

SELECTED TEACHINGS FROM THE NEW AND THE OLD TESTAMENTS

TOPIC ONE:

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this topic, you should be able to: -

- a) Discuss what Jesus taught about the role and gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- b) Describe the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in Christianity today.
- c) Identify the fruits of the Holy Spirit
- d) Interpret the message of Peter on the day of Pentecost.

LESSON ONE: TEACHINGS OF JESUS ON THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Read JOHN 14:15-26, 16: 5-15, and ACTS 1: 7- 8

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the trinity. There is the power of Christ, the power of God, and the Holy Spirit who gives gifts such as prophecy and healing. The Holy Spirit is mentioned several times in the Bible; (1) during creation in Genesis, (2) at the annunciation of the birth of Jesus, (3) at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, (4) during baptism, (5) revelation of Jesus in the temple (6) Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit during his mission or ministry, after resurrection and before ascension

Learning outcomes: By the end of this lesson:

- a. State the role of Holy Spirit in the church and in Christian lives today
- b. Enumerate the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- c. Analyse the Manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the church and Christians today
- d. Give the role of love in church and in Christian lives today.

a. The role of Holy Spirit in Church and in Christian lives today.

Read JOHN 14:15-26 and JOHN 16: 5-15, ACTS 1: 7- 8

The Holy Spirit has many roles in the church and in Christian lives today. These roles are to:

- Teach Christians on a daily basis messages of Jesus
- Live in the hearts of believers of Christ
- Be an advocate, a counselor, helper and a comforter to those who love Jesus Christ and obey God's commandments.
- He would remind the disciples the words said by Jesus Christ and introduce them to their deeper meanings.
- Interpret the deeper meaning of the messages of Jesus Christ.
- Reveal the truth and mysteries of and about God.
- Affirm the right of Jesus as the Son of God.
- Reveal the glory of Jesus death.
- Reveal what is right and wrong
- Give the disciples of Jesus power to become witnesses of Christ.
- Give courage to the disciples of Jesus and modern Christians to face prosecution on the account of following Jesus.
- Enable the disciples to expose the secret lives and heart of sinful people.
- Guide Christians; help believers to cast away evils spirits, to heal, to preach the word of God, to encourage, and to condemn evil in the society.

b. Paul teaching about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Read 1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13, and 14

Spiritual gifts are extra-ordinary favors, talents, abilities, and dispositions given to Christians by God for the benefit of all believers. The gifts are used for the service of others and not for self-glorification and gratification.

The message of Peter on the day of the Pentecost

Peter told the disciple that what was happening was the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy.

- He said that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God.

- He said that the suffering and death of Jesus was according to God's plans. Death was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. **Gift of wisdom:** – having deep understanding of issues- 'seeing far', being perceptive.

2. **Gift of knowledge:** – ability to understand the basic facts about Jesus, His mission and knowledge about spiritual issues.

3. **The gift of faith:** – refers to the confidence in God's help. It is deep trust in God.

4. **The Gift of healing:** – ability, and power to heal all forms of sickness by calling upon the name of Jesus Christ.

5. **The gift of performing miracles:** – gift of healing miracles, creative miracles for example, dead legs becoming alive.

6. The gift of preaching

7. **The gift of prophecy:** – the ability to interpret God's word. The ability to foresee what will happen in the future as revealed by God.

8. **The gift of distinguishing spirits or discernment:** – the ability to know whether a spiritual gift is from God, the Holy Spirit or from the evil spirit

9. **The gift of speaking in tongues.** The ability to utter, speak in a tongue, language unknown to the believer. Tongues are used when addressing God for self-edifications. It is personal growth.

10. **The gift of interpretation of tongues:** – the ability to understand and interpret the messages of those speaking in tongues.

11. **The gift of love.** (Read 1 Corinthians 13)

Paul stressed that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be demonstrated with love. He stressed that love, a fruit of the Holy Spirit is supreme over other spiritual gifts possessed by Christians. It's the greatest of all. Speaking in tongues, preaching, and martyrdom without love is useless.

Components of Love

Love is patient, kind, not jealous or boastful, not arrogant or rude, is not ill mannered or selfish, and does not insist on its own way. It is not disrespectful. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in truth. It bears all things.

Love believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love is eternal. Love never fails. The other gifts are temporary but love, faith and hope are eternal.

c. Manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the church and Christians today

Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been manifested in churches today. We see this manifestation through people possessing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For example, leaders in church have displayed the gift of wisdom. Preachers, and Christian's ministers have been casting out demons and performing healing. There are reported cases of interpretation of tongues and gift of prophecy in churches today.

When Christians display the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as speaking in tongues the Holy Spirit is manifested. Other manifestations of the Holy Spirit are:

- Through healing, prophecy, gifts of discernment, boldness in preaching, and casting out demons among others
- Christians helping the poor by giving generosity and in kindness.
- Through singing, dancing, shouting (fruit of joy)
- Through unity of believes and fellowships.
- Through praying,
- Christian's persecutions/temptations.

d. Criteria for Discerning the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Christians who have the Holy Spirit and are guided by Jesus have certain characteristics. These are:

- They will confess that Jesus is Lord
- They cannot say a curse.
- They speak the truth. They worship God and behave in accordance with Jesus teaching.
- They led by the Holy Spirit and are known by the fruits of the Holy Spirit. These fruits are love, joy, peace, and patience.
- Such persons serve all Christians without discrimination and strife.
- They do not do sinful acts such as sexual immorality. They do not practice idolatry, and sorcery. They do not have in their hearts and minds hatred, and jealousy or any other negative feelings and actions.

e. The fruits of the HOLY SPIRIT (GALATIANS 5:16-26)

Paul taught that the fruit of the spirit are: Love, Joy, Patience, Long suffering, Goodness or Generosity, Faith and faithfulness, Peace, Meekness and kindness, gentleness, self- control and temperance.

Answer these questions after reading – JOHN 14:15-26 and JOHN 16: 5-15, ACTS 1: 7- 8 and 1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13, and 14.

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit among Christians?
(Read a)
2. Discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit
3. Write a talk about the Holy Spirit
4. Define love?
5. Describe the different types of love
6. Why do Christians need the Holy Spirit today?

7. State the role of love in church and in Christian lives today.

8. How has the gift of the Holy Spirit been manifested in Christian lives?

9. Which activities show that the Holy Spirit is working among Christians in Kenya.

10. How have the gifts of the Holy Spirit been misused in the church today?

Answers are also in the text. Read sections with answers

1. The role of the Holy Spirit

An advocate, a counselor and a comforter

He would remind and introduce the disciples to the deeper meaning of the word of Jesus Christ.

To reveal the myth and mysteries of God

He would affirm the right of Jesus as the Son of God.

He would reveal the glory of Jesus' death.

He would enable the disciples to discern and expose the secret heart of sinful men.

2. The gift of the Holy Spirit has been misused today by pride and public manifestation of the gift as a way of show off. Some Christians have misused the gift of Holy Spirit of prophecy by prophesying for money.

LESSON TWO. PETER'S MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Read ACTS 2: 14-4

Introduction

Jews commemorate Pentecost day. This is the day that God gave Moses his laws on mount Sinai. It is also referred to as the festival of weeks. Pentecost day was celebrated 50 days after the Passover. It was compulsory for all Jews. On this day, Jews brought offering, the first fruits of harvest, to the temple in Jerusalem.

Learning outcomes. By the end of this lesson You should be able: -

1. Describe Pentecost day
2. Narrate Peters' Message.
3. Explain the relevance of the Pentecostal Experience

a. Pentecost a day

On the Pentecostal day, the disciples were gathered in Jerusalem awaiting the promise of the Holy Spirit. And as promised, the Holy Spirit came in the form of a strong wind, and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit rested on the head of each disciple. The disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. They spoke in new tongues. Some of the observers mistook this experience. They thought that the disciples were drunk with wine.

Peter stood up to explain what was happening and defend the disciples. He told those who saw the experience that the disciples were not drunk. It was in the morning.

b. Peter's Message. Read Joel 2: 28 – 32

Peter told the onlookers that; what was happening is fulfillment of Joel's prophecies about the outpouring of Gods spirit. He said that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God. This was proved by the miracles that Jesus performed. He emphasized that the suffering and death of Jesus was according to God's plans. Jesus is a descendant of David. Death and the resurrection of Jesus fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament.

God raised Jesus from the dead. He taught that Jesus had both the nature of God and Man. The apostles are the living witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus has been exalted and sits on the right hand of God where He is Lord and Judge. The Holy Spirit is a gift from Jesus

Peter then invited the listeners to repentance so that they could be forgiven and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Three thousand souls accepted salvation message and were added to the fellowship of the disciples.

C. After the Holy Spirit infilling.

The disciples sold their possessions and goods and assisted the needy. They did many wonders and signs. They continued to live in unity, worshiping God, fellowshiping together, and breaking the bread.

d. Lessons Christians learn from Leadership of Peter.

Christians should be:

1. Courageous and stand up for Jesus Christ all the times.
2. Ready to spread the Gospel of Christ.
3. Win new converts to Jesus by inviting them to repentance.
4. Have faith in the risen Christ.
5. Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit like Peter and those in church leadership should take their roles seriously.

e. Relevance of the Pentecostal Experience

Speaking in diverse tongues signified that Christianity is a universal religion. It pointed out the importance of all languages when communicating to God. There were no specific languages for speaking with God, as it was when Latin was the language of literacy and Christianity.

Christians should be bold in their preaching. They should not be afraid as they have the counsel and helper, the Holy Spirit. Christians should understand that God chooses anyone as a leader, preacher, and witness of Christ.

Pentecostal experience signifies that Christians need to receive and be filled with the Holy Spirit

Revision questions

- a) Explain the meaning of the Pentecost
- b) Describe the manifestations of the holy spirit on the day of the Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-40)(or narrate the events that took place on the day of the Pentecost)
- c) Write down five teachings about Jesus from Peter's speech on the day of the Pentecost
- d) What were the qualities of peter that made him a successful leader of the apostolic church?

- e) What lessons can Christians learn from the events of the day of the Pentecost?
- f) State the teachings of Jesus on the holy spirit (John 14:14-26) (acts 1:7-8)
- g) What is the role of the Holy Spirit according to Jesus?
- h) What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the believers or the church or Christians?
- i) Outline the fruits of the holy spirit
- j) State the criteria for discerning the spiritual gifts
- k) List down the gifts of the holy spirit
- l) Explain why Paul taught that love is the greatest of all spiritual gifts
- m) Explain how the Holy spirit is manifested in the church today
- n) State ways in which the gifts of the holy spirit are being abused in the church today

Revision questions

1. 1996 Q 10

Write down five activities of the Church in Kenya which show that the Holy Spirit is working among Christians.

(5marks)

2. 1997 Q 9

Write down five teaching about Jesus from Peter's speech on the day of Pentecost.

(5marks)

3. 1999 Q 10

Give five lessons Christians can learn from the incident of Ananias and Sappira in the Acts of the Apostles

(5 marks)

4. 1999 Q 15

State five ways in which the gifts of the Holy Spirit have been abused in the church today

(5marks)

5. 2002 Q10

Give five reasons why Christians in the early church prayed.

(5marks)

6. 2002 Q 9

State five ways in which Peter's life was transformed on the day of Pentecost

(5marks)

7. 2003 Q 9

State five works of the Holy Spirit in the early church.

(5marks)

8. 2003 Q 10

State five leadership qualities shown by Peter the Apostle on the day of Pentecost

(5marks)

9. 2004 Q 3a (pp 2)

a) Outline the teaching of Jesus on the role of the Holy Spirit.

(8marks)

b) Identify the problems that Paul faced in spreading the gospel.

(12marks)

c) What lessons do Christian learn from the life of Stephen? (5marks)

10. 2007 Q 4b, c (pp 2)

(b) State ways in which the Holy Spirit was manifested on the day of Pentecost

(6

marks)

(c)How are the gifts of the Holy Spirit misused in the church today? (6 marks)

11. 2008 Q 4a (pp 2)

a) Identify the fruit of the Holy Spirit taught by Saint Paul in Galatians 5:22-23 (5 marks)

12. 2009 Q 4 a, c (pp 2)

a) Give seven reasons why Jesus sent the Holy spirit to the disciples after his ascension (7 marks)

c) State five ways in which Christians are able to identify those who posses the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (5 marks)

13. 2010 Q 4c (pp 2)

(c) State how kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit is abused in the Church in Kenya today. (4 marks)

14. 2011 Q 4a,b (pp 2)

a) Explain how Peter's life was transformed on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 4:21-40) (8 marks)

b) Outline Saint Paul's teaching on how the gifts of the Holy Spirit should be used in the Church. (5 marks)

Answers

1996 Q 10

- Praying e.g. individual, congregational
- Decision making in the church/ solving issues and problems in the church
- Faith healing/ healing the sick
- Speaking in tongues
- Singing in tongues
- Singing and dancing/ music
- Preaching/ teaching
- Giving of offertory and alms/ sadaka
- Condemning on the prophetic ministry of the church
- Hold fellowship meeting/ Bible study/ reading the bible
- Celebrating of sacraments e.g. Eucharist/ Lord's supper
- Bringing new converts to the church
- Pastoral care and consulting
- Helping the poor and the needy
- Working together of the churches/ ecumenism/ co-operation
- Writing Christians literature e.g. books/ pamphlets/ magazines
- Confession of sins/ reconciliations
- Education/ giving instructions (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

1997 Q 9

- Jesus was from Nazareth
- Jesus had a human nature
- Jesus had a divine nature
- Jesus was attested by God to work miracles and wonders through Jesus
- Jesus death/ crucifixion was according to God's plan
- God raised Jesus from the dead
- Jesus conquered death/ has victory over death/ overcame death
- The death and resurrection of Jesus fulfill the prophecy of David. / the death and resurrection of Jesus were foretold by David
- Jesus is a descendant of David
- Jesus ascended into heaven/ is exalted at the right – hand of God
- The Holy spirit is a gift from Jesus
- God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ / Messiah (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

1999 Q 10

- Honesty should be observed /faithfulness is important Acts 5: 1-11)
- Lying should be avoided
- Christians should be willing to share their property with others/should not be selfish/greedy
- Christians should resist temptation.

- Sin can result to death/suffering . / God will not compromise with evil
- Sins bring fear
- Christians should not be influenced by others to commit sin/evil
- Christians should not test God
- /Holy spirit /God sees everything
- Christians should speak against evil. (5x1= 5marks)

1999 Q 15

- Cheating that one has a certain gift of the Holy Spirit /pretence.
- Commercialization of the gifts/people are asked to pay money before being prayed for /healed.
- False interpretation of the bible/prophesy/predicting the future.
- Unscrupulous Christians may impart demoniac powers on innocent faithful.
- Some Christians who possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit develop pride/superiority complex.
- Wrong use of the gifts of the Holy spirit where faithful get into ecstacy/trance which may lead to injuries.
- Distinguishing oneself as a person with a special call/preacher with an intention of exploiting others (5x1= 5marks)

2002 Q10

- To thank God/ gratitude
- To show respect to God/ fellowship with God
- In obedience to Christ's teaching
- To overcome temptations/ persecutions/ for protection
- To ask God for their daily needs/ blessings
- In order to sustain the unity of the believers/ growth of the church (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

2002 Q 9

- He was filled with the power of the Holy spirit
- Spoke in tongues
- was courageous/ bold
- Preaches the word/ testified
- Remembered scriptures of the Old Testament
- Made wise decisions/ advised the people
- He baptized new converts/ got saved
- He led the other disciples/ spokesman (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

2003 Q9

- Prophecy
- Exposed Ananias and Saphira
- Inspired people to praise God/ worship
- Gave people power to perform miracles/ heal
- Provided guidance/ wisdom
- Empowered people to perseverance/ provided comfort
- Led people in prayer

- Strengthened people to preach/ spread the good news
- Made people to understand their relationship with God/ the mission of Jesus
- Enabled Christians to live in unity
- Brought love/ peace and joy
- Strengthen the faith of Christians (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

2003 Q 10

- Courage
- Wisdom/ understanding
- Principled/ decision making/ Adviser/ counselors
- Ability to protect and defend his colleagues
- He was focused/ had a goal/ commitment
- He knew the scriptures
- God fearing/ had faith in God
- Eloquent speaker (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

2004 Q 3a (PP2)

- The holy spirit is a counselor/ helper
- He comforts
- He teaches
- He guides
- He judges/ convicts the world
- He is the spirit of truth
- He is a companion
- He strengthens
- He empowers
- He reminds/ convinces people on righteousness
- He glorifies Jesus Christ
- He reveals the things of God/ reveals things to come

- People did not believe that he was an apostle/ his conversion
- His message was rejected
- He was beaten/ stoned
- He was imprisoned
- He was deserted by close friends/ mark/ barnabas
- Some of the believers were backsliding
- There was competition from other preachers (apostles)
- There was lack of money/ finance
- There were plots to kill him
- Influences of other religious/ cultural/ ideologies/ practices
- He was persecuted/ oppressed
- He was ship wrecked

- Be ready to serve God/ people
- One should be ready to forgive
- Christians should have faith in God
- They should endure persecution
- They should be wise/ knowledgeable
- They should be ready to witness for Christ
- They should be prayerful
- They should be of good repute/ exemplary
- They should be ready to condemn evil

2007 Q 4b,c (PP2)

- Through a sound from heaven
- Like a mighty rushing wind
- As tongues of fire resting on each disciple
- By the disciples being able to speak in different languages
- By Peter becoming courageous to preach
- By many people being convicted of their sins
- By many people repenting their wrongdoing (3 x 2= 6 marks)

- People demand favours/payment for performing miracles
- People claim to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit when they are not
- There is too much emphasis on speaking in tongues at the expense of other gifts
- Those who have the gifts of the Holy Spirit are proud/boastful/look down upon others
- People misinterpret the Bible /confuse others while claiming to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- Individuals cause divisions/splinter groups in the church claiming that the Holy Spirit has inspired them to start new churches/ministries
- Sometimes gifts of the Holy Spirit are expressed in a disorderly manner in the church
- People use the gifts for self glorification
- People speak in tongues without an interpreter hence creating misunderstanding
- People use the gifts to instill fear/intimidate others (6 x 1= 6 marks)

2008 Q 4a (PP2)

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Self control
- Gentleness
- Patience

- Faithfulness (5 x 1=5 marks)

2009 Q 4a,c (PP2)

- The Holy Spirit would comfort the disciples
- He was to council the disciples
- He would guide the disciples on what is right /God's righteousness
- He was to convict people of their sins
- He was to remind the disciples on what Jesus had taught them
- He would teach people the ways /truths of Kingdom of God
- He was to reveal the future/enable the disciples to prophets/God's will
- He would glorify Jesus through the work of the disciples
- He would enable the disciples to witness Christ throughout the world
- He would replace the physical presence of Jesus/stay with the disciples forever
- He would empower the disciples to be able to speak with courage/confidence/authority. (7 x 1 = 7marks)

- By listening to their confession. They should confess Jesus as Lord.
- By analyzing the kind of teaching they profess. The teaching should be about Jesus Christ/Christian doctrine.
- By examining their life so as to know whether they possess/show the fruit of Holy Spirit.(Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self control, goodness, faithfulness/gentleness)
- By observing there behaviour. The behaviour should not contradict the of Jesus Christ be role models.
- When the Christian notice the victorious life of such people over temptations works of the flesh.
- If such persons do not use the gift of the Holy Spirit for selfish gains/enrich themselves.
- When such believers given glory to God /Jesus after serving performing miracles.

2010 Q 4c (PP2)

- There are too many needy cases.
- Tribal/ethnic feelings may hinder one from giving assistance to the needy.
- Political leaning/affiliations influence Christians against helping those who do not belong to their camp.
- Lack of what to share/inadequacy
- Indifferences of some Christians to the light of the needy.
- Denominational differences where some Christians are not ready share with those who do not belong to their group.
- Poor communication/infrastructure in some parts of the country that make impossible to reach the needy.
- It is difficult to identify the genuine needy cases.

- Misappropriation of resources meant for assisting the needy discourages Christian from contributing.

2011 Q 4a,b (PP2)

- Peter was filled with the Holy spirit
- He started speaking in tongues
- He became courageous/ defended the disciples that they were not drunk
- He was able to remember Old Testament prophecies/ teachings
- He began witnessing the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
- He called people to repentance
- He was empowered to perform miracles
- He took up the leadership roles

- The gifts of the Holy spirit should be used for the common good of all
- They should be used to strengthen/ encourage and comfort members
- They should be used to bring unity / not to discriminate / divide members
- There is need to respect / appreciate all the gifts
- They should be used in an orderly way / no confusion
- The gifts should be used in love
- The gifts of speaking in tongues should be minimized in public
- There is need to have interpretation of tongues for them to be meaningful / helpful
- Prophecies should be carefully evaluated / weighed

2012 Q4b (pp2)

- There was competition in speaking in tongues.
- There was disorder /confusion in worship as people with different gifts tried to outdo one another.
- People did not use their gifts for the benefit of the Church/one another.
- Some gifts such as prophecy/teaching were looked down upon there was Pride/boasting.
- There was no interpretation of tongues when the gift of speaking in tongues was in use, hence messages were not understood.
- People did not show love for one another.
- Those with the gift of speaking in tongues despised those who did not have/some members thought they were too spiritual.

