

In the beginning of the 1600's, the king of England declared those who would not conform to the traditions of the Church of England were not welcome in England. The Church of England had adopted many traditions from the Church of Rome, but the Puritans were followers of what John Calvin taught and wanted to keep their worship pure and free from all reminders of Rome. But this was against the law and so their churches were forbidden, and they were hunted, persecuted, and imprisoned; they finally fled to Holland where they were free to worship as they wished. But life there was very different than they had known, the Dutch culture was very different than the English culture and the jobs available were very different too. They eventually decided to make a home for themselves in the "New World" – the newly discovered America.

They came to America because they wanted to keep their English culture but did not agree with the Church of England and wanted the freedom to worship in the way they believed was right and as time went on, they gradually made community laws requiring everyone in the community to worship in the same way too.

Roger Williams joined the Pilgrims at Plymouth a few years later and became a much-loved minister. But his views that they needed to purchase land from the Indians, that everyone deserved religious freedom, that no one should be forced to attend church (for many would come even though they didn't believe) and that laws of the colony should only deal with how people should treat each other, not how they should worship God, were not well accepted. He was sentenced to banishment - forced to leave the community and for a time he lived in the wilderness then lived with an Indian tribe.

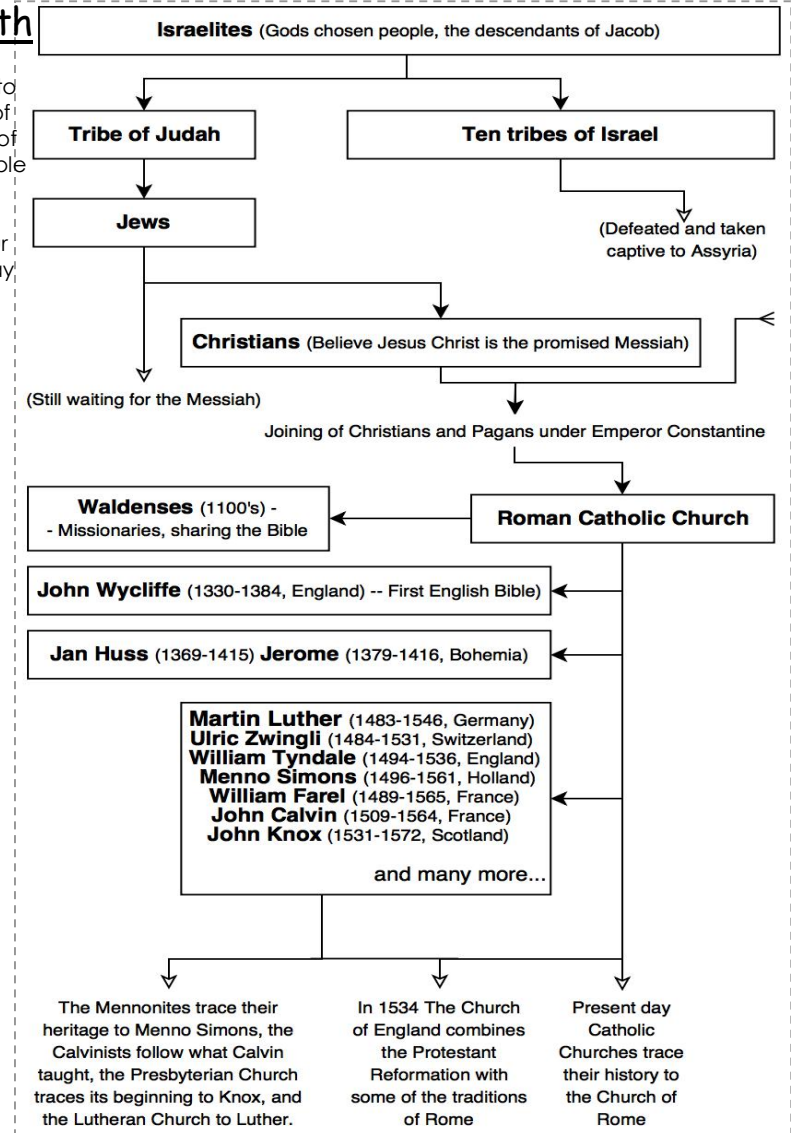
In 1636 Roger Williams purchased land from an Indian tribe on Rhode Island and started his own settlement which he called Providence Plantation. He believed that everyone should have the right to worship in the way they believed was right. Other communities with similar beliefs were also established nearby and in 1663 these combined communities were granted permission from King Charles II of England to form their own government.

Rhode Island became the home of the first Baptist church, the first Jewish synagogue and one of the first Quaker meetinghouses in America.

