

Potosi Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study  
April 14, 2010

1. Job complained to his friends that God would not speak to him; what did Elihu tell him about this complaint? Job 33:13, Elihu says that God does not have to answer for His actions but he goes on to tell Job that if he is paying attention, God speaks in many ways. God can speak through dreams and visions. He can speak through angels, and God is always speaking through creation.
2. Job argued to his friends that he had been unjustly treated by God in that he had not sinned and did not deserve all the bad things that had happened to him; what did Elihu think of this argument? Elihu must have thought that Job was accusing God of doing wrong. In 34:10 he reminds Job that God can do no wickedness. God is Holy and Righteous and therefore Job's argument must be incorrect. He went on to say that Job was being rebellious (34:37).
3. What did Elihu think of Job's prayers? 35:13, he thought Job's prayers were "empty talk." Job did not think that God was listening to him, and Elihu reminded Job that he was praying to God with the wrong attitude.
4. Which chapter in Job has more questions than any other chapter in the Bible? Job 38 has a total of 39 questions. From 38 to 42 there are a total of 83 questions, all from God to Job.
5. Why did God ask Job so many questions? In Job 40:4 Job responded by saying he had no answers to God's questions. God was not trying to see if Job had any answers but He wanted Job to realize that He is SOVEREIGN. An because He is, God should be the only answer we need. In 40:8-14, God is asking Job if he could do any better. Because God is Sovereign we should just trust Him.
6. When Job's eyes saw God and his ears heard God's voice what did he think of himself? Job 42:6 "Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Like Isaiah (chapter 6), when he truly saw God and how holy God is, it caused him to see how sinful he was. Man will never see his sinfulness until he sees God's sovereignty and holiness.
7. What is the main point of the book of Job? There are many, but the main point may depend on your need at the time. Perhaps you need to just trust in God's sovereignty. Maybe you need to know that suffering is not always a punishment for wickedness. There is a real Satan and he is out to destroy. Sometimes there are no answers and our comfort is not in words. God is there even in times of suffering; He never leaves us alone. God is our salvation.

Potosi Baptist Church  
April 7, 20120  
Wednesday Bible Study

1. How did Job earn the respect of his friends? Job 29:11-17; he earned it by his kind and thoughtful actions toward others. This may also be his response to the accusations that he had wronged others and had some secret sin.
2. What did Job say that leads you to believe that he had lost a lot of weight? Job 30:18 tells us that his garment did not fit. The collar is a small part of the garment and he had lost a lot of weight and his clothing was not fitting properly. Illness and stress had taken a toll on his life. This is giving us a picture of the pain that Job was in.
3. Job claims faithfulness to his wife and help to the needy as proof that he is innocent. What other proof does he give? Job 31:2-4; he has rejected materialism. He was a wealthy man but he was not worshiping his wealth or putting it before the Lord. Job 31:26-28— he worshiped only God and did not worship idols. And in Job 31:29-30 he showed kindness to his enemies.
4. We know more about this person because of his genealogy than any other person in the book of Job; who is this person? Job 32:2— a new person enters the conversation with Job and his name is Elihu. His name may be translated “my God is Jehovah” or “God is my God.” He was the son of Barachel which means “God blesses.” The Buzite, that is, Buz the second son of Nahor, the brother to Abraham. Neither Job nor his three friends had this much genealogy given about them. Elihu had a family with rich spiritual history. This is also letting us know what Job needed from the three but did not get— he was about to hear from Elihu who was a spiritual man, and as verse eighteen of chapter thirty-two says, felt compelled to speak. He really believed God was giving him the words to share with Job. Elihu knows that God is with him (v.8) and that God gives understanding, which is what Job is asking for.
5. Who said great men are not always wise, and the aged men do not always understand justice? Elihu, Job 32:9. He was younger than Job and his friends. You do not have to be older to be wise and just because you are older does not mean that you are wise.
6. How did Elihu correct Job in chapter 33 ? Job 33:12-113; God’s ways are greater than man’s and He does not have to answer for His ways. Not only does God not have to answer, but He does speak in various ways and is not the silent God, hiding out like Job thought He was.
7. How did Elihu say what Paul said to the church in Rome (Romans 8:28) but in his words and not Paul’s? Job 33:29-30. God works all these things, that is, all the things that have been happening to Job, to bring his soul from the pit, that is, to work for good in his life. God can use and work through all things in our life to work his good will.