(6 x 1=6 marks)

TOPIC TWO:

THE UNITY OF BELIEVERS

Learning outcomes: By the end of this topic, you should be able to:

- a) Explain teaching in selected New Testament texts of the unity of believers.
- b) Identify the metaphors used to describe unity of believers.
- c) Identify the causes of disunity in the early and modern church

LESSON ONE: TEACHINGS OF THE UNITY OF BELIEVERS IN SELECTED NEW TESTAMENT TEXTS

Unity of believers refers to oneness of those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Learning outcomes: By the end of this lesson you should be able to: -

- i. Describe activities of early Christians
- ii. Describe characteristics of the people of God
- iii. Explain the meanings of these symbolic expressions
 - The body of Christ
 - The Vine and the Branches
 - The Church / Assembly of God
 - The Bride

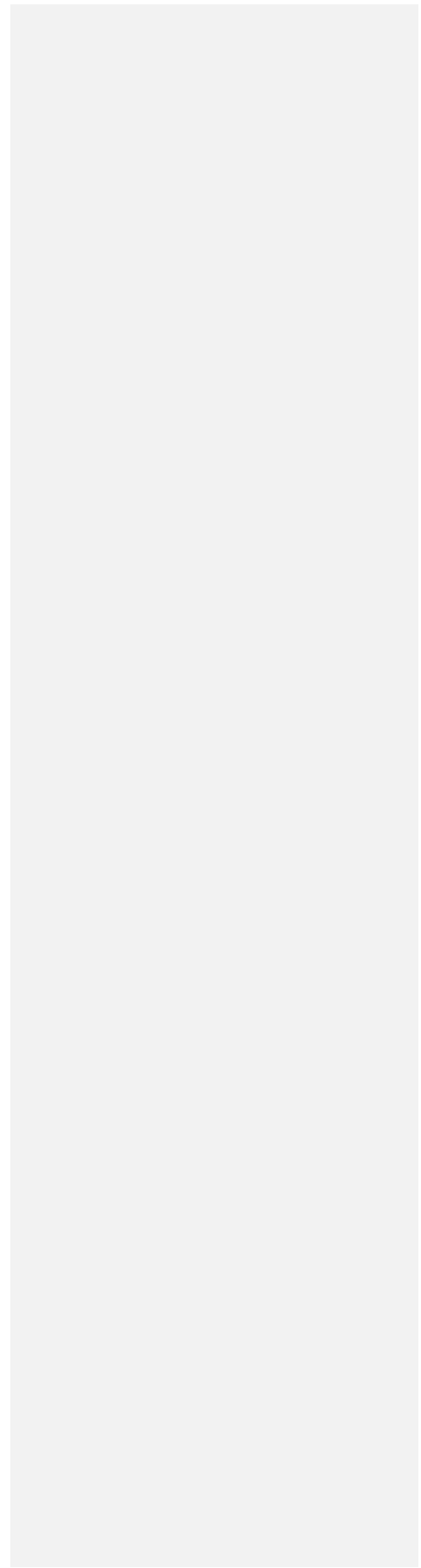
a. Early Christians

The early Christians in Jerusalem demonstrated their unity by.

- Holding joint prayer sessions
- Sharing the Lords supper, that is Eucharist.
- Sharing their possessions with the poor.

The showed oneness and unity as believers. They expressed their oneness using various terms, images, metaphors and symbols. They regarded themselves as the people of God, the church and an Assembly of God. When they celebrated the last

supper, eating of bread was a symbol of the body of Christ. They saw themselves as belonging to one tree with the vine and branches. As followers of Christ, the early Church saw itself as the Bride of Christ.



b. Discussion of Symbolic Expressions

i. The people of God

Read 1 PETER 2: 9-10. Peter has outlined the characteristics of the people of God. He says that the people of God are

Believers in God: through faith in Jesus Christ.

The 'Chosen race', 'a royal priesthood', a holy nation' 'a chosen people'

Those who stand out from the rest because they live a holy and righteous life

Form a Holy nation chosen to proclaim the works of God.

Not just the descendants of Abraham but people who follow Jesus Christ and His teachings.

ii. The body of Christ

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, and Ephesians' 4:1-12.

The Holy Spirit is the one who brings Christians together as one body of Christ to serve the church. Christians are given gifts for the purpose of sharing the body of Christ.

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. And just as the body has many parts, playing different roles, so has the Church. Every member of the church plays a vital role because different members have different spiritual gifts and callings. Some are Apostles, Teachers, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Miracle performers, Administrators and those who show mercy to others and encourage (exhort) others.

All church activities should be directed to the welfare of the church, just as the function of each part of the body is necessary for the well being of the whole body. To have a united body, members should be meek, and patient in order to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. For a church to be united, or to be considered as one body, Christians should have faith in God the father, one Lord Jesus Christ, one Holy Spirit and have faith in God through Jesus Christ.

iii. The Vine and the Branches

Read John 15:1-10

The vine represents Jesus. Vine tree was a tree that bore grapes. The vine tree was a symbol of prosperity and peace. Jesus is the vine and the Father is the vinedresser. Christians/ believers are the branches. They are expected to produce good fruits by remaining faithful

and united in Christ. Faithful branches bear fruit like good Christians while unfruitful branches are like unfruitful Christians.

Christians should remain united to Christ who is the vine so as to bear fruits. The teachings of Jesus purify the Christians. The dead branches of the Vine trees are cut off and the living ones are trimmed or pruned. This is done so that the vines may produce high yields. Likewise unfaithful Christians, believers are rebuked and corrected so as to bear high yields.

iv. The Church or Assembly of God. Read Ephesians 5: 21 – 32

Church is a Greek word ““ekklesia””, which means people. People who belong to the Lord, Assembly of God is the coming together of people of diverse social and cultural backgrounds who recognize lordship of Jesus. The church is likened to the relationship between a husband and a wife. Christians (the church) are expected to be united with Christ just as a husband and wife are united in marriage. Just as husbands and wives are expected to love one another, so too, are Christians called upon to express love to one another and to love God.

A husband is the head of a family; Jesus is also the head of the church.

v. The Bride. Read 2 Corinthian 11: 2, and Revelations 21: 1 – 12

In the Old Testament, God calls Israel a bride. In the New Testament, Christians are referred to as “a bride’ in the New Jerusalem’. God or Jesus Christ is the bridegroom. Christians are reminded that the life on earth is a temporary home. Their real home is in heaven, the Holy city of God. Just as a bride is expected to be faithful to her husband, so are Christians expected to be faithful to God by observing the covenant way of life. Deviation from the covenant was portrayed as adultery.

John, who wrote the book of revelations, sees a vision of a new heaven and a new earth in which faithful Christians will be rewarded. Christ will come to take His bride to eternity to live there forever. The relationship between Christians and Jesus/ God is like a marriage. It is a covenant. It is a relationship where the church (bride) is expected to submit to God. Jesus died for the church, a show of His or God’s love. Likewise Christians should be committed in their relationship to God.

SAQ. 1. Discuss in twos who is a bride and what takes place in a wedding.

2. Discuss the significance of the symbols used to express the unity of the believers. These are “The people of God”, “The body of Christ”, “The vine and the branches” “The church or assembly of God” and “The bride”.

LESSON TWO: CAUSES OF DISUNITY IN THE EARLY CHURCH

The early church experienced some challenges, which led to divisions among the early disciples and Christians.

Learning Outcome: After reading this lesson,

- i Identify causes of disunity in the early church
- ii State causes of disunity in the modern church
- iii Compare the causes of disunity in the early and modern church
- iv Suggest possible solutions to disunity in modern church

a. Causes of Disunity in the Early Church

After Jesus ascended to his Father and left the Holy Spirit to look after his followers, the disciples established congregations or communities to spread the Word of God. As believers of Christ met and prayed together, there were disagreements and divisions brought about by several factors and issues. These were:

Disputes, among early Christians; concern leadership of the Church, Christians wanted different leaders: Paul, Apollo's, Cephas or Christ. Paul told them that Christ couldn't be divided (1 Corinthians 1:10-21).

Sexual immorality was another cause of disunity in the early church. Some Christians were doing or having irresponsible sexual behaviours. These were incest, fornication, and prostitution. Paul condemned such behaviours and told Christians to stop sinning and honor God with their bodies. The body of a Christian is the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 5: 1-13, 6:12 – 20).

Christians settling disputes in civil courts: Paul advised they ought to talk over issues among themselves and agree to solve problems on their own (1 Corinthians 6).

Dispute over marriage and divorce: Some Christians were opposed to marriage. Others were encouraging divorce. Paul addressed these issues in 1 Corinthians, chapter 7:1-16. Paul advised Christians that it was okay to marry or not to marry. But marriage was needed to stop immorality.

Eating of meat offered to idols. Some Christians were eating meat offered to idols while others were against it. Paul advised Christians not to eat anything that will cause their faith to weaken or fail. (1 Corinthians 8 and 10: 14 – 20).

There were disputes about dressing during worship. Should women cover their head during worship? Should women shave hair? Should men wear long hair? (1 Corinthians 11:1-16).

Some Christians were overeating and over drinking during the Holy Communion – misuse of the Lord's Supper, (1 Corinthians 11:17 – 33)

Misuses of spiritual gift especially the gift of speaking in tongues: Paul taught that all gifts are equal (1 Corinthians 12).

There was a misunderstanding about the resurrection of the body and the dead. Some were saying there is no resurrection. Paul preached that if there is no resurrection then their preaching was in vain as they were witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15).

b. Causes of disunity among believers and church in Kenya today

Leadership differences: Some Christians are struggling for power. This has led to formation of splinter groups, divisions and enmity between these groups.

Cultural differences; Christians are divided by their African cultural beliefs from their backgrounds. This culture is merged with Christianity and Western cultural practices forming a unique mixture of beliefs.

Some Christians are permissive, while others are conservative. This has led to disunity, for example in the areas of dressing.

Discrimination; There is inequality within the church between the rich and the poor, the whites and blacks. Some Christians are viewed as more spiritual than others, on basis of the tribe, gender, wealth and social status among others.

Misuse of freedom of worship; Christians are starting splinter churches, probably because they want to control church finances without supervision by the wider church. To justify their departure, they spread propaganda against the 'mother' church, and other churches in order to attract followers. The more followers a church has the more tithe it collects.

Misuse of church funds; Some church leaders and followers misuse church funds

Differences in the practice of baptism

Arrogance and pride by some Christians.

Sins: sexual immorality in the church, divorce and marriage issues.

Some Christian denominations reject the human nature of the person of Jesus Christ; that Christ had both a human and divine nature e.g. Nomiya church.

SAQ. Can you think of factors that led to disunity among Christians in the early church that you have noted in the Kenyan church?

c. Reasons why Christians should work in Unity.

Christians face many problems and they therefore need to work together in unity to:

Promote oneness of Christians in Jesus Christ.

Promote the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Achieve effective evangelism or ministry.

Adopt a common attitude to the integration of African culture in worship.

Prevent the formation of splinter groups and cults.

Reduce the internal wrangling.

Have a common stand in dealing with issues affecting the society.

d. Possible Solutions to disunity

The church should settle issues that divide its members by Christians:

Learning to appreciate and respect the practices and

belief of other Christian's denominations. Having or

forming a common goal

Striving to be guided by the principle of love in solving problems facing them

Observing the teachings of disciples, prophets,
apostles, God, laws of Moses, Jesus and the Bible.

Avoiding doing anything to their fellow Christians that
would cause suffering and disharmony

Activities that the early church did in order to remain united were that they:

Ate bread together

Held fellowships together

Shared with the needy

Prayed together for each other

In the current worldwide Church, there is disunity amongst believers or Christians. The most common ones are due.

Leadership differences and wrangles for power.

Cultural differences amongst Christians

Some Christians are permissive while others are conservative.

Differences in the interpretation of the Bible

Misuse of church funds

Pride and arrogance

Revision questions

a. Write down terms used in the new testament to refer to believers in Christ

b. Identify five causes of disunity in the church today

c. Identify factors which cause disunity among the Christians today

d. Discuss reasons why members of Christian families in Kenya find it difficult to harmoniously live together

e. Explain how the church strengthens family relationships today

Revision questions

1. **1992 Q 3a, b**
 - a) Explain the life of the early church community
 - b) Discuss problems encountered by the church at Corinth.
2. **1996 Q 9**

State five ways in which the Roman Empire helped in the spread of the early Church
(5marks)
3. **1996 Q 15**

Identify five problems which Dr. Ludwing Crafpt experienced when he worked as a missionary in Kenya between 1844 and 1858. (5marks)
4. **1996 Q 16**

State five ways in which the missionaries in Kenya helped to rehabilitate the freed slaves in the nineteenth century. (5marks).
5. **1996 Q 17**

Give five reasons why some missionaries in Kenya condemned the practice of female circumcision. (5marks)
6. **1996 Q 1b(pp 2)**

b) Identify factors which cause disunity among Christians today. (9marks)
7. **1996 Q 3b (pp 2)**

b) How did the early Christians community preserve the teachings of Jesus? (8marks)
8. **1997 Q 10**

State five effects of the conversion of Paul on the early Church (5marks)
9. **1997 Q 11**

State the teachings of St Paul in the Resurrection (5marks)
10. **1997 Q 12**

Write down five lessons on the cost of discipleship that Christians can learn from the Uganda martyrs. (5marks)
11. **1997 Q 3a, c (pp 2)**
 - a) State the teachings of Saint Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 about love (9marks)
 - c) Discuss the problems that Church ministers (priests) encounter in their work (8marks)
12. **1998 Q 9**

Give five qualities of an apostle in the early church (5 marks)
13. **1998 Q 10**

State five activities a modern Christian can perform in order to be considered a true follower of Christ (5 marks)
14. **1998 Q 3a,c (pp 2)**
 - (a) Relate Saint Paul's teaching on responsibility for others according to Galatians (6: 1-10) (8 marks)

- (c) Explain how the church strengthens family relationships today (7 marks)
- 15. 1999 Q 2c (pp 2)**
 (c) Identify the activities the church engages in to demonstrate love for others (9 marks)
- 16. 1999 Q 6 (pp 2)**
 (a) Describe methods used by the missionaries to win converts among the Kenyan communities before 1963 (16 marks)
 (b) What factors have led to increase of Christian denominations in Kenya today (9 marks)
- 17. 2000 Q 10**
 Give five reasons why Christians should live in a community (5 marks)
- 18. 2000 Q 11**
 List five missionary groups that established mission stations in Kenya between 1890 and 1904 (5 marks)
- 19. 2000 Q 12**
 State five factors that led to the rise of African leadership in the Christians Church in Kenya (5 marks)
- 20. 2000 Q 13**
 State five factors that led to the rise of African leadership in the Christian church in Kenya (5 marks)
- 21. 2000 Q 14**
 State five factors which led to the coming of missionaries to Kenya (5 marks)
- 22. 2000 Q 2c (pp 2)**
 c) State the actions the church members would take in handling cases of dishonesty. (7 marks)
- 23. 2000 Q 3**
 a) Describe the conversion of Paul the Apostle by Jesus Christ as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. (12marks)
 b) Identify the problems faced by the early church before the conversion of Paul the Apostle.
 c) Give reasons why a person should be converted to Christianity. (7marks)
- 24. 2001 Q 8**
 Give five reasons why the disciples did not believe that Christians were persecuted. (5marks)
- 25. 2001 Q 9**
 Write down five ways through which the early Christians were persecuted.(5marks)
- 26. 2001 Q 10**
 List five spiritual gifts given to the church according to Saint Paul.
- 27. 2001 Q 11**

List five way which the missionaries used to increase African participant in the Church in Kenya between 1844 and 1914 (5marks)

28. 2001 Q 12

State five ways which the missionaries used to increase African participation in the church in Kenya between 1940 and 1960 (5marks)

29. 2001 Q 2c (pp 2)

c) How can harmony between the church and the state promoted by Christians in Kenya today? (7marks)

30. 2001 Q 3b (pp 2)

b) Explain ways through which the power of God was seen in the early church. (8marks)

31. 2002 Q 15

Identify five problems that Christian missionaries face today (5 marks)

32. 2002 Q 4 (pp 2)

a) Describe the factors that led to the spread of Christianity in the Apostolic age. (12marks)

b) In what ways the celebration of the Lord's Supper misused in the church at Corinth? (5marks)

c) Give reasons why Christians take part in the Holy Communion. (8marks)

33. 2003 Q 11

List five practices of the early Christian community. (5marks)

34. 2003 Q 12

State five traditional African customs that were condemned by the early Christian missionaries in Kenya (5marks)

35. 2003 Q 5b, c

b) How did the believers in the early church take care of the needy? (8marks)

c) Identify ways in which the youth participate in the church in Kenya today. (7marks)

36. 2004 Q 9

State five ways through which God revealed himself in the early church (5marks)

37. 2004 Q 10

State five reasons why the early Christian shared meals

38. 2004 Q 15

List five protestant missions in Kenya by 1914. (5marks)

39. 2004 Q 16

Write down five ways in which the catechists helped in spreading Christianity in Kenya. (5marks)

40. 2004 Q 3 b, c (pp 2)

b) Identify the problems that Paul faced in spreading the gospel. (12marks)

c) What lessons do Christian learn from the life of Stephen? (5marks)

41. **2005 Q 9**
Identify five factors that enabled Paul to win converts among the Gentiles. (5marks)
42. **2005 Q 10**
State five reasons on the cost of discipleship that Christians learn from the story of Perpetua and Felicitia. (5marks)
43. **2005 Q 15**
State five problems faced by the Christian missionaries in Kenya by 1914.
44. **2005 Q 4b,c (pp 2)**
(b) With reference to the day of Pentecost, outline Peter's message to the people (12 marks)
(c) What should be the qualities of an evangelist in Kenya today? (6 marks)
45. **2006 Q 4(pp 2)**
(a) Identify the spiritual gifts taught by Saint Paul in early church (6 marks)
(b) Explain how the use of the Holy Spirit brought disunity in the church at Corinth (8 marks)
(c) Outline the contribution of women in the church in Kenya today. (6 marks)
46. **2007 Q 1c (pp 2)**
(c) Identify problems faced by new converts in the church today. (7 marks)
47. **2007 Q 2c (pp 2)**
(c) Give reasons why children should take part in church activities. (6 marks)
48. **2008 Q 4b,c (pp 2)**
b) Explain what the teaching of Jesus about the vine and the branches in John 15:1-10 reveal about the unity of believers. (8 marks)
c) Give seven ways in which Christians prevent divisions in the church in Kenya today. (7 marks)
49. **2009 Q 2c (pp 2)**
c) State five ways in which church leaders can respond to those who oppose them in their work (5marks)
50. **2009 Q 3c**
(c) Give **seven** factors that have led to the increase of Christian denominations in Kenya today. (7marks)
51. **2009 Q 4b (pp 2)**
b) Identify four teachings of saint Paul on the similarities between the church and husband-wife relationship. (Ephesians 5: 21-32)
52. **2010 Q 1c**
c) State **five** ways in which Christians show respect to places of worship in Kenya today. (5 marks)

53. 2010 Q 4a, b

- a) Explain the teaching of Peter concerning the people of God
(1st Peter 2: 9 - 10). (10 marks)
- b) Give six ways through which Christians can promote unity among
themselves in Kenya today. (6 marks)

54. 2012 Q4a, c P1

- (a) Explain how the unity of believers is expressed in the image of the body of Christ.
(8 marks)
- (c) In what ways do the Christians in Kenya demonstrate the New Testament
teaching on Unity? (6 marks)

Answers

1992 Q3a, b

- They led a life of prayer/fasting
 - They witnessed the risen Christ/preached about the risen Christian
 - Simon Peter was their leader leadership under original disciples of Christians.
 - They received the Holy Spirit /were led by the Holy Spirit.
 - It was a growing community as new members were added to it each day.
 - New converts were baptized in the name of Jesus
 - They had fellowship
 - They practiced the breaking of bread/ celebrated the Lord's supper.
 - They had communal meals in their houses / feast /Passover
 - Performed miracles among the people (eg healing the sick/raising the dead)
 - Lived together as a community /in unity
 - They sold their property and shared the money, each according to his/ her needs.
 - They took care of /helped the needy/ widows
 - They attended temple worship.
 - They faced persecution from the Jewish leaders.
 - They condemned evil (eg Ananias and Sapphira).
 - There were deacons who took care of the distribution of food
 - Through the holy spirit they prophesied/spoke in tongues
 - Faith in God was Central in their social /religious activities.
-
- There was the problem of factions characterized by quarrels /bickering (which had split the church into rival cliques).
 - There was the problem of interpreting / understanding the death of Christ /crucifixion
 - There was a high degree of immorality among Christians, worse than that found among
 - Christians (eg there was a member in the church who was living v/ith his father's wife (step -mother). Thus committing incest, which others seemed to condone).
 - There was immorality (eg fornication/adultery/ prostituting among church members.
 - There was the problem of whether to marry or not o marry / celibacy/divorce.
 - On matters of litigation, Christians were taking legal action against fellow Christians (and had cases tried by non-Christian judges. This was a great scandal because Jews living in heathen cities did not take their case to Gentile Courts).
 - There was the question of eating meat offered to idols. (The problem was whether to eat or not eat food offered to idols).
 - There was the problem of idolatry / syncretism. (Some Christians worshipped God but also worshipped idols. I Cor 10:14)
 - The question of how women should dress in church and how they should behave in church.
 - People were divided on the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Some had turned the occasion into social merry making
 - opportunity rather than an occasion of worship.

