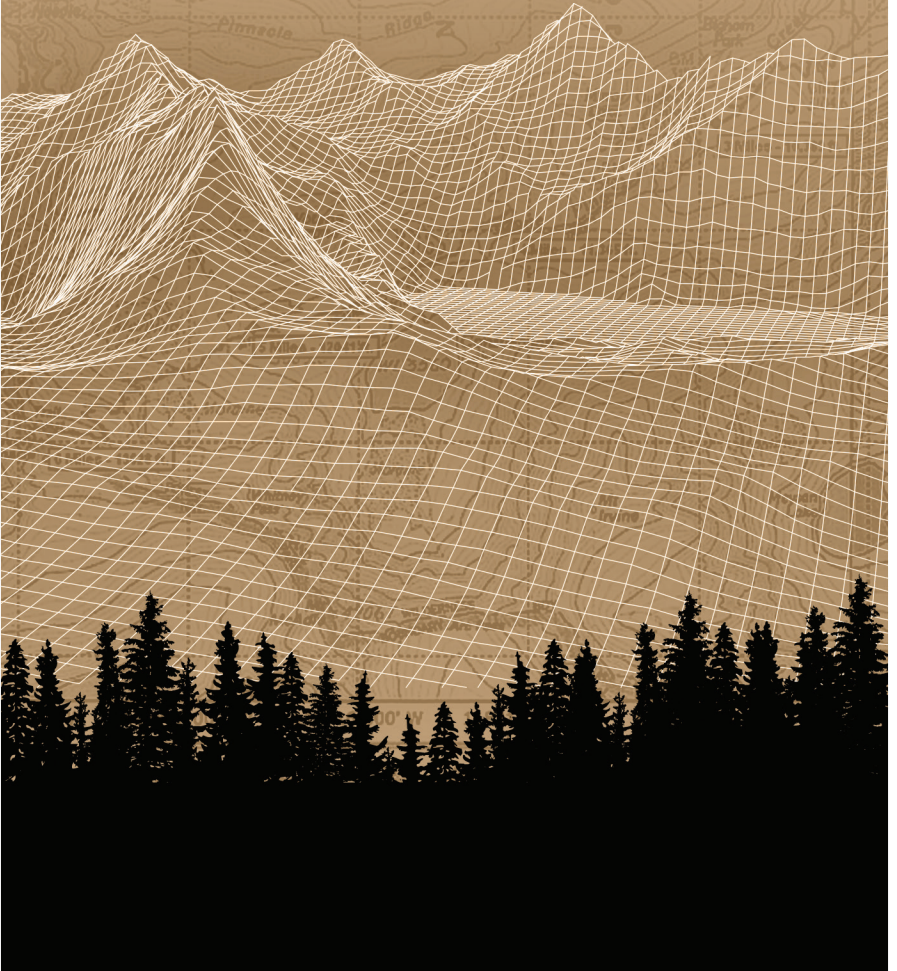
