

**Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament
Lesson Plan Answer Key
Module 8: Captivity, Exile, & Return
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Summary**

Section 1: Judah’s Captivity & Exile

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6 NIV)

Section 2: The Fall of Babylon

“The LORD says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.” (Psalm 91:14 NLT)

Section 3: The Decree to Return

“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV)

Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)

Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding

“This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” (Hebrews 10:16 NLT)

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Summary**

Review Answers:

- 1) What nation captured and exiled the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
a) The Assyrians
- 2) According to Scripture, why did God delay judgment against the Southern Kingdom of Judah?
c) God delayed judgment because some of Judah's good kings led the people back to the Lord.
- 3) What nation captured and exiled the Southern Kingdom of Judah?
b) The Babylonians
- 4) How many times did King Nebuchadnezzar invade Judah and take away captives?
b) 3
- 5) Judah's kings rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar. What did they do?
c) They refused to make annual payments to King Nebuchadnezzar.
- 6) Which of the following is "not" a true statement about King Nebuchadnezzar?
c) King Nebuchadnezzar refused to accept annual payments from Judah
- 7) Who conquered the Babylonians and allowed the Jewish exiles to return home?
d) The Persians
- 8) In what year did the Jews finish rebuilding the Temple?
c) 515 B.C.
- 9) In what year did the Jews finish restoring Jerusalem's city wall?
a) 445 B.C.
- 10) Queen Esther saved her people from annihilation. What Jewish holiday commemorates this event?
b) Purim

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Summary**

Crossword Puzzle:

Across

2. **Ruthless**—Without mercy, cruel
4. **Desolate**—Deserted or uninhabited, lonely wasteland
6. **Orchestrate**—To organize, plan, direct, or coordinate
7. **Abyss**—A bottomless pit

Down

1. **Irreversible**—Incapable of being turned around or back, unchangeable
3. **Demolish**—To destroy completely
4. **Decree**—A command or decision from one in authority
5. **Tolerate**—Put up with something or somebody unpleasant

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Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile**

Review Questions:

- 1) Which prophet said the people of Judah only pretended to be sorry for their sins during good King Josiah's reign?
a) Jeremiah
- 2) What did the people of Judah do soon after King Josiah's death?
c) They openly practiced idolatry.
- 3) What does the Hebrew Name of God, Jehovah-Tsidkenu, mean?
a) The Lord is Our Righteousness.
- 4) King Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, succeeded him as king. What happened to Jehoahaz about three months after he began his reign as king?
c) He was captured and taken to Egypt as a prisoner.
- 5) Jehoiakim succeeded King Jehoahaz as king of Judah. Why did Jehoiakim collect a special tax?
d) Jehoiakim collected a special tax to meet Egypt's demand for payments.
- 6) King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem on three separate occasions. In what year did King Nebuchadnezzar first invade Jerusalem?
b) 605 B.C.
- 7) Which of the following is "not" true about King Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion?
d) King Nebuchadnezzar took the king of Judah to Babylon as a prisoner.
- 8) In which year did King Nebuchadnezzar return to Babylon for the second time?
c) 597 B.C.
- 9) Why did King Nebuchadnezzar return to Babylon the second time?
b) Nebuchadnezzar returned because Judah made three payments and then rebelled.
- 10) Which of the following is "not" true about Nebuchadnezzar's second invasion?
b) King Nebuchadnezzar ordered his men to find Jeremiah and give him whatever he wanted.

