



Precept upon Precept

NASB

Ezra and Haggai

Rebuilding the Temple

Know God deeply. Live differently.

Greetings from Precept,

We are so glad you've chosen to study God's Word. You're in for a rich time learning about God, His character, His ways, and the relationship we have with Him. We're confident God's Word will give you the knowledge and the motivation to help you walk in a manner worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus and that you'll be personally challenged, encouraged, and changed by the power of His supernatural Word.

We'd like to stay in touch with you so that we can tell you about the wonderful things God is doing through Precept. Will you connect with us? We want to hear your story of how God's Word has impacted you by studying Inductively.

Visit the Precept Africa website at www.precept.org.za or join us on Facebook at *Precept Africa*.

Finally, we want to thank you for your commitment to faithfully study God's Word in order to ***“present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth”*** (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB). We share a special bond with you because of our love of God's Word.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

The Precept Team

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

Ezra
and
Haggai

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

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EZRA AND HAGGAI
REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

EZRA AND HAGGAI
REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 4

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1988

BRENEMAN, MERVIN

The New American Commentary, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1993

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

CARSON, D. A.; WENHAM, G.J.; MOTYER, ALEC; AND FRANCE, R.T., EDS.

The New Bible Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Ezra One through Three

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Ezra 1–3
“Ezra at a Glance”
“The Times of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther”
“The Feasts of Israel”
Map
Cross-references

Does God Keep His Promises?

Do you ever wonder? Quietly, secretly, do you ever wonder if God really does keep His promises? The answer, friend, is yes! Yes, He does keep His promises! Yes, He does what He says He will do.

If you have ever wrestled with questions about God’s power and love, this study will set you free.

DAY ONE

As you study Ezra, you will see God’s hand at work in the lives of men and in the events of history. It will be exciting, but this study, like any study of the Word of God, will take commitment. Your enemy, the devil, will try to distract you, and the Spirit of God will draw you. It is up to you to invest time in the study in spite of distractions if you want to reap the benefits.

1. Start with prayer; in fact, we suggest you write it out below. Commit before God to do the homework and finish the study.

2. As we study Ezra, we will also be showing you how to use various inductive study techniques to help you get the most out of your Bible study time. The first is interrogating the text with the **5 Ws and an H** questions: **who, what, when, where, why**, and **how**. Of these questions, **who** is one of the easiest to see. This is especially true in a historical narrative like Ezra. The second technique is marking key words in the text. These two techniques work together to help you slow down your reading and see clearly what the author is saying.

If you are new to Precept, please give these tools a try by following the instructions in this study. We know you will see their value. If you are a veteran of this type of Bible study, take the opportunity to help any new students in your class see how these techniques work—how they unlock the meaning in any text.

Now for the assignment.

- a. In the Appendix you'll find **Observation Worksheets**—printouts of texts we're studying, double-spaced and with wide margins to make them easy to read and mark. Read the Observation Worksheet for Ezra 1 slowly as you would any good book. As you read, mark references to *Cyrus*, the king of Persia. We suggest you mark him with a green crown. There are a lot of kings mentioned in Ezra, and it is important that you take note of each one. Continue to mark Cyrus the same way in each chapter.
- b. List what you learned about Cyrus below.

3. You probably noticed as you read that there were several references to *the house of God*. Repeated words or phrases like this are key to understanding the message of any book. It's helpful to make a list of key words and phrases like *Cyrus* and *house of God*—and how you will mark them throughout your study. This list will help you be consistent as you move from chapter to chapter and from book to book in your Bible study. You might want to list key words on the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of your Precept book. Marking suggestions for some frequently used words in the Bible are on the front of the card.

For your study of Ezra, begin your key word list with *Cyrus*. Also add:

- a. *house of God* or *temple*—We suggest you shade these blue.
 - b. *God*—mark references to *God* or *Lord*. A suggested color and symbol are included on the front of your bookmark.
 - c. Geographical references. Double underline each one in green. Since *Jerusalem* is so important in our study, double underline it in green and shade it blue. Look on the map in the Appendix to locate the places mentioned in this chapter.
 - d. Official documents—The book of Ezra contains several official documents, decrees, and letters that were copied into or quoted in the book of Ezra. These are important historically and therefore important to your understanding of Ezra. We suggest you mark them with a bracket in the margin so you can see where they begin and end. For example: in Ezra 1, verses 2–4 quote the official decree issued by a king. It is an ancient official document of the kingdom of Persia.
 - e. *priests*
 - f. *Levites*
 - g. Expressions of time—such as *in the first year of Cyrus . . .* are very important in the book of Ezra. We suggest you mark them by drawing a clock over them, as illustrated on the bookmark.
4. Read Ezra 1 at least twice, marking the key words above.

