

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 39

What courageous act does Esther undertake in response to Mordecai's challenge? What is the result of her action? What happens to Haman and those who supported him? How do you feel about that? (Esther 6-10)

Why do you think the Book of Esther was included in the Bible when there is no mention of God in the entire story?

What job was Ezra sent from Babylon to Jerusalem to do? What major obstacle did he run into in his attempt to complete this task? How did Ezra deal with this obstacle? Why? Would you have done the same thing if you were in Ezra's position? Why or Why not? (Ezra 7-10)

Who is Nehemiah? What is his profession in Babylon? What does he ask for permission to do from the king of Babylon? Why? What job does Nehemiah take on in Jerusalem? Why? How long does it take for this job to be completed? Who helps Nehemiah? Why? What obstacles do they face in completing this job? How do they overcome them? (Nehemiah 1-7)

When and how do Nehemiah and Ezra's stories intersect?

What story is being retold in Nehemiah 9 and to whom? Why? What covenant/pledge is then made by these persons after hearing this story? Why?

Do you believe, as some scholars do, that Nehemiah was preaching and practicing isolationism as a way to stay faithful to God? Why or why not? If so, was this a sustainable practice in Nehemiah's time? Why or why not? Would it be today? Why or why not? (Nehemiah 13)

What is the central message of Malachi's prophecy? How does the prophecy in Malachi 3:1-4 prepare us to read the New Testament? Do you think Malachi's words provide a good "conclusion" to the Old Testament? Why or why not?