

Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Twelve: The Exile – Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther

After reading Daniel 1:1, glance at 2 Chronicles 36:17 as a reminder about Nebuchadnezzar's role in Biblical history.

- 1) What do you learn about Daniel from:
 - a) Daniel 1:1-7?
 - b) Daniel 1:8, 12; 6:10, 22b?
 - c) Daniel 1:17, 20; 2:19; 4:9; 5:12; 7:1, 15; 8:1; 9:23b; 10:1b?
 - d) Daniel 1:21, 2:1a, 5:30-6:1, 7:1a, 8:1a, 9:1, 10:1a?

- 2) Compare Daniel 1:8 with Daniel 6:26.
 - a) How does Daniel's life show that one small act of obedience to the Lord can be used for His glory beyond our wildest imagination?

 - b) What act of obedience to the Lord will you take to heart?

The first six chapters of Daniel contain narratives about the influence the Lord gave Daniel and his companions in a pagan culture. The last six chapters of Daniel are visions Daniel received from the Lord that relate to future events in world history.

- 3) Skim to discover the theme:
 - a) common to Daniel 3 and Daniel 6
 - b) common to Daniel 4 and Daniel 5

- 4) The visions in chapters 7-12 are apocalyptic. One of the characteristics of apocalyptic literature is symbolism. Read these portions of Daniel's visions and record what they reveal about God's relationship to human history:
 - a) Daniel 7:13-14

 - b) Daniel 7:15-27

 - c) Daniel 8:19-26

 - d) Daniel 10:5, 12-14

e) Daniel 12:1-3

- 5) Read Daniel 2:20-22 with Acts 17:24-28 and Romans 8:28. For which issue or aspect of your life do you need spiritual eyes to see the Lord's involvement and control? Will you begin asking Him for insight?

Ezekiel

- 6) What do the following verses reveal about Ezekiel as a man?
- a) Ezekiel 1:3 (background and present situation)
 - b) Ezekiel 8:1, 24:18 (personal information)
 - c) Ezekiel 3:17 (titles he was given [find two])
- 7) What do these following passages tell you about Ezekiel's ministry?
- a) Ezekiel 1:4-5, 15-16, 20, 26-28 (manner of his call)
 - b) Ezekiel 2:3-8, 3:17-21; also 33:1-9 (requirements of his call)
 - c) Ezekiel 4:1-5:5; 12:3-6, 11; 12:17-19; 24:15-27 (one type of prophetic ministry)
 - d) Ezekiel 5:6-8, 6:1-2, 7:1-2, 14:4a (another type of prophetic ministry)
 - e) Ezekiel 1:1; 8:2-4 ending in 11:24, 40:2, 43:3 (a third type of prophetic ministry)
- 8) Use these references to determine the themes of Ezekiel's messages:
- a) Ezekiel 9:3 with 10:18; then 11:23 (consider what was meant by the movement of the glory of God away from the Temple and out of the city of Jerusalem).
 - b) Ezekiel 16:59, 22:2-4
 - c) Ezekiel 14:14 (implied); 18:4b and 18:20 with 18:5, 9 and 18:10, 13 and 18:14, 17b
 - d) Ezekiel 25:2 with 25:7b; 25:8-9 with 25:11b; 25:15-16 with 25:17b; 28:21 with 28:26b; 29:2 with 29:21b
 - e) Ezekiel 34:11-13, 36:24-28; the well-known vision of 37:1-14 with its interpretation in verses 12-14

- 9) To what ministry or ministries has the Lord called you? How would you summarize the message your life and words give to others (be as specific as possible)?

Ezekiel 38-48 contains very controversial prophecies. Chapters 40-43 describe a new Temple to be built, Ezekiel 43:13-chapter 46 describes a new ritual for worship at this Temple, and chapters 47-48 portray a new description of the land for God's people.

- 10) See if you can discover the three main viewpoints about a temple future to Ezekiel's day from the following groups of reference (each group represents one viewpoint):

a) Ezra 1:1-5, 3:8-10, 6:14-15

b) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Kings 8:27 with Revelation 21:22

c) *These passages:* Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 33:18, Ezekiel 20:40-41, Micah 4:1-2, Zechariah 6:12-15, 14:16-21; *placed in this time frame:* Revelation 20:1-6

- 11) Regardless of one's viewpoint about "Ezekiel's temple," what all-important biblical truth about the Lord's temple and its ultimate purpose must be acknowledged (see Exodus 25:8, 29:44-46; 1 Kings 8:12-13; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3; John 1:14, 14:20, 23; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 3:17a; Colossians 1:26-27; Revelation 21:3)?

- 12) How will this concept influence the way you live your life this day (be specific)?

Although Esther lived during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (after Jewish exiles were allowed to return to Jerusalem), she was one of many Jews who remained in the lands where they had been exiled. This period of Biblical history (the “post-exilic” period) will be covered in the next lesson. Nevertheless, Esther is included in this lesson because her story, like Daniel’s and Ezekiel’s, gives us insight into the lives of the Jewish people who were living in the land of their exile.

- 13)** In what sense were Esther and Daniel foreign ambassadors (refer to your answers in Question 1 and to Esther 1:1, 2:5-7, 17; 3:1, 5-6; 4:12-14)?
- 14)** What ironies do you discover in the following passages (you will benefit most from reading all of Esther but can catch a glimpse of the story line by simply referring to the passages given)?
- a) Esther 2:7 (Esther’s past); Esther 2:9, 15b, 17-18
 - b) Esther 3:6b, 4:14b
 - c) Esther 5:9, 13-14; 6:4-10; 8:2; 10:3
 - d) Esther 2:21-23 with 5:11-6:4
 - e) Esther 5:14, 7:5-10
 - f) Esther 3:8-9, 13-14; 8:9-11, 17; 9:1-5
- 15)** God’s name is never mentioned in the book of Esther. What do the ironies you discovered in Question 14 tell you about God’s role in Esther’s story and in your own life, even when He appears to be absent? With regard to what circumstance does this comfort you today?