

Lessons from the Great Teachers

Study Guide

Chapter 1: Elijah the Prophet of Loyalty

1. Describe the condition of the kingdom of Israel in the time of Ahab.
2. Look up in an encyclopedia the Phoenicians and note their wealth and their significance in Palestine.
3. Why did the Israelites desire to form an alliance with the Phoenicians? How was that alliance cemented by Ahab?
4. Who was Jezebel? Why did she introduce the worship of Baal into Israel?
5. Who was Elijah? What was his estimate of the influence of the worship of Baal?
6. Describe vividly the first meeting of Ahab and Elijah.
7. What happened to Elijah while the drought lasted in Israel?
8. Describe the second meeting of Ahab and Elijah, and what came of it?
9. Why was Elijah so discouraged that he fled from Israel?
10. What was the meaning of the experience through which Elijah passed at Mount Sinai?

Chapter 2: Elijah the Prophet of Justice

1. Why did Ahab desire to gain possession of Naboth's field?
2. Why should a king find any difficulty in obtaining what he wanted?
3. Why should Naboth be unwilling to sell his land for a good price?
4. What was Jezebel's plot for securing the vineyard?
5. How was it possible to carry out the plot under the forms of the law?
6. What actually took place at Jezreel?
7. What did Ahab do when he found that Naboth had been murdered?
8. Why was Elijah interested in this transaction? Note that the prophets were always the champions of the poor and oppressed.
9. Describe the meeting of Ahab and Elijah.
10. How did Elijah endeavor to separate himself from Elisha at the end?
11. How did Elishah become the successor of Elijah?

Chapter 3: Elisha the Comforter

1. Why is it fitting to call Elisha the Comforter?
2. Describe some of the kindly deeds associated with Elisha's name.
3. Why did Naaman pay a visit to Elisha?
4. Why was Naaman indignant at Elisha's treatment? How did the story come out?
5. Look up on a map the location of the kingdom of Syria.
6. What was the relation of this kingdom to Israel during Elisha's ministry?
7. How did Elisha help his people against the Syrians?
8. Tell the story of Elisha's vision of the supernatural forces on his side.

Chapter 4: A Shepherd's Sermon

1. Where did Amos come from and what kind of man was he?
2. What distressed him regarding the kingdom of Israel?
3. How did he know that he was to preach against Israel?
4. Look at a map of Palestine and find the places mentioned by Amos.
5. Why were the people more and more pleased as Amos went on with his sermon?
6. How did they feel when he spoke of the punishment of Judah and why?
7. What surprise did he have for them?
8. Of what sins did he accuse them?
9. Notice that Amos was a farmer and, when he wanted to speak of a crushing calamity, he used an illustration from the harvest field, "I will press you in your place as a cart presseth that is full of sheaves." What did he mean by that?
10. What do you think the people thought of Amos when he had finished his sermon?

Chapter 5: Amos' Sermon, "Prepare to Meet Thy God"

1. How was Amos able to secure an audience?
2. What did he tell the people about their responsibility to God?
3. How did Amos explain the reason that he was preaching?
4. What did he mean by "the sleek cows" (kine of Bashan)?
5. What did he think of the gorgeous worship?
6. What different troubles did Amos mention that ought to have sent the people to God?
7. Why did Amos preach his lamentation sermon?
8. What wrongdoing did he say the people were committing?
9. What message of hope did he give?
10. Why did he end his sermon as he had begun?

Chapter 6: The Farm Laborer Becomes a Poet

1. Tell something of Amos as a poet.
2. How many parts had the Lament Song?
3. What is the first part about?
4. Why did Amos think the Day of Jehovah might be bad for some people?
5. Look up Amos 5:24, the sentence in the whole prophecy, and one of the great sentences of the world.
6. What do you mean by the vision or picture that Amos gave to the people?
7. What was the second picture?
8. What was the third picture?
9. Describe Amaziah's interference with Amos.
10. What was the meaning of the summer fruit?
11. How does the prophecy of Amos close?
12. What became of Amos?

Chapter 7: Hosea's Broken Heart

1. How were the Hebrew prophets trained as preachers?
2. What great sorrow came to Hosea?
3. What lesson did he learn by it?

4. Why did he tell the people his sad story?
5. What comparison did he make?
6. What was the political condition of Israel in Hosea's time?
7. What was the social condition of Israel in Hosea's time?
8. What did he expect would come upon the people?
9. What did he think was God's feeling toward Israel?
10. What final outcome did he expect?