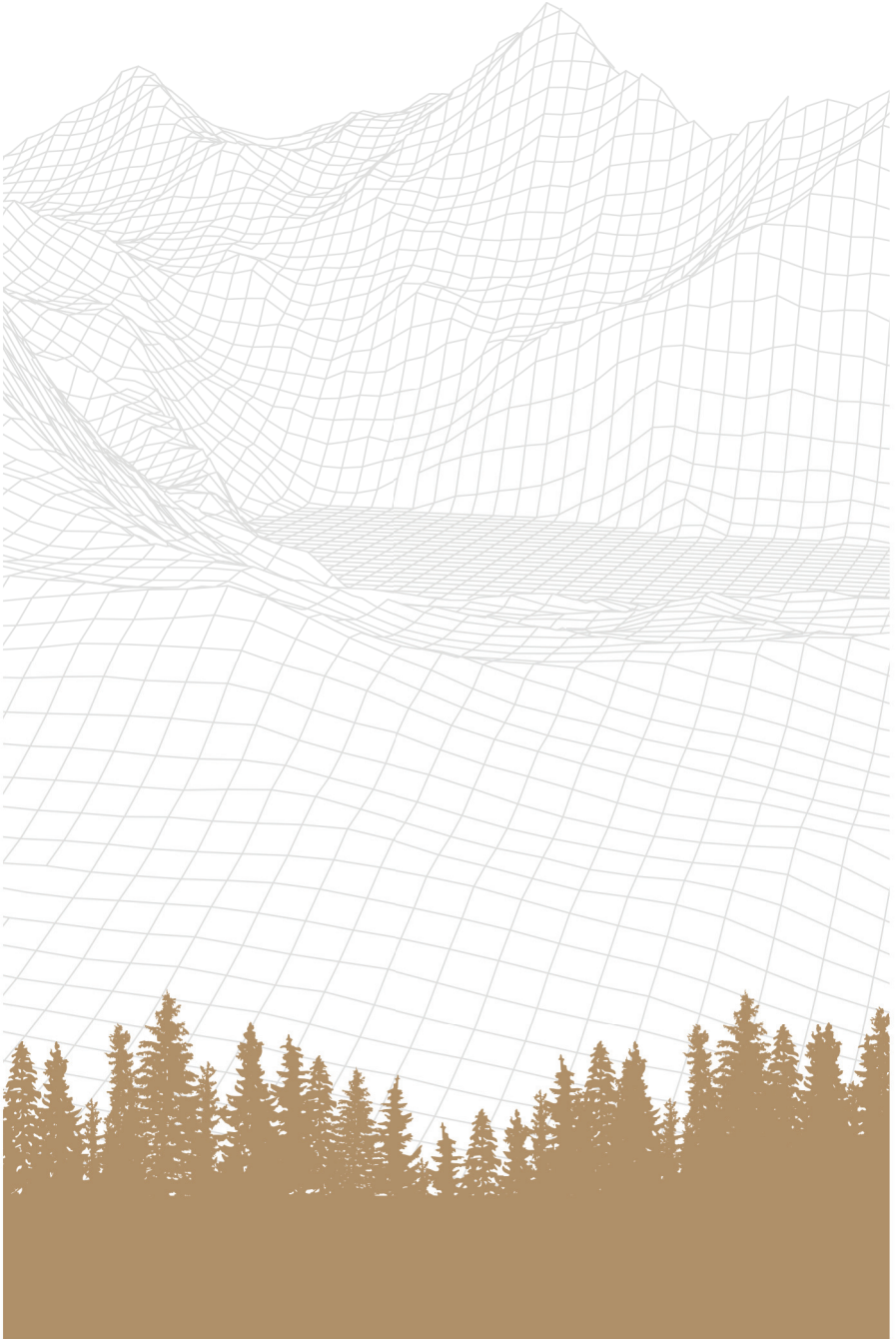


