

Esther, Job, Psalms

The Three Returns Of The Jewish People

- **536 B.C.** --- Zerubbabel with 42,360 Jews and 7,337 servants and 200 singers a total of 49,897 return as decreed by Cyrus and the focus was to rebuild the Temple, (Ezra 1:2-3)
- **457 B.C.**--Ezra with 1754 males not counting women and children
- **444 B.C.** Nehemiah, as governor, went to build the wall and fortify the city as decreed by Artaxerxes Longimanus--(Nehemiah. Chapter 2)

Chronology Of The Restoration

- **536 B.C.**--Zerubbabel returns from Babylon to Jerusalem
- **536 B.C.**--7th month, they build the altar and begin to offer sacrifices
- **535 B.C.**--Work on the Temple begun, and stopped
- **520 B.C.**--Work renewed by Haggai and Zechariah
- **516 B.C.**--The second Temple completed

- **478 B.C** --Esther becomes Queen of Persia
- **457 B.C.**--Ezra goes from Babylon to Jerusalem
- **444 B.C** --Nehemiah rebuilds the wall
- **432 B.C**--Nehemiah returns again from Babylon

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah focus on the **restoration** of the Jews while the book of Esther focuses on the **protection** of the Jews. Both the restoration and the protection for the Jewish people are examples of God's ability to use Gentile empires to accomplish His purposes for His chosen people!

Persian Kings In The Bible

The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi were written during the time of the early Persian Kingdom. The following are some of the early Persian Kings according to listed books of Bible:

NAME	DATE B.C.	PERSIAN NAME	BIBLE NAME	BIBLE BACKGROUND
Cyrus	539-530	Koorush	Cyrus	Isaiah 45, Daniel, Ezra 1-3
Cambyses	530-521	Cambujieh	Ahasuerus	Ezra 4-6
Pseudo Smerdis	521	Berooyeh Doroughi	Artaxerxes	Ezra 4:7-23
Darius the Great	521-486	Darryoosh	Darius	Ezra 5,6
Xerxes	486-465	Khashayarshah	Ahasuerus	Esther 1-10
Artaxerxes I	464-423	Ardeshier Deraz Dast	Artaxerxes	Nehemiah 1 - 13, Ezra 7-10

Key Teachings In Esther

- God can deliver His people even if He chooses to work behind the scenes
- Sometimes it seems that God is not at work but His people need to remain faithful
- God is never mentioned by name in Esther
- God's plans cannot be frustrated
- Chance and circumstance are ways in which God works

Esther Focuses On Concealed Information

- Haman conceals the people he is trying to destroy when he gets the king to issue a none reversal decree
- Esther conceals her Jewish identity
- The king conceals the identity of the one he wishes to honor from Haman
- Esther conceals the reason for the banquets
- Esther conceals the people she is seeking to protect
- Mordecai conceals his relationship to Esther

Haman and Mordecai

- Saul's disobedience in 1 Samuel 15:2-3 to kill all the Amalekites results in Haman a direct descendant of King Agag. In the Book of Esther Haman is attempts to destroy the Jews
- In 2 Samuel 16, David decided against killing Shimei who was cursing him. Shimei was a descendant of King Saul. David said that if God had called Shimei to curse him then let him curse. Mordecai is a direct descendant of Shimei and literally a product of the grace of David. Mordecai in the Book of Esther is an agent of the Lord for the purposes of protecting the Jewish people.

The Feast Of Purim

- Purim means "Lots"
- It commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from the plot of Haman
- It is a joyous celebration characterized by the reading of the book of Esther, wearing masks, the eating of a feast, sending food gifts to friends, and giving charity to the poor
- When Haman's name is read out during the public reading of Esther in the synagogue, which occurs 54 times, the congregation engages in noise making to blot out his name.



The Book Of Job

- The Book of Job is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible
- Ancient it is beyond all dispute. It probably belongs to the period covered by the book of Genesis; and possibly, to the time of Abraham. Its lesson, therefore, is the oldest lesson we could have; and it takes us back to the first lesson taught in the Bible itself." (Bullinger)

The Problem Of Job

- "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil." (Job 1:1)
- "Job's problem is not so much financial or social or medical; his central problem is **theological**. Job must deal with the fact that in his life, God does not act the way he always thought God would and should act. In this drama, the Book of Job is not so much a record of solutions and explanations to this problem; it is more a revelation of Job's experience and the answers carried *within* his experience." (Guzik)

The Friends Of Job

- Three Friends in the Book of Job give Job some **Bad counseling**
- **Eliphaz** says: Job you surely have sinned to deserve this calamity.
- **Bildad** says: Job you surely have made some bad choices to bring this upon you.
- **Zophar** says: Job it is God's will that you are going through this trial therefore accept it.