Chapter 8: Hosea's Sad Task

1. Why was Hosea's task a hard one?
2. What did he think of the calf worship?
3. What did he think would become of the golden calves?
4. Recall Amos' great prophetic sentence. Look up Hosea 6:6 as a companion great sentence. Look up Matt. 12:7.
5. What was the internal weakness of the Hebrew state?
6. What was the foolish foreign policy of Israel?
7. What result did Hosea predict?
8. What did he say regarding fitful repentance?
9. What does Hosea say regarding God as a Father?
10. What is the thought of the last chapter of Hosea?

Chapter 9: Isaiah's Inspiration

1. What do we know of Isaiah as a young man?
2. Why would it be hard for such a man to choose a prophet's career?
3. What prophets had Isaiah heard about?
4. What evils did he see in Jerusalem?
5. Consider how Isaiah came to have the vision.
6. What did the vision mean?
7. What did Isaiah understand his mission was to be?
8. How had Isaiah's earlier life enabled him to understand the social conditions in Jerusalem?
9. What did the young prophet think of the danger from Assyria?
10. What was his hope of Israel's future?

Chapter 10: Isaiah's Sermon on the Wild Grapes

1. Describe the manner in which a prophet would gather a crowd in order to preach his sermon.
2. Why did Isaiah tell the story of the vineyard?
3. How did he turn the story upon his hearers?
4. What was the first of the wild grapes of Jerusalem?
5. Do we find that sin among us today?
6. What was the second of the wild grapes? Do we find that among us today?
7. What was the third of the wild grapes? Do we find that among us today?
8. What were the others of the wild grapes? Do we find any of those today?
9. What evidences of Isaiah's poetic eloquence do you find in his description of the Assyrian army?
10. What terrible results did Isaiah expect would come from the sins of his people?
11. How was Isaiah able to prepare so elaborate a catalogue of female finery?

Chapter 11: Isaiah's Political Policy

1. What was the name of Isaiah's first son and why was it given to him?
2. What plan did Ahaz devise to save himself from his enemies?
3. What placard did Isaiah put up in Jerusalem and what did he intend it to mean?
4. What was the name of Isaiah's second son and why was it given to him?
5. What did Isaiah tell the king would be the result of his foolish policy?
6. When the prophet failed to convince the king and the people to whom did he turn?
7. What was the prophecy of "The Great Contrasts"?
8. What contrast did Isaiah expect to the weak and foolish ruler, Ahaz?
9. How was Isaiah's political theory proved to be true?

Chapter 12: Isaiah Against the Egyptian Alliance

1. Why did Judah have to pay tribute to Assyria?
2. There were two political parties in Judah – the Egyptian and the Assyrian. What were their policies? On which side was Isaiah?
3. What happened to the northern kingdom of Israel?
4. What was the condition of affairs when Isaiah went about dressed as a slave?
5. What explanation did he give of his strange conduct?
6. What was the result of Isaiah's effort?
7. What was the effect of the news of the assassination of Sargon?
8. What did Isaiah advise and what did Hezekiah decide to do?
9. What did Isaiah have to say about the Egyptian alliance?
10. What did Isaiah promise if they would trust in Jehovah for protection?

Chapter 13: The Great Crisis

1. Look at a map of Palestine and note the location of the four allies against Assyria. Note the situation of Judah when Phoenicia was subdued, bearing in mind that both Syria and Israel had already fallen.
2. What was the chief thought in Isaiah's oration against the Assyrian?
3. What elements of eloquence and power do you see in the oration?
4. When did Isaiah say the righteous king would come?
5. How did he describe the time of peace?
6. What did Sennacherib do to the land of Judah? What was his treachery?
7. How did Isaiah open his oration on Sennacherib's treachery?
8. What great promises did he make?
9. What was the final message of Isaiah in this crisis? How was it justified?
10. What was the outcome of Isaiah's work?

Chapter 14: Micah, the Friend of the Poor

1. Why would he fear the coming of the Assyrian army through the lowland?
2. What did Micah think of the fall of Samaria?
3. What evils did Micah see in the country districts?
4. What did he say against the wealthy landowners?
5. What kind of a preacher did Micah tell them they would like?
6. Was Micah justified in saying that the rich were eating the poor?

7. What was the attitude of most of the preachers in Jerusalem in Micah's day? What did Micah have to say to them?
8. What evidences of national prosperity were there, especially in Jerusalem?
9. What was Micah's estimate of the condition of Jerusalem and what did he predict would happen?

Chapter 15: Micah's Vision of Peace

1. What were the conditions in Judah that made Micah so greatly desire the time of universal peace?
2. How did he expect the reign of peace would come?
3. What did he think of the political leadership of Judah in his time?
4. What led him to expect that a great king would come?
5. Why did he think that he might come from Bethlehem?
6. How did the idea of a Messiah grow among the Jews?
7. What was the appropriateness of Micah's comparison of Israel's influence with (1) the dew, and (2) the lion?
8. Why did Micah think there would be no horses in the good time that was coming?
9. Why did he think that there would be no cities?
10. What superstitions did he think would be done away with?
11. How many elements in all these visions of the future given by Micah would seem desirable for the present time?

