

³And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." (Exodus 19:3-6)

The Birth of a Nation

- 1) Before God appeared to Abraham, what was the religious affiliation of his father's family? (Joshua 24:2)
- 2) How many years elapsed from the time the God brought Abraham into the land of Canaan to the time He brought the young nation of Israel out of Egypt? (Exodus 12:40-41, Galatians 3:17, Acts 7:6)
- 3) In your own words, describe the far-reaching benefits of the Egyptian oppression and the hardness of Pharaoh's heart. (Through the deliverance that God would accomplish, His name and power would be established in Egypt, Israel and the surrounding regions.)
- 4) List at least two things (in the context of Deuteronomy 4:5-8) that set Israel apart from all other nations. (The presence/nearness of God and the law containing the statutes and righteous judgments which they were to embrace)
- 5) Provide the two reasons (in the text of Deuteronomy 9:4-6) that the Lord was causing the Israelites to dispossess the nations in the land of Canaan and inherit their land. (The wickedness of the nations and the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. NOT because of their own righteousness.)

The Blessing and the Curse

- 6). Briefly summarize the promise of the blessing and the curse described in Deuteronomy 30. (Obedience = Blessing = Prosperity in the land; Covenant breaking = Curse = Exile and affliction; Repent = Return from captivity = Blessing restored)

7) Briefly describe the splendor of Israel in the days of King Solomon (1 Kings 10, 2 Chronicles 9)

8) Describe the circumstances that led to the decline of Israel shortly after the reign of Solomon. (In 1 Kings 11, trouble [rebellion against Solomon] began brewing up as a direct result of Solomon's covenant breaking in his old age. God determined to divide the kingdom in the days of Rehoboam. Continued spiritual decline, civil strife and outside harassment and oppression ensued until the curses of Deuteronomy chapter 30 were fully realized.)

9) How many righteous kings did kingdom of Northern Israel experience? (None: Jeroboam I, Nedab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah and Hoshea were all evil. Nineteen successive evil kings reigned in Samaria and they were exiled to Assyria in 722 BC)

10) How many righteous kings did the kingdom of Southern Israel experience? (7 of 20: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah were righteous. Rehoboam, Abijam, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Queen Athaliah, Joash, Ahaz, Manasseh, Amon, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah were evil. The last four kings of Judah were evil.)

¹⁵And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy. (2 Chronicles 36:15)

11) How many mass exiles from Judah to Babylon occurred because of their unfaithfulness? (Three: In 605 BC, nobles and temple treasures were taken to the capital city of Babylon. Daniel was among them. In 597 BC, about 10,000 more captives were dispersed among the rural provinces of Babylon. Ezekiel was among them. Finally, in 586 BC Jerusalem was utterly destroyed. Many were slaughtered and many taken captive. The temple and the city were burned and the wall was broken down.)

Lost but Not Forgotten

12) What command did God give to the people in captivity in Jeremiah 29:4 ff.? (Do not heed the false prophets among you who declare a quick end to captivity. The Lord will bring you back in 70 years. Meanwhile, build houses, plant gardens, have marriages and produce children, that you may be increased and not diminished. Pray for peace in the city of your captivity that in its peace you will have peace.)

13) How many mass returns from Babylon to Jerusalem occurred? (Three: 536 BC, 458 and 444 BC)

14) We sometimes refer to the post-exile years as the "restoration period" of Israel. What was restored? (In 536 BC Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Haggai and Zechariah with nearly 50,000 other captives return to rebuild the temple. In 458 BC Ezra joins the second returning group of captives and sets out to restore the worship. In 444 BC Nehemiah comes with the third and final group of returning captives and rebuilds the wall of Jerusalem and gives attention to correcting moral infractions of the people.)

15) What was the primary message(s) of post-exile prophets? (Hope for present and future Israel and the coming of the Messiah)

16) List three places in scripture where the history of Israel is summarized. Please read these passages. (Joshua 24:1-13; Nehemiah 9:5-38 and Acts 7:1-53)