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- 11) According to Jeremiah's prophecy, how long would Judah's captivity last?
c) 70 years
- 12) Why was Jeremiah thrown into a dungeon?
c) Jeremiah was falsely charged with treason.
- 13) King Zedekiah met secretly with the prophet Jeremiah on several occasions. Which of the following is "not" something Jeremiah told King Zedekiah during these secret meetings?
c) Jeremiah told the king that Judah's captivity would last for a period of seventy years.
- 14) Which of the following was "not" one of Jeremiah's hardships?
c) Jeremiah was taken to Babylon as a captive.
- 15) What did King Zedekiah say when Jeremiah advised him to turn himself over to King Nebuchadnezzar?
a) King Zedekiah said he was afraid.
- 16) Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem for three long years. In what year did Nebuchadnezzar's army finally break through Jerusalem's wall?
d) 586 B.C.
- 17) Which of the following is "not" one of the punishments Nebuchadnezzar inflicted on King Zedekiah?
c) Nebuchadnezzar put Zedekiah to death on the altar.
- 18) Which prophet is called the weeping prophet because of the many tears he shed after witnessing the total destruction of Jerusalem?
a) Jeremiah
- 19) Which prophet was greatly distressed by Judah's sins and asked God how long these injustices would go unpunished?
d) Habakkuk
- 20) Which of the following is "not" something the Babylonians did after breaking through the city walls of Jerusalem?
b) The Babylonians appointed one of Josiah's sons to govern the few poor people who were left behind in Judah.

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- 21) Who was appointed to govern the few poor people left in Judah?
c) Gedaliah
- 22) What happened shortly after the governor was appointed?
d) The governor was assassinated by a member of the royal family.
- 23) What message did God give the prophet Jeremiah for the poor people left behind in Judah?
b) God told Jeremiah that the poor people should stay in Judah.
- 24) What did the poor people do when Jeremiah delivered God's message to them?
c) They panicked and didn't believe Jeremiah.
- 25) What does the Hebrew Name of God, Jehovah-Shammah, mean?
d) The Lord is There.

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Section 1: Judah's Captivity & Exile

Crossword Puzzle:

Across

4. **Passion**—A strong feeling or emotion, To suffer pain and sorrow
7. **Treason**—Act of betraying or trying to overthrow one's own government
9. **Dungeon**—A close dark prison in a castle, usually underground'
12. **Synagogue**—A place of worship for a Jewish congregation
14. **Prominent**—Having a quality that stands out or attracts attention

Down

1. **Devastate**—To overwhelm or to cause extensive destruction
2. **Cistern**—A reservoir or tank for holding water or other liquids as a well
3. **Invade**—To march aggressively into another's territory with hostile intent
4. **Pretend**—Make believe with the intent to deceive, state insincerely
5. **Pollute**—To make impure or unclean
6. **Surrender**—To yield or give up one's self to another's power
8. **Hostage**—A prisoner held by one party to insure specified terms
10. **Endurance**—The power to withstand hardship or stress
11. **Captivity**—The state of being imprisoned or enslaved
13. **Tribute**—Money paid to another nation as the price for peace and protection

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Section 2: The Fall of Babylon

Review Questions:

- 1) Which of Judah's kings was released from prison and treated well by Nebuchadnezzar's son?
b) King Jehoiachin
- 2) Which prophet proclaimed that a Good Shepherd would come and lead God's people?
d) Ezekiel
- 3) Which prophet became an advisor in the palace of the king of Babylon?
c) Daniel
- 4) Which of the following is "not" true about the prophet Daniel?
b) Daniel was carried away to Babylon during the second exile.
- 5) Which of the following is "not" true about the prophet Ezekiel?
d) Ezekiel was in Babylon when the prophet Daniel arrived.
- 6) King Belshazzar held a royal banquet for his noblemen in this lesson. About how many years had passed since the exile?
c) 66
- 7) During King Belshazzar's banquet, he and his guests drank wine from sacred goblets? Why were the goblets sacred?
d) The goblets were taken from the Temple in Jerusalem.
- 8) Who were King Belshazzar and his guests toasting while drinking wine from the sacred goblets?
c) They toasted their idol gods.
- 9) What happened while King Belshazzar and his guests were drinking and making toasts?
c) A hand wrote a message on the palace wall.
- 10) Who told King Belshazzar that Daniel might be able to interpret the message on the wall?
b) The Queen Mother.