Potosi Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study  
March 24, 2010

1. What was Job's response to Eliphaz's words in 22:21? Eliphaz told Job to go to God and make peace. In his response in 23:3 Job says he would go to God if he knew where God was. He goes on to say in 23:10 that God knows Job's ways but God is unique (23:13NKJV). His point is that he wanted to go to God but man is not all knowing and God is.
2. Paul says to the church at Corinth that Jesus is the foundation we are to build on and that the material used will be tested. In Job's reply to Eliphaz what kind of material will be revealed after God has tested Job? I Corinthians 3:11-15 and Job 23:10 Job says he will come forth as gold. His friends are so convinced that Job is unrighteous but He knows his heart and in 23:11 he reminds his friends that he has been faithful to God.
3. Job asks his friends to prove him wrong; what is it that he wants them to prove wrong? Job 24:25; Job says prove me a liar. He has given many examples of wicked people that seemingly are not being punished for their wickedness so if his friend's theory is correct why are they not being punished as he is?
4. What question did Bildad ask that may make you question his salvation? Job 25:4; he asks how man can be righteous before God. It makes me wonder, with his arguments about Job being punished by God for unrighteousness and now trying to convince Job that nobody can be righteous before God, if he (Bildad) had a relationship with God and what kind it could have been. He appears not to know that Job had a relationship through faith, not works. Bildad is correct, as scripture says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory," but he seems not to know that "by grace, through faith we are saved."
5. What is Job telling his friends in chapter 26? In the first four verses he asks some sarcastic questions and in verse seven he says that God hangs the earth on nothing, all indicating that they are "NO" help to God. He goes on in the rest of the chapter to describe God's majesty even greater than Bildad had in chapter 25. You cannot just be **against** sin; you have to be **for** something. Job's friends were all about finding some secret sin in Job's life, but they never said a word about God's grace.
6. In chapter 27, Job agrees with his friends that there is no hope for the wicked and he wants them to know that he is not wicked. Where does Job tell his friends his proof is? Job 27:6; my heart shall not reproach me as long as I live. Job was saying I know in my heart that I have righteousness. Paul says in Romans 10:9 that we are to confess with our mouth and believe in our heart. It seems to me that Job is trying to get his friends to see that they should not only have the knowledge of God they have in their heads but also have the spirit of God in their hearts. In verses 8-11 Job is making the case for the heart; his friends have been focusing their attention on the outside and Job asks, what do we have without God? Job knows that even if everything on the outside is taken away, we may still have what really matters on the inside and that is God.
7. What does Job tell his friends that cannot be purchased for any amount of wealth? Job 28:1-28 (v.28); wisdom comes from the Lord. Job says that man may find precious things hidden in the earth but the only place to find wisdom is with the Lord. His friends may have thought they had wisdom, but what they had was knowledge and their knowledge was no comfort to Job. What he needed was wisdom, and the only place to find wisdom was with God.

Potosi Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study  
March 17, 2010

1. Job found no comfort from his friend's words. Was he able to find comfort from other friends or family? No, Job 19:13-17, he felt totally alone.
2. Which hymn was written with Job's words in his second response to Bildad? Job 19:25; "For I know that my redeemer lives...". The word for redeemer in this passage is "goel" meaning a close relative who takes care of a person's property after the person's death. The redeemer makes sure all debts are paid. Job knew that God was his redeemer, like God is our redeemer— He has paid the debt.
3. What did Job say that made Zophar anxious to speak? Job 20:2— anxious thoughts, Job 19:29— you guys better watch out for God's punishing sword, because if it what is happening to me it will also happen to you. Job's friends had been telling Job that he was unrighteous and everything that had happened had happened because of Job's unrighteousness. Zophar did not like it when Job said you are as guilty as I am and you are going to be punished also. There words seemed good to share about Job, but they did not want to put themselves in the same boat.
4. How did Job correct Zophar's philosophy about what had happened to Job? Job 20; Zophar shares that wickedness is punished by God. In Job 21 he tells Zophar that he has seen the wicked go unpunished and punished. Because of this, Zophar's thoughts about the matter with Job can't be hard and fast.
5. Eliphaz was speaking more in general in his first two speeches to Job, but in speech number three he got more specific. How? Job 22: 6-10; he did not just say that Job must be a wicked person but he listed specific sins and told Job he was being punished for them.
6. What is Eliphaz's opinion about the height of God? Job 22:12-14; he sees God as so high that He can see everything, but at the same time he sees others like Job who he thinks believes God is so high that he can't see thru the darkness of the clouds. He was wrong about other matters but he is correct in believing that God sees everything.
7. What question did Eliphaz ask that would make you think that he did not have a personal relationship with God? Job 22:2-3; he questions why God would want to have a relationship with man. What he seems not to know is that God created man to have a relationship with, and because of man's sin He sent His only Son to die in our place to redeem us because He loves us and desires a relationship with us.

