

Lesson 28

Ezekiel: Chapters 14-20

1. Remember the problem that Ezekiel is dealing with before the Fall of Jerusalem and relate each of these messages to that. Chapter 14 contains two brief messages. Read the first one (vs. 1-11). Who comes to inquire of the prophet? What have they done? What does Jehovah say to them?
2. Now read the second message (vs. 12-23). What four judgments are pronounced upon Jerusalem (vs. 12-19)? What false hope for security does he undermine? What is promised in vs. 21-23?
3. Chapter 15 presents another brief message. What question is raised? What is the answer? To what does he refer by "the vine tree"? What is the message of the vine-tree?
4. Chapter 16 is one of the "love stories" of the Bible. Read vs. 1-14 for an amazing picture of the grace of God. Who is the one whom He loves? (Be sure you are clear on this before going on.) In vs. 15-34 we see what the loved one does. With whom was she unfaithful (vs. 35-63)? What is Jehovah going to do? What two things are promised?
5. Chapter 17 gives an interesting parable. Read the parable (1-10) and try to get a clear picture of the story. Then read vs. 11-24 to get the meaning. Do you see what the parts of the story mean?
6. What proverb is contradicted by the message of Chapter 18? What does the proverb mean? What two principles of judgment are set forth? What does "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" mean?
7. Notice the two figures in chapter 19. Read the first one (1-9) and see if you can find the meaning of the "lioness" and the two "whelps." What is the meaning of the figure of the vine? (10-14)
8. God has Ezekiel recount the history of Israel's unfaithfulness in chapter 20. To whom is it given? What were the four occasions of rebellion (vs. 1-32)? What was the sin in each case? What is God to do (vs. 33-49)?

Study Question Notes

Lesson 28 (continued)

Ezekiel: Chapters 21-32

9. Chapter 21 is Ezekiel's message of the "sword." Read vs. 1-17 for a picture of Jehovah and His sword. Of what is the sword a symbol? What interesting event is prophesied in vs. 18-23? Who is the sword of Jehovah (vs. 29)?
10. Chapters 22-23 give another picture of the sin and judgment of Jerusalem. Read chapter 22 hurriedly for a picture of her sin. Notice with some care the allegory of chapter 23. Who are the sisters? What do they do? What happens to them as a result?
11. When is the message of chapter 24 given? What happened at that time (see 2 Kings 25:1-2)? What is the message of the caldron here (vs. 1-14)? In what way is Ezekiel a sign in vs. 15-24? What is promised to Ezekiel in verse 27? When will it be?
12. Chapters 25-32 contain Ezekiel's message to the nations. What four nations are dealt with in chapter 25? What sin is charged against one? What does each of these sins have in common?
13. What nation covers chapters 26-28? What is her sin (26:1-6)? Note the remarkable prophecy of 26:7-14. If you are not familiar with how it was fulfilled, check a Bible dictionary. Chapter 27 is a lamentation over this nation. To what is Tyre likened in this allegory? With whom does chapter 28 deal? Notice carefully 28:11-19 and compare with Isaiah 14.
14. Chapters 29-32 give Ezekiel's message against Egypt. Read through these chapters quickly to get a general idea of what is promised for her.

Study Question Notes

Lesson 29

Ezekiel: Chapters 33-39

1. Beginning with chapter 33 we are entering the second section of Ezekiel, the part after the Fall of Jerusalem. What is the problem that faces Ezekiel now that "the city is smitten?" What is to be his primary theme now?
2. Chapter 33 makes the transition between the two sections of Ezekiel. What is given in vs. 1-9? Notice how it is illustrated in vs. 1-6. Another theme is repeated in vs. 10-20. What is it? Why is it appropriate at this time? The "great divide" is found in vs. 21-22. Notice the last vestige of the false hope in vs. 23-29.
3. Chapter 34 is Ezekiel's shepherd's chapter. Like what chapter of Jeremiah? With what two failures is the shepherd of Israel charged? At vs. 11 Ezekiel begins to show what God will do. Does this meet the problem? Who are the sheep and the goats of vs. 17-19? Who are the fat and lean sheep of vs. 20-22? Notice the promises of 23-31.
4. Chapter 35 is a message of judgment. Against whom is it directed? What specific thing have they done? How does this message fit in with the theme of this section?
5. To who does Ezekiel speak in chapter 36? What has happened to her? What is everyone saying about her? Now read the chapter for the Lord's word about her. Note carefully the promises of vs. 8-38. Underline the phrase "I will" in vs. 22-38.
6. Ezekiel receives a two-fold vision in chapter 37. Read the first part (vs. 1-14). Where is he taken? What does he see? What is the meaning? (Be sure that you relate this to the problem that is there since 33:21.) Now read the second part. What is the meaning of the sign of the two sticks? What is promised?
7. Go through chapters 38 and 39 without trying to interpret but only to get the facts. Jot down the outstanding things that are predicted about this nation of Gog.

