

Key to Unit 5 THE NATION CONSOLIDATED

Here are our suggested answers for Unit 5.

Question 1. What positions did:

- 1) Melchisedek, 2) Moses and
- 3) David, hold?

- 1) Melchisedek was a king and a priest. Gen.14:18.
- 2) Moses was a prophet of God
- 3) David was a king and a prophet. (1.Sam.16:6-13, Acts 2:29-30, 2.Chron.28:12, 2.Chron.6:4)

Supplementary information:

Moses was a unique OT prophet having personal access to God. Exodus 33:11, Deuteronomy 34:10

Question 2. Explain from the Law of Moses how Ruth came to be an ancestor of David.

If an Israelite died childless, the Law required a kinsman to take his wife. The firstborn from that union carried on the dead man's name (Deut.25:5-10). So Boaz (of Judah's tribe) took the Moabitess, Ruth. Their firstborn was David's grandfather - Obed.

Supplementary information:

Obed was the Lord Jesus' ancestor. Matt.1:5-16.

RECAPPING

1. Satan slandered God, causing man to sin.
2. **The woman's seed** promised.
3. Abraham offered up Isaac.
4. Joseph saved Jacob's family from famine.
5. "Shiloh" to come from Judah's tribe.
6. Job expected to meet God on the earth.
7. Israel's exodus from Egypt under Moses.
8. Passover and day of Atonement instituted.
9. A prophet like Moses promised.
10. Israel occupies Canaan under Joshua
11. Judges rule Israel. Samuel is the last judge.
12. They demand a King. Saul is anointed king.
13. David, of **Judah's tribe**, succeeds Saul.

14. David makes Jerusalem his capital city.
15. David buys Araunah's threshing floor.

Understanding the Bible

Unit 6 THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Solomon's Temple

Solomon built the temple of God *in Moriah*. At its dedication YHWH's glory (the SHEKINAH) filled the temple. This magnificent building became the focal point of the nation's worship.

Like the tabernacle it had: only one entrance; an outer room and an inner room. As before, only Aaron's descendants could perform the priestly duties. **Only the high priest** could enter the most holy inner room and only on the Day of Atonement. Again he had to take with him the blood of sacrificed animals, both for his own and for the people's sins.

Volumes could be written on the temple - its layout; its furnishings; the priests and their duties; the washings; immersions; sacrifices; offerings; sabbaths; national holy-days, etc.. Devout Israelites longed to experience the future glories depicted by it.

Solomon's Reign

God gave Solomon the wisdom he needed to rule Israel. His reign began well but sadly he regressed to indulging in luxury, pleasure and idolatry. Coming to his senses he gave wise guidance to his son and heir Rehoboam¹ but he was not one to value sound advice.

The Kingdom Divides Into Two

Despite the counsel of the wise elders, Rehoboam imposed excessive taxes on his people. Consequently ten tribes rebelled and formed the northern kingdom, called the Kingdom of Israel. Rehoboam's sadly depleted kingdom was called the Kingdom of **Judah**.

Both kingdoms and their kings oscillated between faithfulness and idolatry, despite the pleadings of YHWH's prophets - Two notable prophets of this period were Elijah and Elisha - Israel became so evil that God sent them into captivity. In Judah, even children were sacrificed to idols.^A Judah ignored the warning signs, so they too were taken captive into Babylon, Jerusalem and the temple being destroyed. Was this the end? Had Satan thwarted YHWH?

Genesis to 2nd. Kings

In the Hebrew and Greek canon of the scriptures, all the books from Genesis to 2nd.Kings begin with the Hebrew letter vav (Hebrew for "and").^B This series of documents is evidently one continuous book, with the possible exception of Ruth. As one inspired writer laid down his pen the next picked his up.^C Originally this "book" was kept in the Ark of the Covenant,^D then it was added to by subsequent prophets.^E It begins with the creation and ends with the Babylonian captivity. First, Israel was taken captive. That was the end of the northern kingdom as a separate nation.² Later, the southern kingdom was taken captive. That also was a devastatingly traumatic event but it was not the end of Judah.