Chapter 16: The Dramatic Dialogue

1. Why was animal sacrifice offered by ancient people?
2. What did they think their gods wanted?
3. Why did they offer their children to their gods?
4. When did this occur in Israel?
5. How did it affect Micah?
6. What led Micah to plan the dramatic dialogue?
7. Describe the scene, the characters, and the speeches of the dialogue.
8. What great verse closes the dialogue? Why is this verse (Micah 6:8) regarded as one of the greatest words of prophecy?
9. Is anything more needed for pure religion than Micah said?
10. What sins of injustice did he charge upon the people?
11. What falsehood and treachery did he charge?
12. With what did he threaten the people?
13. What hope did Micah have?
14. What was his thought of God's character?
15. Why do we call Micah 7:18-20 a noble lyric passage?

Chapter 17: Zephaniah and the Day of Wrath

1. Why was there so long a period after the sermons of Micah before another prophet of Jehovah appeared?
2. What kind of prophets were there in Jerusalem during this period?
3. Who was Zephaniah? Why was he not hopeful that his godly young cousin could reform the nation?
4. Study the Scythian invasion. Imagine the terror that must have filled the hearts of the Hebrews.
5. What did this invasion suggest to Zephaniah?

6. Why do we call Zephaniah's sermon the Day of Wrath? What was the general thought of the sermon?
7. In the Middle Ages, Thomas of Celano wrote a great Latin hymn on the Judgment. It begins with the words of Zephaniah, "Dies Irae, Dies Illa," that is, "A day of wrath is that day." Why did he take his inspiration from Zephaniah's prophecy?
8. Look at a map of the ancient world and note the nations whom Zephaniah denounced. Why did he especially describe the devastation of Assyria? Note the high poetic language of the oracle against Assyria, breathing the feeling of indignation against the cruel oppressor.
9. Consider the specific sins that Zephaniah charged against the leaders of Judah.
10. What did he expect would be the fate of Judah, and what ray of hope did he hold out?
11. Why do we think that the conclusion of the book of Zephaniah was written later in a more hopeful age? Would Zephaniah have been glad for the editors of his book to add the beautiful words of this last section?

Chapter 18: Nahum's Poem of Vengeance

1. Find out all you can about the character and policy of Assyria. Go over the preceding chapters and read all that the different prophets have said about this nation. Try to get an idea of the terror that Assyria produced in all that ancient world.
2. How would the peoples feel when the first serious defeat of Assyria occurred?
3. What did Zephaniah say of the doom of Assyria?
4. What was Nahum's single great idea?
5. Why did Nahum begin his poem with a description of Jehovah's power in nature?
6. Describe the details of the siege as Nahum gives them.
7. Do you suppose that Nahum was actually present at the siege or did he imagine just what it must be? Why did he describe it so dramatically?
8. The Assyrians used the lion as their symbol. Note and describe the fine poetic power with which Nahum works out the comparison.
9. What comparison does Nahum make between Thebes and Nineveh?
10. How does Nahum speak of the commercial greatness of Nineveh? With what poetic figure does he describe its end?
11. What is the meaning of the last solemn words of doom?
12. Does it seem to you natural for a prophet of Jehovah to write this poem of vengeance? Is there any great truth in it?

Chapter 19: Habakkuk's Hard Problem

1. Find Babylon, the country of the Chaldeans on the map. Note that it is south of Assyria to which it had been subject. When Babylon achieved independence, what steps did the great general Nebuchadnezzar naturally take to secure the possessions of the conquered Assyrians?
2. On what pretext could Egypt claim Canaan? How would this bring about conflict with the Chaldeans?
3. Why should Josiah, the good king of Judah, think that the time had come for his people to be independent?
4. How did this bring him into conflict with Egypt? What was the result?
5. How did this change of masters and the resulting confusion in Jerusalem affect such men as Habakkuk?

6. What serious religious experience did Habakkuk pass through?
7. Note that Habakkuk tells his experience in the form of a dialogue between himself and God. What are the four parts of the dialogue?
8. What is Habakkuk's first prayer?
9. What is Jehovah's answer?
10. This answer only increases Habakkuk's difficulty. How then does he pray to God?
11. Note that Habakkuk really becomes calm and trustful before God's final answer. What is that answer? Why did it satisfy Habakkuk?