Study Question Notes

Lesson 29 (continued)

Ezekiel: Chapters 40-48

8. These nine chapters give the last and most notable of Ezekiel's visions. Be sure to keep before you the problem Ezekiel is facing now that the city is smitten. These chapters fall into three parts:
 - 40-42 - the description of the temple
 - 43-46 - the worship of the temple
 - 47-48 - the land
9. Read through chapters 40-43 hurriedly to get a very general idea of the temple. When did the vision come? Notice 42:15-20 for the final overall measurements. How large is the temple? Do you think it is to be a literal temple?
10. Chapters 43-46 give the worship in the temple. What happens in the first of chapter 43? What two visions of Ezekiel are referred to in verse 3? In what chapters do you find them? What explanation does the Lord give of these things in verses 6-9?
11. Now read 43:10-46:24 hurriedly to get "the law of the house." Do you think these services will be restored in the future? Do you notice any differences between this and the worship in the Old Testament temple?
12. Read 47:1-12. What does Ezekiel see? What do you think is symbolized by it? Now read 47:13-48:35 for the divisions of the land. Notice the size of the city (48:30-35). How large is it to be? How does that compare with Jerusalem today?
13. Thumb back through the book of Ezekiel and jot down as many characteristics of the book as you can.

Study Question Notes

Lesson 30

Daniel

Chapters 1-6

1. Be sure that you are able to locate the ministry of Daniel historically (1:1-6). When did he come in relation to Ezekiel? In relation to the Babylonian Captivity? What is the main difference between the ministry of Daniel and that of Ezekiel? (cf. Dan. 1:19 with Ezekiel 1:1.)
2. The book of Daniel is obviously divided into two parts: 1-6 and 7-12. What two outstanding differences do you find between these two sections? The first has to do with the kind of writing. What kind is 1-6? The second has to do with the content. With whom do chapters 2-6 deal primarily (see 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, 5:1, 6:1). Who is the chief actor in chapters 7-12? (see 7:1, 8:1, 9:1,2, etc.) In the light of this you may divide the book into three parts.
3. Chapter one is introductory. A comparison of 1:21 with 6:28 and 10:1 showing that all three sections have the same time span, suggests that chapter one has a purpose of its own. What is it? What three things happen to Daniel? What do these have to do with his ministry?
4. What do you think is the main purpose of these chapters (2-6) in a book of "prophecy"? God is accomplishing a two-fold purpose. What is it? Notice how each of the chapters 2-6 closes. There is a passage in each of these chapters giving this double purpose. Read these chapters hurriedly and underline these passages. What does God use in each chapter to accomplish this two-fold purpose?
5. Leaving the details of chapter 2 until later, study through chapter 3 in some detail. Be sure you know the outstanding facts. Now read Rev. 13:14-16. Does this suggest another purpose for these chapters? What do you find in chapters 4-6 along this line?
6. Go back through chapters 1-6 and jot down any character traits in Daniel which we as Christians should have.

Study Question Notes

Lesson 31

Daniel: Chapters 7-12

1. In chapters 1-6 we have seen the man God uses and the stage. Now in chapters 7-12 we see the plan of God for this period. The vision of chapter 2 gives the framework for these visions. Study 2:32-35. List the seven facts of the vision. Now study Daniel's interpretation (2:36-45). See if you can draw a diagram of the vision showing its relation to the "time of the Gentiles."
2. The first vision that was given directly to Daniel is in chapter 7. Study 7:1-14. What are the three parts of the vision? What 7 & 8 facts would you list as outstanding? Can you match them with any of the facts of chapter 2? What outstanding new fact is added here? Now study through the interpretation (7:15-28).
3. Chapter 8 gives Daniel's vision of the Ram and the He-goat. Notice what he sees about the Ram (8:3-4). With which fact of chapter 2 and of chapter 7 does this correspond? What is added? What are the facts about the He-goat? With what does this correspond in the other visions? What is given about the "little horn" (vs. 9-14)? How does this fit in with chapter 7?
4. What is the occasion of the vision of chapter 9? What does Daniel do about it? Study the vision carefully (vs. 24-27). What is the connection between the vision and the occasion? What does "seventh weeks" mean? When does this period of time begin? Into what three parts is it divided? What happened at the end of the first part? At the end of the second? What happens during the last part?
5. Read chapters 10-12 hurriedly to get a general idea of Daniel's last vision. With what nations does he deal here? Most of this last vision is a matter of history now and we will not be able to go into the details now.