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- 11) Which of the following was “not” part of Daniel’s interpretation of the handwriting on the wall?
c) Daniel said the king weighed too much.
- 12) Who killed King Belshazzar after Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall?
d) Darius the Mede
- 13) Who conquered the Babylonians?
d) The Medes and Persians
- 14) In which year did the Babylonian Empire fall?
c) 539 B.C.
- 15) Why were King Darius’ palace administrators upset with Daniel?
c) They were upset because Darius planned to promote Daniel.
- 16) The administrators convinced King Darius to issue a decree. What did this decree state?
b) The decree stated that those who prayed to any god other than the king would be thrown in the lions’ den.
- 17) The administrators told King Darius that Daniel should be condemned to death. What charges did they bring against Daniel?
b) They charged Daniel with violating the king’s decree.
- 18) Why did King Darius reluctantly sentence Daniel to death?
d) King Darius sentenced Daniel to death because a king’s decree could not be rescinded.
- 19) According to Daniel, what kept the lions from harming him?
c) God sent an angel to shut the lions’ mouths.
- 20) King Darius issued a decree after Daniel’s release. What did this decree state?
c) King Darius decreed that everyone in Babylon should reverence Daniel’s God.

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Section 2: The Fall of Babylon

Vocabulary Mix and Match:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| 1) Ascend | <u> J </u> | A) The act of making a noisy disturbance |
| 2) Goblet | <u> D </u> | B) To reverse or cancel officially |
| 3) Summon | <u> G </u> | C) The character attributed to a person by public opinion |
| 4) Examine | <u> M </u> | D) A drinking glass with a base and stem |
| 5) Commotion | <u> A </u> | E) To feel sorry for some past action, to express remorse |
| 6) Administrator | <u> N </u> | F) To arrange or come up with by systematic planning |
| 7) Reputation | <u> C </u> | G) To ask to come or to call in an official manner |
| 8) Discredit | <u> L </u> | H) An elaborate and systematic plan of action |
| 9) Devise | <u> F </u> | I) To express strong disapproval or declare to be guilty or unfit |
| 10) Scheme | <u> H </u> | J) To go up or move up into a better position in life |
| 11) Condemn | <u> I </u> | K) To encourage or assent to criminal or illegal action |
| 12) Regret | <u> E </u> | L) To cause to be distrusted or disbelieved |
| 13) Rescind | <u> B </u> | M) To look over carefully or to inspect |
| 14) Connive | <u> K </u> | N) One who manages, directs, and executes affairs |

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Section 3: The Decree to Return

Review Questions:

- 1) Who ruled the Jewish exiles after the Babylonian Empire fell?
 - a) The Persians

- 2) King Cyrus issued a decree during the first year of his reign. What did this decree state?
 - d) King Cyrus decreed that the Jewish exiles could return home and rebuild the Temple.

- 3) Who prophesied that the Jewish exiles would be held captive for a period of seventy years?
 - d) Jeremiah

- 4) Who prophesied that a man named Cyrus would call for the rebuilding of the Temple?
 - a) Isaiah

- 5) What did King Cyrus order his officials to give to the returning exiles before they left?
 - c) King Cyrus ordered officials to give the returning exiles thousands of sacred items which were taken from the Temple in Jerusalem.

- 6) About how many Jews made the first trip back to Judah?
 - c) 50,000

- 7) Who led the first group of Jewish exiles back to Judah?
 - a) Zerubbabel

- 8) What part of the Temple did the returned exiles rebuild first?
 - d) The returned exiles built the altar first.

- 9) What part of the Temple did the returned exiles rebuild second?
 - a) The returned exiles laid the foundation second.

- 10) What did the older exiles do when they saw the newly laid foundation?
 - b) They were overcome with sadness and cried.