5. List what this chapter says about *the Lord* and about *His house*.

6. Summarize Ezra 1 with a few words from the text and record this on the chart “Ezra at a Glance” in the Appendix.

Summarizing each chapter of a book as you study is a great tool for helping you remember what you’re learning.

7. One last exercise before we stop for the day.
- a. According to Ezra 1:1 and 1:5, what exactly did God do and for what purpose?
 - b. In what ways have you experienced God stirring your spirit to accomplish His will?
 - c. Have you seen God stir even the hearts of people who *don’t* know Him . . . to do His will?

- d. Read Proverbs 21:1. Does knowing that God moves even in the hearts of people who ignore or reject Him strengthen your faith? How?

DAY
TWO

How did the people of Israel become subject to the authority of a Persian king?

You'll find it helpful to refer to "The Times of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther" in the Appendix as you read the cross-references today.

1. You will find an Observation Worksheet of 2 Chronicles 36:5-23 at the end of this lesson. Read this passage and mark references to *God* and to *the house of God*. When you have finished, reread the passage and mark references to *Judah* and to *King Nebuchadnezzar*.
 - a. What did you learn about God from this chapter?

- b. What led up to Judah being taken captive?

- c. What happened to the temple and its articles?

- d. Why did God take His people out of the land He had promised them?

- e. How long will they be gone?

- f. At this point, from your study of 2 Chronicles 36:5-23 and Ezra 1, how does what you learned about God affect you personally?

- 2. You saw in both 2 Chronicles 36 and Ezra 1 the phrase *to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah*. Read the following passages using the 5 Ws and an H questions, and note *what* Jeremiah said and *why*.
 - a. Jeremiah 25:1-14

b. Jeremiah 29:10-14

3. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, took the people of Judah captive in three stages. But what happened to Babylon and who is Cyrus?

One of the captives from Judah was Daniel. In his book we're given some insight into the transition from the Babylonian to the Persian empire.

Read Daniel 5:17–6:3 and 6:28 and answer the following questions:

- a. Who was the last Babylonian (*Chaldean* is a synonym) king?
- b. Who took over the kingdom after him?
- c. Who besides Darius is mentioned?

4. The prophet Isaiah also mentions Cyrus.

- a. Read Isaiah 44:24–45:13. List what you learn about Cyrus on the following page. Pay careful attention to what will be rebuilt. You might want to color-code Cyrus here and other places he's mentioned in your Bible.

- b. Isaiah prophesied from 739 to 681 B.C. From “The Times of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther” chart in the Appendix, note the year Cyrus came to power.
- 5. You studied some amazing truths about God today. The danger would be in storing them away as facts without letting them impact your heart. Take a few minutes to meditate on what you have learned today about the promise-keeping God. Ask God to show you how to walk in light of His promises.

How would knowing that God writes history in advance give you a new perspective on living today?

God told Isaiah that a king named Cyrus would send the Jews back to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. He gave this prophecy more than 100 years before Cyrus arrived on the scene. God keeps His promises. Every prophecy, every promise will come about just as He says it will. You can relax and put your faith in God, because what He says—He will do.

DAY THREE

Today's assignment is to study Ezra 2. This chapter lists the people who returned to Israel from captivity.

Your first thought may be, "Why should I read a list?" But remember two things. First, every person is important to God. The names of the families that returned home are important to God. Every name is proof that God is the promise-keeping God. Second, God put this list in Scripture for a reason. Let's see if we can discover why.