Potosi Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study  
March 10, 2010

1. Job says that if his friends were as smart as they think they are, they would do what? Job 13:5; Job tells his friends that they would be silent if they were as wise as they think they are. Why do we think we have to have all the answers? Job's friends were just making things worse by trying to tell Job what his problems were all about.
2. What does Job think of life after death? Job 14:1-12; Job speaks of physical life as ending at death. In verse 14 Job even asks the question "if man dies shall he live again?" This chapter is about Job's thoughts on man's living this life here on earth only once. We just get one, unlike trees or other vegetation that may sprout again. Job is making the point that when we die this physical life is over.
3. Who was older, Job or his friends? Have you ever heard the phrase "older than dirt"? In chapter 15:7 Eliphaz asks Job is if he older than the hills, and then in 15:10 he says that both the gray-haired and the aged are among the group of friends. Wisdom may come with age, but age does not guarantee wisdom.
4. If Job's friends were in his shoes, would he treat them as they were treating him? Job 16:1-5; Job says that they were miserable comforters and that he would comfort them instead of causing them more pain. We should be careful when someone needs comforting not to add to their pain, but to comfort their pain.
5. What did a handshake mean to Job? Job 17:1-3; a handshake meant a commitment. In verse three, Job says let's make a pledge together and then shake on it. People today do not honor contracts written on paper much less their word. As righteous people, we should honor our word and a simple handshake should show that we will honor our word.
6. What was Job's response to Satan's accusation that he was only righteous because God had blessed him? Job 17:9; Job says that the righteous should be righteous no matter what happens. He even goes on to say that the righteous will become stronger. Job has been describing himself on the outside as a man who is physically weaker because of the trials, but on the inside his faith is even stronger than it was before.
7. What is the theme of Bildad's second speech to Job? Job 18:1-21; the wicked that do not know God are punished. This is a truth, but Job was a righteous man and did know God.

Potosi Baptist Church  
Wednesday Bible Study  
February 24, 2010

1. Did Job sleep much following all the bad things that had happened to him? Job 7:4 lets us know that he tossed till dawn, and 7:13-14 shows us that he was tired and needed sleep but he would have bad dreams and visions that would keep him awake.
2. Who did Bildad blame for Job's sufferings? Job 8:4, 6. Bildad told Job that what happened to his family was because of his family's sin. Bildad had two wrong thoughts that he shared with Job: One was that "all suffering is because of sin" and two was that "those rewarded must be righteous."
3. What did Job know as he replied to Bildad's suggestion? 9:1, 33— Job knew that man needed a mediator. He knew that God is perfect and man is imperfect. He knew God is unlimited and man is limited. He knew that God is all-powerful and man is weak. He knew that even though he was a righteous man, he was not worthy to stand before a Holy God. Thank you Jesus for being our mediator!
4. On what day of creation did God make what Job said God made in chapter nine verse nine? Genesis 1:14-19 day four God created the stars.
5. Chapter ten has many questions that Job has for God, how many can you identify?
  - a. V.2 Why God?
  - b. V.3 Does God enjoy this?
  - c. V.4 Is God blind?
  - d. V.5-6 Is God in a hurry to punish me?
  - e. V.8-9 Did God make me so He could break me?
  - f. V.12-13 Why were you with me before and not with me now?
6. What does Zophar think of Job's response to Eliphaz concerning his amount of suffering? In chapter 6:1-4 and 24-30, Job tells Eliphaz that he has suffered much so he can complain much, and that his suffering was not a result of sin in his life. Zophar in chapter 11:1-6 says that suffering is a result of sin and not only has Job sinned to cause this, but in verse 6 he says that he deserves "double" for his sins.
7. Do you think Zophar really believed in evolution? Job 11:11-12 speaks of a donkey's colt being born a man. The message was not that an animal would be born a man but that animals do not have the same heart and soul as man. Zophar was insulting Job and telling him that he did not know what he was talking about if he was going to continue to claim that God was not punishing him for his sin. According to Zophar, any one could see this and if they couldn't they were like the empty headed person who had "no chance" of ever being wise.