1996 Q 9

- The persecution of Christianity by Roman authorities forced Christians to disperse in different parts of the empire to escape persecution. As they went to spread the Good news and where they settled they started the Christian community. The blood of the martyr is the seed of the church.
- The Roman authorities had provided good roads and other infrastructure which made communication easy. Thus Christians missionaries and preachers were able to travel with relative ease.
- The Roman authorities maintained law and order therefore peace a factor which enabled Christian missionaries to travel safely within the empire
- There was unity in the Roman empire, under the ruler in Rome thus citizens of the empire could move from place to place without hindrance or visas. A factor which helped the Christians missionaries in their travels
- Greek was the common language (Lingua-Franca) of the empire which enabled the Christians to communicate their message wherever they went
- The empire had adopted Greek education philosophy and cultures which provided a point of departure in preaching the gospel.
- The organization skills of the Roman administrators, provinces, city states and towns helped the Christians in founding churches
- There was some degree of religious freedom which had allowed Jewish synagogues to exist in cities from where the missionaries started preaching the gospel.
- The Roman authorities gave Roman citizenship to non-Romans which allowed them the same privileges as the Romans themselves. Those Christians like Paul who had this citizenship could travel throughout the empire with guaranteed safety and protection.
- Later part of Roman empire, Christianity was encouraged by Emperor Constantine. (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

1996 Q15

- Hostile climate i.e. hot and humid weather
- Language barriers, at first he could not communicate effectively with the local people
- Had to contend with tropical diseases e.g. malaria/ lack of proper medical facilities
- Suffered personal tragedies when he lost his wife and child through death
- Hostility from some quarters e.g. Muslim Arabs and Swahili. Suffered an attack by robbers when he traveled inland with Chief Kivoi
- Frustrations because the people he had come to work among were slow in accepting the gospel/ slow phase of the missionary work
- Problems of adopting to a different life style from the one he used to in Europe e.g. housing, food
- Suffered from loneliness
- Lack of transport
- Wild animals (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

1996 Q 16

- They established freed slaves colonies/ centers in their mission stations e.g. Freetown, Rabai, Ribe, Jomvu, Mazeras where they provided the homeless freed slaves with home/ shelter and other basic needs
- They taught the freed slaves industrial/ vocational skills to help them become self- supporting e.g. carpenters, masons, Bricklayers
- Some of them were professionally trained as catechists, evangelists, teachers to enable them secure employment
- Provided them with formal education to help them improve their living standards and fir self – realization
- Taught Christianity/ converted to Christianity to create awareness of their human dignity and worth
- Some freed slaves were given jobs in the mission stations as teachers, catechists, evangelists
- They provided them with land on which to grow their food as well as provided them with agricultural tools/ material support for business
- They taught the freed slaves better agricultural methods to improve their yield
- They were taught health science, hygiene and home science to help improve their health
- They were provided with medical care and medicine
- Those who wanted to live outside the colony were allowed and helped to do so.
- They were helped to find marriage partners
- They were to observe very strict discipline/ helped in character building

(5 x 1 = 5

marks)

1996 Q 17

- They argued that the practice was unnecessary / useless
- They viewed the practice with abhorrence/ it was repugnant
- It was not keeping wife European uncivilized norms/ European civilization
- They condemned it was an absence act/ immoral act
- It was injurious to the health of the girls/ could lead to death though bleeding/ could cause infection/ had medical consequences especially in maternity cases
- It was unchristian/ not agreeable with the biblical teachings

(5 x 1 = 5 marks)

1996 Q1b (PP2)

- Selfishness/ greed for money by some Christians
- Rivalry/ competition for leadership positions/ greed for power
- Misinterpretation by some Christians of the work of the Holy Spirit
- Arrogance/ Pride by some Christians
- Corruption in the church
- Failure by the church leaders to live according to the law of god/ their failure to live exemplary lives
- Lack of concern by some Christians about the plight of others
- Misinterpretation of the Bible/ doctrinal differences
- Misuse of church funds/ power by some leaders
- Lack of transparency/ accountability in running church affairs

- The emergency of charismatic movements in the church creates a situation where some Christians think they are more equal/ holier than others.
- Political interference where Christians find themselves in different political camps
- Sexism/ women are not involved in decision making they are under represented
- Discrimination against the youth churches ignoring the youth in the running of the church
- Tribalism where Christians are divided along tribal lines/ racism
- Denominational differences. (9 x 1 = 9 marks)

1996 Q3b (PP2)

- Through worship e.g. Prayers/ praises
- Preaching the good news to others/ baptism
- Teachings/ instructions by the apostles
- Putting the teachings of Jesus into practice/ committed to Jesus teaching (e.g. helping the poor/ sharing e. t.c)
- By witnessing about Jesus/ testimonies
- Celebrating of the Lord's supper'
- Missionary work
- Writing/ keeping a written record of the teachings of Jesus/ what he did and said.
- Keryoma/ oral traditions
- Through their faith in Jesus Christ
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide them
- Welcoming/ winning the converts into the community
- Through counseling/ pastoral care
- Through writing letters/ epistles
- Through visiting other members
- Sharing of the good news among themselves/ fellowship
- Apostle training e.g. Paul trained Timothy
- Accepting to suffer/ persecution and even death for the sake of the gospel
- Incorporating people's culture into the gospel (E.g. Hellenism/ Greek Philosophy) (9 x 1 = 9 marks)

1997 Q 10

- The persecution of Christians decreased as Paul had been their chief persecutor
- Expansion of the new faith through Paul's missionary journeys/ evangelization
- The spread of the new faith to the Gentiles as Paul had been appointed apostle to the Gentiles
- Paul's letter to different churches were included in the scriptures/ canonized
- Through his teachings and admonitions to different churches. Paul gave interpretations to Christians doctrines/ clarified the teachings of the church
- He helped set up structures in the early church e.g. types of leadership and thus church in a society
- By his examples of tolerance, Constance in faith the Gospel in spite of persecution he set a model for other Christians to emulate at this difficult time of persecution
- Paul defended the gospel against any attacks

1997 Q 11

- The resurrection of Jesus was foretold in the scriptures/ resurrected according to scriptures
- His appearance to Peter the twelve and the five hundred
- Jesus appeared to Paul
- Jesus resurrection is a proof that there is the resurrection of the dead
- God raised Jesus from the dead
- Christians faith is found on their belief in the resurrection of Jesus
- Because Christ rose from the dead, all those who die will resurrect
- The resurrection of Jesus destroyed death/ was victory over death
- Baptism signifies that Jesus resurrected
- People will resurrect in new/ different spiritual bodies
- The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable and all will be changed a day.
- Resurrection gives hope to believers/ Christians 5 x 1 = 5 marks)

1997 Q 3a,c PP2)

- It is a gift from God/ of the Holy spirit
 - It is the most important gift
 - It is patient / does not let down.
 - It kind
 - Not jealous/envious
 - Not conceited/Proud /not cruel/not self seeking
 - Not ill mannered
 - Not selfish/it is generous/ not cruel/not self seeking.
 - Not irritable/ resentful/not quick to anger/bears no grudges
 - Does not keep a record of wrongs
 - Not happy with evil
 - It is happy with truth
 - Never give up/endures/not tired/tolerant/withstands long suffering
 - Its faith/hope/patience never fails/it is reliable.
 - It is eternal 8 x 1 = 8 marks.
-
- Lack of money/resources to pay their salaries/meet other expenses.
 - Poor housing/lack of housing for themselves/their families
 - Some Christians might reject a minister/lack of acceptance by some Christians on grounds of education/age/tribe.
 - What they preach/teach might make them unpopular with some members of the congregation/with the powers that be.
 - Might work in geographical hostile environments where they might suffer from disease/drought/weather /traveling long distances.
 - People might expect too much from them when they are only human. When they make mistakes people may not readily forgive them.
 - some members may not co-operate with them.
 - Might face un co-operate from other church leaders (e.g. Bishops/moderators).

- Might not be in agreement with some rules/regulations/ standing orders of the church.
- Pastoral problems might be too complex to deal with/might not be able to handle some people.
- Settling quarrels/disagreements/disputes without being seen to take sides suffer from stress.
- Depression from personal problems/ problems from the congregation and have nobody to share with them/might not share problems with people for fear of exposing weaknesses.
- Problems/ harassment from civil authorities/politicians who might want to use the church for their own benefits/accusation of involvement in politics.
- Might not know how to deal with different groups in the church (e.g. youth/women/men/choir/revival groups).
- Might face cultural barriers. Language problems if they are not working in their home districts.
- Temptations from worldly/ earthly pleasures/materials.
- External factors-competition/rivalry from other religions/other Christian denominations.
- Too much demand on their time/services by the members. 8x1=8marks

1998 Q 9

- He was called/appointed by God
- He was to be prepared to persevere/ suffer for Christ.
- Be ready to forgive those who persecute/no retaliation
- He was to humble /avoid pride
- strive to win converts for the Lord
- Be loyal /teach Christian principles/ doctrines
- Commit one's life to the course and work of Christ
- Depend on God for provision and wisdom
- Rely on the Holy Spirit for interpretation/ revelation/inspiration.

5 x1=5marks

1998 Q10

- Take a vocation/ do work whose benefits are minimal –even when there is a better alternative.
- Spreading the gospel in remote places/under difficult circumstances/ persevering persecution.
- Witnessing through work (e.g. teaching, medical, social work)
- Guiding and counseling people in understanding God's message/interpreting God's blessings/guidance.
- Setting good example / role models
- Praying for God's blessing/guidance
- Helping the needy/by providing (food, shelter, clothes)
- Helping the needy/by providing (food, shelter, clothes)
- Keeping to the teachings of Jesus Christ. 5 x1 =5marks.

1998 Q 3a, c (PP2)

- Correcting wrong doers gently.

- Sharing one another's problems/burdens.
 - Avoiding boastful behaviour that may discourage other in faith/self righteousness.
 - Taking care that one does not fall into temptation lest one becomes a stumbling block to the brethren.
 - Everyone will be responsible for his/her spiritual life/problems
 - There should be fellowship between the teacher and the learner.
 - Whoever sows evil will be punished/whoever sows good will be rewarded.
 - Be honest to God for He is not mocked.
-
- Through guidance and counseling /mediation.
 - Hold seminars/conferences/etc for couples/children/the youth.
 - Through publications on Christian living (e.g. magazines/books/ pamphlets).
 - Use of mass –media (radio/videos/television).
 - Through preaching/teaching /condemning vices
 - Through offering pastoral care in homes/house visits.
 - Giving financial support to the needy families
 - Praying for the families.
 - Offering employment to the jobless.
 - Providing vocational training /skills

7x1 =7marks.

1999 Q 2c (PP2)

- Pastoral care/counseling (visits- in general terms.
- Giving offering/tithes
- Worshipping together/fellowships
- Praying for one another/faith healing
- Preaching/evangelizing
- By baptizing/confirming converts/other sacraments
- Giving education/training so as to improve living standards
- Condemnation of evil
- Opening of money generating projects to assist those in need/offering employment.
- Involvement in Harambee projects
- Providing affordable medical care
- Homes for destitute/orphaned children /aged
- Provide water for digging boreholes/in the arid semi arid areas
- Relief food /clothes/sharing resources/arms/ work of charity / helping the needy
- Visiting the sick in hospitals/homes

1999 Q 6 (PP2)

- Use of education- Where the Africans were able to read and write/ read the Bible/catechism.
- Use of gifts-Sugar/food/clothes) Charity.
- Use of medical assistance/service thus winning the African favour.
- Teaching Africans new agricultural skills.
- Teaching Africans technical skills.

- Construction of worshipping place
 - Befriending the local rules (e.g chiefs/headmen) the missionaries learnt the local languages of the people.
 - They translated parts of the bible Hymns/Creeds into local languages.
 - They used advanced technology when preaching (radio/newspapers/books etc)
 - They were friendly in their approach/defended African interests against colonialists.
 - They encouraged worship in local languages/tolerated certain African interests against colonialists.
 - They use the local people in the church as elders/lay leaders/priests/catechists.
 - They rehabilitated feed slaves/outcasts.
 - They offered employment to converts.
 - Missionaries denied certain services as an indirect force so as to win converts.
- (16marks)

- Desire to be free from missionary control
 - Rivalry for leadership/hunger for power
 - Difference in biblical interpretations/teachings.
 - Resistance to change by older members of the church
 - Lack of good example/role model/corruption
 - Rise of revival movement that emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit/spiritual pride.
 - Disagreements on the mode of worship (rituals)
 - Tribalism/clanism/nepotism/sectionalism/Social class/racism
 - Search for spiritual satisfaction/growth.
 - Search for spiritual satisfaction/growth.
 - Freedom of worship guaranteed in the Kenyan constitution.
 - Permissiveness in society.
 - For material gains/greed/selfishness/money
- 9x1= 9marks

2000 Q 10

- To profess/proclaim their faith
- To encourage and strengthen one another in the Lord/praying/worship together
- To become a new people of God/ spirit of brotherhood/separate themselves from non believers
- To emulate Christ who lived with his disciples
- To share their material belonging/assist the needy/solve problems together
- To dedicate themselves fully to God's work/ to fellowship together.

2000 Q 11

- Church Missionary society (CMS)- Kabete 1904
- Holy Ghost Fathers 1890-91 (Mombasa)
- African Inland Mission (Kangundo 1902)
- Church of Scotland Mission (CSM), Kibwezi 1893
- SDA-Seventh Day Adventist
- Friends African Mission/Qauakers (Kaimosi 1903)
- Lutheran Church
- Consolate Fathers (Tutho And Nyeri 1902)

2000 Q 12

- Wanted to express Christianity in an African way
- Wanted greater role in the leadership and administration of the church/desirable leadership/prominence.
- Missionaries condemned the African cultures such as polygamy/female circumcision
- The literate African were able to read the Bible and made better interpretation/became enlightened thus felt the need to change.
- Bible translation created a desire to worship god in African way
- Realised that there was little or no difference between the missionaries and colonialists
- Wanted freedom from European domination
- Africans were not happy with the missionaries condemnation of their religious beliefs.

2000 Q 14

- The rise of revival movements in Europe
 - To win more Christian converts to the Christian faith
 - To stop slave trade and introduce legitimate trade
 - Improve the living standards of Africans
 - Obeying Jesus Christ's command of evangelizing the whole world
 - To settle freed slaves
 - Population pressure in Europe
 - To Introduce medical services
 - To civilize the Africans
 - To introduce formal education
 - The respect given by early explorers
- 5x1=5marks

2000 Q 2c (PP2)

- Find out what problems the members have/reasons for dishonesty.
- Help the people to meet their basic needs.
- Offering guidance and counseling.
- Forgive them
- Pray for them
- Encourage them to pray.
- Report the matter to the authorities/discipline them.
- Help the people to set up income generating projects.
- Fellowshiping with them
- Preach to them.
- Setting a good-example for them to emulate
- Delegating duties to responsible persons
- Teaching them to live responsibly
- Encourage them to avoid situations which could lead them to dishonesty

2000 Q 3

- Saul was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians
- A strange light struck him and the voice of the lord said "saul why do you persecute me?"
- Saul recognized the voice of the strange power and asked, "Who are you Lord?"

- The men who were traveling with him stood speechless as they heard the voice but saw no one.
- Saul was blinded and had to be lead to Damascus.
- Saul was blind for three days and stayed without food or drink
- The lord spoke to Ananias at Damascus to lay his hands on Saul so that his sight could
- Ananias laid his hands on Saul and he regained his sight
- Saul was baptized and was filled with Holy spirit.
- Ananias also gave him food and Saul was strengthened.

- They were stoned to death /killed.
- They were accused falsely.
- They were arrested.
- They were imprisoned.
- They were mistaken for being drunk when they spoke in tongues.
- There was unfairness in distribution of foods to widows.
- They scattered in fear of persecution.
- There was dishonest among some members e.g. Saphira and Ananias.
- They were warned/threatened not to use the name of Jesus in their preaching.
- They were whipped/beaten
- They were persecuted/oppressed.

- To have eternal life in heaven.
- To enter God's kingdom on earth.
- To turn away from sins/seek forgiveness/receive salvation.
- To enjoy god's covenant/enter God's covenant relationship
- To be the light/salt of the world.
- To acquire a new identity.
- To escape judgment/fire in hell/punishment.

2001 Q 9

- They were imprisoned
- They were stoned to death e.g. Stephen
- Not allowed to preach in public
- They were denied access to the temple
- They were beheaded.
- They were beaten /flogged/tortured
- They were ridiculed/mocked/ despised
- They were insulted/abused.
- They were thrown to wild animals
- They were crucified .
- They were thrown into boiling oil
- Any other forms of persecution which are relevant/poisoned/stripped naked/slavery/exiled/thrown out by family(Rejection) Banished

5x1=5marks.

2001 Q 10

- Faith

- Knowledge
 - Healing
 - Performing miracles
 - Prophecy
 - Distinguishing between spirits
 - Interpretation of tongues
 - Speaking in tongues
- 5x1= 5marks

2001 Q 11

- They had a call from God/Inspiration
 - They hoped for internal gain (Education, European way of life/European civilization/culture practice.
 - They wanted to identify with Europeans/European way of life/European civilization/culture practice.
 - They were forced into the mission stations by their local leaders thus got converted.
 - The misfits/outcasts in Africa communities found refuge in missions stations and hence got converted/stopping slave trade/orphans/widows.
 - There were those who were curious about the new faith/pealing
 - There were those who wanted to enhance their social status/prestige/superiority/equality.
 - Some of Traditional belief talked with Christian teaching
 - Bible translocation
- (5x1=5marks)

2001 Q 12

- Training of African Church leaders both locally and abroad (St. Pauls theological College, Limuru, St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary).
 - Appointing African to leadership positions e.g. Catechist/Priest
 - Establishing local parishes/Dioceses.
 - Incorporating African culture practices in worship e.g. clamping hands/tunes
 - Adopting African attire e.g. way of dressing by clergy.
 - Using African architectural styles in the construction of Churches.
 - Use of African languages in worship/translation of bible into local language
 - Allowing interaction between of different denominations/ecumenism
 - Offering special privileges to Church leaders e.g. given a good house.
- 5x1=5marks

2001 2c (PP2)

- Encourage the faithful to obey the rulers
- Allowing the rulers to become leaders in the church/inviting them to the church
- Preaching/condemning evils in the society
- Advising the political leaders on the correct ways of administering
- Supporting state related projects
- Participating in reforming laws governing the country
- Promoting the positive image of the country/highlighting the positive activities of the state
- Working jointly with the state when calamities occur/helping the need

- Participating in elections of leaders
 - Paying taxes
 - Praying for God's intervention
 - Contributing to participation in national development activities (education, health, self-help, etc)
- (7x1=7marks)

2001 Q 3b (PP2)

- They were able to pray together/fellowship
 - They lived together
 - They shared meals in their homes/breaking of the bread
 - They performed miracles/healing/exorcising/raising the dead
 - They persevered persecutions/humbled themselves
 - They had courage/were bold/they condemned evil
 - They were able to speak in tongues/interpret languages
 - They were able to solve problems/conflicts amicably
 - They sold their property for the common good/shared property
 - They laid hands on the converts
 - They baptized the new converts
 - They appointed leaders/deacons
 - They distributed food to the widows/orphans
- (8x1 8marks)

2002 Q 15

- Inadequate finance
- Poor transport system/ infrastructure
- Language barriers
- Diverse customs/ traditions
- Suspicion/ rivalry among Christians religious cults, rejection
- Insecurity/ instability
- Greed/ corruption/ social evils
- Inadequate theological training
- Failure to lead exemplary lives
- Negative influence of the mass media/ effects of science & technology
- Hostile climate conditions- diseases

2002 Q 4 (PP2)

- Persecution of Christians
- They were led/guided by the Holy Spirit
- Good Communication/ Infrastructure
- Common language/ Greek
- There was peace in the Roma empire
- The Jews in the Diaspora/ dispersion, welcomed the early disciples
- Good system of government with just laws
- Dual citizenship of Paul
- Paul's strong religious background in the Old Testament which was the basis for the new testament
- Paul's occupation which was a source of income / inspiration to others
- Paul's celibate status enabled him to be fully committed to the preaching of the gospel

- The miracles/ wonders strengthened the disciples/ new converts faith
- The great number of converts inspired the others to join the new faith
- They were empowered by the Holy Spirit

- They ignored the significance of the feast taken as an ordinary meal
- It led to drunkenness/ disorder
- It did not unite believers/ created divisions in the church
- It led to the oppression of the poor Christians/ rich showed off
- They took it when they were unworthy/ profaned it
- They did not seek God's blessings/ give thanks

- Reminds them of the death and resurrection of Jesus
- Proclaim the death and resurrection of Christ until he comes
- Unites the believers
- Helps them to rededicate themselves/ confess/ pray
- Reminds them of God's love for humanity/ strengthen their faith
- It is a thanksgiving for God's saving act
- It symbolizes the body and blood of Jesus
- It is a foretaste of the second coming of Christ
- It is a sign of purity of the believers of Christ
- in Obedience to Jesus commands
- It is a sign of the new covenant sealed in the blood of Christ

2003 Q 11

- praying/ fasting/ celebration of feast
- Breaking of bread
- Baptism
- Singing/ praising
- Reading the word/ preaching
- Sharing possessions
- Having fellowship
- Laying of hands/ healing/ blessing (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

2003 Q 12

- Initiation ceremonies/ rituals
- Polygamy/ Bigamy/ polyandry/ wife inheritance
- Killing twins
- Songs and dances/ music
- Beer taking
- Use of herbal medicine
- Ways of worship/ practice
- Ways of dressing
- Consulting African specialist
- African superstitions/ belief/ witchcraft (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

2003 Q5 b, c

- Took care of the poor/ needy /widowers by giving them food/other provisions and share.