1. Begin with prayer, asking God to reveal to you His purpose for including Ezra 2 in Scripture.
2. Using your Observation Worksheets, study Ezra 2.
 - a. Mark key words on your list.
 - b. Add *Zerubbabel* and *Jeshua* to your Key Word Bookmark.
 - c. For Ezra 2, mark references to: *gatekeepers*, *singers*, and *servants*. Mark each in a different way. You'll see them again in chapter 10.
 - d. Note in the chapter margins the different groups returning to Jerusalem.
3. List below the groups of people recorded for us. The first two are divided by family and by geographical location. We listed the first two for you.

3-20—the people by family

21-35—the people by city

36-39

40-42

43-54

55-57

59-63

4. What happened to the nation of Israel 70 years earlier? (This is a review question from your study of 2 Chronicles 36, Day 2.)

to the people—

to Jerusalem—

to the temple—

5. Now 70 years later, it's time for the Jews again to live and worship God in their promised land.

a. What needs to happen for a complete restoration of Judah from exile?

b. What roles do the people groups listed in Ezra 2 play in rebuilding the nation of Israel?

c. Why do you think God included this chapter in Scripture? How would it have benefited the original readers of Ezra's book?

6. Before we move away from Ezra 2, be sure to record a summary in a few words on your "Ezra at a Glance" chart. (By the way, Nehemiah, a contemporary of Ezra, includes the same list of people in chapter 7 of his book.)

DAY
FOUR

The first group has returned to the land and the people are living in their cities. Now the work begins.

1. Observe Ezra 3 using the 5 Ws and an H questions and add *burnt offering* to your key word list. You may want to box this phrase in red and shade it red. Mark *foundation* in this chapter only. We suggest you underline it in brown.
2. Don't forget to summarize Ezra 3 on your "Ezra at a Glance" chart.

DAY
FIVE

1. Begin today by reading Ezra 3.
2. After the people gathered in Jerusalem, what building project came first? Why?
3. What did you learn about burnt offerings from your observations of Ezra 3?
4. The first feast the people celebrated when they returned was the Feast of Booths (Ezra 3:4).
 - a. Read Leviticus 23:39-44 and record the main points about this feast.

- b. Look at the chart “The Feasts of Israel” in the Appendix. Note anything else you learn about this feast.

- c. What was the purpose of this feast? What historical event was brought to mind when it was celebrated?

- d. What would the Feast of Booths mean to the men and women returning home after 70 years of captivity?

- 5. When did the work on the temple begin? You might note this in the margin of your Bible.

- 6. Who were the leaders? Look at 2:2; 3:2, 8.

- 7. What happened when the temple foundation was laid?

8. Read Psalm 137:1-6 and Psalm 126.
 - a. How do these relate to the joy of Ezra 3:11-13?

 - b. What had the captives' time in Babylon been like?

9. What have you learned about God this week, and what difference will it make in your life?

10. Spend the rest of your time today reading about Ezra 1–3 in any commentaries you have.

Friend, please don't miss the significance of these passages! God keeps His promises. He promised to bring His people back to the land, and He did. He did exactly what He said He would do. When everything seemed hopeless, God brought hope. You too can trust His promises. Every word of His is true; you can rest from your worries in His unchanging grace.

2 CHRONICLES 36:5-23

- 5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.
- 6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him and bound him with bronze *chains* to take him to Babylon.
- 7 Nebuchadnezzar also brought *some* of the articles of the house of the LORD to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon.
- 8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son became king in his place.
- 9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.
- 10 At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon with the valuable articles of the house of the LORD, and he made his kinsman Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.
- 11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.
- 12 He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God; he did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the LORD.
- 13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear *allegiance* by God. But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.
- 14 Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people were very unfaithful *following* all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the LORD which He had sanctified in Jerusalem.
- 15 The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;

- 16 but they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.
- 17 Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave *them* all into his hand.
- 18 All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought *them* all to Babylon.
- 19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.
- 20 Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,
- 21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.
- 22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia—in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah—the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying,
- 23 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!’ ”

APPENDIX

EXPLANATIONS OF THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE TEXT FORMAT

Italics are used in the text to indicate words which are not found in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek but implied by it.

Paragraphs are designated by bold face numbers or letters. These were determined by the translators.