SEGMENT 5



I WANT IT MY WAY





UNITED
KINGDOM

1 SAMUEL: GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE A KING

“God wants the Israelites (and all of us) to be monotheistic, believing in and worshiping the one true God. The inhabitants of Canaan and surrounding areas are polytheistic, meaning they worship many gods. The Israelites demand a king so they can be powerful and look to a man for leadership—which will inevitably lead them to look less at God. Samuel warns them that demanding a king is an awful decision, but the Israelites don’t care” (92).

1. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9. What are some of the reasons that Israel asked for a King? What or whom have you elevated to the position of king (factors that control you)?

“So we meet the man who will become their first king, and the story starts out nicely. Saul is incredibly handsome, tall, and wealthy. When Samuel meets Saul, God confirms Saul’s the guy who’s going to be king, and Samuel passes along the message. Saul doesn’t go for it initially, and actually shows some humility, which will not be his trademark response for too long. Eventually, he accepts the role and is crowned king. For a few chapters, we’ll see Saul as a victorious leader as he dominates many enemies in battle. Things are going swimmingly. That is until Saul disobeys Samuel’s instructions about an offering. He acts out of his own will instead of God’s command, and as a result, Samuel delivers a powerful blow in the form of a prophecy” (92).



2. **Real 1 Samuel 13:10-14, 15:24-29.** Describe what Samuel tells Saul will happen as a result of his actions. How does true repentance look different than what Saul says, “I am sorry, I got caught?”
3. Like Saul, do you ever let other people’s opinions shape your actions? How does that work out for you?
4. **Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7.** To what conclusion did Samuel immediately jump when he saw Jesse’s eldest son? What does God’s response (that he looks at the heart, not the outside) mean to you?

PSALMS: SONGS OF WORSHIP EXPRESSING ALL TYPES OF EMOTION

2 SAMUEL: THE KINGDOM OF DAVID

1 & 2 CHRONICLES: RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF THE KINGS

David is made king after Saul dies. “Though we refer to the rules of Saul, David, and his son Solomon as the United Kingdom period, David was really the one to unite the tribes into a single nation. He captured Jerusalem and made it the capital of Israel.” (97) As king, he seeks after God, and pursues the idea of building the Temple, a permanent home for the Ark and the presence of the LORD. Even with all of his success, he still stumbles and commits adultery and murder.



TEMPLE

5. Read 2 Samuel 12:7-14. What were the results of David's sin? Has there been a time when you felt punished by God? How has that affected your relationship with Him?

1 KINGS: KING SOLOMON

2 KINGS: THE VARIOUS KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

PROVERBS: WISE TEACHINGS LARGELY FROM KING SOLOMON

ECCLESIASTES: WISDOM ABOUT LIFE FROM A SOMEWHAT CYNICAL VIEWPOINT

SONG OF SOLOMON: A LOVE POEM BETWEEN HUMAN LOVERS THAT ILLUSTRATES HOW GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE

6. Read 1 Kings 2:1-4. (Two trivia notes: Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba. Interesting! Also, 2 Samuel 1-10 lists David's success, chapter 11 is his downfall. 1 Kings 1-10 is Solomon's success and chapter 11 is his downfall!)

7. Read 1 Kings 3:5-14, 9:1-3. What were Solomon's successes? **Read 1 Kings 11:1-3.** What was his downfall?

8. What sorts of things do we deal with that try to lead our hearts astray?




DIVIDED KINGDOM

JONAH: PREACHED GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE ASSYRIANS

AMOS: URGED GOD'S PEOPLE TO TURN BACK TO HIM

HOSEA: AN ILLUSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE

ISAIAH: TELLS OF JESUS HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE HIS BIRTH

MICAH: PREDICTED THE BIRTH-PLACE OF JESUS

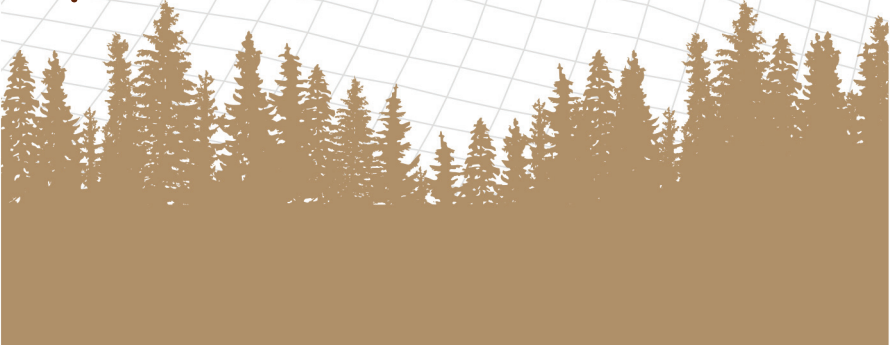
ZEPHANIAH: WARNING ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD

HABAKKUK: THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

JEREMIAH: TOLD GOD'S PEOPLE THEY WOULD BE CONQUERED BY THE BABYLONIANS

LAMENTATIONS: MOURNED THE DOWNFALL OF JERUSALEM AND DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

“Under the reign of Saul, David, and Solomon, the kingdom was united. But because of Solomon’s sin, God is going to allow a split to happen after Solomon dies. The Northern Kingdom (consisting of 10 tribes) will be called Israel, and the Southern Kingdom (consisting of Judah and Benjamin) will be called Judah. They will each have a series of kings ruling over them, Israel never had a good king and Judah only had a few. Overall, it was a time of apostasy and chaos that lasted for hundreds of years...During the time from the Divided Kingdom to the end of the Old Testament, God sent preachers called prophets to give messages to His people. Like a shuffled deck of cards, the 17 books of the prophets fit into the history we’ve been studying” (102, 106).