Chapter 20: Habakkuk's Taunting Riddles

1. Why was it a remarkable thing that the Hebrew prophet should have been able to see so clearly the play of the forces of righteousness in the world?
2. Why did Habakkuk utter his taunting riddles?
3. Write out in your own words the thought of the first taunt song.
4. Notice that the close of the first and of the fourth taunts is the same. Some think that this may have been a refrain at the end of each.
5. What is the picture in the second song?
6. Note how definitely Habakkuk insists in the third song that the retribution is not accidental. How does he say it comes about?
7. Explain the reason for the prophet's indignation that Lebanon had suffered violence.
8. Note Isaiah 37:24, and other passages which indicate the value of the cedars of Lebanon.
9. Why does idolatry especially excite the indignation of the prophet? What does he say of the idol worshipers in the last taunt?
10. Consider whether there is anything in our modern life against which any of these taunts might be spoken. Is there any injustice which may bring retribution?

Chapter 21: A Song of the Glorious Past

1. What were the feelings that led Habakkuk to look back to the past? Try to imagine yourself in his place.
2. Why did the experiences of Israel in Sinai seem to be especially significant to Habakkuk?
3. Read the poem carefully and note all the expressions that refer to the storm. Why was God thought of as appearing in the storm?
4. What is the figure involved in the expression, "Thou didst thresh the nations in anger?"
5. What did Habakkuk mean at the end of his vision, when he said, "I heard and my body trembled."
6. Why did the prophet feel that he and his people would have to "wait quietly for the day of trouble"?
7. What is the essential faith involved in the last verses of this poem?
8. How is it possible for the poem to close with a note of joy in spite of the expectation of invasion and plunder?

Chapter 22: Jeremiah's Difficult Task

1. Why was the task of Jeremiah peculiarly difficult?
2. Under what circumstances did Jeremiah begin his ministry?
3. What was there in the life of the nation that convinced Jeremiah that nothing short of a national doom was to be expected?

4. What was there in the political conditions of the world that made Jeremiah expect a terrible invasion?
5. In whose reign did Jeremiah begin to preach? What was the character of that king?
6. What were the two great ideas running through Jeremiah's first sermons?
7. What caused Jeremiah's arrest in the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim?
8. On what grounds was he released?

Chapter 23: The Publication of Jeremiah's Sermon

1. Why is it necessary to know the political events of Jeremiah's time in order to understand his prophecies?
2. In what great battle did Nebuchadrezzar become supreme? What did his victory mean to the people of Judah?
3. Why did Jeremiah think it wise to publish his prophecies?
4. What method did he employ to write them out?
5. On what occasion were the prophecies read and what result did they produce?
6. What effect did the prophecies produce when they were read before the princes?
7. How did the king treat Jeremiah's roll? What does that indicate regarding his character?
8. How were the writings of the prophets generally published?

Chapter 24: The Prophet Pleading for His People

1. What was the occasion of one of Jeremiah's most serious soul struggles?
2. What did this national calamity lead him to do?
3. Why did Jeremiah feel that it was no good praying for his people?
4. What destruction did he declare must come upon them?
5. Why did he pray for them again after having realized once that it was useless?
6. What answer came to him confirming his opinion that his people were absolutely hopeless?
7. What was his final conclusion about the fate of Judah?
8. How did Jeremiah feel about his own personal obligation to preach these messages of doom?
9. What personal complaint did he make in his prayers?
10. How was he comforted and reassured?

Chapter 25: Symbolic Sermons and Arrest

1. What is meant by a symbolic sermon? Why did the prophets frequently employ them?
2. In what respect was the political situation in the time of Jehoiakim similar to that when Isaiah preached in the time of Hezekiah?
3. What was the policy of Egypt, and how did Jeremiah resist it in the same way that Isaiah had done?
4. Who were the Rechabites? And why did they live their strange life in Palestine?
5. How did Jeremiah employ the marred vessel of the potter as a symbol?
6. What was the symbolic sermon preached in the valley of Topheth?
7. What befell Jeremiah in the temple as a result of his preaching?
8. After this sad experience, what complaint did Jeremiah make to God?
9. Why did he determine still to go on preaching?
10. What was the end of his soul struggle?

Chapter 26: Jeremiah and the False Prophets

1. Who were the popular preachers in Jerusalem and what did they preach?
2. Why may it have seemed to the ordinary people of the city that these men were speaking the truth rather than Jeremiah?
3. What was the first captivity of the Jewish people?
4. What message did the popular preachers announce regarding the Jews that had been carried to Babylon?
5. How could they quote Isaiah in support of their views? What did they forget of Isaiah's principles in so doing?
6. What symbolic act did Jeremiah perform in order to show the folly of rebellion against Babylon? Was he justified in his theory?
7. What symbolic act did Hananiah perform and what message did he wish it to convey to the people?
8. How did Jeremiah deal with Hananiah?
9. What was the general character of Jeremiah's letter to the Babylonian Jews?
10. How did the false prophets in Babylon try to have Jeremiah silenced?