New Homes

Sabbath

Follow the flow chart to see some of the history of God's people from the Israelites to some of our modern day Churches.



Year 2, Quarter 2, Week 10, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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www.visitrhodeisland.com/make-plans/facts-and-history; www.nps.gov/rowi/learn/historyculture/foundingprovidence

Refer: Ezra, Hagai, Zechariah NLT; *The Great Controversy* ch16

Sunday

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, approximately seventy years after Daniel and the other people of Judah were taken captive, King Cyrus announced that anyone who wished could return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple of God; he also gave back the basins, bowls and other things that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple. Ezra 1 lists the things returned and Ezra 2 lists the people who returned.

The first thing they did after getting settled was to meet together in Jerusalem to rebuild the altar of God and celebrate the Festival of Shelters - similar to our camp meetings.

Work finally began on the temple and when the foundation was completed the people celebrated, but many of the older people who had seen the first temple wept because the new temple would be smaller.

The work on the temple continued, but the people who had been living in the land while the Israelites were in exile were not happy and tried to cause problems. When Xerxes became king after Cyrus, the troublemakers sent a letter trying to stop the work, and again when Artaxerxes became king. King Artaxerxes ordered a search of the records and found out that Jerusalem had rebelled against Babylon, so he ordered the work stopped.

After Artaxerxes, Darius of Persia became the king. Then God sent a message through the prophet Haggai, for Zerubbabel the governor of Judah and Joshua the high priest.

God said, "Why are you living in fancy houses when My house is a ruin? You plant much but harvest little; you eat and drink, but you are still hungry and thirsty; you wear clothes, but you are cold; nothing you are doing seems to work. Now go and get timber and build my house."

God also sent messages through the prophet Zechariah. Then the people started working on the temple again. When Tattenai a governor from nearby found they were rebuilding he demanded to know who had given them permission to build, they told him King Cyrus had. Tattenai wrote a letter to King Darius of Persia, but the work on the temple continued while he waited for a reply.

Friday

What are your plans for the future?

What sort of job are you planning to have? _____

What you do doesn't matter very much – but you will be happiest if you are doing what God wants you to do. God has people working for Him in all types of jobs. No matter what your job, you can use it to be a witness for God.

Where are you planning to live? _____

Where you live doesn't matter very much – but you will be happiest if you are living where God wants you to live.

Are you planning to marry? What sort of person? _____

The Bible has a lot of advice about marriage and if you follow God's advice you can save yourself a lot of trouble. Fill in the missing words from these verses and solve the crossword.

"Do not be yoked together with _____ (3a)..." 2 Corinthians 6:14^{NIV} and about the idol worshipers God said, "Do not _____ (4d) with them..." Deuteronomy 7:3^{NIV}

Proverbs 3:5-6^{NLT} "_____ (5a) in the Lord with all your _____ (2d); do not depend on your own _____ (1d). Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which _____ (6a) to take."

A husband or wife who loves God will encourage you and help you in life, but a husband or wife who does not love God as you do, will make life more difficult in your family and may even lead you or your children away from God.

Thursday

Use the code to find the words of Psalm 127:1

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

When Ezra learned that the many of the people had married idol-worshippers he was horrified. He knew they were making the same mistake as King David and Solomon – the mistake that eventually led to the captivity of the Israelites. Fill in the missing words from

2 Corinthians 6:14^{NLT} and find all the words in the grid. "Do not be yoked together with _____. For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with _____?"

A yoke joined the oxen together so they could pull as a team.

D	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	S	T	O	P	B
A	W	I	T	H	F	C	A	N	E	C	A	R
R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	N	E	S	S
K	C	E	A	O	L	M	N	F	O	U	L	D
N	K	A	V	G	L	M	B	E	T	N	G	E
E	E	Y	E	E	O	O	E	R	W	W	A	R
S	D	O	R	T	W	N	L	I	G	H	T	N
S	N	K	I	H	S	N	I	W	H	A	T	G
S	E	E	F	E	H	A	E	I	A	T	T	O
P	S	D	O	R	I	N	V	T	V	B	E	C
A	S	R	R	E	P	D	E	H	E	F	U	L
D	A	N	G	E	R	W	R	A	R	N	I	N
G	S	T	O	P	B	E	S	C	A	R	E	F

Monday

King Darius of Persia was not the same King Darius the Mede who Daniel knew - this was much later. In Governor Tattenai's letter to King Darius of Persia he said he found the work on the temple in Jerusalem was progressing well and when he asked who had given permission, they told him how God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to destroy the temple and King Cyrus had issued a decree for it to be rebuilt.

