

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday, Bible Study
February 3, 2010

1. How many times is God's name mentioned in the book of Esther? None. It may not be printed but one can tell that Esther's life story is all about the hand of God at work through the events of her life.
2. Why did King Ahasuerus send out the decree that every man should be master in his house? Esther 1:22 says he thought that the queen's disobedience would set a bad example for the women of the kingdom. We need to learn that obedience and submission does not mean that we are to do evil things.
3. How long after Vashti's royal position was taken away was it given to another? Esther 1:3 and 2:16-17. In the third year it was taken away and in the seventh year it was given to Esther. God's ways are not our ways and His timing is not our timing. We need to learn to trust and accept God's time table.
4. Why was the city of Shushan perplexed? Esther 3 says Haman was an evil man who hated all the Jews. Because he was angry with Mordecai he put an evil plan into action to kill and destroy all the Jews. The people of the city had lived with many Jews for years and knew that they were good people and knew that this would be a bad thing for their city.
5. How did Mordecai persuade Esther to go before the King on the behalf of all Jewish people? Esther 4:14; he told her that God may have put her in the position as queen to do this very thing. God often blesses us with opportunity in order to use that opportunity to bless others.
6. Who was hanged on the gallows built by Haman? Esther 7:9-10; Haman was hanged on the gallows that he had built to hang Mordecai. What he intended to bring death to another God used to save his own.
7. What Feast are Jews to celebrate on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar each year? Esther 9:18-32— the Feast of Purim. This is to celebrate God's victory and saving the Jews by replacing queen Vashti with Esther.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
January 27, 2010

1. What were the immediate results of reading the Book of the Law? Nehemiah 8:6— a) Amen, Amen (they were agreeing with God); prayer is not always only asking. b) lifted up hands, after praying they praised the Lord and c) bowed, that is worship.
2. How long each day did Israel's Bible reading and worship last? Nehemiah 9:3— it lasted a total of six hours. Their day was 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm and their night was 12 hours from 6 pm to 6 am and a new day started with the 6 pm. To divide the day (12 hours in ¼ time periods would be 3 hours each. Just think, today some people get upset if our services go over an hour.
3. When revival is needed, what steps should be followed that we see by the example of Israel following the re-building of the wall? A) I do not think it should be ignored that their working together and relying on God to re-build the wall was a part of the beginning of this revival. B) The reading of the Book of Moses was very important. Reading and hearing God's word brought them to realize their sin and disobedience. C) After realizing their sin they confessed it. Confession is an important step to true revival. D) Chapter 9:1-4 shows their true humility. This was not just lip service, they truly wanted to turn from their ways and be obedient to God in faithfulness and worship. *Revival should always lead to complete humility, true repentance and sincere worship.
4. What example was offered in prayer to show that God was very forgiving and patient? Nehemiah 9:16-21—God continued to supply Israel's needs and led them, even though they continually missed up. God is always better and more loving than we deserve and this was being acknowledged in their prayer.
5. How many times had God delivered Israel? Nehemiah 9:28— “many times.” It is great to know that God is a merciful and forgiving God with more love for us than we can imagine.
6. A written covenant was signed by Israel to show their commitment to God. What areas did the covenant cover? Nehemiah 10:28-39— a) first it covered their relationships and said that they would not marry outside their own people b) next it covered business matters and said they would be true to the Sabbath and c) finally it stated that they would be faithful in supporting the temple.
7. Nehemiah had an enemy that he could not be fooled by, but who was able to fool Eliashib, and who was this enemy? Tobiah, Nehemiah 2:10 and 13:4. The enemy never stopped being their enemy even after Nehemiah returned to his home.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
January 20, 2010

1. What qualifications did Hanani have for taking charge of Jerusalem? Nehemiah 7:1-2 tells us that he was a faithful man and that he feared the Lord. He may have had other qualifications, but what was most important was that he was faithful and feared the Lord. Not always do those with the greatest talent make the best leaders— those with faithfulness and who fear the Lord always are good leaders.
2. How did Nehemiah give Jerusalem to Hanani and Hananiah? Nehemiah 7:1 — Not until after it was completed. Too often we leave our churches in a mess for those to follow us. We leave things not completed. We can apply this truth in so many ways and should.
3. What was the final step Nehemiah ordered after the wall was up and the gates were hung to strengthen the wall's security? Nehemiah 7:3 tells us that guards were to be established. The wall by itself would not keep the enemy out or away. It would be a great means of defense, but the people themselves would need to be on the alert and on guard as well.
4. David was punished for doing this, but Nehemiah was not: what did they do and why was Nehemiah not punished? They both registered, or numbered the people; II Samuel 24 and Nehemiah 7. In 7:5 it says that God put it in his heart to do it but God had not put it in David's heart to do it. The wall was not the source of Nehemiah's burden, it was the people and it was for them that the wall was rebuilt.
5. Did the Babylonian schools teach the Hebrew language? Sometimes people do not understand this. Nehemiah 8:2 says after being taken to exile and living in the Babylonian land for 70 years some had lost the ability to speak and understand their original language. The important connection is in chapter 8 verse 7 where the Levites were helping the people to understand. Do we take time to help others understand?
6. Why did all the people weep and mourn after hearing the words of the law? II Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." After hearing the Law of Moses, the people realized their sin (Nehemiah 8:9). They knew this was the seventh month and according to Leviticus 23:23-25 there was to be a Feast of Trumpets beginning on the first day of the seventh month and on the 10th day of the seventh month the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32) and on the 15th day of the seventh month the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths, Leviticus 23:33-44). They realized they had not been following the teachings of the law.
7. Nehemiah 7:73 "When the seventh month came..." how many months were there at this time? This is really a difficult question. The facts that we can learn from the Bible are: a day was from evening to evening and a month was from New Moon to New Moon. As you study calendars and how they came into being you see through the years that man has tried to make a calendar that fit what he wants it to. The point of this question is to put our focus back on the truth that God is the creator of time and not man. The modern Jewish calendar has either 12 or 13 months, but the Bible is not clear how they calculated the months at that time.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
January 13, 2010