9. Several prophets spoke to Israel before they were defeated, including Jonah, Amos, and Hosea. **Read Amos 7:17** to get a snapshot of the message to Israel. What thoughts come to your mind when you read this?

10. Judah also had several prophets that brought startling messages from God. These prophets included Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. These spoke both before and during its destruction (and after the Northern Kingdom was destroyed). **Read Jeremiah 11:6-11** to hear the message to Judah. What thoughts does this message bring?

11. Even though these are difficult messages, and these were difficult times, God always reminds us of the hope of a redeemer. **Read Isaiah 53:1-6**. What message of encouragement would this have brought to people who were being taken into captivity? Where do you see Jesus in that description?





EXILE

OBADIAH: PREACHED TO EDOM

NAHUM: PREACHED TO NINEVAH

EZEKIEL: PREACHED JUDGMENT AND THEN FORGIVENESS WHEN THE PEOPLE REPENTED

DANIEL: REMAINED FAITHFUL TO GOD DURING THE BABYLONIAN EXILE

JOEL: PREACHED DURING A LOCUST PLAGUE

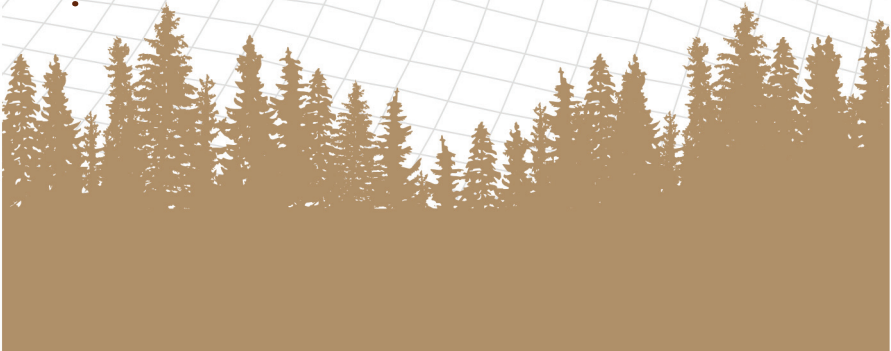
HAGGAI: URGED THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

ZECHARIAH: ALSO URGED THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

12. Even though redemption is offered, we often still go through difficult times. Both kingdoms would be conquered. Read each verse and fill in the nation conquered:

- a. Amos 7:17-Assyrians conquered _____
(Northern Kingdom) - 725 B.C.
- b. Nahum 1:1,14 - Babylonians conquered Assyria (capital city _____)
- c. Jeremiah 25:1, 8-11-Babylonians conquered _____ & destroyed temple-625 B.C

13. In the darkest of times, God brings the light of hope. Where do you see hope for God's people in these verses (shortly following those that predicted destruction)? **Read Jeremiah 25:12, 29:10-14, Nahum 1:15.**





RETURN

EZRA: RESTORED WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE

NEHEMIAH: REBUILT THE WALL OF JERUSALEM

ESTHER: GOD USES A WOMAN TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE

MALACHI: LAST PROPHET OF THE OLD TESTAMENT


14. Read Joel 2:25. What is the hope promised here (in the midst of a locust plague)?

So as God promised, he returned his people to their promised land. “The Jews were in Babylon. The city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. The return came about in three stages. Zerubbabel led the first group back (between 539-529 B.C.). They rebuilt the temple, but the city was still destroyed, the walls were torn down, and the people were a mess. Then Ezra led the second group (about 458 B.C.). Ezra restored worship at the temple. Finally Nehemiah led the third group (445 B.C.). Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem” (112).

