

KNOW THE BIBLE



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Books of History #4

Divided/Exiled/Restored Period

The next set of Books in the Holy Bible is the **D.E.R.** Period. This acronym is for the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period of the Books of History. **This is the last section of historical books.** These three unique periods of time in the history of the Israelite people encompass 6 books in the OT:

- **1 Kings** (ch. 12-22)
- **2 Kings**
- **2 Chronicles** (ch. 10-36)
- **Ezra**
- **Nehemiah**
- **Esther**

How to remember this section:

These are the remainder of the history books. The latter half of **1 Kings, 2 Kings**, the latter $\frac{3}{4}$ of **2 Chronicles** speaks of the kings after the kingdom split into two becoming the nations of Israel & Judah. Split in to (2) nations; **2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, 2nd** part of 1 Kings is a memorable correlation. The **2** is a key reminder for it is the second of the double books. All of the kings of Israel were bad. Only a handful of kings from Judah were good which is the reason for their delayed exile. The wickedness of the kings and the disobedience of the people spawned God's chastening and brought about the exile period. After the 70-year exile, there comes the three returns of the Israelites to their land spoken of in the books of **Ezra & Nehemiah**, followed by the other "E" book, **Esther** which takes place in the time of Ezra.

- **1 Kings (ch.12-22)** – *the latter part of this book records the time period when Israel split into two kingdoms of Judah and Israel after King Solomon's death in 930 B.C. The reigns of the kings in each nation is correlated to one another. Elijah's prophetic ministry is introduced as is the presence of Elisha.*
- **2 Kings** – *the nation of Israel is taken into captivity at the hands of the Assyrians due to its corruption and rebellion followed a century later by the nation of Judah. Elisha's prophetic ministry is now introduced. Judah's captivity is delayed only because of its occasional godly kings like Josiah who renews the covenant with the finding of the Book of the Law. However, it is only temporary for they too are led into exile by the hand of the Babylonians.*

- **2 Chronicles (ch.10-36)** – *This section traces the history of the nation of Judah and its kings after King Solomon's death. It explains the reasons for the ultimate demise of the nation of Judah in 607 B.C and the fall of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians in 586 B.C.*
- **Ezra** – *explains the time period after the 70-year exile in Babylonia. There are 3 returns of the Israelite people back to the Promised Land; this book focuses on the first 2. **The 1st return led by Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple in 537 B.C. and the 2nd return led by Ezra to rebuild the people and nation of Israel in 458 B.C.***
- **Nehemiah** – *This book focuses on the 3rd and last return to the Promised Land with the intent to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The explanation of how it was done in only 52 days is the focus. This is the starting line for the prophet, Daniel's vision of 70 weeks for the fulfillment of history. The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt in 445 B.C.*
- **Esther** – *This story of Esther takes place in the timeframe of the book of Ezra between the 1st and 2nd returns to Judah after Zerubbabel before Ezra. The miraculous providence of God in the protection of his people is on full display in the land of Persia who took over Babylonia. It also gives reason for the 2nd return of Ezra. The people did not come back during the 1st return under Zerubbabel, so God gave them reason to get out of the foreign lands and come back to the Promised Land. Esther is about that prodding by God. **The deliverance of the Hebrews here awakens the people to get back to Israel and Jerusalem.***

The timeframe spans about 500 years from death of Solomon in 930 B.C. to the last of the three returns of the nation of Israel to the Promised Land in the time of Nehemiah around 445 B.C.

[Video E-Class](#) available to provide a visual aide and teacher to further help in memory retention & [WORKSHEET](#) to engrain what you have learned.

This is the fourth section of books in the Holy Bible. It is the last of the Books of History. There are 6 books in this group totaling 17 now to this point in relation to the flow and order of the Word of God:

(remember: 1 Kings & 2 Chronicles are the only books that share information that pertains to two sections of history and they are both about King Solomon)

(Write the books in the spaces below; for permanent memory)

1 S _____

2 S _____

1 K _____ *

1 C _____

2 C _____ *

1 K _____ *

2 K _____

2 C _____ *

E _____

N _____

E _____

Now you know the first 17 books of the Holy Bible and what they are about.

Below are 6 Bible verses from the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period. Match the correct Bible verse to the corresponding Book. The idea is to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God.

1. *"Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her."*

1 Kings 11:42

2. *"King Darius then issued an order, and they searched in the archives stored in the treasury at Babylon."*

2 Kings 20:11

3. *"Solomon resigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. Then he rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king."*

2 Chronicles 34:1

4. *"Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years."*

Ezra 6:1

5. *"Then the prophet Isaiah called upon the Lord, and the Lord made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz."*

Nehemiah 3:1

6. *"Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate... The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them."*

Esther 2:1

Below are 6 Bible verses from the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period. Correctly identify the Bible verse with the corresponding book. The idea is to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God.

"Then Elijah said to them, 'I am the only one of the Lord's prophet's left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us.'"

1. Which book of the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period? _____

"In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and put it in writing:"

2. Which book of the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period? _____

"Now the city (Jerusalem) was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt...I found the genealogical record of those who had been the first to return..."

3. Which book of the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period? _____

"Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did-- with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses."

4. Which book of the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period? _____

"The king said, 'Who is in the court?' Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him."

5. Which book of the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period? _____

"While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the book of the Law of the Lord that had been given to Moses"

6. Which book of the Divided/Exiled/Restored Period? _____

1 Kings 18:22

2 Chronicles 34:14

Nehemiah 7:4

2 Kings 23:25

Ezra 1:1

Esther 6:4

After identifying the previous Bible verses, take the time to find a Bible verse on your own that really identifies with that particular book. Just the act of searching and writing it down gives you a better sense and greater familiarity with the Word of God. You are actively participating in studying the Holy Bible.

1stKings(ch.12...22)_____

2ndKings_____

2ndChronicles(ch.10..36)_____

Ezra_____

Nehemiah_____

Esther_____

Notes

Describe a topic in this section to remember.

*(**Example:** King Josiah found the book of the Law and was responsive to the Lord doing right in His eyes thus delaying the destruction of Judah until after his death. 2 Chronicles 34)*