1. How did the opposition respond to the re-building efforts of the broken down wall of Jerusalem? Nehemiah 4:1,8— they mocked the workers and threatened an attack. Our enemy is Satan and he works against us just as those who opposed the building of the wall.
2. How did Nehemiah encourage the people to stand against the opposition and continue working on the wall? In 4:4 he first took the matter to God in prayer. In 4:13-18 he organized the workers so that they could work and be prepared for battle at the same time. And in 4:14 he spoke to the people and reminded them that they should rely on God.
3. The work on the wall was being threatened externally by those who did not want it to be done; how was the work being threatened internally? Nehemiah 5:1-13 does not actually say the work stopped, but if not stopped it was probably slowed by the people's strife. There was a large money issue. It wasn't an issue of paying for the wall, but it was an issue of people not being able to pay for their homes or buy food, and some of their own countrymen were taking advantage of the situation with interests. Too often God's ministry is either stopped or slowed by money problems and or strife from within not externally.
4. How did Nehemiah rule differently than the governors over Jerusalem before him? Nehemiah 5:14-16 (15); the governors before burdened the people and taxed them and took from them for their own desires. Nehemiah desired to serve God and he put God first and not himself. Because of this he worked with the people and not "over them."
5. What message was sent to Nehemiah four times? Nehemiah 6:1-4; a message was sent to Nehemiah four times inviting him to a meeting with the opposition. This may have appeared harmless on the outside but Nehemiah realized that it was just another plot against him and refused to go. We should be on guard against actions that may appear to be harmless but actually are attempts to bring us harm.
6. When the attempts to get Nehemiah out of town with the letters failed, what did they try to use against Nehemiah next? Nehemiah 6:10-14; the opposition got a false prophet to try and get Nehemiah in the temple. If the enemy can't get us with their evil methods they will try to use our own religion against us. Nehemiah knew that this was wrong because only the priest could enter the temple and he was not a priest. It sounds good on the outside because we can find scripture to back up why we should be in church, but they had twisted it just enough to make it sound good.
7. Did the opposition become disheartened because all their attempts to stop the work on the wall failed? Nehemiah 6:16; they were not disheartened because they had failed but because God had succeeded! They knew that the completion of the wall meant that God was in control and that He was a mighty and powerful God.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
January 6, 2010 Happy New Year!
Nehemiah

1. Where was Nehemiah when he received the very disturbing report from Hanani? Nehemiah 1:1 says that he was in Shushan the citadel. This was a fortified city and palace. Nehemiah was a man of importance in the Persian kingdom. But even though he was a man of importance in a fortified city, his heart was with those who were hurting in Jerusalem. How often do we become comfortable in our places or positions in life and forget about those who are hurting?
2. What was Nehemiah's response to the news given by Hanani? Nehemiah 1:4 says he mourned, fasted and prayed. This should cause each of us to search our own hearts and see how we respond to news that others are hurting and in need.
3. What was Nehemiah's request to King Artaxerxes? Nehemiah 2:5— to be sent by the king to rebuild Jerusalem's walls. He did not just ask for permission to leave his job and go. He also asked the king to be involved by asking the king to "send him." This was going to be a job larger than Nehemiah—that is why he spent months in prayer. God was making a way to rebuild the walls, and it was going to involve the king as well as Nehemiah.
4. Did Nehemiah encounter any opposition to his efforts to rebuild Jerusalem? Nehemiah 2:10— yes. God never said that we would not have any opposition. Thankfully, Nehemiah did not allow the opposition to keep him from doing the Lord's work.
5. How many different gates are rebuilt? Nehemiah 3, 8; The sheep gate v.1, the fish gate v.3, the old gate v.6, the valley gate v.13, the refuse gate v.14, the fountain gate v.15, the water gate v.26 and the horse gate v. 28
6. In the list of workers recorded who helped rebuild the walls and gates, we notice that they were people with different skills but none were actually skilled in wall building. What lesson should we learn from this in our service to the Lord? What God wants is our availability because He will do the rest.
7. What did Jedaiah, Benjamin, Zadok and Meshullam all have in common? Nehemiah 3:10,23,29 and 30; they all worked on the portion of the wall by their house. Sometimes the rebuilding needs to begin at home.