Study Question Notes

Lesson 32

Habakkuk

1. From Hab. 1:1 you will see that we are dealing with another prophet that gives no indication of the time of his ministry. From this we conclude that the problem with which the book deal is within the book. Read carefully 1:5, 3:8 and 3:16. What do these verses indicate as to the general time of this ministry?
2. To get a clear understanding of the background problem of this book one must look more closely at the book itself. This book, like one other prophet, is unique in the form in which the message is given. Read the book through hurriedly and notice the character of the book that makes it so different from what you would expect from a prophet.
3. This unique form of the book, as in the case of the other prophet, indicates that the problem is in the prophet. Read carefully 1:2,3; 1:12,13; 2:1-3; and 3:16. What is the prophet's problem?
4. The theme of Habakkuk, is of course, God's answer to this problem. What is Habakkuk doing all through the book? Does this give any light on the answer to the prophet's problem? Read 1:5; 2:1-3 and 2:4 as indications of the theme.
5. In reading through the book did you see a break in the book which would divide the book into two parts? What is the prophet doing in the first part? What is he doing in the second part?
6. Now study carefully chapters 1-2. What is bothering the prophet in 1:2-3? Be sure you get this clearly in mind. Now look at 1:5-11. Who is speaking now? How does this relate to the theme of the book? What is said here? Does this answer the question on the prophet's heart?
7. What is troubling Habakkuk in 1:12-17? Does this have any connection with the previous section? Notice carefully what Habakkuk purposes to do in 2:1-3. What bearing does this have on the theme? Who speaks in 2:4-20? Read through these verses to see how this second problem is answered.
8. Now study the closing chapter. What is he thinking about in vs. 3-15? Now read slowly 3:16-19. Has the problem of the prophet been settled?

Study Question Notes

Lesson 33

Zephaniah

1. For the historical background of Zephaniah read carefully Zeph. 1:1. What unusual material is given about the man himself? When does he minister? Do you think there is any connection between what is given about Zephaniah and the time of his ministry? To get an understanding of the times of Zephaniah, read 2 Chron. 34. After you have read the chapter go back and read carefully vs. 22-28. What is promised here? Note the words that are used to describe it.
2. Now read through Zephaniah quickly to get its theme. The main message of this book appears almost in every verse. There is phrase used in referring to this that Joel used. Do you see it? How would you express this theme? Now read again 2 Chron. 34:22-28. Do you see any connection?
3. The plan of the book of Zephaniah is not clear. He deals with various aspects of the theme and then closes with the topics with which most of the prophets close. Read chapter 1 and note carefully what he says about the theme. How would you summarize this chapter? Now go back and read 1:2-6 again very carefully. This is one of the great passages in Scripture on this topic. Can you trace the way he develops the point of the paragraph?
4. Read chapter 2 hurriedly to get its main point. What is given here about the theme? Now read 3:1-8. Here the prophet turns back to Judah. What does he deal with now, especially in vs. 1-5?
5. In 3:9-20, Zephaniah turns to another topic. What is it? Read this section carefully to see what is given here on this topic so common to the prophets.

Study Question Notes

Lesson 34

Haggai

1. Historical background: The time of this prophet is given very specifically in vs. 1. Read this carefully.. Now compare this with Ezra 4:24 and 5:1, to understand what was happening, then read Ezra 1:1-4; 2:64-65; 3:1-13. Be sure to get the main events clearly in mind. How many people returned? What was their first project? What was the second project? What was the reaction of the people to this? Now read Ezra 4. What would you say is the main problem faced by Haggai?
2. Theme: The theme of Haggai is just what you would expect from the historical background. Read the book of Haggai hurriedly to see this theme. (Now go back and read carefully: Haggai 1:2,14; 2:4; 2:14.) How would you express this theme?
3. Plan: The plan of Haggai is very simple and obvious. He just gives four messages on separate topics related to the theme. Note 1:1; 2:1; 2:10; 2:20.
4. Read carefully the first of these messages (1:1-11) what is this message about? What three answers does Haggai give to the people's excuse? How did they respond to the message (vs. 12-15)?
5. Now study the second message (2:1-9). Note carefully the time of it in relation to the first message. What is the topic of this one? Is this common problem in Christian work? What two answers does Haggai give to this problem?
6. The topic of the third message is drawn from an Old Testament ceremonial law (vs. 10-13). Be sure you understand this. How does this apply to the work they were doing? What would you say is the theme of this message?
7. The fourth message is different from the others in the address (note 2:20,21) to whom are the other addressed? What would Zerubbabel's main problem be as political leader of the nation of Israel? What does God tell him here?