Chapter 27: Jeremiah's Terrible Forecast

1. How did the Egyptians persuade Zedekiah to revolt against Babylon?
2. What was Jeremiah's theory of the proper policy to be pursued?
3. After Jerusalem was besieged what did Jeremiah advise? Was this patriotic advice?
4. What was the Hebrew law regarding slavery for debt?
5. Why were the Hebrew slaves released during the siege?
6. Why were the Hebrew slaves retaken?
7. On what charge was Jeremiah arrested and what was the cause of it?
8. What was the result of Zedekiah's first interview with Jeremiah?
9. What was the result of Zedekiah's second interview with Jeremiah?

Chapter 28: Jeremiah's Splendid Hope

1. Why has Jeremiah so generally been regarded as a pessimist?
2. What ground is there for calling him an optimist?
3. At what time in his life did he preach the noblest sermons of hope?
4. What did he expect would be the future of Israel and Judah?
5. What did Jeremiah mean by the new covenant?
6. What was the significance of the purchase of the field in Anathoth?
7. What impression would that transaction be likely to make in Jerusalem?
8. What assurance came to Jeremiah after he had made this transaction?
9. What was Jeremiah's hope of the ideal king?

Chapter 29: Jeremiah's Last Days

1. What were the circumstances of the capture of Jerusalem?
2. What provision did the Chaldeans make for carrying on the government of Judah?
3. Why was Jeremiah given his choice to go to Babylon or to remain in Judah?
4. What conditions of hopefulness did the two months of Gedaliah's government present?
5. How did the last hope in Judah come to an end?
6. Why did Jeremiah advise his countrymen against going to Egypt?

7. What is your estimate of the work and character of Jeremiah?

Chapter 30: Obadiah's Cry of Vengeance

1. Look up Edom in a Bible Dictionary and note the course of the history of the Edomites and the long hostility between them and Israel.
2. What action of the Edomites made them especially obnoxious to the Jews of the Exile?
3. Is the feeling of Psalm 137 and of Obadiah's prophecy in accord with Christian teaching?
4. In what sense does this longing for vengeance seem to be, at least partially, justified?
5. What were the causes of Edom's pride?
6. What did Obadiah expect would happen to Edom?
7. Why did Obadiah feel that Edom had no right to join the Babylonians against Jerusalem?
8. What does Obadiah expect will be the future of the Hebrews?
9. How was the hope of Obadiah moral and religious?
10. In what sense was Obadiah's idea of Jehovah's Kingdom an anticipation of Jesus' thought of the Kingdom of God?

Chapter 31: Ezekiel's Trance

1. What parallel is there between the work of Jeremiah and that of Ezekiel?
2. How do you explain the strange vision which Ezekiel had?
3. What should we think of a man today who claimed to have seen such a vision as Ezekiel saw? Why should there be such a difference between the East and the West?
4. What message came to Ezekiel after the vision?
5. What did the eating of the roll of parchment mean?
6. Why did it appear that Ezekiel's ministry was to be an especially hard one?
7. What were the circumstances of Ezekiel's first appearance as a prophet among his countrymen?
8. What was the first message that Ezekiel delivered?
9. What does this indicate regarding Ezekiel's own thought of his responsibility and his duty?

Chapter 32: The Doomed City

1. Describe the drawing which Ezekiel made upon the soft clay brick. Why did he want the Jews in Babylon to believe that Jerusalem would be besieged?
2. What picturesque actions did Ezekiel perform to show that the Jews in Jerusalem would be obliged to live upon short rations?
3. What was there in Ezekiel's earlier experience that would make it possible for him to see the conditions in Jerusalem when he fell into a trance?
4. What did the vision of the people who were to be slaughtered and the few who were to be saved indicate?
5. What did it mean to Ezekiel when he saw the chariot of the glory of Jehovah gradually moving away from the temple and away from the city?
6. After this trance what did Ezekiel say regarding it to his fellow countrymen in Babylon?
7. How did Ezekiel move his goods and what did he tell the people that this conduct meant?
8. Was Ezekiel really a patriot when he was continually telling the exiles that the city which they loved was going to be destroyed?