- They held everything in common and distributed it according to individuals needs.
- They prayed for the needy on salvation
- They collected money and sent to the Jews that were at Jerusalem
- They accepted others in their home like those who were in need
- They counseled the needy on their problem
- Showed concern/ sympathy to those with illness by healing them.
- Visited and welcomed those who were released from the prison into their homes
- They showed love to them.
- They participate in bible reading
- They take part in singing as choir members
- They help in collection of tithe
- They help in distribution of invitation letters for an occasion
- The youths help in cleaning the church and its facilities before members come for prayers
- Helping the church in holding campaign e.g. HIV campaign.
- They engage in church crusade and distributing poster crusades.
- Holding the church crusade and distributing poster crusades.

2004 Q 9

- Through visions
- Through dreams
- Through the works of the Holy Spirit/ gifts of holy spirit/ prophecy through work of miracles
- Through miracles, wonders, signs (release of Paul, Peter)
- Through apostolic teaching/ evangelization
- Through scriptures/ Bible/ Holy book
- Through angles
- Election of apostle/ deacons/ laying of hands
- Growth of the church (king Constantine)
- The faith of people endurances during persecution Stephen/ Perpetua

(5 marks)

2004 Q 10

- It was a demonstration of unity of the body of Christ
- As a sign of love among the believers
- It was a tradition started during the Passover/ Lord's supper – commemoration
- It was a way of catering for the needy people
- It was a way of evangelizing/ spreading the gospel/ worship together
- In order to enhance equality of believers- common pool
- In readiness of Jesus 2nd coming
- In order to provide an opportunity for fellowshiping/ strengthen their faith
- Sign of obedience to Jesus/ community to be generous/ emulate Jesus way of life/ sharing/ generosity.

2004 Q 15

- The United Methodist Mission
- The Church Missionary Society (CMS)
- Friends African Mission (quakers)

Comment [1]: Thank you so much for the questions and answers. Be blessed

- The church of Scotland mission (CMS)
- The Lutheran church
- Pentecostal Assemblies of God
- The gospel Missionary Society
- Seventh Day Adventists (SDA)
- Church of God

2004 Q 16

- They taught the other converts how to read the bible
- They helped the missionaries to translate the bible into other languages
- They accepted/ practiced Christian Monogamous marriage
- They abandoned some traditional ritual ceremonies
- Their new lifestyles attracted other African to them Christianity (role model)
- They preached the gospel in their home areas and beyond
- They established smaller meeting places in the interior
- They were used as interpreters by the missionaries
- They organized fellowship/ worship in areas where the missionaries could not reach
- They provided security.

2004 Q 3 b,c (PP2)

- People did not believe that he was an apostle/ his conversion
- His message was rejected
- He was beaten/ stoned
- He was imprisoned
- He was deserted by close friends/ mark/ barnabas
- Some of the believers were backsliding
- There was competition from other preachers (apostles)
- There was lack of money/ finance
- There were plots to kill him
- Influences of other religious/ cultural/ ideologies/ practices
- He was persecuted/ oppressed
- He was ship wrecked

- Be ready to serve God/ people
- One should be ready to forgive
- Christians should have faith in God
- They should endure persecution
- They should be wise/ knowledgeable
- They should be ready to witness for Christ
- They should be prayerful
- They should be of good repute/ exemplary
- They should be ready to condemn evil

2005 Q 9

- He was a Roman citizen
- His occupation as a tentmaker was not a burden
- He was well versed in religious/ legal matters

- He was unmarried/ celibate
- He was able to reach many converts through letter writing
- The ability to perform miracles and wonders
- There was peace in the Roman empire/ pax Roman
- The use of Greek as a common language in Roman empire
- There were good roads/ sea transport which led to efficient travel
- The Greek/ Roman religious were not fulfilling (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

2005 Q 10

- A Christian should be ready to suffer/ endure persecution
- Christians should have faith in God
- They should love one another/ unite in suffering
- They should forgive their enemies
- They should be bold/ courageous
- They should rejoice in suffering
- They should encourage/ strengthen one another
- They should know that God's calling is a priority to family demand/ ties
- Christians should know that martyrdom is not in vain/ there is hope in death (5 marks)

2005 Q 15

- Language barrier
- Hostile reception by some communities
- Poor means of transport
- Tropical diseases
- Unfavourable climate conditions
- Islam! African culture/ religion was an obstacle to Christian evangelization
- Rivalry among themselves
- Lack of funds/ resources

2005 Q 4b, c (PP2)

- He told the people that the disciples were not drunk
 - They were filled by the holy spirit as fulfillment of God's prophecy
 - That Jesus was the son of God
 - God's power was seen in the miracles, signs and wonders performed by Jesus
 - Jesus had been killed by the Jews because of their wickedness
 - God raised Jesus back to life
 - Jesus was a descendant of David
 - That Jesus ascended to heaven and is at the right hand of God
 - Jesus is the lord/ Christ
 - He called the people to repent their sins so as to be forgiven
 - They were to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (6 x 2 = 12 marks)
-
- Should be knowledgeable in/ conversant with God's word
 - Should be obedient to God's commandments
 - Have their faith / trust in Jesus
 - Preach the gospel/ win others to the kingdom of God
 - Should help the needy
 - Live a life of fellowship with others/ listen to others

- Be exemplary/ be the salt and light of the world/ role model
- Ready to suffer for Christ/ self denial
- Guide and counsel others
- Pray all the time
- Condemn evils in the society (6 x 1 = 6 marks)

2006 Q 4 (PP2)

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Working miracles
- Prophecy/ preaching
- ability to distinguish between spirits/ discernment
- Speaking in tongues
- Interpretation of tongues (6 x 1 = 6 marks)

- The people who had the gifts of speaking in tongues despised those who did not have
- There was competition in speaking in tongues
- There was no interpretation of tongues hence messages were not understood
- People did not show love to one another as they used the gifts of the Holy
- There was disorder/ confusion in worship as people with different gifts tried to outdo one another
- People did not use their gifts for the growth/ development of the church
- Gifts such as prophecy/ teaching/ preaching were looked down upon (8 marks)

- Women engage in preaching the gospel/ evangelism
- They clean/ decorate the church
- Women take care of young children in the church
- They contribute money/ clothes/ food to the less fortunate/ needy
- They prepare meals for church leaders/ visitors/ prepare holy communion
- They act as ushers in the church
- Women run income generating projects/ other projects for the church
- Women sing in church choir
- They organize seminars/ workshops in the church/ guide and counsel members
- They are leaders in the church/ participate in choosing leaders
- Women give tithes/ offering to the church
- Women pray/ intercede (6 x 1 = 6 marks)

2007 Q 1c (PP2)

- Poverty
- Corruption/greed/selfishness
- Disobedience /rebellion
- Inability to forgive others
- Influence from media/foreign culture

- Wrong choices/lack of vision/peer pressure
- Unemployment
- Permissiveness
- Influence of drug and substance abuse
- Poor role models
- Lack of guidance and counseling

2007 Q2c (PP2)

- They are sometimes not fully accepted/integrated/discriminated against
- The older Christians may not serve as role models
- They may not be involved in activities/not given responsibilities
- They are tempted to backslide to previous lifestyle
- Older Christians expect them to change faster than they can
- Some experience problems of communication/language barrier
- They may lack Christian literature to strengthen their faith
- In large churches, they get lost in the crowd/not identified/not recognized
- The financial demands of the church may be too much for them
- Lack of assistance/concern when a new member is in need.
- Some get frustrated when their expectations are not met
- They are given /assigned duties which they can't manage
- They maybe rebuked/embarrassed in public when suspected to be in wrong

(7 x 1 = 7

marks)

2008 Q 4b, c (PP2)

- God is the vine dresser/Jesus is the true vine.
 - The followers of Jesus/the Christians are the branches.
 - Christians are related to God through Jesus.
 - The unfaithful Christians are the unfruitful branches which are cut away/destroyed.
 - The faithful Christians/fruitful branches are pruned so as to produce more fruit.
 - Christians can only bear fruits/do good things if they remain united to Christ.
 - Through Christ all Christians are joined to one another.
 - Christians should rely on God for all providence.
 - Love is passed on to the Christians from God through Christ.
 - Christians should observe/keep God's commandments. (4x2=8 marks)
-
- Treat each other with love.
 - Avoid discriminations/segregations/tribalism in the church.
 - Preach/teach the word of God/Bible truths to believers.
 - Assist those in problems/poor/the less fortunate/the needy.
 - Practice humility/avoid arrogance.
 - Openly discuss issues affecting the church/respect the opinions of other people.
 - Pray for one another/problems affecting the church.
 - Practice transparent leadership styles.
 - Give financial reports within acceptable period of time.

- Follow the church doctrines/constitutions/manuals/educate members on church procedures.
- Repent/ask for forgiveness whenever they are wrong/accept their mistakes.
- Preparing a budget annually/seasonally/ensuring that the resources are well utilized.
- Guidance and counselling. (7x1=7 marks)

2009 Q 2c (PP2)

- Find out the causes/ reasons for the opposition.
- The church leader should pray for/ with them.
- Explain to them the Gospel truth in a humble manner/ guide and counsel them.
- Seek reconciliation through third party/ another person.
- Involve them in decision making / church activities
- Recognize their efforts in supporting the church matters.
- Visit them in their homes/ fellowship with them/ preaching.
- Assist them when in problem. (financial/materially)
- Send them message of encouragement.
- Change your approach to issue/ reform where necessary. (5 marks)

2009 Q 3c

- Rivalry for leadership /hunger for power.
- Differences in biblical interoperations/ teaching /doctrine to suit the person preaching
- Resistance to 'Change by the older church members who want to remain as it was /generation gap..
- Material gain/greed selfishness where starting a church has become a business,
- Lacks of spiritual satisfaction by some members make them start their own churches,
- Lack of good exam poor role model by the leaders / corrupt leaders.
- Desire to be free from missionary/foreign control.
- Differences in mode of worship/ritual observance/model of worship.
- Nepotism / tribalism / clannish / racialism among Christians.
- The Kenya constitution has allowed freedom of worship.
- Disagreements in ethical issues/ policies in the church regarding how certain matters should be handled e.g. family planning, dressing.

2009 Q 4b (PP2)

- Members of the church learn to live together in harmony/unity just like a husband and wife
- There is a chain of authority in, marriage where the head of family in the same way Christ is the head of church.
- Just as Christ sacrificially loves the church, husband should love wives
- The union between a husband and wife is meant to last forever, so Christians are called upon to maintain steadfast faithfulness to christ until eternity.
- Christians are called to submit to christ just as a wife submits to her husband

- Just as a husband and wife become one flesh, so Christians are supposed to be united/cling to Christ
- Just as Christ nourished/cherishes the church, husbands should care for their wives. (4 x 2 = 8marks)

2010 Q 4b (PP2)

- Christians maintain cleanliness in places of worship.
- Christians observe silence in the places of worship.
- Places of worship are treated with reverence (e.g in some cases shoes are removed etc)
- Christian dress in decent clothing as they go to place of worship.
- Order is maintained in places of worship/only authorised people are allowed to talk/make announcement.
- Posters/notices/decorations/flowers are put to remind people that they are in sacred places.
- Constructing special places for worshipping God/dedicating them.

(5 x 1 = 5marks)

2010 Q 4a, b

- The believers are chosen people/race/they have been selected.
- They are a royal priesthood/they are to save the greatest King/God.
- They are Holy nation/expected to lead holy/righteousness lives
- They belong to God/they form a family of God's own possession.
- They are to declare wonderful deeds of God/that is to lead a life of worshipping God/testifying about God.
- They were called from darkness to light/their lives had been transformed and should not be dominated by evil.
- They were once not a people/they were outside the covenant way of life.
- They are led by the mercies of God/have received God's grace. (5 x 2 = 10 marks)
- Christians should hold joint/interdenominational prayers.
- Christians take a joint stand against injustice/problems in the society.
- They should work together to promote educational programmes in the country.
- They should speak with one voice on matters of construction/political life of the nation.
- Christians should join together in the training of the clergy/pastors/from different denominations.
- They need to provide loans/funds/support to the poor irrespective of denomination affiliations.
- Christian churches/organization should employ Christian from different denominations.
- Christian communities should unite in provision of medical services.
- Christian need to respect one another's doctrinal positions.

(6 x 1 = 6marks)

2012 Q4a, d P2

(a) .

- St. Paul describes the believers as the body of Christ.
- Christ is the head of the Church.
- The believers form parts of the body.
- The body has different organs. In the same way the Church has different member
- They all need to work together for the well being of the Church.
- Every part of the body is needed to make it whole/ail parts are interdependent/one part cannot be without the other.
- The different Church members are given different spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit to carry out God's work.
- There should be no division In the Church since all believers are members of the body of Christ.
- Believers are united through baptism in the Holy Spirit. (4x2 = 8 marks)

(c)

- Christians meet for prayers/fellowship together.
- They observe a day of worship to honour God.
- They share the Holy communion/meals.
- They help those who are poor/needdy:
- They solve problems affecting the Church members.
- They hold joint crusades/rallies.
- They also co-operate by providing Christian programmes in the mass media/resource materials.
- They speak in one voice to condemn evil in society. (6x1=6 marks)

TOPIC THREE

TEACHINGS FROM SELECTED OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces one to the work of prophets in the Old Testament. In Form One, some prophets were taught e.g. Moses, Elijah, Nathan and Samuel. Traditional African prophets were also taught.

In Form Three, we compare true and false prophets and the Traditional African prophets.

Learning outcomes; by the end of the topic, you should be able to:

- a. Define a prophet, and prophecy
- b. Identify categories of prophets
- c. Explain the importance of prophets in Israel.
- d. Describe the characteristics of prophets.
- e. Explain how prophetic messages were written.
- f. Compare the relationship between prophesies in the Old Testament and the New Testament

LESSON ONE: PROPHETS

Learning outcomes; After reading this lesson, you should be able to: -

1. Give a correct definition of a prophet, and prophecy
2. List prophets in categories

a. Definitions of a prophet, and prophecy

The word prophet comes from a Hebrew word “Rabii’ meaning ‘one who is called or one who announces God’s message. A prophet is also referred to as a seer. A prophet is a person sent by God to teach and give people messages about things to come in future from God. Prophets received divine messages from God and communicated them to the people.

A prophet is therefore a person who foretells events as revealed to him or her by God.

Examples of prophets include Samuel, Elijah, Jeremiah and prophetesses (female prophet) Deborah, and Huidah.

Prophecy is a statement, a message of something that is going to happen in the future. The action of giving future messages is called prophecy.

b. Categories of prophets

There were many categories of prophets. These were:

a) Major Prophets. These were Prophet's whose messages covered a long period of time. Their messages were long and detailed. For example Prophet Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

b) Minor prophets. There are 12 books of the Minor Prophets examples They are called minor because their messages are short, brief and do not contain detailed information. The Minor Prophets are Amos, and Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

c) Canonical prophets the term canon means law. Canonical prophets are law prophets. The individual utterances of these prophets are laws. Both minor and major prophets are canonical prophets,

d) The early prophets are Moses, Nathan Elijah, and Elisha. These prophets belonged to guilds schools. Their prophecies are not recorded under their names. Their prophecies are written in books, which do not bear their names.

e) Cultic prophets like Hannah (N.T.) served in the places of worship. They assisted the priest officiating worship

f) Professional / court prophets like Samuel, Micah, and Gad lived together in the temple and in groups. They earned their living through their work. They did not work elsewhere

g) False prophets are pretenders to speak in the name of Yahweh but God did not call them. They spoke lies in accordance with the messages people wanted to hear.

c. Characteristics of true prophets

There were two (2) major categories of prophets in the Old Testament, (1) true prophets and (2) false prophets. True prophets are those whose prophecies occurred and were fulfilled. Prophecies of false prophets did not occur. True prophets distinguished themselves from false prophets and ordinary people.

They experienced God dramatically when He called them and in their ministry. They were God's spokesmen and women. They responded in faith to their call.

God gave them specific tasks in their commission and God's assurance and support in their ministry. They urged people to repent and turn back to God.

In their messages, they taught that God demands sincere worship and not elaborate rituals.

They understood God and taught about God righteousness, goodness, mercifulness, and loving care. They condemned evil in the society and proclaimed God's judgment and punishment to those who failed to keep the covenant. They spoke with authority and acted with courage.

They upheld God as a universal God for all nations. They talked of a remnant that shall remain after punishment or those that have continued to worship God sincerely. Their utterances were true because they were fulfilled

They spent a lot of their time in prayers. They prayed regularly. At such times they withdrew from people in order to have a quiet time to seek God.

All the true prophets received opposition from their audiences and they were ready to suffer for telling God's word.

d. The Characteristics of false prophets.

Some of the prophecy of false prophets contradicted prophecies of the true prophets. False prophets followed their own imaginations, and gave false hopes. They told people what they wanted to hear.

They had no personal knowledge of God. Hence, their prophecies were not in line with the divine revelations

They used evil forces such as magic, and divinations to call upon the spirits of the dead. They were paid for prophesy and benefits materially from their clients. They served Baal and were mainly immoral. They committed crime.

Review questions

How can we know true and false prophets today?

LESSON TWO: IMPORTANCE OF PROPHETS IN ISRAEL

Introduction

Learning outcomes; After reading this lesson, you should:

1. Describe the work of prophets in Israel
2. Explain how God communicated with prophets and Israelites
3. Analyse the content of the Prophetic messages

1. Work of prophets in Israel

Prophets kept Israelites in communication with God. They communicated God's will to the people of Israel. They foretold God's judgments and punishment for sinners. They condemned the behaviour of the rich towards the poor. Through their messages, people reformed their lives since they condemned all forms of social evils and ritual sins.

They contributed to the writing of their messages leading to the compilation of the Bible.

Prophets guided and gave people hope. They taught people the laws of God. They warned people of dangers to come. They condemned idolatry and stressed the worship of one true God, Yahweh.

They anointed the Kings in Israel. Kings consulted the prophets before any major undertaking such as war among others.

They acted as conscience of kings. They advised them and challenged Kings when they went wrong.

2. God's communication with prophets and Israelites

God communicated to Prophets through visions, voices that were audible and clear, events, prayers, dreams, signs, ordinary things, and words which came to their minds with great power.

Writing messages of the prophets

The canonical prophets as mentioned earlier had their works and prophecies recorded under their names. Canonical prophets are referred to as writing prophets. It's possible that some prophets wrote down their own prophecies. They wrote what God spoke to them as He dictated. An example is Jeremiah who wrote what he was told ... 'Get a scroll and write on it everything that I have told you about Israel, Judah and all nations. (Jeremiah 36:2, Isaiah 30:8).

Two, the prophet's message were probably written by other people. These were their assistant, secretary, scribe, and disciples or followers as the prophet prophesied.

Thirdly some of the prophetic messages could have been preserved as oral traditions and later written as books. A good example is 2 Kings.

e. Content of the Prophetic messages

Prophetic messages contained lessons from God to Israel. For example, the:

- i. Prophetic sayings were and still are oracles or poetic passages spoken by God himself through prophets. The prophecies were addressed to different nations. They carried specific teachings to the people, for example predicting future occurrences
- ii. Narratives in the first person give an account of the prophet's testimony. They spoke of their experiences with God, and responses to the call of God. They tell us about prophet's impelling compulsion to speak God's word. The narratives are written in the first person. They have a format ' The Lord said to me... The year that King Uzziah died, I was the Lord...'
- iii. Narratives in the third 3rd person have messages written by a third party, i.e. not the prophet but another person. For example, "Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, thus says the Lord: "Do not be afraid of the words." (Isaiah 37:6). The message recounts the prophets' personal life, and political background.

LESSON THREE: PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, NEW TESTAMENT AND AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Introduction

The Israelites and the African traditional societies as well as other world communities had prophets who foretold the future. Among the Israelites, there were prophets chosen by God and false prophets who told messages which communities wanted to hear. Among the African traditional communities, there were wise men and women who prophesied about the future.

In this lesson, we shall compare these prophecies and learn what was similar and different about these them. The Old Testament prophecies are compared with those from the African traditional society and the New Testament

Learning outcomes; After studying this lesson, you should be able to:

- a. State relationships between Prophecies in the Old Testament New Testament and the African Traditional Society
- b. Discuss the similarities between prophets in the African traditional society and the Old Testament
- c. Identify differences between prophets in the African traditional society and the Old Testament

a. Relationships between Prophecies

Several Old Testament (O.T.) prophecies were and are fulfilled in both the old and New Testament (N.T) in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The Law of Moses is used in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. However Jesus gave the law a deeper meaning.

The teachings and prophecies of the prophets provided the foundation for the message in the New Testament. The prophecies of Prophet Nathan to King David that God would raise up an offspring from the lineage of David were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the expected messiah.