Study Question Notes

Lesson 35

Zechariah

Chapters 1-6

1. The historical background of Zechariah is indicated very clearly in 1:1. How does the beginning of Zechariah's ministry fit in with the time of Haggai's ministry? Note Zech. 1:7 for the time for the rest of chapters 1-6. How does this fit in with Haggai? Now check 7:1. Is the temple still under construction at this time (see Ezra 6:13-15)?
2. The theme of Zechariah is not one simple idea, but a very complex series of truths. It will help us to grasp this if we remember that he worked with Haggai and faced generally the same situations. (See 1:16; 2:4; 4:7,8; 6:12,13; 8:9.)
3. The plan of Zechariah is something like Haggai, just a series of messages. This is specially true of chapters 1-8. Chapters 9-14 are different having no direct connections with the problem of the temple. Read the book through hurriedly looking for its theme and plan.
4. Chapters 1-6 are a series of messages closely related to the temple. After an introduction (1-6), the first message is given in 1:7-11. In what form does it come see 1:18; 2:1; 3:1; 4:2; 5:1; 6:1)? Do you see any meaning in this first message that would have any reference to the building of the temple? Note especially vs. 11.
5. The second message is given in 1:18-21. Does this have any reference to the building of the temple? What about the third message in 2:1-5?
6. Study carefully the fourth and fifty messages in chapters 3 and 4. These two deal with two basic problems in any work. What is the problem in chapter 3? What is the problem of chapter 4? What is God's answer to each one?
7. Chapters 5 and 6. There are three visions that are very difficult to interpret. Read each one carefully and see if you can relate each one in any way to the problem of building the temple.

Study Question Notes

Lesson 35 (continued)

Zechariah: Chapters 7-14

8. The first section of Zechariah (1-8), after a series of visions (1-6), closes with a message (7-8), which was given in answer to a question from the people. What is the question? (See 7:1-3) What was the meaning of the weeping? How does Jehovah answer the question (vs. 4-7)? What practical lesson does Jehovah draw from this situation in vs. 8-14?
9. The message continues in chapter 8. Read this chapter quickly, remembering the situation revolving around the question. What is the nature of this chapter? What is promised in vs. 3? in vs. 4-7? in vs. 12? in vs. 19? in vs. 23?
10. Chapters 9-14 give two messages regarding the future. Note 9:1 and 12:1. Read chapters 9-11. Note the familiar theme of 9:1-7. What is it? Is vs. 8 related to that? Of whom is he speaking in 9:9-10? Chapters 10-11 deal with the shepherds of God's people. Read this section marking every reference to the shepherds.
11. Chapters 12-14 give a series of predictions concerning the future of Israel. Read these chapters hurriedly and mark the outstanding prophecies with which you are already familiar. What is promised for Jerusalem in 12:1-9? What do the figures of vs. 2, 3, and 6 mean? What is predicted of Jerusalem in vs. 10-14?
12. What is the theme of 13:1-6? What is the significance of vs. 6? To what does vs. 7 refer?
13. Chapter 14 is climactic in Zechariah. What is predicted in vs. 1-2? Then what is to happen according to vs. 3-8? This will lead to a time of security for Israel (vs. 9-11). In vs. 12-15 there is a picture of the judgment on those who fought against Jerusalem. Notice especially vs. 16-21. What is pictures in these verses?

Study Question Notes

Lesson 36

Malachi

1. What does Malachi 1:1 indicate about the historical background of this book? It is clear from the references in the book that it occurs after the "restoration." Notice 1:6; 1:8; 2:11 - we assume that the real crisis of the prophet is given in the book itself. Read through the book to see what this crisis is. There are six specific aspects of it. See if you note all of them.
2. The theme and plan of the book of Malachi is very simple. It is just a series of answers to these six problems. There is something a little different about the form in which the messages are given - Did you notice this as you read the book? Note 1:2; 1:6,7; 2:17; 3:7,8.
3. Now work through each of these six topics and see if you can understand what the problem is and how God deals with it. The first one is in 1:2-5. This is a very serious problem. With what does it have to do (1:2)? Notice that it is not a matter of "theology" but heart attitude. How does God bring it to the surface? Study carefully God's answer.
4. The second problem is also a very serious one (1:6-2:9). This is a problem of a special group of people (vs. 6) and because of this has special application to us. What is the problem? Notice especially 1:6-8; 1:12-13. Now read the section carefully to get God's answer.
5. The next problem is that Ezra and Nehemiah faced in going back to the land (Ezra 9 and Nehemiah 13:23-31). Is there any reason this was a special problem at this time in God's plan of redemption? Is it a problem now? What is God's answer?
6. Now work through the other three problems and jot down what the problem is, and the essence of God's answer to 2:17.

Study Question Notes