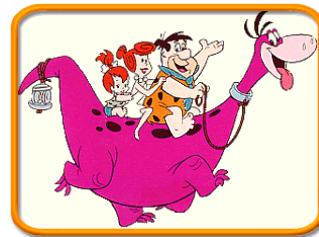
Elihu's Counsel For Job

- **The fallen world does not operate by justice.**
- Believing that God is wise we can trust Him to be just.
- In situations of suffering it is better to focus on the future (**what purpose God has in store**) rather than the past (**what the cause of suffering is**)

Job's Lesson

- God becomes real for Job
- "Then Job answered the LORD and said: "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' **"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.**"-- Job 42:1-5

DID DINOSAURS AND MAN LIVE ON EARTH AT THE SAME TIME?



**HIPPOPOTAMUS, i.e. RIVER HORSE
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE BEHEMOTH IN
JOB 40?**



**OR IS THIS MORE LIKE
THE BEHEMOTH IN JOB 40?**



**IS LEVIATHAN A DRAGON JOB
41?**



SKELETON REMAINS OF A PLESIOSAUR



Found in 1977 by a Japanese fishing boat off the coast of New Zealand. It was 900 feet down, 32 feet long, and 4,000 lbs

Psalms

- The meaning of the name Psalms is "songs of praise"
- The Psalms are often read during the most difficult times of life.
- "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms."--James 5:13

Most of the Psalms were written by David, whom God called a man after His heart:

"One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple."--- Ps 27:4

The Psalms Run The Spectrum Of Human Emotion:

- Praise: Psalm 150
- Thanksgiving: Psalm 100:4
- Depression: Psalm 42
- Fear: Psalm 91
- Deliverance: Psalm 34
- Worry: Psalm 37
- Trust: Psalm 37

- Forgiveness: Psalm 103
- Anger: Psalm 4:4
- Love: Psalm 18:1-3
- Betrayal: Psalm 109:1-5
- Sin: Psalm 14, Psalm 53, Romans 3
- Repentance: Psalm 51
- Hope: Psalm 33:16-32
- "...in the Book of Psalms we have a series of chambers where heart and lives have left the records of their experience"- Lockyer

"We can find verses from the Psalms quoted in strange places, and by unlikely lips. From sick beds, dungeons, scaffolds, lonely mountains and bleak moors; from poets, priests and peasants; from exiles and martyrs come testimony to the comfort, encouragement and peace to be found in the language of the Psalms"--Lockyer

**THE DESIGN OF
PSALMS IS THE
CHARACTER AND
GLORIFICATION OF
GOD!**

"This is a book that should make our hearts sing."
McGee:

"They [Psalms] are the summary of the whole Scripture." Augustine

Messianic Psalms

- The Psalms were written 1,000 years before Christ and yet they give us a prophecy of His life:
- [**Psalm 2**](#): Universal reign of Jesus
- [**Psalm 8**](#): He is Lord of creation
- [**Psalm 16**](#): His resurrection
- [**Psalm 22**](#): His suffering and death
- [**Psalm 45**](#): His eternal Reign
- [**Psalm 72**](#): His eternal reign

- [Psalm 89](#): God's oath for an everlasting reign of the Messiah
- [Psalm 110](#): Eternal King and Priest
- [Psalm 118](#): He is to be rejected by His Nation's Leaders
- [Psalm 132](#): He is to inherit the everlasting throne of David

McGee says: **"The Psalms are full of Christ. There is a more complete picture of Him in the Psalms than in the Gospels."** The Gospels tell us that He went to the mountain to pray, but the Psalms give us His prayer. The Gospels tell us that He was crucified, but the Psalms tell us what went on in His own heart during the Crucifixion. The Gospels tell us He went back to heaven, but the Psalms begin where the Gospels leave off and show us Christ seated in heaven."