EZRA 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying:
- 2 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
 - 3 ‘Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.
 - 4 ‘Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.’ ”
 - 5 Then the heads of fathers’ *households* of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.
 - 6 All those about them encouraged them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with cattle and with valuables, aside from all that was given as a freewill offering.
 - 7 Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in the house of his gods;
 - 8 and Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.
 - 9 Now this *was* their number: 30 gold dishes, 1,000 silver dishes, 29 duplicates;
 - 10 30 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a second *kind and* 1,000 other articles.
 - 11 All the articles of gold and silver *numbered* 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all up with the exiles who went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

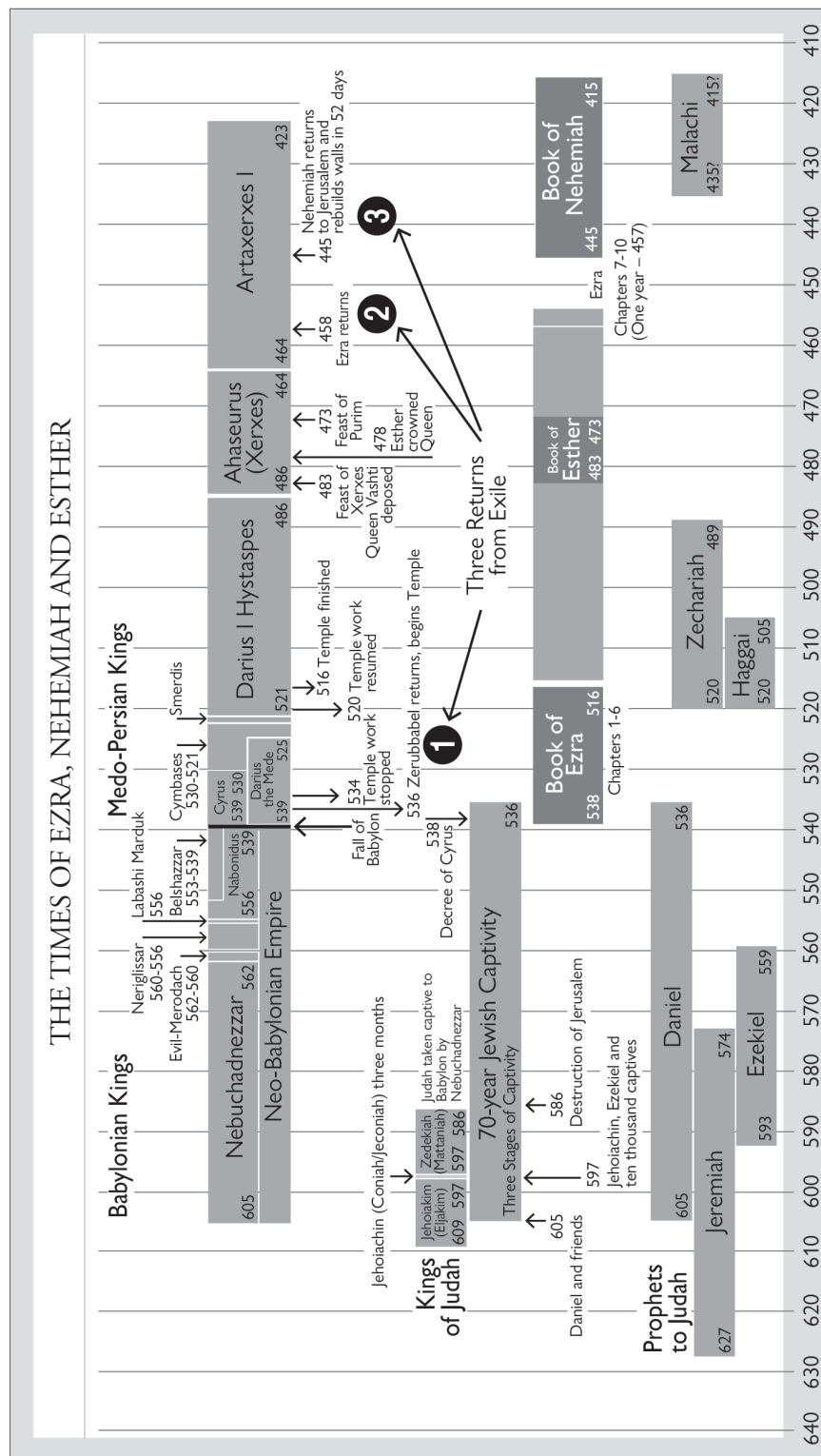
EZRA AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes	
Author:			1	
			2	
3				
4				
5				
6				
Date:			7	
			8	
9				
10				
Purpose:				
Key Words:				