Chapter 33: The Prophet and the Sceptics

1. What ground was there for the objection urged by some of the people that the prophets of Jehovah had not spoken words that had come true?
2. How did Ezekiel meet this objection?
3. What was the other objection that was offered as an excuse for giving no heed to the prophecies?
4. How did Ezekiel answer that objection?
5. Look at Chapter 26 and compare the false prophets in Jerusalem with the false prophets in Babylon.
6. Why did Ezekiel dare to call these other preachers by so severe a name as false prophets?
7. What was the meaning of Ezekiel's illustration of the whitewashed wall? (Ezekiel 13:8-16)
8. Who were the prophetesses who were leading the people astray?
9. What connection was there between idolatry and some of the false prophets?
10. In what way did it make Ezekiel's task more difficult that there were these other men preaching to the people?

Chapter 34: Personal Salvation in National Crisis

1. Why should the righteous Jews in Babylon have felt that they were unjustly treated?
2. Is it a natural thing that a small number of good men can save a whole nation from the consequences of its evil acts?
3. How could there be such a thing as personal salvation in the midst of national destruction?
4. What four calamities did Ezekiel give to this proverb?
5. What did he say would happen to a righteous man, and to his wicked son, and to his righteous grandson?
6. What did he say should happen to a wicked man who became righteous, and to a righteous man who became wicked?
7. What appeal did he make to his people as a conclusion to this argument?

Chapter 35: The Lovely Song of Prophecy

1. What did Ezekiel mean by his sermon on the boiling flesh in the caldron?
2. What did he mean by the empty caldron standing upon the fire?
3. How did Ezekiel behave when his wife died?
4. What explanation did he give of this conduct?
5. Why was Ezekiel silent two years, and what caused him to break the silence?
6. What comparison did Ezekiel make between a watchman and a prophet?
7. Note carefully each detail of the description of the shepherds' conduct toward the flock and consider what that meant regarding the rulers' conduct toward the people.
8. What hope did Ezekiel have regarding the future of his people?
9. How did the conduct of the Babylonian Jews toward Ezekiel change, and what did he think of it?

Chapter 36: The Ruin of the Merchant People

1. Why did the prophets' belief that Jehovah was the one God cause them to preach upon the sins of the surrounding nations?
2. Note on a map the location of the city of Tyre and see how well it was situated to trade with the ports of the Mediterranean Sea.
3. What was the peculiar significance of Ezekiel's statement that Tyre should be a place for the spreading of nets?

4. Read Ezekiel 27:12-25 and make a list of all the articles of commerce in which Tyre traded with the various lands.
5. What did Ezekiel say would be the effect upon the world if Tyre should be destroyed? (Ezekiel 27:29-36)
6. Why did Ezekiel think that it was just that this wealthy city should fall? (Ezekiel 28:2-9)
7. Remembering that Jerusalem was already destroyed at the time of the prophecy against Tyre, consider why Ezekiel spoke so hopefully of his own land.

Chapter 37: The Revival of Israel

1. Why did the revival of Israel seem almost impossible?
2. What was there in Ezekiel's condition in Babylon that made him especially call upon the mountains of Israel? Note the spirit of the poet in that speech.
3. Why did Ezekiel say that Jehovah would sanctify his name in restoring Israel's prosperity?
4. What different promises of prosperity did Ezekiel give to the people?
5. Describe the vision of the valley of dry bones.
6. What was the meaning of this vision?
7. Why did Ezekiel think it so important that the northern and southern people should be reunited?
8. What did Ezekiel expect should be the government of the new Israel?
9. What did Ezekiel expect would be the religious character of the new Israel?
10. Refer to Chapter 28 and compare Ezekiel's hopes with those of Jeremiah.

Chapter 38: The Vision of the Holy Land

1. How long did Ezekiel remain silent after his sermons on the revival of Israel? With what plans were those years probably employed?
2. What did Ezekiel expect would be the future of Israel after the period of exile was over?
3. What did it mean that he saw the glory of Jehovah returning to the city and the temple, as before he had seen it departing?
4. What did Ezekiel hope would happen to the Dead Sea and to the surrounding territory?
5. What great religious thought dominated all of Ezekiel's expectations of the glory of the future of his country?

Chapter 39: The Prophecy of Deliverance

1. Look up in an encyclopedia or history the reign of Nebuchadrezzar and try to imagine the splendor of the Babylonian kingdom which he created.
2. Consider how a young Jew in Babylon, anxious to make his fortune, might have thought it advisable to give up the old worship of his fathers and to accommodate himself to the new conditions. What arguments might he have offered in defense of such a course?
3. What were the motives, patriotic and religious, which would make the children of the exiles, who had never seen Jerusalem, earnestly desire to go back?
4. What would a prophet hope to accomplish by explaining to his people the incomparable greatness of Jehovah, their God?
5. Why would the words of this prophecy of comfort thrill the hearts of the religious Jews?
6. Study carefully the passages which describe the greatness of Jehovah and consider their elements of poetic beauty. Make a list of the figures of speech which the prophet used.

