

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 12th, 2014

Passage: Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, & Zechariah

Memory Passage: Nehemiah 9:32-33

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ezra 1-6.** This week we will approach our text in a different and fresh way. I will give you some historical information that is important in understanding and interpreting these books, and for each block of text you read you will answer a set of questions that reflect the goals of our sermon series. This historical information will give you the ability to assess what time period is addressed for each section (Ezra skips around a bit) and place what you learn in the proper historical time frame.

(b) 4 bits of important historical information: (1) kings mentioned in Ezra/Nehemiah with the dates (B.C.) in which they reigned: Cyrus (539-530); Darius I (522-486); Xeres, also known as Ahasuerus (485-464); and Artaxerxes I (464-423); (2) Israel's kingdom divides (931), Israel (northern kingdom) taken into captivity by Assyria (722), and Judah (southern kingdom) taken into captivity by Babylon (586); (3) Cyrus, King of Persia, captures Babylon (539); (4) the prophets Haggai & Zechariah prophesied in 520 and Malachi prophesied c. 460.

(c) For each day's assigned reading please answer the following 5 questions: (1) identify the timeline of the events and the major human characters; (2) identify the major theme(s); (3) identify how the seed of the serpent wars with the seed of the woman; (4) describe the spiritual state of God's people and her leaders (i.e. what are they trying to accomplish, are they obedient or disobedient to the covenant, are they repentant over sin, etc.); (5) identify how God orchestrates events to remain faithful to His covenant, both to provide The Seed of Abraham and to bring the blessings and/or curses of the covenant.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ezra 7-10.**

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Nehemiah 1-7:4.**

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Nehemiah 7:66-10:39 & 12:27-13:31.**

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Haggai & Zechariah.** I know, I know! This might seem like lot of reading but it will be a blessing to you! Instead of answering all of the questions for this day of reading I want you to contemplate how God raised up and used these prophets to both rebuke and encourage His people during the events recorded in Ezra 5, and to contemplate how they used the promises made to David in the Davidic covenant as they did so (2 Samuel 7/1 Chronicles 17).

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Hope Alive!