Ezra and Haggai

The Times of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

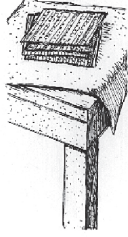
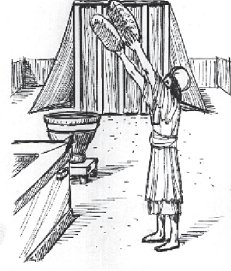


HAGGAI AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Segment Divisions	Paragraph Themes	Chapter Themes
Author:	1:1-11		1
Date:	1:12-15		
Purpose:	2:1-9		2
Key Words:	2:10-19		
	2:20-23		

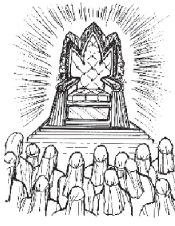
THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL

1 st Month (Nisan) Festival of Passover (<i>Pesach</i>)				3 rd Month (Sivan) Festival of Pentecost (<i>Shavuot</i>)	
Slaves in Egypt 	Passover 	Unleavened Bread 	First fruits 		Pentecost or Feast of Weeks 
Whosoever commits sin is the slave to sin	Kill lamb & put blood on doorpost <i>Exodus 12:6, 7</i>	Purging of all leaven (symbol of sin)	Wave offering of sheaf (promise of harvest to come)		Wave offering of two loaves of leavened bread
	1 st month, 14 th day <i>Leviticus 23:5</i>	1 st month, 15 th day for 7 days <i>Leviticus 23:6-8</i> (1 st and 7 th days are Sabbaths)	Day after Sabbath <i>Leviticus 23:9-14</i>		50 days after first fruits <i>Leviticus 23:15-21</i> (It is a Sabbath)
	Christ our Passover has been sacrificed 	Clean out old leaven ... just as you are in fact unleavened	Christ has been raised ... the first fruits 	Going away so that Comforter can come  <i>Mount of Olives</i>	Promise of the Spirit, mystery of the church: Jews-Gentiles in one body 
<i>John 8:34</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 5:7</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 5:7-8</i>	<i>1 Cor. 15:20-23</i>	<i>John 16:7</i> <i>Acts 1:9-12</i>	<i>Acts 2:1-47</i> <i>1 Corinthians 12:13</i> <i>Ephesians 2:11-22</i>

MONTHS:

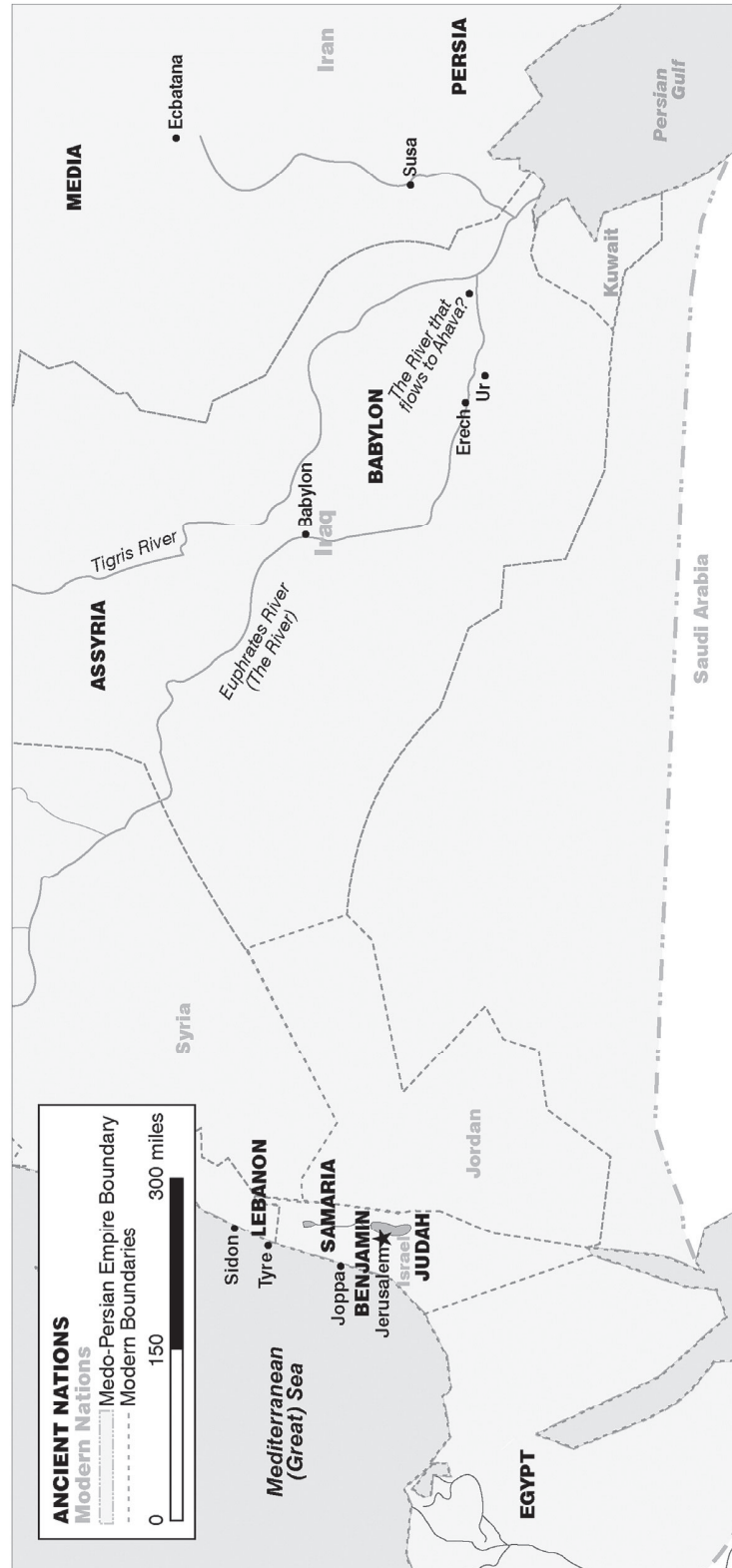
Nisan—March, April ■ Sivan—May, June ■ Tishri—September, October

Ezra and Haggai
The Feasts of Israel

7 th Month (Tishri) Festival of Tabernacles (<i>Succoth</i>)			
Interlude Between Festivals	Feast of Trumpets 	Day of Atonement 	Feast of Booths or Tabernacles 
	Trumpet blown - a holy convocation	Atonement shall be made to cleanse you <i>Leviticus 16:30</i>	Harvest celebration memorial of tabernacles in wilderness
	7 th month, 1 st day <i>Leviticus 23:23-25</i> (It is a Sabbath)	7 th month, 10 th day <i>Leviticus 23:26-32</i> (It is a Sabbath)	7 th month, 15 th day, for 7 days; 8 th day, Holy Convocation <i>Leviticus 23:33-44</i> (The 1 st and 8 th days are Sabbaths)
	Regathering of Israel in preparation for final day of atonement <i>Jeremiah 32:37-41</i> 	Israel will repent and look to Messiah in one day <i>Zechariah 3:9-10;</i> <i>Zechariah 12:10;</i> <i>Zechariah 13:1;</i> <i>Zechariah 14:9</i> 	Families of the earth will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Booths <i>Zechariah 14:16-19</i> 
	<i>Ezekiel 36:24</i>	<i>Ezekiel 36:25-27</i> <i>Hebrews 9, 10</i> <i>Romans 11:25-29</i>	<i>Ezekiel 36:28</i>

Israel had two harvests each year—spring and autumn

Ezra and Haggai
Map



HOW TO DO A CHAPTER STUDY LET'S GET STARTED!

*A **chapter study** helps you to focus in on the details in the chapter to better understand what the author is saying. Each of the skills is used to bring important points to light.*

- LOOK FOR THE 5 Ws AND H

Read the text asking the 5 Ws and H—*Who, What, When, Where, Why, How*. For example, when studying John 1, read the text asking questions like:

Who is this about?

When?

Where was the Word?