1st. & 2nd. Chronicles

The books, 1st. and 2nd. Chronicles and Ezra are consecutive in the Greek canon and also begin with the letter vav. In the Hebrew Bible, Ezra and Nehemiah are one book. Evidently these four books are also one continuous narrative.

You will have noted how the line of the **woman's seed** is channelled through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah - David's ancestor. The Chronicles start a new series of documents. They present the history of the Kingdom of Judah from a different angle.

1st.Chronicles documents the nation's family trees, beginning with Adam. Then after reporting

Saul's death it records David's reign and how, shortly before he died, he handed over the kingdom to Solomon, along with the detailed plans for the building of the temple.

2nd.Chronicles records Solomon's and Rehoboam's reigns, then it concentrates on the history of the southern kingdom - Judah - ending with the Babylonian captivity and the destruction of Solomon's Temple. But suprisingly, the very last two verses leap forward 70 years to a decree by the Persian king Cyrus, that the temple should be rebuilt.

<u>Approximate Time-scale</u>	<u>Before year 2,000</u>
Year Zero	The Creation 6,000 yrs.
Year 1,650	The Flood 4,350 yrs.
Year 2,080	Call of Abraham 3,920 yrs.
Year 2,280	Joseph in Office 3,720 yrs.
Year 2,480	Job [very approx.] 3,520 yrs.
Year 2,510	The Exodus 3,490 yrs.
Year 2,570	The Occupation 3,430 yrs.
Year 2,680	Ruth 3,320 yrs.
Year 2,900	Saul crowned king 3,100 yrs.
Year 2,950	David anointed king 3,050 yrs.
Year 2,990	Solomon - King 3,010 yrs.
Year 3,000	Temple dedicated 3,000 yrs.
Year 3,015	The kingdom Divided 2,975 yrs.
Year 3,280	Israel's Captivity 2,720 yrs.
Year 3,415	Judah's Captivity 2,585 yrs.

Oddities to ponder over

- There were five large mobile tanks at both sides of the temple - ten in all. The priests immersed animals in these to prepare them for sacrifice.
- The last faithful king of Judah - Josiah - was killed in a battle on the plain of Megiddo (Hebrew - Armageddon. Rev.16:16).

Readings:-

1 Kings 3:5-28. 6:37,38. 11 to 13. 17 to 19. 21. 22.
2 Kings 1 to 6. 8. 23:24-37. 25.

1 Chronicles 10:1-11:9. 15:1-3,25-28 16:1-4. 28 to
1 Chronicles 29:28.
2 Chronicles 1:7-12. 2:1-6. 3 to 7. 8:1-5. 9. 10. 11:1-17. 12. 28. 33 to 36

Questions:-

1. Does God need a temple to live in ?
2. Why did they have to follow the details, for building the temple and its artefacts, precisely?

Notes:-

- A) This was in the Hinnon valley (Ge-Hinnon), SW of Jerusalem. Because of these horrors, the name of that valley came to depict Hell.
- B) In Deuteronomy, vav occurs at the start of the third verse, after a short introduction.
- C) Joshua 24:26 "and Joshua wrote these words in God's law-book".
- D) Deuteronomy 31:24-26 " when he had written all the words of this law in a book, Moses told the Levites to... Take this, the book of the law, and put it at the side of the ark of the covenant of YHWH your God."
- E) 1.Samuel 10:25 "...Samuel ... wrote, *the regulations for kings*, in **the** book and deposited it before YHWH..."
 [The words in italics are ours]

References:-

1 Prov. 1. Eccl. 1 & 12. 2 Ezek. 37:15-22. Hosea 8:8.

Send any queries to:-

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*Understanding
 the
 Bible*

Unit 6

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM
[Solomon to the Dissolution of the Nation]
 with
Key to Unit 5
 and
Charts for Unit 6