15. Read Zechariah 12:1-3, 10. How does this verse describe what happened to Israel and Jerusalem?

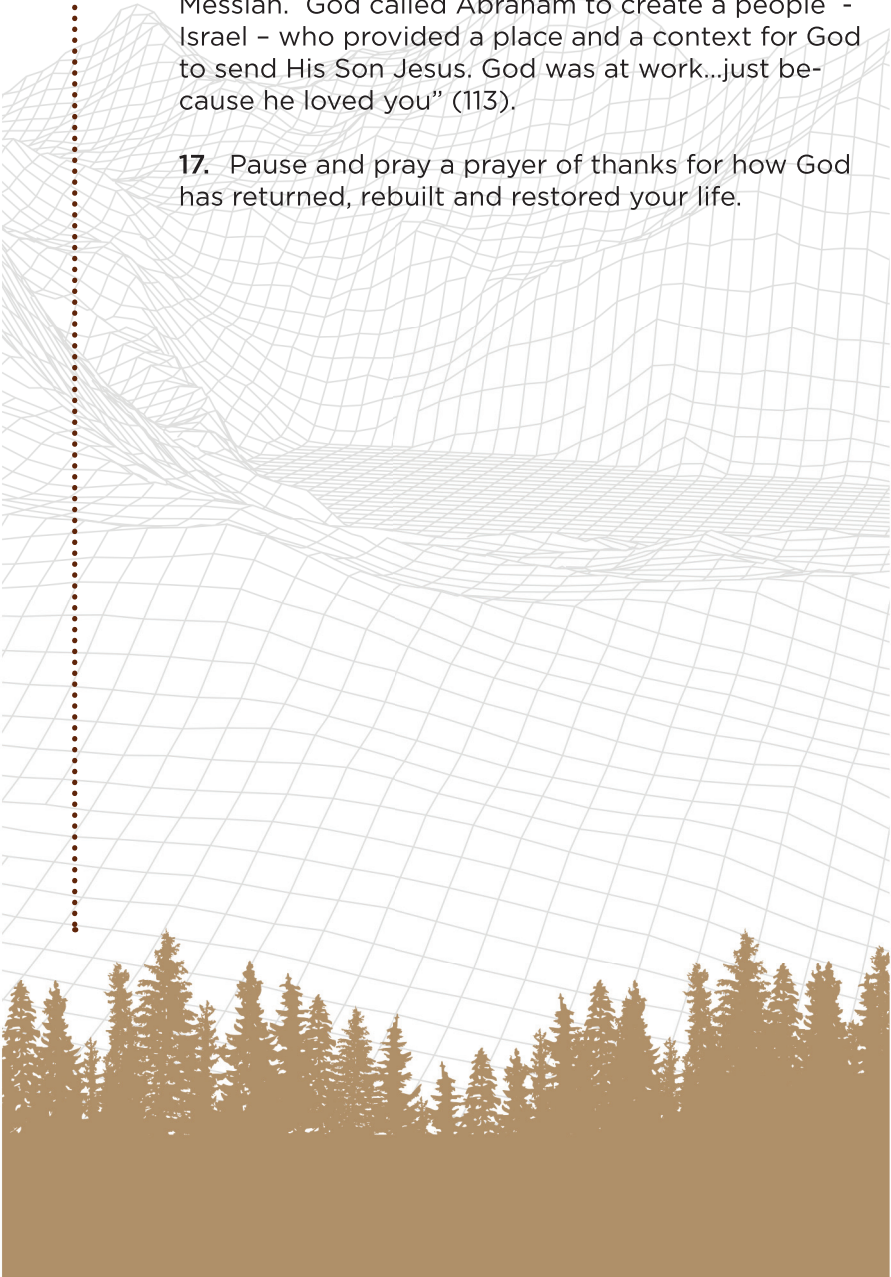
16. Read Malachi 3:1. Malachi is the last prophet of the Old Testament. What future hope does he promise?





God was at work to return, rebuild, and restore. Why is it important that Jerusalem was rebuilt? Because without Jerusalem, the Epic Adventure would have ended. “No Jerusalem meant no Israel. No Israel, no Messiah. God called Abraham to create a people - Israel - who provided a place and a context for God to send His Son Jesus. God was at work...just because he loved you” (113).

17. Pause and pray a prayer of thanks for how God has returned, rebuilt and restored your life.



SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: John 20

S – Scripture – Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O – Observation – Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A – Application – Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P – Prayer – Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.