Who was the Word?

What did the Word do?

Don't expect every verse or chapter to answer all the 5 Ws and H about a particular subject or person, but you should read with a questioning mind-set.

- MARK KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

Marking key words and phrases and making lists help you to answer the 5 Ws and H.

KEY WORDS are repeated words within a text which are vital to its meaning.

Mark in a distinctive way each key word or phrase in the chapter along with its pronouns and synonyms. Use colors and/or symbols.

Example: **Word** is a repeated word that is key to understanding John 1.

- LISTS

The next step is to list what the chapter says about each of the key words. Look at each place you marked a key word and list what the text says.

A LIST is a compilation of the facts given about a particular word or person. It gives the 5 Ws and H (who, what, when, where, why, how) about that word or person. Use words from the text.

A list about the **Word** from John 1 begins this way:

was in the beginning, v. 1

was with God, v. 1

was God, v. 1

was in the beginning with God, v. 2

• MARK AND EVALUATE:

CONTRASTS — point out differences. To mark a contrast, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as .

John 1:17: *For the **Law** was given through Moses; **grace** and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*

But, however, or nevertheless might indicate a contrast.

John 4:2: *...Jesus Himself was not baptizing, **but** His disciples were....*

COMPARISONS — point out similarities. To mark a comparison, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as .

John 10:9: *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved....*

Sometimes *like* or *as* indicate a comparison.

John 3:14-15: ***As** Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.*

TERMS OF CONCLUSION — show that a conclusion or summary is being made. These help us understand *why*. Look for the words signifying a conclusion or result such as **therefore**, *for this reason*, and *finally*.

John 12:50: *I know that His commandment is eternal life; **therefore** the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me. ●●*

EXPRESSIONS OF TIME — give timing, sequence of events, or progression. Look for words such as *then*, *after*, *when*, *until*, *the day of*...

John 1:2: *He was **in the beginning** with God.* 

• IDENTIFY SUBJECTS OR THEMES

Identify main subjects, events, or points of a chapter by observing it paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs can be shown with boldface type for the first verse number of a paragraph, by a paragraph symbol, or by an indentation at the beginning of a paragraph.

Read each paragraph, and in the margin list the event, subject, or main point of the paragraph.

John 1:6-8 **6** *There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

John testified 7 *He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.*

about the Light 8 *He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.*

To learn more about doing a chapter study and other inductive Bible study skills, we encourage you to keep on hand a copy of *How to Study Your Bible*. If you don't yet have a copy, you can order one by visiting shop.precept.org.za or calling +27 (021) 531 1836.

ABOUT PRECEPT

PRECEPT was raised up by God for the sole purpose of establishing people in God's Word to produce reverence for Him. It serves as an arm of the church without respect to denomination. God has enabled Precept to reach across denominational lines without compromising the truths of His inerrant Word. We believe every word of the Bible was inspired and given to man as all that is necessary for him to become mature and thoroughly equipped for every good work of life. This ministry does not seek to impose its doctrines on others, but rather to direct people to the Master Himself, who leads and guides by His Spirit into all truth through a systematic study of His Word. The ministry produces a variety of Bible studies and holds conferences and intensive Training Workshops designed to establish attendees in the Word through Inductive Bible Study.

Jack Arthur and his wife, Kay, founded Precept in 1970. Kay and the ministry staff of writers produce *Precept Upon Precept* studies, *In & Out* studies, *Lord* series studies, the *New Inductive Study Series* studies, *40-Minute* studies, and *Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies for Kids*. From years of diligent study and teaching experience, Kay and the staff have developed these unique, inductive courses that are now used in nearly 185 countries and 70 languages.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Now that you've studied and prayerfully considered the scriptures, is there something new for you to believe or do, or did it move you to make a change in your life? It's one of the many amazing and supernatural results of being in His life-changing Word—God speaks to us. At Precept South Africa, we believe that we have heard God speak about our part in the Great Commission. He has told us in His Word to make disciples by teaching people how to study His Word. If you share our passion for establishing people in God's Word, we invite you to join us! Will you prayerfully consider giving monthly to the ministry? To do so, you can make a payment online at <https://precept.org.za/get-involved/support-us> or make a direct deposit into our account:

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