find his heart, and in so doing we can find God's heart. The Psalms are a key to unlocking our hearts.

When you take a look at almost any Psalm you will find it easy to break down, usually by paragraph. Often a premise is explained, a struggle is engaged, and each Psalm usually releases when the Psalmist has given his care and concern back to God.

#### TO "CRACK" A PSALM

- **Pray** that God will open the Psalms to you as you read.
- Read any story **background** in the scriptures on this particular Psalm that you can find.
- **Divide** the Psalm into sections.
- Follow the circumstance and **emotions** of the Psalmist through the entire passage.
- Choose and **note one or two verses** you think are key to your heart relationship with Him.
- Ask the **question**, "in what ways is this Psalm expanding my drive to be whole-hearted?"

#### **ENJOY!**



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