Jesus disciples in the New Testament referred a lot to messages in the Old Testament. The teachings of Jesus in the New Testament are based in the Old Testament prophecies. They are therefore similar to each other because New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament. The New Testament is the new covenant spoken of by Prophet Jeremiah and other Prophets like Isaiah, Micah, and Nathan. Their prophecies about Messiah are fulfilled in the New Testament.

b. Similarities between prophets in the African traditional society and the Old Testament.

In both traditions, prophets:

- Were endowed with divine powers and they dealt with religious matters.
- Acted as intermediaries between God and people
- Warned people of impending dangers and disasters due to disobedience
- Had supernatural experiences
- Encouraged morality and discouraged evil ways
- In some cases, could heal
- Withstood oppression and opposition by the political rulers
- Encouraged people to fight injustices in society
- Foretold future disasters such as drought and wars. They explained why they were going to occur.
- Were consulted when things were not well in the society.
- Received revelations through dreams, visions and thoughts
- Were gender sensitive male prophets and female prophetesses.

c. Differences (O.T.) between prophets in the African traditional society and the Old Testament.

The Old Testament prophets had a personal relationship with God. They communicated God's messages to Israelites.

The prophets in the African traditional society communicated and received messages from the ancestor spirits

Old Testament prophets were God's mouthpieces. They began their prophesy with 'thus said the lord' While the prophets in the African traditional society predicted what would happen to individuals, and communities.

The authority of prophets in the Old Testament came from God while the authority of prophets in the African traditional society came from their ancestors' spirits.

In the Old Testament prophets were called directly by God while in some African traditional communities the prophetic office was hereditary. The African traditional prophets dealt with family and local community issues while Old Testament prophets dealt with national issues, and crises. African traditional prophets were diviners while Old Testament prophets consulted God.

d. Relevance of Old Testament prophets to Christians today

Christian should be ready to be messengers of God. The call to be a Christian has a prophetic role. Some Christians are called to the office of a prophet and should prophecy for the glory of God and for the common good of the people. As God's spokes person one should always stand for the truth. Christian should proclaim God's will even if the message is not pleasant to the people.

Once appointed as a prophet, one should pass the messages to whoever they are sent to without fear or favour. God's messengers should always condemn the social political economic evils in the society.

As God's messengers Christians should live exemplary lives. They should stand for what they preach and should expect persecutions because of their works as God's messengers. They should be ready to suffer for the sake of the gospel.

Christians should pray to God to give them guidance, wisdom, and inspiration to be able to handle hardships in their lives. They should provide hope for the people in times of suffering.

Christians should realize that God calls both men and women to His service. They should be ready to obey Gods' prophetic call and not run away e.g. Jonah. They should be concerned and take care of the welfare of the poor community members.

Revision questions

1. Define the terms prophet and prophecy
2. List five categories of true prophets
3. State the difference between true and false prophets
4. In what ways were God's prophets called?
5. Outline the similarities and differences between the Old Testament prophets and the traditional African ones.
6. What is the relevance of prophets to Christians today?

TOPIC FOUR:

PROPHET AMOS

Introduction

Amos is one of the prophets God sent to Israel to warn the people because of their evil life.

Politically, the Nation of Israel had become rich. There grew classer, the rich and the poor.

The rich started oppressing the poor.

Socially, there was still the rich – poor gap. The rich exploited the poor. Merchants sold bad food, expensive and used false measurer.

Religiously, the Israelites had turned away from God and were worshiping false gods.

Syncretism was practiced. Priests were paid and God's prophets were rejected.

It is in this situation that Amos was called.

He is called through visions.

Amos is one of the canonical or writing prophets. The book of Amos is a temptation of oracles spoken by the prophet on different occasions. Note that after the death of King Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was split into two and rules by Rehoboam and Jeroboam. The northern Kingdom; called Judah was ruled by Rehoboam and was inhabited by two tribes. The southern kingdom called Israel was ruled by Jeroboam and was inhabited by 10 tribes. Amos came from Judah and prophesied in Israel.

Topic Learning Outcomes; by the end of this topic, you should be able to:

- a) Analyse Prophet Amos work in Israel
- b) Describe the call of Amos
- c) Explain the teaching of Amos
- d) Relate relevance of Amos teaching to Christianity today

LESSON ONE: Prophet Amos work in Israel

Read Amos 1:1

Learning outcomes; After reading this lesson, you should:

1. Describe the call of Amos
2. Describe the socio, political and economic situation in Israel during the time of Prophet Amos
3. Explain religious situation in Israel

1. The call of Amos (AMOS 1:1,3:8,7:10 – 15)

Prophet Amos was born in a village called Tekoa in Judah, the southern kingdom. Before his call, Amos was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamore trees. He was not a professional prophet. But God called him to be a prophet. He received his call in form of a vision around 758 BC. Amos responded to God's call with obedience. He felt a deep compulsion to prophesy (Amos 3:8). God directed him to give his message to the people of Israel, the northern kingdom (Amos 7:15). He was asked to speak the will of Yahweh. He was also to foretell punishment if Israelites did not repent their sins. His message was opposed, and challenged by Amaziah the priest of Bethel.

3. Religion. Israelites worshipped Yahweh and other gods. Idolatry was also present. This form of worship is called Syncretism. There was religious hypocrisy. Like today, there was an emphasis on external observances of religious practices and less concern for internal observances. The priests were paid for religious work. Those who couldn't pay did not have religious ceremonies. They were offered at the expense of the poor. The prophets of God were rejected.

4. Social – economic – political situation. When Amos prophesied, King Jeroboam ruled Israel, the northern kingdom while King Uzziah ruled Judah. Amos was sent to prophesy to the people of Israel in the northern kingdom. He concentrated his work mainly in Bethel and Samaria – the capital city of Israel and the main centres of worship.

When Amos started his prophesy, there was peace and prosper in Israel and Judah. Both kingdoms were wealthy. However, the wealth did not reach the poor. This was because the wealth and power were in the hands of the king, his family, his officials, and wealthy merchants. As a result, Israel citizens were divided into two classes; the rich and the poor. Unfortunately, the rich people owned big luxurious houses. They drunk wine, and used the most expensive perfumes. They acquired their wealth at the expense of the poor. They oppressed and exploited the poor. The merchants of trade for example, were dishonest in their trade businesses. They sold bad wheat to unsuspecting customers and overcharged customers by measuring with false scales. Because of the inflated prices, the poor borrowed money from the rich at high interest rates to buy basic things like food. Hence, there was massive bribery and corruption in society and law courts.

As a result the poor lacked basic necessities or needs like food, shelter, and clothing. It was at this time when God sent Amos to give prophesy to Israel.

SAQ. How did the rich oppress the poor in Israel?

LESSON TWO: VISIONS OF AMOS

Read AMOS 7: 1 – 9, 8:1 – 3, 9:1 – 4)

Vision is a picture we have in our mind. It is a future to come. Amos was shown many visions by God.

Lesson outcomes; after reading these verses in Amos you should be able to: -

1. Analyse all the visions and
2. State the message of each vision
3. Summaries things that God condemned through Amos

1. The vision of the locusts (Amos 7:1 – 3)

Amos saw a swarm of locusts being sent by God to destroy all plants and food crops in the land. The locusts were, a sign of disaster, which God was going to send to Israel as a punishment for their disobedience. Amos cried to God to forgive the people. God heard and changed his mind.

2. The vision of a great fire (Amos 7:4 – 6)

Amos saw a vision of a supernatural fire that burnt up the land. He asked God to forgive the people and God listened. The punishment was stopped.

3. The vision of a crooked wall/ the plumb line (Amos 7:7 – 9)

Amos saw the Lord standing beside the wall checked it with a plumb line. The wall represented the Israelites. They stopped observing the laws of their covenant with God. God found Israelites disobeying the covenant. God promised to destroy holy places of Israel.

4. The vision of a basket of ripe fruits (Amos 8:1 – 3)

In this vision, Amos saw a basket of ripe fruits. Fruits are harvested at the end of the summer. This meant that Israel was ripe for punishment for her refusal to turn to God.

Amos did not pray for forgiveness. God would no longer withhold His judgment. Time for repentance was over.

5. The vision of the destruction of the altar. Read Amos 9:1 – 4.

Amos saw the Lord standing by the altar. The Lord ordered the destruction of the temple. The shrines of Dan and Bethel were destroyed because they were the centres of idolatry. No one would escape punishment no matter where they hide.

Summary of issues that God pointed out to Israel through Prophet Amos

a. Lack of social justice

There was lack of social justice and responsibility by the king of Israel. Social justice means dealing with other people fairly. It implies showing concern for the needs of others.

b. *Lack of responsibility.* This refers to the rulers and people of Israel being accountable for their actions. In modern life, it is doing one's duty and fulfilling one's obligation to God and others.

c. *Practice of hypocritical religion in Israel.* The Israelites were insincere in their worship. They made empty sacrifices. They worshipped idols as well as God. They profaned the name of God (Yahweh). They made idols of Baal and offered sacrifices to them. They worshipped other gods. This is syncretism and God does not allow worship of any other God but himself.

d. *God's judgment against Israel and other nations.* God promised to destroy Israel and leave a remnant of them for restoration.

Oppressions of the poor by the rich

God condemned King Jeroboam's rule of Israel because of the oppression of the poor, government corruption and bribery of king's officials. These officials sold the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals (shoes) i.e. it's like practising slavery. The rich trampled on the poor, despised them and placed no value on the poor. The poor gave their garments as security for loan. This was contrary to God's commandments. The garment was supposed to be returned back to the owner before sunset. The Samaritan women were 'fat like the well-fed cows of Bashan' led luxurious lives and were very unkind to the poor. The rich took an excessive share of the harvest from the farmers. Rulers loved luxury and were arrogant. They loved material things and showed pride in material possessions. They used expensive perfumes.

f. *Corruption and bribery.* The judges were corrupt. They accepted bribes. There was a conspiracy between the rich and the judges against the poor.

Pride in material possessions

The capital city of Israel was Samaria. It was built on a mountain called Bethel, which was also a place of worship. There was prosperity in the land. The Israelites prided themselves in their riches and material possessions. Amos told them God would destroy their wealth.

h. *Dishonesty*. This is telling lies, cheating or using unjust means to get certain things. The wealthy merchants waited impatiently for the end of the holy days so that they could engage in lucrative businesses. They cheated the poor by using false scales. They sold bad wheat to the poor. They mixed good and bad grains and sold them to unsuspecting people.

Sexual immorality

Sexual immorality was prevalent or common in Israel. For example a father and son would have sex with the same girl. There was temple (cultic) prostitution. There was dishonesty; sexual immorality. This sexual behaviour made the temple unholy.

j. Drunkenness

They Israelites spent time drinking when the poor lacked the basic needs. They engaged in excessive drinking of wine. They even forced the Nazarites to drink wine. They accepted drunkenness.

k. Profaning the name of the God

Israelites did not respect the name of God. They committed sin. They forced Nazirites to drink wine; forcing it down their throats yet they knew that Nazirites were people set aside and chosen by God to serve God. This act showed contempt of God's commands. Nazirites were not supposed to drink wine or cut their hair. Israelites did this to show their contempt of the Lord,

l. Hypocritical Religion and Idolatry in Israel

Hypocrisy is pretending to be something different from the person one is. It is also saying one thing, and doing another thing. For example, Israelites did a lot of religious rites according to the laws of Moses and yet majority of them were unjust, corrupt and oppressed the poor. They observed the external religious activities while their hearts were corrupt and insincere. Amos condemned Israelites for this hypocrisy, characterized by insincere worship, and mixture of religious beliefs leading to diverse practices of religion i.e. syncretism. This is a combination or mixture of Israelites' monotheism (Yahwehism) and worship of idols and other gods especially Baal, the gods of their neighbours.

m. Empty sacrifices

The Israelites made elaborative offerings and sacrifices. Yet God was interested only in sincere worship and free will offerings and not mere sacrifices, and tithes. 'Take away from me the noise of your songs' (Amos 5:21 – 23).

LESSON THREE. GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL AND OTHER NATIONS

Read Amos chapter 1 and 2

Learning outcomes; After studying this lesson, you should be able to:

a. State the sins committed by Israel and other nations

b. Identify how God punished Israel and other nations

i) Israel. She committed several crimes, which were condemned by Prophet Amos. Read lesson two again before you go on and list down crimes that were pointed out by Amos. Okay, you have seen that Israel committed crimes of injustice, disobedience to God, breaking their covenant with God, idolatry, hypocrisy among other sins mentioned above. Israel was punished for these crimes.

Punishments were severe. Israelites would be exiled forcibly and painfully. Earthquakes, famines, fires, oppression from foreign kings, epidemics and divine silence, would destroy their kingdom and holy places.

ii) Syria. Its capital was Damascus. Syria committed war crimes. The soldiers were excessively cruel in times of war. They murdered their prisoners brutally. For this cruelty, their punishment was to be severe. Their palaces would be destroyed by fire and the people would be exiled in Kir.

iii)

iv) Gaza and philistines. Their crime was capturing other people and selling them into slavery. For this sin, God's punishment was destruction of their city by divine fire. It would burn down the wall of Gaza city and destroy it. God would have no more association with them.

v) Tyre. Their Crime was violation of a treaty of friendship they had made. They broke it by capturing a "whole nation into exile in the land of Edom". The punishment was ... God would send fire to destroy city of Tyre and its fortress (Amos 1:9-10).

v. Edom. Her people were descendants of Esau. Yet Edom was ruthless to the Israelite to whom they were closely related. For this crime of ruthlessness, the punishment was ... God would destroy them by fire

vi) Ammon committed crime of brutal killings. The people of Ammon attacked and killed their neighbours. They "ripped open pregnant woman in Gilead" (vs. 13). God's punishment was destruction of the fortress and wall of the city of Rabbah by fire. "Their king and his officers will go into exile: (vs. 15)

vii) Moab. The people of Moab; their crime was mishandling the body of the king of Edom. They burned his bones to ashes. God's punishment was destruction of the city of Kerioth by divine fire. The people, their rulers and leaders would be killed in battle.

viii) Judah. Their crimes were (1) failure to obey God's commands and (2) despising God's teaching.

ix) Samaria, Egypt and Ashdod. Their crime was dishonesty and "filling their mansions with things taken by crime and violence" (Amos 3:10). Women of Samaria committed the crime of drunkenness, oppressing the weak and poor. The punishment for all these countries is destruction of their land, mansions and army. But a remnant will not go to captivity, and shall not be destroyed. Amos said the remnants are like ... 2 legs, or a piece of an ear of a sheep rescued from the mouth of a lion (Amos 3:12)

x) Amaziah the priest of Bethel. He strongly opposed Amos and told him to go back and prophesy in Judah. Amos told Amaziah God sent him to Israel. His punishment for opposing God's messenger was.. Amaziah's wife would be a harlot, his children will die in the war, his land will be given to others, and Amaziah will die in a foreign land (Amos 7: 14-17).

Lessons to learn from God's judgment of Israel and other nations

The Assyrians attacked Israel, occupied their land and exiled others. God is (a) universal, (b) God hates sin (c) God is concerned about the welfare of his people

(d) God is merciful and spares a remnant

xi. Israel's election (Amos 2:9 – 11, 3:1 – 2, 9:7)

Election: is an act of choosing a person or group of people for a purpose or action. Israel's election refers to God's choice of the Israelites out of the entire human kind to be his people. God chose them to serve

him, be a Holy nation and to be the light of the world. God made a covenant with the Israelites. In the covenant they agreed to live a holy life. In return, God looked after them. He led them out of Egypt to the wilderness and finally to Canaan. God chose His prophets from the Israelites and raised Nazirites.

Despite God's favour, the Israelites rebelled and sinned against God. And although Israelites were reminded that God cared for other nations equally and are to be punished if they disobeyed God; and that they were neither superior, nor better than other nations, they disobeyed God several times.

xii. The day of the lord Amos taught that the day of the lord would be a day of severe judgment for sins.

. It is not a time of happiness, joy or victory. It is a day of darkness, terror, disaster, gloom, wailing, flooding, mourning, defeat, punishment, famine for food and God's word.

xiii. The Remnant and Restoration. Remnant means a small number of survivors. These are the Israelites who will remain after the entire nation is punished. They are also those who returned to Jerusalem after the exile.

Restoration is an act of reinstating things / persons to their former state or position. Amos informed the Israelites that God was still looking after them, and waiting for their repentance. The nation of Israel would not be destroyed completely. God would preserve the few righteous ones. He would raise the fallen dynasty of David. People would be restored back to their land to rebuild their cities. There was to be a great harvest and grapes shall overflow.

xiv. Duty of Christians. Christians are the selected people of God. As the chosen ones, they should one, live holy lives and two, use their position to serve God and others. Three, Christians have a moral responsibility to spread God's word, four, care for the needy and five, be the light of the world.

xv. The Day of the lord. Read Amos 5:18-20, 6:3-5, 8:7-13. in the Old Testament, the day of the Lord is the day that Yahweh would make Israel victorious against other nations. On this day the Israelite believed that God would establish his rule over and with Israel. The day of the Lord was also believed to be the day when Israel would be prosperous, would have favour with God, and the just would triumph over the wicked.

In the New Testament, the day of the lord is also the Day of Judgment (Parousia). It is the day of the second coming of Christ. On that day, everyone will be judged. Christians believe that it is the day that Christ will come for His bride (the church). Those who had obeyed the laws of God shall be received by Christ and given the reward of the eternal life. On that day, God's kingdom shall be established and Christ will reign forever.

xvi. Relevance of Amos teachings to Christians today. The messages of the prophecy of Amos are relevant to Christians today. This is because God is universal. He chose Israel but still punished her for her disobedience, and sins just as He punished other nations like Syria and Gaza.

The message that God hates hypocrisy is very clear. Thus Christians should be truthful and practice what they preach. They must worship God in sincerity. Other messages are:

Justice; Christians should be just / fair in dealing with others.

Self – Indulgence. Christians should not pursue luxury and self-indulgence when others lack the basic needs.

Bribery; Christians should condemn bribery and corruption, and uphold justice.

Punishment; Christians should bear in mind that God will punish every evil.

Wealth; When Israel became wealthy, they departed from the covenant with God.

Christians should share their wealth with the needy and acquire their wealth justly

Hypocritical religion; Amos taught about hypocrisy in religion. This was for example offering empty sacrifices. Christians have to learn to be sincere, to be concerned about their internal well being and soul more than outward observances of religion.

Drunkenness; Christians should not engage in activities that can divert their faith from God. If that happens, they should learn to be Repentant.

Revision exercise

1. List the visions that Amos saw
2. Explain the evils that Amos condemned in his teachings
3. Give reasons why prophet Amos condemned idol worship in Israel
4. List evils in the society today that Amos would condemn

Revision questions

1. **1993 Q 42**
Outline the sins which were condemned by prophet Amos.
2. **2004 Q 3**
List five visions that Amos saw concerning the coming judgment on the people of Israel.
(5marks)
3. **2006 Q 4b**
(b) Give reasons why prophet Amos was against the way the Israelites worshipped God
(10 marks)
(c) How does God reveal himself to Christians today? (4 marks)
4. **2007 Q 4b**
(b) State the teachings of Prophet Amos about the day of the Lord (8 marks)
5. **2008 Q 4b**
(b) Outline the teaching of prophet Amos on social justice and responsibility (8marks)
6. **2009 Q b, c**
(b) Outline **five** teaching of Prophet Amos on the remnant and restoration of the Israelites (Amos 9:8-15). (5marks)
(c) State the relevance of Prophet Amos' teaching on election of Israel to Christians in Kenya today (7 marks)
7. **2010 Q 4b**
(b) State **four** ways in which the rich oppressed the poor during the time of Prophet Amos. (8 marks)
8. **2011 Q 4b**
Describe the call of Amos to become a prophet of God in Israel. (8 marks)
9. **2012 Q4 P1**
(a) Give four reasons why prophet Amos was against the way the Israelites worshipped God. (8marks)
(b) State six ways in which God would punish Israel for her evils according to prophet Amos. (6marks)
(c) How does the church in Kenya punish errant members? (6marks)

Answers

1993 Q42

- Selling into slavery those who could not pay their debts
- The oppression of the poor and the weak
- Sexual immorality
- Hypocrisy/practicing empty religious rituals when peoples hearts are far from it
- Exploitation of the poor. A state where the poor were poorer and the rich were becoming richer
- Telling lies/dishonesty
- Misusing the house of God/profaning/desecration of the temple
- Ill-treating the Nazarites and the prophets
- Idol worship
- Injustice where the poor, weak and down-trodder
- Drunkenness
- Cheating in business by use of false scales

2004 Q3

- Locust
- Fire
- The Plumb line
- A basket of fruits
- The lord standing at altar/God's judgment on Israel
(5x1=5marks)

2006 Q4b,c

- They gave empty sacrifices which did not reflect holy lives
- They practiced syncretism
- There was sincerity in worship/ hypocrisy
- They made idols/ worshipped idols
- They built many high places of worship for idols
- They misused the temple by feasting drinking
- They refused to listen to the prophets of God/ listened to false prophets
- They misused the Sabbath
- They practiced Temple prostitution (5 x 2 = 10 marks)

(c)

- Through visions
- Through dreams
- By reading the word of God/ bible
- Listening to preachers/ crusades/ observing role models
- Through answering prayers miracles
- Through nature events/ calamities
- Through the holy spirit/ the gifts of the Holy Spirit (4 x 1 = 4 marks)

2007 Q4b

- It will be a day of terror and disaster
- God will punish the Israelites for their disobedience/He will remember their evil deeds
- The land shall tremble/there will be earthquakes

- People will mourn/no happiness
- The feasts and festivals will not be joyful
- People will thirst/hunger for the word of GOD
- People will faint in the process of searching for the word of God
- It will be a day of disappointment to the Israelites
- The wicked will not escape God's judgement (4 x 2 = 8marks)

2008 Q 4b

- The righteous could be sold for silver, the needy for a pair of shoes.
- The rich women led luxurious lives and were unkind to the poor.
- The rich women encouraged their husbands to exploit the poor.
- The rich people took an excess share of the harvest from the farmers.
- The rulers lived luxurious lives in good houses as the poor suffered thus God would send them into exile.
- The rulers were arrogant, trusted in material things, drunk wine when the poor had nothing to eat.
- The judges were corrupt/took bribes from the rich.
- The wealthy merchants cheated the poor by using false scales/selling the refuse.
- The Israelites indulged in wine drinking/forced even those not supposed to drink, to do so.
- Those who spoke the truth were hated.
- Prophet Amos advised the people to seek good and avoid evil.
- The Israelites indulged in a sexual immorality.
- Prophet Amos advised against robbery with violence.
- He advised against the misuse of the garments taken in pledge (8x1=8 marks)

2009 Q4b,c

- God would restore the dynasty of David after destruction.
- God would bring the people back to their land.
- The people would rebuild their cities so that the remnant of Edom can occupy them.
- The land would be reproductive/grapes will be in abundance /wine would be in plenty.
- The people would grow food and harvest it.
- The people of Israel would peaceful/prosperous.
- The Israelites would never be taken into, exile again. (5 x 1 = 5marks)

c)

- It is God who chooses them to be Christians.
- God chooses one to be a Christian from many others.
- The Christians have been chosen by God to proclaim the good news /service.
- God protects them from their enemies.
- Christians should be faithful/obedient to God
- They will be punished by God if they do wrong.
- They should always repent their sins/ask for forgiveness
- The priests/bishops /church leaders are chosen by God. (7x1=7 marks).

