

Study Aids
Discussion Questions and Suggested Reading
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 61

The history of Israel begins with God’s covenant with Abraham, which is gradually fulfilled over time as all of God’s promises come true. It ends because of the people’s stubbornness to accept God’s commands and leadership, and as they turn their backs on Him, He rejects them. Although there are many examples given, taking place over centuries of time in a variety of illustrations, yet there is only one theme: “I have chosen you to walk with Me, and will be your God, and will bless you with all the material things you need to be a blessing to others. Your proper response should be to love Me in return, to obey My commandments, and to worship no other gods.”

Questions:

Why was it necessary to place such a long history of the Children of Israel in the Bible? Wouldn’t one or two illustrations suffice? What is the purpose of showing the pattern of behavior of generation after generation?

Did the paganism of the world around them make it more difficult for the Israelites to obey God? Does the secular influence of our world make it difficult for us?

What do we need to focus upon to guide our lives?

Suggested reading for further study:

Read Parts I and II of “A Remnant Shall Repent” in chapter three of **The Kingdom of God** by John Bright to get more of the international context and the roles of Egypt, Syria, and especially, Assyria.