# POTOSI BAPTIST CHURCH

## Wednesday Bible Study

February 17, 2010

1. What does the name Job mean? Job means one persecuted.
2. What were the first words Job spoke after the seven days of silence with his friends? Job 3:1 Job was in such great sorrow that he felt as if it would have been better to never have been born so that none of the bad things had happened would have happened.
3. In 1:22 it says that Job, in all this, did not sin. Are Job's pleas of chapter three a reversal of this statement, and was he blaming God for the bad things that happened to him? In chapter three he says that he wishes he had never been born, then he says he wishes he had died at birth, and since neither of these happened, he wishes he could die now. Some commentators teach that this is Job's sinfulness because he is blaming God for the evil that had happened. I am not sure about that because I can also see that Job perhaps in this chapter is blaming himself, not God. I am not saying that Job was perfect and never sinned. I am just not convinced that he was blaming God in chapter three for what had happened.
4. What was Eliphaz's first suggestion to Job? Job 4:1-11 sounds like he is telling Job to practice what he preaches (v.3-5) and he is reminding Job that he has been spiritually mature enough to help others, so he should be able to help himself (v.5-6). He is also reminding Job that he is not without sin and that his troubles were a result of his sin (v.7-9). Practicing what we preach is good advice, but thinking that we may have an answer for every problem or question in life is not. As the friends and Job continue to talk, we will learn that not all bad that happens is a direct result of sin either.
5. Though not correct in its application here, the foundation of Eliphaz's first response to Job is a Biblical truth and can be found in the words of a wise man. What did he say and where can it be found in the Bible? Job 5:17 and Proverbs 3:11-12. God does correct, and Eliphaz believed that God was correcting Job, and Job should accept it and be happy about it. It is true that God chastens those He loves, but it is not true that all things that happen to us are a result of being chastened.
6. What did Job compare the words of Eliphaz to? Job 6:6, the white of an egg or food eaten without salt for flavor. His accusation that Job had no reason to be so upset was wrong because (6:2-3) the weight of his sorrow was matched by the weight of his tragedy and the words spoken by Eliphaz were as helpful or comforting as food without flavor; in other words he was no help at all.
7. What was Job's response to Philippians 4:13? Job 6:11-12. Like many other believers, Job was having a hard time seeing that he was going to be able to endure this great suffering. He knew that he did not have the strength by his own power. Like Job, no of us has the strength of stone unless that stone is the solid rock of Jesus!

# POTOSI BAPTIST CHURCH

Wednesday, Bible Study

February 10, 2010

The Book of Job

1. How did God describe Job? Job 1:8 says “ A blameless and upright man who feared God and shuns evil.” How would God describe you?
2. Why did God tell Satan that all that Job had was in his power except for his life? Job 1:10 says Satan thought that Job was only faithful to God because of all the blessings God had placed upon Job’s life. Why are we faithful to God? Are we only faithful when things are going well in our life?
3. What was Job’s reaction to losing everything he had except the servants who escaped to bring him the bad news? Job 1:20-22 says he did not blame God, he went to God in worship. How do we react when bad things happen in our lives?
4. Did God allow Satan to harm Job with disasters because Job needed to be punished, or because Job needed to grow spiritually? Job 2:3 says that God allowed Satan to do what he did to Job to destroy him “without cause.” Job was a righteous man shunning evil, and in this case God wanted Satan as well as the world to see the faith of Job because he was a righteous man, and not for the reasons Satan thought.
5. Satan first thought Job was a righteous man because of all God’s blessings upon him. What was Satan’s second reason for claiming that Job was a righteous man? Job 2:4 says Satan told God that Job loved his own life more than he loved God. Satan uses these two things against people and with some he is successful, because at times people do put more importance on material things than loving the Lord, and if that doesn’t work or even if it does he may also use a person’s health to keep them from loving the Lord. We often focus on the question “Why did the bad things happen to Job?” I think we should ask two other questions. “If I lose everything will I still love the Lord? If I lose my health will I still love the Lord?”
6. Did Job’s wife share his faith in God? Job 2:9-10 says she encouraged Job to curse God for all the things that happened to him. This shows me that even though Job was a righteous man and leading his family in spiritual ways, we all individually have a choice to make. Job could lead his family and make the commitment himself to be faithful to God, but he could not make that commitment for his wife. Her conversation shows that her own personal commitment to God was not like Job’s.
7. Why did Job’s three friends come to visit with him? 2:12-13, they came to mourn with Job and comfort him. They started off on the right foot but as we will see, when they thought they should offer their words they got it all wrong. They came to comfort, and for the first seven days they just sat with Job in silence. They did well for seven days, but then they should have gone home or remained silent. When we are comforting our friends it may be best as well if we keep our opinions to ourselves and remain silent and allow our presence to be a comfort and not our words.

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 10<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32) and on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.