2010 Q 4b

- The rich took people's garment in pledge.
- The poor were robbed of their food/gains/belongings

- Merchants overcharged the poor when selling them anything.
- The poor were sold for a piece of silver/air of shoes as they were considered useless.
- The goods sold to the poor were unfit for human use/consumption/expired.
- The poor were cheated in business deals as the rich used faulty scales/measures
- The poor were sold into slavery when they were unable to pay their debts to the rich.
- The poor were denied justice in the law courts because they could not bribe the judges.
- The cases taken to the courts by the poor were thrown out/not listened to.

2011 Q4b

- Amos was a farmer tending sycamore trees/ shepherd
 - He came from a village called Tekoa in Judah
 - He became a prophet during the reign of king Hezzrah and jeroboam
 - God called him through a vision
 - He felt a strong compulsion to prophesy
 - He responded to God's call in faith / obedience
- Any 4x 2 = 4 marks

2012 Q4 P1

(a)

- The Israelites had neglected God/prophets
 - They practiced insincere worship/had no inner faith.
 - The worshippers were not righteous/they mistreated fellow Israelites which was against God's teaching.
 - They worshipped God as well as Baal/practiced syncretism.
 - They were impatient during the worship ceremony/wanted to go back to their businesses
 - They gave sacrifices/offerings as a show off/ pride/ not for the love of God.
 - They had many ceremonial festivals/feasts.
 - They showed disrespect to the name of God through sexual immorality.
 - They defiled the place of worship.
 - Worshipped idols, gods/built high places for idol gods
- (4 x 2 = 8 marks)

b)

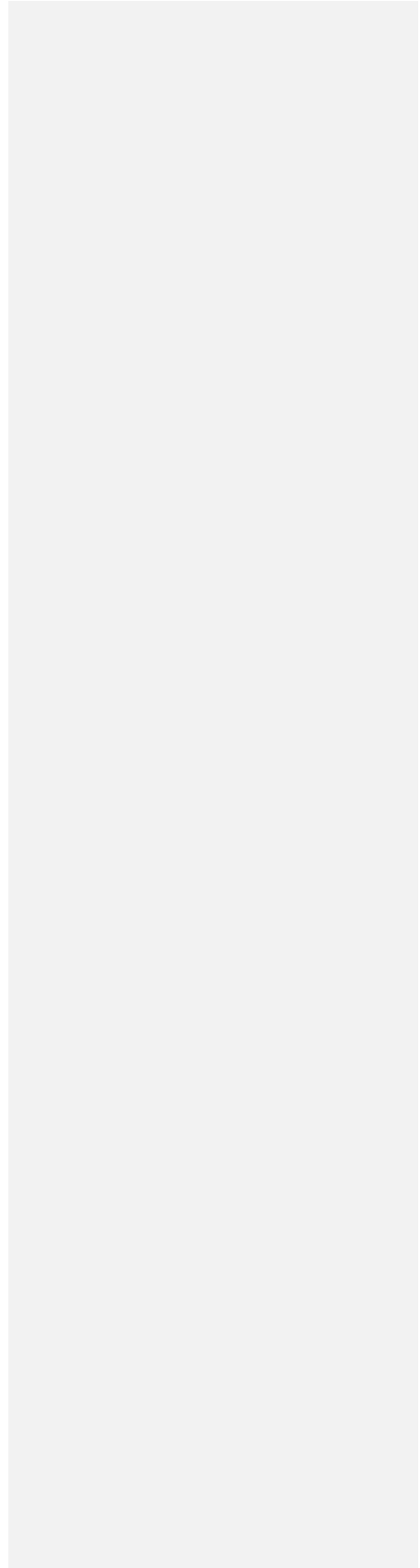
- Israel would be surrounded by an enemy nation.
 - The Israelites would be taken to exile.'
 - Amaziah, the Priest/King would die by the sword.
 - The Holy places of worship would be destroyed.
 - The land would be occupied by a foreign nation./conquered/invaded/destruction of the city
 - There would be hunger/thirst for the word of God.
 - God would cover the land with total darkness.
 - There would be earthquakes.
- (6 x 1 = 6 marks)

(c)

- The church suspends them.
- It denies them participation in the church activities/rituals.
- They may be denied leadership positions/demoted/ withdrawal of priviledges

- They may be publicly condemned/asked to repent/apologize
- They may be warned.
- Some may be transferred to difficult areas.
- They may be sacked from the job.
- They may be excommunicated.
- They may be charged a fine

(6 x 1 = 6 marks)



PROPHET JEREMIAH

Introduction

Israel had not taken heed to Amos' prophecies. This was especially on idolatry. So, God sent another prophet to continue with the same work. Jeremiah was therefore appointed as a prophet.

Jeremiah is one of the Old Testament Major Prophets. He was called to a prophet at around 627 B.C. He was called as a young man, probably 20 years old. He prophesied in the southern kingdom- Judah, for a period of 40 years. His prophetic ministry took place before and during the exile of Judah.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this topic, you should be able to: -

- a Describe the political, Social, and religious background of prophet Jeremiah.
- b Describe the personal life and call of Jeremiah.
- c Explain the evils condemned by Jeremiah.
- d Explain the contents of the temple sermon.
- e Highlight the relevance of Jeremiah's teaching on evils, false prophets and Christians today.

LESSON ONE: THE CALL JEREMIAH

Learning outcomes: After reading this lesson, you should be able to: -

- i. Describe the situation of the people of Judah
- ii. Identify religious, political and socio classes of Judah
- iii. Describe the call of Jeremiah
- iv. Explain lessons that modern Christians can learn from the call of Jeremiah

a. The Kingdom of Judah

Social background

The people of Judah were divided into three social classes. At the top were the (i) Aristocrats. These were the ruling class, which consisted of the king, his family, royal officials, princesses, priests, and professional prophets. This class of the rich oppressed the poor.

Below them was the class (ii) of technical professional such as stonecutters, carpenters, builders, masons, blacksmiths, masons, and others craftsmen (2 Kings 12:12). Below them was class (iii) made up of poor people such as slaves, widows, orphans, and foreigners. All these poor people were mistreated.

In terms of ethics, there was moral degradation. They committed adultery, prostitution, murder, false witness, and corruption.

Religions background

The Kings and people of Judah worshipped idols. They practiced human sacrifice, divination and magic, and listened to false prophecies. They abandoned their covenant with God and their way of life and practiced syncretism, which is worshipping God and other false gods like Baal. King Josiah tried to restore true worship by carrying out several reforms. Prophetess Huldah prophesied that Judah would be punished after Josiah's death since he humbled before Yahweh.

Political Background

Prophet Jeremiah lived in the 7th century BC and prophesied when Judah was ruled by King Josiah, and later his sons Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah; and king Jehoiachin. Judah was conquered and ruled by Assyrians who were conquered by Egyptians who ruled Judah up to 605 BC. Egyptians; were conquered by Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar. This was according to the prophecies of Jeremiah.

b. The Call of Jeremiah. Read Jer 1: 19.

Jeremiah's father was a priest called Hilkiah. He was born in the territory of Benjamin; at a place called Anathoth, He was well educated.

Jeremiah was called to be a prophet in 627 B.C during the reign of King Josiah. He received his call in form of a dialogue with Yahweh. God told him that he had appointed him to be his messenger; even before he was formed in his mother's womb, God had selected him to be a prophet. Jeremiah said he was too young and did not know how to speak. Jeremiah was forewarned of the hostility he would encounter in his prophetic career. God told him that He would protect him and not to fear.

God touched Jeremiah's mouth. This symbolized that God is the one who shall put words in his mouth. Jeremiah responded to God's call in faith and obedience. He was given a message that God was going to bring judgment upon the Kingdom of Judah. God promised to make him a fortified city, an iron pillar and bronze wall for protection. He was commanded by God not to marry, neither have children and not to attend social gatherings, weddings, and funerals. His mission made him isolated and lonely.

As a result, his own family and relatives rejected him and plotted to kill him. But he had few friends like Ebed- melech, Ahikam who helped him to get out of a pit.

Jeremiah was persecuted by; the kings of Judah. Priests including priest Pashhur opposed him, and false prophets like Hannaniah. He prophesied that God shall punish wicked Kings, priests, and ordinary people. He suffered spiritually and emotionally.

At the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C, the army officers of Nebuchadnezzar released him from prison. He went to Egypt where he died at an old age and as a faithful servant of God. His life was symbolic to the people of Judah. During his call, Jeremiah saw two visions.

Vision one was the vision of a “branch of an almond tree”.

The tree seemed dead, bare, yet life was in it. This vision was telling Judah that although God seemed to be ‘sleeping’, He was watching over them if they obey Him.

Vision two was “a pot boiling in the north, and it is about to tip over this way” (1:13). The boiling pot tilted away from the north signified that the destroyers of Judah would come from the north. The pot was ready to boil over and spill its contents. This meant that Judah was soon going to have trouble.

Babylon would pour horrifying disasters on Judah.

Lessons from the call of Jeremiah

God has a purpose for each person and He can call anybody to do His work. He calls the unborn, the young, old, rich, and poor. God prepares people for His work, through specific experiences at family level, in school, and church.

A person who is called to serve God should be ready to meet opposition. God protects His servants and promises to be with them. Jeremiah felt inadequate to speak. Christians should not let their human weakness hinder them from performing their tasks. Christians should respond to God’s call in obedience.

LESSON TWO. EVILS ADDRESSED BY JEREMIAH. Read Jeremiah 2, 3, 4, 5,7, 9, 10, 23, and 28.

Learning outcomes: After reading this lesson,

1. Name the evil practices that Jeremiah condemned
2. Explain why Jeremiah condemned these evil practices

There were many evils in Judah and Israel. We have mentioned some of them. These were: necromancy, dishonesty, deception, false prophecy, human sacrifice, and idolatry

i. Necromancy.

Words related to necromancy are divinations, magic, sorcery, and playing tricks on people's minds. Necromancy is the art of seeking hidden knowledge from the mysterious world of spirits: using magic, and divination, which is invoking the dead. Divination was condemned in the Hebrew language. Diviners, magicians, sooth sayers and fortunetellers used necromancy. Prophet Jeremiah condemned necromancy.

Reasons why Jeremiah condemned necromancy

Necromancy was a deception and therefore an evil practice. The diviners gave false information from their own imagination. This practice polluted the true worship of Yahweh and indicated Israelites lack of faith in the one true God. Two, by trusting in divination, and magic, the Israelites showed their lack of knowledge of the one true God. Three, by consulting the mediums, the Israelites disobeyed God (Jer 27:8-10).

ii) Deception and Dishonesty

Dishonesty is lack of moral integrity or moral uprightness. Deception is cheating, and telling lies intentionally. It is also giving false and misleading information.

The Israelites were dishonest because they worshiped God and at the same time committed social injustices against their brothers and sisters. Their repentance was insincere. There was treachery, and greed. They laid traps for each other. People pretended to be friendly and at the same time conspired to kill. Jeremiah challenged the Israelites people to 'circumcise their hearts which were deceitful. Their tongues were 'deadly arrows' and they listened to false prophesies like that of Hannaniah

Jeremiah condemned deception. This was because it led to syncretism, and hypocrisy in worship; and breaking down of the covenant way of life. Jeremiah warned the Israelites and asked them to repent

iii. False prophesy by Hannaniah. Jer 28

During the reign of king Zedekiah, Hannaniah broke the yoke that Jeremiah was wearing. Hannaniah spoke in the name of Yahweh. He lied to the people as he spoke from his imagination and dreams. Jeremiah denounced Hannaniah. He predicted and prophesied the death of Hannaniah in the same year.

And it came to pass. Jeremiah had also prophesied that the captivity of Judah should be long contrary to Hannaniah who said Judah will be exiled for 2 years.

Reasons for condemning false prophets

Prophets of Baal were still in existence. False prophets like Hannaniah had filled the people of Israel with unrealistic hopes of peace yet Judah was to be destroyed. Recall the characteristics of true and false prophets. False prophets did not condemn sin. They prophesied for money and in the process misled people away from Yahweh. False prophets prophesied from their dreams, imaginations and not from God. They gave people false hopes. They intended to make themselves popular, with the King and the people.

iv) Human sacrifice

The people offered human sacrifice to idols and oppressed each other. Human sacrifice is the act of killing human beings for a religious or spiritual purpose. The Israelites copied this activity from the Canaanites. Children were believed to be the best sacrifice since people believed they would get great favors from the deities. Some kings such as Ahaz and Manasseh sacrificed their sons to idols. Jeremiah condemned human sacrifice.

Reasons for condemning human sacrifice

Human sacrifice was an act of idolatry. It indicated infidelity of the Israelites to the one true God. It demonstrated Israel's disrespect for the sacred gift of life. It showed their lack of knowledge of the true nature of Yahweh. Human sacrifice defiled the land for life is in the blood. Blood speaks hence the land was crying at this vengeance. God did not ask for human sacrifices. Human sacrifice was a sign of lack of love of God and love for one another. It is a demonstration of disregard for human life. Only God has the right to take away life. In our country people kill each other every day especially on the road. Why do we do this?

v. Idolatry

Idolatry is the worship of many gods. Idols are images made by people for worship. The Israelites practiced syncretism, which we said was the worship of Yahweh and idols. The people of Israel were worshipping Baal the Queen of heaven, sun, moon, stars, and also Yahweh (Jer 8:2).

Idols were placed even in Yahweh's sacred places. The temple was defiled by idols. This the temple unclean. Jeremiah condemned it. He told the people of Israel that "{they have forsaken the fountain of living waters (GOD) and hewn out for themselves broken cisterns (IDOLS) that can hold no water" (Jer 2: 11-13).

Why did Jeremiah condemn idolatry? Read Jer 2: 20, 2:1- 3, 5: 7- 8.

Idolatry is like adultery and prostitution. It defiled people and was a sign of lack of faith in Yahweh. It defiled the land. Idolatry led to divine judgment and punishment.

People of Judah abandoned Yahweh the 'Husband' and chased "lovers" the idols and deities. The Israelites (Northern kingdom) had been punished before and yet Judah did not learn from them. By worshipping idols Judah broke the covenant and their relationship with God. And unless the people of Judah repented, they would be punished; as there is only one true living God to be worshipped and obeyed. Is there idolatry among Christians today's

vi. Other evils condemned by Jeremiah

People of Judah trusted that the temple was secure, holy and cannot be destroyed. Jeremiah denounced this false belief about the temple. He warned them that God would destroy the temple because of the many evils committed in it. The temple of God had become a 'den of robbers' and human sacrifices.

People of Judah committed other evils such as hypocrisy (Jer 7; 9-10); social injustice (adultery, murder), stubbornness, and rebellion.

vi. The temple

Temple is a place of worship. The temple of Israelites was in Jerusalem. It signified the presence of God among his people. The Israelites believed God could never destroy or allow destruction of the temple. Jeremiah stood at the gates of the temple court during Jehoiakim's reign, and Judah that God would destroy the temple and send them to exile. He urged them to repent and turn back to God. King Josiah heard the message of Jeremiah and he reformed religious practices in Judah.

vii. Religions reforms carried out by King Josiah

This topic is not clearly spelt out in the syllabus. It is based on the book of Deuteronomy. The scroll was discovered in the temple during repairs.

Josiah ordered the repair of the temple of God. He led a national ceremony to review the covenant. He destroyed idols and altars associated with the worship of foreign deities throughout Judah. He eliminated all the priests associated with the worship of false deities. He celebrated Passover in Jerusalem. The successors of King Josiah did not follow his example. They became corrupt. They persecuted the prophets of God. They listened to false prophets. They promoted idolatry and child sacrifice.

viii. The Relevance of Jeremiah's teachings to Christians today.

Christians should denounce hypocrisy in the society today. They should not result to witchcraft, divination and sorcery. They should be upright, and worship God in sincerity. They are to proclaim divine judgment upon those who refuse to obey God's will, just like Jeremiah declared God's judgment upon Judah due to the sins of the people.

Like Jeremiah, Christians should speak out against modern idols like love of money, power, obsession with sports, sex, and drugs among other evils. Christians should condemn destruction of human life, violence; murder, abortion, parents killing their own children, genocide and exploitation of the poor.

Christians should be aware of the existence of false teachings and prophecies. They should pray for God's guidance and wisdom to be able to distinguish truth from false teaching.

Christians have a responsibility to correct one another and call on sinners to repent.

Christians are to be trustworthy, upright, and merciful to the poor and condemn dishonesty.

They should practice justice in their relationship with others; preach against disobedience, stubbornness and pray to God to help them overcome these vices.

Read these review questions and answer before reading answers>

1. Why was Jeremiah reluctant to accept the call?
2. Which evils / sins did Jeremiah Condemn?.
3. Give examples of idol worship in Kenya.
4. Describe Jeremiahs temple sermon

SAQ answer.

1. Jeremiah felt inadequate because he was too young to work for God. He argued that he did not know how to speak. He was afraid. He knew he would face stiff opposition from the people of Judah. The message of God's judgments is difficult to deliver.
2. Read text again and look for evils and sins that Jeremiah condemned.
3. Examples of idol worship in Kenya are many. Some people including Christians practice witchcraft, sorcery, personality cults and hero worship of religions and political leaders. Other people, worship money, materialism, media, and sports obsession with power / status Sexual immorality – devil worship
4. Jeremiahs temple sermon. Read text again.

LESSON THREE. JEREMIAH'S TEACHINGS ON JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT

Read Jeremiah 5:12-18, 6:1-30, 7:30, 8:1-17, 10: 17-25, 15:1-9, 17:1-13, 25: 1-38

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this topic, you should be able to: -

- a Summarize in two paragraphs Jeremiah key teachings.
- b Explain the significance of symbolic acts related to judgement and punishment.
- c Describe suffering and lamentations of Jeremiah
- d Explain the teachings of Jeremiah on the new covenant.

a. Jeremiah teachings.

Sin was internalised in the hearts of the people of Judah. God punished them. God punishes people because of their unfaithfulness. Punishment is a penalty, for an offence or a crime committed.

But in punishing people, God is a just judge. He does not punish people without a reason irrespective of their status.

God judges people by looking into their hearts. Divine judgment is for a group. For example, the people of Judah were punished as a group. However God searches each person's heart and judges accordingly. God executes His judgment by means of political and historical events.

Divine punishments are in forms of natural disasters like drought, famine, and epidemics. God's punishment is unavoidable, and inescapable. Judah took the best option by surrendering to the Babylonians.

The purpose for God's judgement is to correct the sinner. God gave his people a chance to repent before he punished them. God's judgment is universal. It is not limited to one nation. God punished the neighbours of Judah who at that time were Egypt, Moab, Ammon, and Babylon. God's punishment is severe compared to that of venomous snakes that bite the people of Judah. God's judgement is not necessarily a punishment from God for one's sins. It is symbolic. The sufferings of Jeremiah were symbolic of the life of the people of Judah.