When he received the letter, King Darius ordered a search of the records and eventually found the command of Cyrus. So a letter was finally sent back; not only were the Israelites to continue building the temple but Governor Tattenai was to pay for the costs of the construction from the money collected as taxes for Persia and also provide food for the priests!

Some four year later the work was finally completed; they dedicated the temple and held a great celebration and soon after that they held the Passover service in the new temple.

Ezra the scribe, the author of the book of Ezra was a direct descendant of Aaron the first High Priest. His personal story starts in chapter 7, "many years later during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia ^{NLT}" - he doesn't say if this is the same Artaxerxes who originally stopped the rebuilding of the temple in Ezra 4 so it could well be a different one. This King Artaxerxes made a decree, following the one made by King Cyrus: that any Israelites who wanted to, could return to Jerusalem; they were allowed to take offerings of silver and gold for the temple and to receive a generous grant from the king's treasures! Ezra was to appoint officials for Jerusalem who would have the authority to set and carry out judgements as they saw fit.

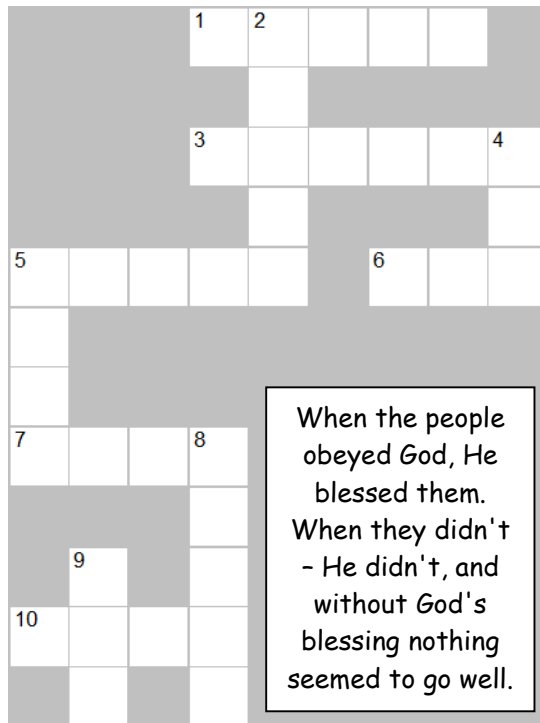
When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, he was very upset to find that many of the people had married idol worshipping women! For three days Ezra fasted and prayed then they called all the people to come to together in Jerusalem. Ezra encouraged the people to be faithful to God and not to repeat the sins of the past. Then all the people agreed, and they decided to divorce the idol worshippers and send them away.

Tuesday

Read the message God gave to Haggai the prophet in Haggai chapter 1 and answer the questions.

After they were forced to stop the work on the temple, the people had started saying the time to rebuild had "___ (9d) ___ (6a) ___ (10a)" but God asked them why they were living in nice houses while His house was in ___ (2d). God told them to have a look and think about what was happening around them. He said, "You have planted ___ (7a) but harvested ___ (3a). You ___ (4d), but never have enough. You ___ (1a), but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not ___ (5d). You earn ___ (5a), only to put them in a purse with ___ (8d) in it." (I'm sure they didn't really have holes in their purses – rather they never seemed to have enough money)

God told them that all these things were happening because they were doing their own things first and had not rebuilt the temple. When they obeyed God and started rebuilding, not only did God arrange for them to have permission to continue building, but He also arranged the money for the building materials and even food!

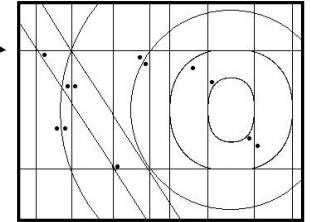


Wednesday

Satan is always trying to stop God.

- ☺ God had King Cyrus order the temple to be rebuilt.
- ☹ Satan used the local people to cause trouble and when the initial trouble didn't stop the rebuilding, he had them send the letter, so the first King Artaxerxes ordered them to stop.

Should they have given up then?
Colour the spaces which have dots.



Can you think of some things they could have done to get the building started again?

When the people gave up, nothing happened – at least nothing good happened; from that time, nothing they did worked well.

- ☺ When the people stepped forward in faith and started rebuilding even without permission, God worked for them; He started blessing everything they did.
- ☹ Governor Tattenai demanded to know who gave permission.
- ☺ God reminded them that King Cyrus had decreed it so Tattenai could do nothing until he checked with the king of Persia. God arranged a favourable reply from King Artaxerxes, not only could they continue but their expenses would be paid! -