7. When the prophet says, "They that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint," consider that he presents a real climax. Which is the truest test of strength and power, occasional great effort or commonplace daily faithfulness?
8. What value would there be in making a people understand that God had declared to them the program of deliverance in advance? If the prophet's statements of the order of events came true, what effect should it have upon the people?

Chapter 40: Cyrus as God's Messiah

1. Look up in an encyclopedia the history of Cyrus. Note his great campaigns, his gradual advance against Babylonia.
2. Imagine a prophet in Babylon looking at the movements of the world's politics and wondering what God's will might be. What might lead him to believe that Cyrus was to be the instrument of his people's salvation?
3. What is the meaning of the word Messiah? Why were Hebrew kings called Messiahs of Jehovah?
4. How did the word Messiah come to be restricted to the single great expected king of the Jews?
5. How was it proper to call Cyrus the Messiah of Jehovah?
6. What did the prophet mean when he said of Cyrus, "I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me?"
7. What did the prophet consider was the reason why Cyrus was allowed to be so great a conqueror?
8. On what grounds might the Jews object to the plan of deliverance which this prophecy outlined for them?
9. What answer did the prophet give to the objections that might be raised against the plan of redemption through Cyrus?

Chapter 41: The Folly of Idols

1. What was there in Babylon and in the circumstances of the Jews that might have induced them to become idolaters?
2. Why did the prophet consider it especially important to show the people the folly of idolatry?
3. What place do you think irony has in religious instruction?
4. Look back at Chapter 1 and compare Elijah's scorn with the ironical descriptions of the idols of this prophet. Which seems to you to be the finer?
5. What did the prophet declare to be the great points of difference between Jehovah and the idols?
6. Practice reading the passage of the three uses of the tree so that you can bring out the scorn that was in the prophet's thought.
7. What did the prophet expect would happen to the Babylonian gods?
8. What was the special point involved in the statement that the Babylonian gods should be carried by their people, while Jehovah would carry his own people?
9. What political conditions had prepared the Jews for the belief that Jehovah was the one God? How far did this prophecy contribute to that end?
10. What are the three great monotheistic religions of the world? How far do they all go back to the faith of the Hebrew prophets?

Chapter 42: The Summons to the Exiles

1. Look up Chapter 18 and compare the description of Nineveh's destruction with that of Babylon.
2. Consider all the heathen pride that is involved in the statement which the prophet ascribes to Babylon, "I shall be mistress forever."
3. Explain the reference to the different forms of astrology that are mentioned in this prophecy.
4. What references are there in this prophet's words of deliverance to the circumstances of Israel's passage through the wilderness under Moses?
5. Note all the passages in which the prophet indicates that Israel is afraid that Jehovah has forgotten her. How does he answer the fear?
6. What is the definite prose meaning of the poetic expression, "Put on thy beautiful garments, Oh Jerusalem"?
7. In what words does the prophet refer to the messengers of good tidings? What does this suggest regarding the spirit of his prophecy?
8. Why did the prophet think that the people might not wish to take advantage of the opportunity to return to Palestine?
9. How did the prophet assure the people that their deliverance was certainly coming, and that Canaan was certainly to become fertile?
10. Connect together the thought of these four chapters and see the relation of the ideas of the greatness of God, the call of Cyrus, the folly of idols and the summons to return.

Chapter 43: The Servant of Jehovah

1. Why did the prophet call Israel the Servant of Jehovah?
2. In what sense could the prophets and the better part of Israel be called the Servant?
3. How do we know that the prophet does not always refer to the whole of Israel as the Servant?
4. What gracious ministries are ascribed to the Servant?
5. What was the Servant inspired to do?
6. What fact regarding the Servant was suggested by the martyrdom of Jeremiah?
7. Why did the prophet expect that, when the true Servant came, he would suffer?
8. How did the prophet imagine a man looking back upon the Servant's history and describing its meaning?
9. What do you mean when you say that Jesus fulfilled this expectation of a suffering Saviour?

Chapter 44: The Future Glory of Zion

1. What was meant by Zion?
2. Why did the prophet make a plea on behalf of his people for forgiveness?
3. In what terms did he describe the condition of Palestine and Jerusalem and the temple?
4. What kind of religious observances did the prophet declare was demanded by Jehovah?
5. What universal message did this prophet speak?
6. How did this universalism differ from the ordinary Jewish thought?
7. Look up the passage in the New Testament where the words are quoted: "My house shall be called the house of prayer for all people."
8. What poetic expressions does the prophet use in describing the glorious future?
9. Look back to Chapter 13 and find where the reign of peace is described in words similar to those here used.