What can we learn about God's punishments? Are modern disasters such as cyclones, floods, earthquakes, landslides, epidemics, bomb blasts, civil wars, forest fires, rebellions in schools a sign of God's judgment and punishment? What do you think?

b. Symbolic acts related to judgement and punishment

People use several methods to convey messages to each other. We use songs, advertisements, dramas, and stories by the fireside, in novels, the Internet, and magazines to communicate messages about children, adults, society, political leaders, poverty and many others. The prophets used: (1) Oracles; 'Thus says the Lord'; (2) Allegories (3) Parables (4) Songs (5) Symbolic Visions (6) Symbolic actions and (7) dramatized messages

Symbolic acts of Jeremiah

- i The linen waist cloth (Jer.13)
- ii Jeremiah's personal life (Jer.16)
- iii Jeremiah's visit to a potter (Jer.18)
- iv The broken earthen flask (Jer.19)
- v The symbolic vision of 2 baskets of figs (Jer.24)
- vi The wearing of the yoke

i. The Linen Waist Cloth. Read Jer.13

Jeremiah was instructed by God to buy a linen waistcloth and wear it around his waist without dipping it in water. He was told to hide the cloth in a hole near river Euphrates. Afterwards he was told to take the cloth. He found it spoilt for wearing.

Significance

The linen material was for priestly garments in Israel. It symbolized Israel's holiness. The unwashed cloth represented Judah's sinful pride. Israel used to cling close to God but now Israel / Judah were spoilt, rebellious, arrogant and pursued foreign gods. God was going to destroy them if they did not repent. The spoilt linen waistcloth was a symbol for future God's action.

ii. Jeremiah's personal Life.

Read Jer 16. His life was a symbolic act. He was told not to marry, have children, and nor attend funerals, social gatherings, feasts and wedding parties.

Significance

The personal life of Jeremiah was one of suffering. This signified the suffering that the people of Judah would be subjected to. Judah was punished because of their wickedness and rebellion. Jeremiah's loneliness signified the perishing of families through the sword, famine and disease. It would be a time of terror for the families of Judah. Their normal social life of feasting, merry making would come to an end. There would be no weddings and no one to bury the dead. Hence Jeremiah was forbidden from mourning for the dead.

iii. Jeremiah's at the potter's house (Jer.18)

Jeremiah was told to go to a potter's house. He found the potter making a clay vessel. "Whenever a piece of pottery turned out imperfect, he would take the clay and make it into something else (18: 4). The potter made a better pot, more perfect vessel than the spoilt one.

Significance

God is the potter. People of Judah are the clay. As the potter destroyed to vessel, God intended to destroy Judah because of their wickedness and mould those who repented into better people. God was going to shape them into faithful people. God's judgement was to be a corrective punishment.

iv. The broken clay Jar. Read Jer.19.

God told Jeremiah to buy a clay flask. He then took some elders and priests to the valley of Valley of Hinnon. He delivered a sermon condemning the people of Judah for their idolatry and other evils. Jeremiah then broke the clay jar in their presence and announced to them that Yahweh would destroy Jerusalem and Judah as Jeremiah had destroyed the jar.

Significance

The kings, priests and prophets of Judah would be shattered like the clay flask because of their sins. Sine, they brutally sacrificed their children; they are to suffer horrifying experiences at the hand of their enemies. They shall suffer starvation and turn into cannibals; eating their own children and neighbours (v.9).

Broken pieces of a clay pot cannot be moulded. No one was to escape judgment. However there is hope after punishment.

v. Two Baskets of Figs (Jer.24).

Jeremiah received the visions, after the deportation and exile of leading citizens of Judah and Israel to Babylon. Two baskets of figs were placed in front of the temple. One basket had very good figs, which had ripened. The other basket had bad figs unfit for human consumption.

Significance

The basket of good figs signified the first exile. God would renew their hearts; use them to fulfil his promises to the Israelites. He would recreate them to a new people. The basket of the bad figs represented people living in Jerusalem and Egypt. Since they were not exiled they had a self-righteous attitude. They thought that God spared them because they were truthful but it was not so. They shall also be destroyed through famine, and diseases. This vision signifies hope and restoration of the Israelites.

vi. Jeremiah Wears an Ox Yoke. Read Jer. 27.

When Zedekiah son of Josiah became the ruler of Judah, Jeremiah was instructed by God “to make” for himself “a yoke out of leather straps and wooden crossbars” and to wear it around his neck (27: 2). Jeremiah moved around in the yoke for quite sometime in public. He was also given a message for ambassadors of kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon, who were coming to see King Zedekiah in Jerusalem. They were to give God’s message to their kings. The message was to “submit to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia; his son, and his grandson. Any nation that accepted this message shall not suffer; but if any nation ..will not submit to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia rule, God will punish that nation by war, starvation and disease” Read Jer 27:6-8. The message for king Zedekiah was to surrender to the Babylonian rule and live, if he resists he would perish. The message for priests and people of Judah was not to be misled by the false prophets. The temple would be destroyed. Its treasures looted by the Babylonians.

Significance

The yoke represented the Babylonians rule. Nebuchadnezzar was used by God to bring judgment to all nations. Yahweh is a universal God and his judgment is universal. Sinners are punished regardless of their origin or nation. Those who repent are spared.

Reflection questions

Why did God inspire Jeremiah to use symbolic acts to convey his message?

Answer

Israelites were stubborn. Jeremiah acts were reminders to Judah to turn to God and stop idolatry and all the sins they were committing. They had drifted too far from God. False prophets were prophesying lies to them. The people of Judah were expected to meditate on these acts and understand God’s will for them and see the seriousness of the matter. This was also to imprint a lasting impression in their minds.

SAQ. Which methods do pastors / priests use to communicate God’s message to Christians today?

c. The sufferings and lamentations of Jeremiah

Read Jer 11, 12, 17:14 – 18, 18:18- 23 , 20: 1 – 6, 27, 37, and 38.

Jeremiah sufferings were experiences that were painful; physically and emotionally. In suffering there is loss and grief. Lamentations are strong emotional expressions of pain and grief. Jeremiah suffered in the following ways

I. Rejection by his own family and relatives. They plotted to kill him. This grieved Jeremiah. Anathoth planned to kill him but God protected Jeremiah. He pronounced God's judgment upon them

III. Jeremiah suffered when he was accused falsely. He was accused of blasphemy after the temple sermon. He foretold the destruction of the temple, just like Jesus Christ in the New Testament did.

IV. He was accused of treachery. That he was planning to leave Jerusalem and join the Babylonians. This led to Jeremiah being arrested and put in an underground jail.

V. Jeremiah received death threats because of speaking for God. King Jehoiakim plotted to kill prophet Uriah. The prophet escaped to Egypt but he was followed to Egypt, arrested and killed by king Jehoiakim. The king had planned to accuse Jeremiah of Uriah death. Ahikam and other elders defended Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 26)

VI. Jeremiah suffered loneliness and solitude. He felt emotional anguish and complained to God of his orders not to marry, neither attend social gathering and celebrations. This made Jeremiah lonely since he did not participate in the family life, political life, community activities and religious life.

VII. Jeremiah experienced inner personal struggle due to his love for his own people He did not want to see them suffer but the people were stubborn Read Jer. 12:1 – 6, 15:10 – 21, and 27.

VIII. Jeremiah's prophesying judgment caused him emotional pain and agony. His messages were mainly of severe judgment and punishment.

IX. He went through a spiritual struggle in his relationship with God. He felt frustrations, doubts, self-pity and despair. He wondered why God made him suffer. Why do the wicked prosper? He also wondered why God was taking too long to fulfil his prophecies. God assured him that Judah would be punished and promised to give Jeremiah victory against his enemies.

X. Jeremiah suffered physical assault, imprisonment and an attempt on his life. Pashhur, the chief temple priest ordered beating and chaining of Jeremiah to the temple gate. Jeremiah prophesied that Pashshur's name would change to 'terror everywhere'.

XI. King Zedekiah released Jeremiah from the cell to his court. Jeremiah continued to prophecy and was thrown in a muddy cistern. Here he was rescued by Ebed- melech an Ethiopian Eunuch. The court officials had accused him of not being patriotic. Jeremiah remained in jail until the Babylonians overthrew Jerusalem. He did not change his prophecies. Read Jer. 10:1 – 6, 27, 37, and 38.

Is there relevance of the sufferings and lamentations of Jeremiah to Christians today? From his suffering Christians learn to be ready to face opposition and rejection from their own family members and relatives for the sake of the gospel. Christians should be prepared to suffer persecution for the Lord. Christians should be ready to make sacrifices for the sake of God. Be ready to lead humble lives. Jeremiah's open confessions to God encourage Christians to be open to God. Christians should let God avenge for them just like Jeremiah prayed to God to revenge his enemies. Christians should not lose hope in times of difficulty. Christians learn that tribulations strengthen their faith. Christians should learn to deal with negative emotions such as self – pity, grief and trust God. Jeremiah was told by God to repent of his negative utterances. Christians should do the same as they are assured of divine security and protection against their persecutors.

LESSON FOUR. JEREMIAH'S TEACHING ABOUT THE NEW COVENANT

A covenant is an agreement. Another word for covenant is testament. Jeremiah taught that there would be a new covenant between God and Israel. This new covenant would be different from the Old (Sinai) covenant. The new covenant would renew the broken relationship between God and his people.

Lesson outcomes: After reading Jeremiah's teaching:

- a. State the terms of the new covenant.
- b. Identify the differences between the old covenant and the new covenant
- c. Summarize the similarities between the old covenant and the new covenant

a. The New Covenant.

In the new covenant, the law would be written in the hearts of the people unlike the old covenant where the law was written on stone tablets. Every individual would know God personally and not through prophets as it was during times of Jeremiah and previous one. Each person would be responsible for his/her sins. God would forgive sins and remember them no more. The new covenant would be established after God's punishment of Israel and establishing a 'new Israel', a 'new people' of God.

The new covenant would establish a new beginning. People would forget the first Exodus. The second Exodus would be deliverance and restoration from Babylon. God would initiate the new covenant as he did with the first. It would be a new covenant of peace, unity, prosperity, Joy and gladness. In the new covenant a 'righteous branch' would be established. The new covenant would be everlasting. It would not be broken again.

b. Differences between the old covenant and the new covenant

Old Covenant New Covenant

1. Based on law Based on faith
2. Word written on stone tablets Word written in peoples hearts
3. God known personally by a few priests prophets and prophets Each to person to know God personally
4. Covenant broken when people sinned Everlasting covenant
5. Sins punished collectively Sins punished individually
6. 1st Exodus from Egypt 2nd Exodus from Babylon
7. Sealed by animal sacrifice Sealed by Jesus sacrifice (blood)

What are the similarities between the old and the new covenant? Jesus fulfilled the new covenant. Jesus is the 'righteous branch' from the lineage of David. In the last supper, before his death, Jesus said 'this cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Read Luke, 22:20. The death and resurrection of Jesus marks the new covenant. Jesus spoke of forgiveness of sins of humanity Jesus forgave people's sins, for example, the sinful woman in Simon's house (Luke 7: 36 – 50). In the new covenant the law would be written in people's hearts. Jesus summarized the Mosaic Law into 'love God with all your heart, mind, strength and love your neighbour as you love yourself. Jesus established the kingdom of God as a new community of God's people based on faith (the Christians). Jesus fulfilled the new covenant prophecies The teachings of Jeremiah new covenant of hope and restoration is fulfilled in Jesus Christ and the new testament church (Christians) Heb.8:7 – 12.

LESSON FIVE. JEREMIAH'S TEACHINGS ON HOPE AND RESTORATION

Learning Outcomes

- (a) Explain the symbolic acts related to hope and restoration
- (b) Describe the fall of Jerusalem and the exile of the Israelites
- (c) Relate the relationship of the teachings of Jeremiah to the New Testament and Christian life today.

A. Symbolic acts related to hope and restoration.

The symbolic acts were one hope and restore. Hope is to expect something that is desired; while to restore is to bring back as nearly as possible the former or original state or condition. The symbolic acts were 5 in number. The first symbolic act was a vision of 2 baskets of figs. We have discussed it. Refer to the symbolic act related to judgment.

The second symbolic act was Jeremiah buying a field.

God instructed Jeremiah to buy a field from his cousin Hanamel of Anathoth. Jeremiah bought the field for 17 cents of silver. He then handed the title deed and open copy to Baruch. Baruch was told to keep the title deed and the copy in an earthen vessel for preservation for a long time. Jeremiah prophesied the restoration of the exiles to their homeland. The significance of this symbolic act is the assurance of restoration of Judah and Israel after suffering. People will be restored to their homeland. After 70 years people of Judah would reconstruct their homes, cultivate their land, and own property (Jer 32; 1 -15).

The third symbolic act was Jeremiah' letter to the Jews in Babylonia

Jeremiah wrote to the people of Judah a letter of encouragement while in exile. They were to settle down, build houses, marry and have children, live in peace with the Babylonians. They were to pray for the welfare of their masters and to ignore false prophets who lied to them about the safety of Jerusalem and a quick return. God would restore them back to their land after 70 years of exile were over. The exiles were to trust in God and not give up (Jer.29).

The four symbolic act was a wooden ox yoke.

The yoke represented captivity and suffering of Jews in exile. It was also a sign of hope if the people of Judah were willing to submit to the Babylonian rule. God would restore them back to their land. Their yoke would be broken and they would be set free.

The fifth symbolic act was the visit to the porter's house

b. The fall of Jerusalem and the exile of the Israelites (Jer.39)

Jeremiah's prophecy came to pass. Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in the ninth year of king Zedekiah in 587BC. The Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and seized it. King Zedekiah fled but; he was captured by the Babylonians army. He witnessed the execution of his sons. His eyes were gauged out. He was then taken in chains to captivity in Babylon. Solomon's temple was looted and destroyed. Villages, Jerusalem and the palace were destroyed and burnt down. The priests, court officials, army officials, people in the upper class, craftsmen were executed. City people were taken to Babylon as captives. The poor, aged and a few people were left behind and given vineyards to farm.

Nebuchadnezzar's army was brutal to the Israelites. Many were killed. A few like Ebed – Melech were spared as prophesied by Jeremiah (he had rescued him from the well).

Nebuchadnezzar ordered the release of Jeremiah. He was treated well

Judah became a province of Babylon. Gedaliah was appointed governor of Judah. He stayed at Mizpah, the headquarters of Judah. Ishmael killed Gedaliah. Later Jeremiah was forced to go to Egypt by the Israelites. Jeremiah died in Egypt, an old man, and still faithful to his call.

LESSON SIX. RELATING THE TEACHINGS OF JEREMIAH TO THE NEW TESTAMENT AND CHRISTIAN LIFE TODAY

Learning outcomes: By the end of the lesson you should be able to: -

1. Describe the teachings of Jeremiah in relation to Christian life today
2. Describe the teachings of Jeremiah in relation to the New Testament

Jeremiah was rejected by his; relatives, friends and the Israelites. In the New Testament, Jesus was rejected in his hometown of Nazareth; and by the religious leaders of Israel. Jeremiah compared himself to a lamb being led to the slaughter. Jesus in the New Testament is referred to as a lamb led to the slaughter. Jeremiah's suffering symbolizes divine judgment over Judah. However Jesus sufferings was to bring salvation to all mankind. Both Jeremiah and Jesus experienced spiritual agony. Jeremiah experience agony and felt left alone by God. Jesus too felt agony when praying in the garden of Gethsemane and when on the cross.

Jeremiah taught that God is universal and a just judge. The gospel of Jesus is universal and everybody is judged according to his or her faith in God. Jeremiah and Jesus accused the Israelites of turning the temple into a "den of robbers". Jeremiah and Jesus were both accused of blasphemy. Both challenged false beliefs about the temple. Both Jeremiah and Jesus spoke of the coming judgment of God.

The new covenant was fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ Jeremiah spoke of hope and restoration. Jesus gives hope of eternal life in the New Testament.

ii. Relationship of Jeremiah's teaching to Christian today.

Christians are to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are empowered by the Holy Spirit to endure suffering and to grow spiritually. Christians like Jeremiah face false prophets who speak in Jesus name. Christians are to be watchful and obey Yahweh

Like Jeremiah Christians should call people to repentance. The new covenant is fulfilled in Christian's individual relationship with God. Christians are the new people, the new Israel as prophesied by Jeremiah. His teachings reveal that God is universal. Christians are from all corners of the earth. Christians should prepare for divine judgment by practicing love, righteousness, self-denial, and faith in God.

Revision exercise

1. List the evils that Jeremiah condemned
2. What are some of the evils that church leaders condemn today?
3. Explain the symbolism used during the call of prophet Jeremiah
4. What did Jeremiah teach about the new covenant?
5. Why did prophet Jeremiah condemn the way the Israelites worshipped?
6. Explain Jeremiah's temple sermon as recorded in Jeremiah 7: 1-15
7. What forms of punishment did Jeremiah prophesy that God would use on Judah?
8. Outline the content of Jeremiah's letter to exiles in Babylon
9. Explain four symbolic acts related to judgement and punishment as demonstrated by prophet Jeremiah
10. Identify the relevance of Jeremiah's teaching to Christians today
11. In what ways is the prophetic mission of Jeremiah similar to that of Jesus?

Revision questions

1. 1993 Q 2b

Discuss how God showed concern for Israel through prophet Jeremiah

2. 1996 Q 1a

Discuss the circumstances which led to the exile of the Israelites in Babylon

(16marks)

3 1999 Q 2b (pp 2)

(b) With reference to the teachings of Jeremiah describe how the Israelites were encouraged to live in hope during Babylonian exile

(10 marks)

4. 1999 Q 4

With reference to Jeremiah chapter 1:4- 19, state Jeremiah's five responses to God's call

(5 marks)

5. 2001 Q 4

Give five problems prophet Jeremiah encountered before the Babylonian Exile

(5marks)

6. 2001 Q 2a (pp 2)

a) Describe the problems faced by the Israelites during the Babylonian exile. (8marks)

7. 2003 Q 2b

b) Identify the evils that prophet Jeremiah condemned

(12marks)

8. 2005 Q 2b

b) Explain Jeremiah's teaching on the 'New Covenant'

(10marks)

9. 2006 Q 5b, c

(b) Identify the symbolic acts used by prophet Jeremiah to demonstrate God's judgment and punishment to the Israelites.

(c) What lessons do Christians learn from prophet Jeremiah to teaching on the new covenant?

9. 2008 Q 5a,b

(a) Explain the significance of the symbolic act of buying land by prophet Jeremiah

(8marks)

(b) Outline the suffering of prophet Jeremiah during his ministry.

(7marks)

10. 2010 Q 5a, b

(a) Give six reasons why Jeremiah was not willing to accept the call of God to become a prophet.

(6 marks)

(b) Explain four evils condemned by Prophet Jeremiah during the Temple sermon. (8 marks)

(c) State six ways in which Church leaders communicate God's message to people in Kenya today.

(6 marks)

11. 2012 Q5 P1

(a) From the call Jeremiah, identify eight qualities of God (Jeremiah).

(b) Give six characteristics of the New Covenant foreseen by prophet Jeremiah.

(6marks)

(c) Give six ways in which Christians can assist victims of disasters.

(6marks)

Answers

1993 Q2b

- During the call of Jeremiah, God told them although he would destroy Israel, he would restore them as his people again.
- Jeremiah reminded the people of what God had done for them in the past and of his continued love for them.
- Jeremiah told the people that God would punish them because of their disobedience but will forgive them/accept them if they repented and back to him.
- Jeremiah told the people that the punishment would be a corrective measure/disciplinary measure through which they are supposed to learn and return to Yahweh.
- He warned them against idol worship/and advised them to return to the true worship or Yahweh.
- Reminded the people of the covenant which they had made with Yahweh, (and even his messengers to remind them of the covenant).
- Prophesied about the coming of the Messiah from the house of David (who would rule Israel with righteousness and justice).
- Jeremiah wrote a letter to the first exiles to Babylon, giving them hope / encouragement / he told them that the exile would come to an end / that they would return to Judah / that God would restore them as his people again
- Jeremiah prophesied about the a new covenant that God would make with Israel (in which individuals would be responsible for their action and in which there would be forgiveness of sins)
- Jeremiah bought a piece of land to symbolize restoration

1996 Q1a

- Towards the end of the seventh century B.C the Babylonians had become the most powerful nation in the middle East through conquest
- The Israelites had forsaken the covenant way of life with the neighbours/ the leaders of the people were corrupt/ there was social injustice/ lack of moral responsibility/ accountability
- The Israelites had broken the covenant relationship with God by forsaking the religion of their forefathers/ by worshipping idols/ practicing syncretism
- Intermarriages with non- Israelites brought in foreign influence which made the Israelites run away from Yahweh to other gods
- The Israelites also persecuted the prophets of Yahweh(Jeremiah) when they challenged them about their way of life/ hypocrisy in order to silence them.
- The Israelites failure to take the opportunity given to them by the prophets to repent.
- Israel had experienced a succession of weak rulers who did nothing to return the people to the covenant way of life.
- In 605 B.C Nebuchadnezzar/ Babylonians defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish leaving no obstacle to prevent the Babylonians from marching north.
- The Babylonian army captured Judah/ the cities/ forced king Jehonakim to accept Babylonian control (became Nebuchadnezzar's vassal).