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Section 3: The Decree to Return

- 11) Which of the following is not true about the non-Jewish residents who were living in Jerusalem?
d) The non-Jewish residents told Zerubbabel to send for a copy of King Cyrus' decree.
- 12) Which prophets encouraged the returned exiles to restart their efforts to rebuild the Temple?
c) Haggai and Zechariah
- 13) Who ordered the local non-Jews to stop interfering with the efforts to rebuild the Temple?
c) King Darius
- 14) The Temple was rebuilt about how many years after the first exiles return?
d) 20
- 15) Which of the following statements is “not” true about Zerubbabel
d) Zerubbabel was a prophet.

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Section 3: The Decree to Return

Vocabulary Mix and Match:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| 1) Fulfill | <u> G </u> | A) A deliberate act of destruction or disruption |
| 2) Hostile | <u> F </u> | B) A collection of records |
| 3) Sabotage | <u> A </u> | C) One who comes before another, a forerunner |
| 4) Predecessor | <u> C </u> | D) Give an incentive for action |
| 5) Archives | <u> B </u> | E) Act in accordance to with rules, commands, or wishes |
| 6) Interfere | <u> H </u> | F) Warlike, showing ill-will, behaving as an enemy |
| 7) Comply | <u> E </u> | G) To accomplish or put into effect |
| 8) Motivate | <u> D </u> | H) Come between to hinder or to create an obstacle |

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Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

Review Answers:

- 1) In what city does the story of Esther take place?
d) Susa
- 2) Which empire ruled over the Jews when the story of Esther took place?
c) The Persian Empire
- 3) Who was king of Persia when the story of Esther took place?
a) Xerxes
- 4) Why did the king want his attendants to bring Queen Vashti to the banquet hall?
d) The king wanted to show off her beauty.
- 5) Why did the king become angry with Queen Vashti?
c) Queen Vashti refused to come to the banquet hall.
- 6) What happened to Queen Vashti?
b) Queen Vashti was banished.
- 7) Who suggested to the king that he should conduct a search for beautiful women?
d) The king's personal attendants
- 8) How was Mordecai related to Esther?
c) Mordecai was Esther's cousin.
- 9) What happened to Esther's parents?
a) They died.
- 10) How long did Esther and the other beautiful women receive beauty treatments and special training before they were selected to spend a night with the king?
c) About one year

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Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

- 11) What didn't Mordecai want Esther to reveal to anyone?
 - b) Mordecai did not want Esther to reveal that she was Jewish.

- 12) The king made Esther his queen. Which of the following was Esther's royal title?
 - b) Queen of Persia

- 13) Who overheard assassins plotting to kill the king?
 - b) Mordecai

- 14) Who told the king about the assassins who were plotting to kill him?
 - a) Esther

- 15) Why was Haman angry with Mordecai?
 - b) Because Mordecai would not bow down before him.

- 16) Haman used the king's authority to issue a decree. What did the decree state?
 - c) The decree stated that all Jews must be killed on a certain date.

- 17) Why was Esther initially reluctant to go to the king for help?
 - a) Esther knew that she could be put to death.

- 18) The king wanted to honor the person who saved his life. Who was this person?
 - b) Mordecai

- 19) When did Esther tell the king about Haman's decree?
 - b) She told the king about Haman during her second banquet.

- 20) What did the king do to Haman when Esther told him about the decree?
 - c) The king had Haman put to death.

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Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

- 21) Why didn't the king rescind the decree issued by Haman?
d) The king could not revoke a royal decree.
- 22) The king gave Esther and Mordecai permission to issue a decree. What did their decree state?
d) Esther and Mordecai issued a decree to allow the Jews to defend themselves.
- 23) What is the meaning of the word "purim?"
b) The word "purim" means "lots."
- 24) Which of the following is "not" true about Mordecai?
d) Mordecai was promoted and became the king's cupbearer.
- 25) What event does the Feast of Purim commemorate?
b) Purim commemorates the time when Esther saved the Jews from annihilation.