Potosi Baptist Church

December 30, 2009

“Merry Christmas”

1. Which Bible prophet said, “The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel”? Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23
2. Who was king in Judea when Jesus was born? Matthew 2:1 Herod
3. Which Bible prophet said that Bethlehem would be the place of Jesus’ birth? Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:6
4. What was the age difference between John the son of Zacharias and Jesus? Luke 1:36, six months
5. Did the star lead the wise men straight to Jesus? Matthew 2:1, they came to Herod first.
6. How many generations were there from Abraham to Jesus? Matthew 1:17, 42
7. Were Mary and Joseph married when Jesus was born? Matthew 1:24 Luke 2:5-6 Luke makes it sound like they were possibly not married but they were betrothed or engaged. Matthew says that Joseph went ahead and made her his wife.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
December 16, 2009

1. From which of Aaron's sons was Ezra a descendant? Ezra 7:5 tells us that he was a descendant of Eleazar
2. Why did Ezra not ask the king for military support while the people were returning to Jerusalem? Ezra 8:21-23 because he had already told the King that God was on their side and would take care of them. How often do we tell the world that we serve a mighty God and live like we don't?
3. Who paid the cost of rebuilding the temple? Ezra 6:4 tells us that in King Cyrus's decree he said the funds for the building would come from the king's treasury. Just a reminder that the Bible tells us that all belongs to God no matter whose hands it is in.
4. How long did the trip from Babylon to Jerusalem take? Ezra 7:9 says it took four months
5. What news upset Ezra and caused him to tear his robe and pull out his hair? Ezra 9:1-3 the news that men of Israel had married foreign wives. This was a problem because it was against God's command upon entering the promised land and it led to mixed worship and it was important to God and Ezra that the people be totally committed to God and not pollute their worship with that offered to other gods.
6. The steps that were taken to correct the marriages to foreign women may seem severe to people today but what is the lesson we should learn? Ezra 10:3 tells us that the wives and children were to be put away. Ezra had poured his heart in prayer confessing their sin. In 9:13 he even acknowledged that God had punished them less than they deserved. It is important that after we admit our sin we turn from it. So many today want to confess it then keep on doing it. True repentance is not only confessing but it is turning from it. It was important here for the people to put away their foreign wives so they could truly repent.
7. What was to happen to those who did not comply with the command to put away their foreign wives? Ezra 10:8 they were put away themselves and they were to lose their property. This may sound severe but again this just showed how serious they were to hold the worship of God and protect it from outside influence.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
December 9, 2009
The book of Ezra

1. What does Ezra mean? Help
2. The decree of Cyrus was a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by whom? Ezra 1:1 and Jeremiah 25:12; the prophecy by Jeremiah was that after 70 years in exile the people would be allowed to return.
3. In Chapter two-verse sixty-four we are told that the number of people who returned was 42,360. Is that number equal to, larger than or less than the number you get by adding the numbers of verses 3-61? Larger than the total of 3-61 is 29,868 or at least that is what I came up with after several times of trying to add them. In a study book I was reading it gave the total as 29,818. My point is that we usually skip over reading such material and take for granted that they will be the same. I also have no problem believing in the larger number as the total of those who went back with the long list being a sampling of those who went.
4. What was the first priority of the children of Israel who returned to their homeland? Ezra 3:1-8 (v2): to build an altar to offer burnt offerings to God. (A) They had been away from their land for 70 years and there had to be much work to be done on homes and fields, yet they put more importance on the spiritual than the physical needs. How many times do people say: I will give God time after I finish my house, my job, or whatever it is they are putting before God? (B) They also had reason to fear because they were surrounded by enemies who hated their God and their worship, yet they put God first.
5. Why was the work on rebuilding the temple, which had been approved by King Cyrus, halted by King Artaxerxes? Ezra 4:23-24; the work was made to stop by the king's command but he gave the command because of a false report. The false report was given because a group of people got upset over not being allowed to help in the rebuilding effort. They claimed to worship God but in truth they were not totally loyal or committed to God; they served other gods as well and mixed many forms of idol worship into what they were claiming was worship of God. The acceptance of the kindness to help in labor was not worth the compromise of their worship, and by spreading lies through the letter to the king, they had the work stopped completely on rebuilding.
6. Possibly for fifteen years work had stopped on the temple; why did the people begin to work again on rebuilding and completing the temple? Ezra 5:1 says that God sent a message to both Zechariah and Haggai telling them that the work should be done to finish the temple. The details of how they received the message and shared the message can be read in the books with their names. God's command was shared with Zerubbabel and Jeshua who organized and led the work effort. In my opinion the bottom line is, work started again when the people listened to God and were obedient to His message.
7. When work began for the second time, like the first time, Satan wanted to use lies to stop the work. How were King Artaxerxes words being used in a lie to stop the building of the temple? In Ezra 4:21 the king had commanded the people not to rebuild the city. He did not say they could not rebuild the temple. He had been led to believe that they were building the city again. Years later when work started again, people wanted to stop it but this time the truth was told that it was the temple and not the city, and that it was ordered by King Cyrus. Satan is still today and always will be a liar.