Chapter 45: Haggai's encouragement to the Temple-Builders

1. How long had Jerusalem remained in ruins when Haggai began to preach?
2. What was the cause of the discouragement of the Jews in Jerusalem?
3. What was the first task which these Jews undertook?
4. Why did they continue to postpone the building of the temple?
5. Why did their failure to begin the temple building result in meanness of life?
6. How did Haggai feel about this condition of things?
7. What did Haggai tell the people was the cause of their poverty?
8. What two leaders were encouraged by Haggai and what was the result?
9. What did Haggai hope for through the stirring events that were taking place in the East?
10. What was Haggai's message after the foundation of the temple was laid?

Chapter 46: Zechariah's Visions

1. What is meant by a vision?
2. Why should a prophet make use of visions to convey his teaching?
3. What did Zechariah mean by the horsemen who rode through the earth and returned reporting that all was quiet?
4. What did he mean by the blacksmiths smashing the horns?
5. What was the meaning of the angel interrupting the man who was measuring the city?
6. Why did so few of the Jews return from Babylon?
7. Why did Zechariah urge them to return in larger numbers?
8. What was the meaning of the vision of the olive trees?

Chapter 47: Fasts Shall Be Feasts

1. What became of Zerubbabel?
2. What great hope disappeared with this last representative of the Davidic house?
3. Why did the completion of the temple mean so much to the people of Jerusalem?
4. In what way did Zechariah encourage his people?
5. What great change did Zechariah expect in the moral conduct of the people?
6. What did Zechariah consider the price of securing God's favor?
7. What was Zechariah's universalism?

Chapter 48: Malachi and the Declension

1. Why did not the people respond to the preaching of Zechariah?
2. Why did not the glory which the prophets had expected come to Jerusalem?
3. How did Malachi denounce the priests?
4. What did he say was the ideal of the priesthood?
5. Why did Malachi say that the priests had become contemptible before the people?
6. What great social evil did Malachi especially denounce?
7. What were the sceptics in Jerusalem saying?

Chapter 49: Malachi's Promise

1. What is the meaning of the word Malachi?
2. Why is it possible that it is not a proper name at all?
3. Refer to Chapter 6 and compare Amos' discussion of the day of Jehovah with Malachi's.
4. Make the same comparison with Chapter 17.

5. Look up, if possible, the oratorio Messiah, and note how wonderfully the bass solo uses the words of Malachi, "But who may abide the day of his coming."
6. What does Malachi say of the pure remnant?
7. What other prophets spoke of the remnant of the faithful ones?
8. What did Malachi mean in his discussion of the tithes?
9. What great moral separation did Malachi expect?
10. Why did he think that Elijah would someday return?

Chapter 50: Joel's Prophecy on the Locust Plague

1. Why were locusts so disastrous in Israel?
2. What did Joel say to the wine drinkers?
3. How did Joel compare the locusts to an invading army?
4. Why did he say that this invasion was sent by Jehovah?
5. What did Joel expect if the people turned to God?
6. Look up Acts 2:14-21 and consider why Peter quoted those words.

Chapter 51: Jonah, the Bigot

1. Consider why the belief of the Jews that Jehovah was a universal God should make them feel superior to other peoples.
2. What was the process of religious thinking that naturally developed Jewish bigotry?
3. What opportunity did the Jews have after their return to Palestine to become a missionary people?
4. What was the purpose for which the story of Jonah was told?
5. Look up 2 Kings 14:25 and note the information that is given us regarding Jonah.
6. Find on the map the city of Joppa and note the route which Jonah proposed to take.
7. What is there in the story which shows that the sailors were heathen?
8. What is there in the story which shows that Jonah believed that his own God was the one Universal God?
9. Note the different statements which indicate the religious effect that was produced on the sailors by the incidents.
10. The Book of Jonah has been greatly discussed on account of the story of the fish. Note that the fish is altogether incidental, and the great purpose of the story is not to present this miracle, but to show the contrasted character of Jehovah and of the bigoted prophet. What, in your judgment, is the religious significance of the incident of the fish?

Chapter 52: A Message of Universal Love

1. What lesson had Jonah learned through the storm and the fish?
2. What lesson had he still failed to learn?
3. What was there in Nineveh that might have stirred the pity of the prophet?
4. Why should Jonah be offended at the success of his preaching?
5. What was the meaning of the gentle irony of Jehovah? Is irony a good teacher sometimes?
6. What is the meaning of the lesson of the gourd?
7. What might have been the history of the Jew if he had always been the missionary rather than the bigot?