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Section 4: The Story of Queen Esther**

Geography Assignment:

Babylon	Egypt	Euphrates
Jerusalem	Judah	Persian
Susa	Temple	Tigris

- 1) The Babylonians marched through the city of Jerusalem, destroying everything in their path. They burned down important buildings and demolished the city's wall.
- 2) God spoke to Jeremiah and told him to tell the poor people left behind in Judah to stay and not go to Egypt.
- 3) After the Medes and Persians conquered the city of Babylon, the Jewish exiles found themselves under Persian rule.
- 4) The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flowed through Babylonia.
- 5) The two major rivers in Babylonia flowed into the Persian Gulf.
- 6) King Cyrus allowed the Jewish exiles to return and rebuild the Temple.
- 7) Zerubbabel was appointed governor of Judah. He told the local non-Jews that the returned exiles would rebuild without any outside help.
- 8) The story of Esther took place in the city of Susa in Persia.

**Big Picture of the Bible –Old Testament
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Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

Review Questions:

- 1) Which king authorized Ezra’s trip to Jerusalem?
 - a) King Artaxerxes

- 2) What was Ezra’s occupation?
 - d) Ezra was a priest.

- 3) Which of the following is not one of the things Ezra did before leaving for Jerusalem?
 - c) Ezra secured a military escort.

- 4) Why was Ezra dumfounded when he arrived in Jerusalem?
 - b) Many of the people were participating in idolatry.

- 5) Ezra wept and called out to God about what he discovered when he arrived. What did the people do as Ezra was calling out to God?
 - b) The people gathered around Ezra and confessed their sins.

- 6) Some of the Jews had married wives who practiced pagan religions. What did Ezra tell these Jews to do?
 - c) Ezra told them to separate themselves from their pagan wives.

- 7) What was Nehemiah’s occupation?
 - a) Nehemiah was a cupbearer.

- 8) Which of the following is “not” one of the things the king provided Nehemiah?
 - c) The king gave Nehemiah sacred items taken from the Temple.

- 9) What did Nehemiah do when he initially arrived in Jerusalem?
 - d) Nehemiah surveyed the wall and organized a rebuilding effort.

- 10) What did Nehemiah do when the local non-Jews tried to stop the work effort?
 - a) Nehemiah armed the Jews.

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Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

- 11) How long did it take the Jews to rebuild the wall with Nehemiah leading the effort?
b) 52 days
- 12) Who read the Book of the Law to the people?
a) Ezra
- 13) After reading the Book of the Law, the priests organized a Feasts of Tabernacles celebration. What was the purpose of this holiday?
b) It commemorated God’s protection and provisions while the Israelites were in the desert.
- 14) Nehemiah was in Jerusalem for twelve years and then returned to Babylon for a while. What did Nehemiah discover when he returned to Jerusalem?
a) Nehemiah discovered that the people were not living in obedience to God.
- 15) Which of the following is “not” true about the prophet Malachi?
d) Malachi organized a ceremony in Jerusalem to dedicate the wall.

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Section 5: Restoring & Rebuilding**

Crossword Puzzle:

Across

2. **Survey**—To examine or inspect carefully to assess the condition of
4. **Devout**—Deeply religious, earnest and sincere before God
5. **Sparse**—Not close together, less populated
6. **Forerunner**—A person who goes before or announces the coming of another
8. **Repentant**—Sorry for sins or misdeeds

Down

1. **Cupbearer**—A person who fills and serves cups of wine in a king’s palace
3. **Escort**—The act of accompanying someone in order to protect them
4. **Dumbfounded**—Speechless with astonishment and surprise
7. **Authority**—To give or delegate power
9. **Provisions**—A supply of something as food, clothing, or arms

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Chapter Review**

Review Answers are on pages 260 and 261 of *Big Picture of the Bible—Old Testament*.