- After three years of Babylonian rule, King Hehoiakim tried to overthrow the Babylonian rule (but he died suddenly) He was succeeded by his son Jehorachin)
- The Babylonians armies forced the new king/ Jehoiachin to surrender in 597 B.C leading to deportation to Babylon as exiles
- The Babylonians installed Zedekiah as their vassal in Judah and surrounded the city of Jerusalem.
- In 587 B.C the Babylonians broke into the city/ completely destroyed the city/ temple of Jerusalem/ most of the people who survived the destruction were deported as exiles to Babylon (8 x 2 = 16 marks)

1999 Q2 b(PP2)

- Jeremiah taught that the Israelites would be restored
- When they came back from exile, they would prosper
- They would have fair/just rules
- They would live in peace
- God would increase their number by them having many children/encouraged to marry/get children.
- They would worship Him alone/They would be His people / He would be their God.
- They would live forever in the land God would give them
- God would give them a king from David's lineage who would rule wisely.
- The exile suffering would not last forever/god had good plans for them/exiles is God's plan.
- People would cry to God/he would answer their prayers
- The Law will be written in their hearts
- They will know God individually
- Their sins will be forgiven
- Individuals will be responsible for their own sins
- Jeremiah encouraged them to build houses/plants gardens so as to prosper.
- Jeremiah's purchase of land spelt for the future (5x2=10marks)

1999 Q 4

- He was hesitant/immature due to age (young)
- He was not ready
- Did not know how to speak
- He had dialogue with God/talked to God
- He saw two visions that changed his attitude towards God's mission for Him
- He accepted to be sent. (5marks)

2001 Q4

- He was arrested
- He faced death threats from the people.
- The scroll was burnt by King Jehoiakin.
- He was thrown into a eastern/stared/well

- He had difficulties in convincing the people that his message was true/from Yahweh/faced opposition.
- He was beaten.
- He was insulted/referred/to as a traitor/mocked/ ridiculed
- He was barred from going to the temple.
- He was put in prison/ butted cell/ dungeon/detained (5 x1=5marks)

2001 Q 2a (PP2)

- They lacked adequate food/famine
- Adapting to a new environment
- Following/keeping the Babylonian laws
- They suffered from various diseases and ailments
- Some of them were executed
- They suffered from various diseases and ailments
- Some of them were executed
- They were turned into refugees in Egypt; Moab, Edom, Ammon, etc
- They were not united
- Their religious loyalty to God was undermine
- They were not united
- Their religious loyalty to God was undermined
- They lacked places for worship/religious festivals
- They were influenced into idolatry
- There were false prophets. (8x1=8marks)

2003 Q 2b

- He condemned prostitution
- He condemned tribalism
- Corrupt and murder
- Robbery and murder
- Exploitation of the poor
- In justice denied to the poor
- Selling of goods unfit for human consumption to the poor
- Selling into slavery those who could not pay their debts
- The oppression of the poor and the weak
- Taking of bribes mostly in courts
- Cheating in business by use of false scale

2005 Q 2b

- The laws will be written in people's hearts and not on stone tablets.
- The new covenant will be between an individual and God / personal salvation/relationship.
- There will be individual responsibility /punishment for those who sin.
- The new covenant will be everlasting.
- The new covenant will be universal.
- There will be forgiveness of sins/they will not be remembered
- There will be no mediators between God and the individual.
- The new covenant would be fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ. (5 x 2=10marks)

2006 Q 5a, b

- Buying a new linen waistcloth and buying in a cleft of the rock Jer 13L 1 – 11
- Jeremiah was not to marry. Jer 16: 1- 18
- The reworking of the vessels by the potter. Jer 18: 1 – 17
- The breaking of the earthen flask before the elders. Jer 19: 1 – 15
- He was shown two baskets or figs one with good figs and another with bad figs. Jer 24: 1 -10

- Wearing of the yoke Jer 27: 1 – 15 (4 x 1 = 4 marks)
- They should internalize the Law of God/ laws of God are in their hearts
- They should have personal relationship with God/ know God personally
- There is individual responsibility/ punishment when one sins
- There is forgiveness of sins if one repents/ reconciliation
- Christians have an everlasting relationship with God
- Those who repent their sins have a new beginning
- The need to have faith in God
- They should obey practice the law of God
- They learn that the new covenant is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ

(6marks)

2008 Q 5a,b

(a)

- It showed the people of Judah still had a future despite the coming crisis/Judah will regain freedom after conquest.
- It was an assurance that the people would be restored back to their homeland/reclaim their land.
- It demonstrated that the people would resume their normal lives/construct homes/cultivate land/own property.
- Divine judgment was not an end in itself.
- Restoration was to take place at God's own time/God was to determine when the people would be restored back.(Time).
- The people had to wait patiently for their return from exile.
- It showed that God was loving/faithful/was to keep his promise of restoration/bring them back to their ancestral land.
- It made them feel secure/they were not to lack anything. (4x2=8 marks)

(b)

- He was rejected by his own family/relatives.
- People made false accusations against him.
- He was threatened with death because of speaking for God.
- He lived a lonely solitary life/was commanded to neither marry nor attend any social gathering.
- His message was rejected by the Israelites.
- He went through spiritual struggle as he saw the evil prosper while the righteous suffered.
- He was physically assaulted/beaten.
- The enemies attempted to kill him/He was put in muddy cistern.

- He was humiliated in public/mockered.
- He was imprisoned/jailed.
- He was arrested and put on trial. (7x1=7 marks)

2010 Q 5a,b

- He felt that he was too young/was inexperienced as a prophet.
- He did not have the message to the people.
- He lacked confidence/courage
- He did not know how to speak/not a good speaker.
- He was afraid of confronting/talking against the kings/elders
- The task was too difficult overwhelming for him.
- He was not sure of what could be done to him by the people of the message he was to deliver (response to the message).

b)

- He condemned the false belief about the temple not being destroyed because it was God's dwelling place.
- He condemned the hypocrisy/presence of people who committed different sins and came to the temple to worship Yahweh.
- He talked about the defiled of the temple by placing idols in it.
- He condemned the worship of other gods/idolatry which was a rebellion to the Sinai covenant.
- He condemned the practice of human sacrifice which was against the commandments of God.
- He condemned oppression of the foreigners/widows/orphans which against the covenant way of life.
- He condemned the stubbornness/rebellion of the Israelites against God's warning

c)

- Use of print/give out bibles e.g. publications conference/retreat.
- Holding public meetings/crusades/Rallies
- Through sings songs of praise
- Through conducting pastoral care/counseling
- Through carrying spiritual healing/prayer
- Conducting door to door evangelism visits.
- Providing material support to the needy.
- Through leading exemplary lives.
- Through electronic media (6 x 1 = 6 marks)

2012 Q5 P1

(a)

- God is the creator
- God knows every person by name/all knowing
- God is a planner/chooses/appoints
- God is holy
- God hates/punishes evil

- God is just/judges
- He is caring/concerned
- God is merciful/forgiving
- God is universal
- God is a protector/deliverer
- He is a powerful/almighty/omnipotent
- He is beyond human understanding/transcendent
- He is everywhere/omnipresent
- He restores
- Provider

(8×1 =8 marks)

(b)

- The laws would be written in the hearts of men and women.
- Every individual would know God individually
- It would be an everlasting covenant/would not be broken again.
- There would be individual responsibility/suffering for ones sins.
- God would forgive their sins/remember them no more.
- It would be established after God punishes Israel/with the remnant.
- It would establish a new Israel/ a new people of God.
- It would be initiated by God.

(6x1 = 6 marks)

(c)

- By donating food/clothing for them/material needs
- By providing shelter for them.
- By resettling them in safe areas.
- Offering guidance and counseling.
- Through offering health care.
- By re-uniting them with their families.
- By providing financial assistance.
- By taking preventive measures against future disaster/training
- Through visiting them.
- Praying for/ with them.
- Preaching to them

(6 x 1 = 6 marks)

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NEHEMIAH

Introduction

The book of Nehemiah is a historical writing. Nehemiah is a record of his deep dependence on God and his frequent prayer to God. Nehemiah means “Yahweh has comforted. Nehemiah was the son of Hacaliah of Judah. He was not a prophet. He was exiled to Babylon. Persians captured Babylon and improved the living condition of the Israelites. They were allowed religious freedom but had to pay tributes.

Learning outcomes: By the end of this topic you should be able to;

- a. Describe the historical, religious and social background to Nehemiah
- b. Identify occasions when Nehemiah prayed
- c. Explain the importance of prayer in Christian life
- D .Describe leadership qualities of Nehemiah and relevance to Christians today

LESSON ONE. BACKGROUND TO NEHEMIAH

Learning outcomes: After reading this lesson,

- i. Describe how the people of Judah lived and worshipped.
- ii. Explain the conquest of Israel and Judah by foreign forces
- iii. Give reasons why God allowed Judah and Israel to be conquered and exiled.

a. Political and historical background

From 587 BC to 538 BC, Israelites were in exile. In 538 B.C., the first group of Israelites was set free and returned to Judah. Cyrus the Great, of Persia ruled his subjects through governors. They were led out of Babylon by Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel who became the first governor of Judah.

Some Jews remained in Babylon. They were referred to as Jews in Diaspora or dispersion.

Other Jews remained in other lands including Egypt, and Mediterranean lands

Nehemiah; He was a cupbearer in the palace of the Persian king Artaxerxes I. He later became a governor of Judah. Even after the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem, Israelites remained subjects of the Persian king.

The Wall of Jerusalem was important to Israel and Judah. The Wall represented a sense of pride, ownership, privacy, independence and

Security; The Greeks conquered the Persians; who were later conquered by Romans.

b. Social background

The Jews in foreign lands retained their Jewish way of life. The land of Israel was partly occupied by foreigners. The foreign cultures of neighboring rulers influenced Israelites who returned. They for example, intermarried with foreigners, a custom that God did not allow. Israelites were not to intermarry with other people according to the Mosaic Law. In spite of this however, Jews maintained their separated identity. Some of the foreigners despised Jews. The wealthy Jews oppressed the poor Jews. In Jerusalem there was starvation. Nehemiah condemned oppression of the poor.

c. Religious background

Jews returned to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem and the altar of God for sacrifices. While in exile, Jews were allowed by the Babylonian king to practice their religion. They worshipped Yahweh, practiced circumcision, obeyed dietary laws and observed the Sabbath. The exiles could not however observe all the religious practices for example offering animal sacrifices. Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to rebuild it's the wall. The temple of Jerusalem was rebuilt, cleared and dedicated to God.

LESSON TWO. Prayers by Nehemiah and modern Christians

Learning outcomes: After reading this lesson the learner should be able to:

- a. Outline occasions when Nehemiah prayed to the Lord.
- b. Discuss the importance of prayer

Nehemiah prayed, mourned, and fasted. He prayed often and for all actions, keeping God's law, forgiveness, punishments, human relations, Jerusalem, good works, contributions and offerings, observance of Sabbath day, and preparing duty allocations for priests and Levites. .

i. When he learnt about the suffering of Jews who remained in Judah and the ruined state of Jerusalem; He prayed for forgiveness on behalf of his people (Neh.4: 1 – 11).

ii. Making a request to King Artaxerxes to be permitted to return to Judah (Neh.2: 4 –

iii. When his enemies ridiculed the Jews and planned to discourage them from rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Tobiah in particular said that the wall was poorly constructed and it could be brought down by; a fox jumping on it. Nehemiah requested God to punish the enemies who were mocking temple builders (Neh.4: 4 – 5).

iv. When he learnt that his enemies were conspiring to attack Jerusalem to stop the construction work, he prayed and organised people to provide a 24-hour guard of the wall (Neh.4: 7 – 9).

.v. For his good work, he prayed for his works (Neh 5:19).

vi. When his enemies plotted to destroy him, he prayed God for strength and courage to overcome his enemies (Neh 6: 19).

vii. When Shemaih attempted to frighten him to hide in the temple claiming that there was a plot to kill him, Nehemiah prayed and asked God to punish his enemies (Neh 6:14).

viii. When he organized contributions for Levites and musicians; and people to distribute them. He asked God to remember his work for the house of God (Neh 13:14).

ix. He stopped trade on the Sabbath day, and organised rest on the Sabbath day. He warned traders against violating the Sabbath law. He asked Lord to remember him for these actions (Neh.13: 22).

x. Nehemiah prayed for punishment of the son of Joiada. The son of Joiada had brought disgrace to the priest hood by marrying a foreigner, the daughter of Sanballat from the town of Beth Horon, (Neh 13:29). After cleansing the Israelites of foreign influence, he forbade mixed marriages

xi. He prepared duty regulations for priests and Levites. He allocated them duties. He then organised Jews to bring offerings for maintaining priests and Levites. He prayed God to remember his work for the temple, priests and Levites (Neh 13:31).

b. Importance of prayer in Christian life

Through prayers, Christians express their faith in God and praise God for his greatness, goodness, holiness, and majesty. Prayer brings Christians closer to God; it strengthens their relationship with God. Through prayer Christians request for their needs, blessings, success, good health, and protection among other requests.

Prayers help Christians to listen to God and to seek his will. Prayer is a source of strength. It gives Christians courage to face and overcome life's challenges. Christians seek guidance, comfort and support in times of trials. In prayer, Christians intercede for the sick, poor, hungry, prisoners, friends, family and community. The communal / public prayers unite Christians together. Through prayers, Christians ask for forgiveness and the ability to forgive others. In prayers, Christians trust that God listens and answers their prayers.

LESSON THREE: LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF NEHEMIAH

Learning outcomes: By the end of the lesson you should be able to: -

1. State the leadership qualities of Nehemiah
2. Explain the relevance of Nehemiah's leadership qualities to Christians today

Introduction

A leader is someone charged with the responsibility of guiding, controlling, directing and leading others. Nehemiah had many leadership qualities. These were: -

- 1) God fearing man. Nehemiah feared God, relied and depended on God.
- 2) Prayerfulness – he prayed constantly before and after making decisions.
- 3) Courageous – He displayed courage even when his life was in danger
- 4) Hard work and commitment. He was dedicated to the rebuilding of the wall of the temple and Jerusalem.
- 5) Team spirit – he was a team leader, motivating people to work.
- 6) He had planning and organizational skills
- 7) He was visionary – He had compassion for the needy especially the poor, Levites and priests
- 9) He was patriotic loved his country
- 10) Wisdom. He made wise decisions at the right time.
- 11) He led by example, a role model
- 12) He was honest and sincere in his prayers
- 13) He was shrewd and impartial
- 14) He trusted God absolutely.
- 15) He was decisive. He told God about decisions he had made and asked for their recognition.
- 16) He was humble. He asked to be allowed to return to Jerusalem and oversee the repair of its wall and temple.
- 16) He believed in law and punishment of wrong doers. He asked God to punish lawbreakers especially Jews who married foreigners.

b. Relevance of Nehemiah's leadership to Christians today

Christians should copy all the leadership qualities of Nehemiah. They should trust in God and seek his guidance in all their activities and needs.

1. Christians should live a life of prayer
2. Christians should be courageous, be ready to defend the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Christians should be dedicated to their work. Work diligently and honestly
4. Christians should set realistic goals and organize their activities.
5. Christians should seek wisdom from God to be able to choose appropriate activities to attain their visions.
6. Christians should care for the needy and be compassionate to all
7. Christians should be patriotic and ready to defend their country against internal / external threats.
8. Christians should need to fight for the rights of the helpless children, widows, orphans, and aged.
9. Christians should seek God first, view themselves as servants of God and be good role models.

LESSON FOUR. BUILDING THE WALL OF JERUSALEM

The wall of Jerusalem was destroyed when Babylonians conquered Judah. After finishing the wall, he dedicated it to the Lord. Dedication is to devote something in honor of a person held dear or to set aside something for some special purpose.

Learning Outcomes: After reading this lesson, you should be able to: -

- a. Describe the problems that Nehemiah faced when building the wall of Jerusalem
- b. Describe the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem
- c. Identify lessons, which Christians can learn from Nehemiah.

Nehemiah rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem.

The rebuilt wall had several gates with different names. The gates were the entrances to Jerusalem. Their names were Dung gate, Potsherd gate, Fountain gate, Water gate, Horse gate, East gate, Sheep gate, Fish gate, Watch gate and Ephraim gate. Knowing the names of the gates may not be necessary but its good information.

Problems faced by Nehemiah.

When Nehemiah was building the wall of Jerusalem, he faced many challenges. There was lack of cooperation by the nobles of Tekoa. They did not want to do manual work at first but they later repented. Nehemiah faced opposition from enemies such as Sanballat, and Tobiah, the Arab who tried to thwart the progress of Nehemiah's work.

As he built Jerusalem, the rich oppressed the poor. This was worsened by famine

The priests misused the temple and the offerings. For example, temple duties had been abandoned. The Levites were not getting their share of the offerings and the Sabbath was violated. There was laxity in observance of the Sabbath. This was a challenge to Nehemiah because Sabbath day should be kept holy.

There was a lot of foreign influence because of the conquests by several foreign armies, intermarriages and interactions between Jews, neighboring people and foreigners. Marriages in particular threatened the identity of the Israelites as a nation. Worse still Priests married to foreign women defiled the priesthood according to Nehemiah. Because of these assimilations of Jews through marriages, Nehemiah knew that Israel and Judah would eventually be lost as God's nation. Because of his opposition to these interactions, Nehemiah received death threats.

Dedication of the wall of Jerusalem (NEH. 12:27 – 47)

The rebuilt wall was dedicated to God. The wall restored security and prestige of God's people. The wall of Jerusalem was set-aside for God in a solemn ceremony. There was a dedication ceremony in which people sang with symbols, harps, lyres, trumpets and other instruments. The priests and Levites purified themselves.

The people led by Ezra, Nehemiah, the priests and other leaders of Judah walked around the wall. They divided themselves into two groups. One group walked from the right side and the other group from the left side and converged at the temple. Sacrifices were offered and people rejoiced. Some men were appointed to be in charge of the storehouses; where tithes, and first fruits of harvest were kept.

Relevance of Nehemiah's experience to Christians today

Christians should expect opposition, as did Nehemiah. They should not be afraid of being ridiculed, mocked and despised. If it happens, Christians should persevere in God's work. They should put their trust in God like Nehemiah did.

They should also fight for the welfare of the disadvantaged groups and not exploit them.

They have a moral obligation to condemn injustice and take practical steps to help solve problems that afflict individuals, groups, nations, and society. They should be in the forefront fighting HIV/ AIDS and drug abuse.

Christians should be on the look out for external influence that may corrupt morals of the society and the church. They should learn that leadership involves suffering, persecution, and sacrifices. This is foregoing personal interests for the sake of the kingdom of God.

LESSON FIVE: RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT

Learning outcomes: After reading this lesson, you should be able to: -

- i. List the stages followed to renew the covenant.
 - ii. Identify issues that Ezra mentioned in his prayer
 - iii. List the vows that were made by the Israelites during renewal of the covenant
- i. Stages of the renewal of the covenant. Israelites were the chosen people of God. They had suffered many hardships. There was therefore a need for the renewal of the covenant between God and Israelites. The ceremony to renew the covenant was held in Jerusalem and was led by Ezra, the Levites and other religious leaders. The renewal of the covenant can be discussed in 3 main stages:

Stage 1. A great public assembly was held in the square of Jerusalem inside the water gate. God's law was read and expounded to the people. The people of Israel praised and worshipped God. They cried and grieved. They were sad because they realized that they had failed to observe the Mosaic Law. They were instructed to go and celebrate, as it was a holy day of God and an occasion for joy not sorrows.

Stage 2. The feast of booths/tabernacle was celebrated for 7 days. It was a reminder of the days in the wilderness when the Israelites dwelt in tents. The Law of Moses was read each day during the celebrations.

Stage 3. There was a public confession of sin. People fasted, prayed and praised God. The public confession was followed by the renewal of the covenant vows and a promise to keep God's law in future.

Ezra's prayer closed the celebrations. In his prayer, he recalled God's acts of creation. He then recounted the history of the Israelites. He mentioned the previous acts of God; where the Lord had demonstrated His love and mercy for the Israelites. He then confessed the sins of their ancestors and the present Israelites. These were the sins of rebellion and disobedience.

ii. Promises and vows made by Israelites during the renewal of the covenant. Israelites promised God that they would

- Live according to God's law, by obeying all his commands and requirements.
- Stop intermarrying with foreigners living in their land.
- Cancel debts every 7th year
- Contribute annually towards the temple expenses to ensure that the house of God was not neglected.
- Provide sacrifices and offerings for the temple and arrange for provision of wood for burnt sacrifices according to the law.
- Offer first fruits of their harvest and dedicate the first born and flocks as required by the law.
- Pay for their tithes as required by the law.

Which lessons can we learn from the renewal of the covenant? God is good, loving, merciful, and faithful to his promises. God forgives all people and we are all sinners. We fail in our moral obligation to God and to one another.

Since we are sinners, we should repent our sins and strive to live according to God's law.

Christians are to encourage one another as well as others to repent as it brings about reconciliation with God and with one another.

Christians should be forgiving and avoid situations that lead them to sin

SAQ. Check from form 1 work, this information.

1. Outline Nehemiah's final reforms
2. What is a covenant?
3. What are the components of a covenant?
4. Discuss how the covenant was renewed
5. List examples of covenants in the Old Testament and modern life.
6. Explain what Christians can learn from the experiences of Nehemiah
7. Compare or relate the teachings from Nehemiah's exemplary life to the teaching of St. Luke's Gospel and Christian life today.

LESSON SIX: FINAL REFORMS OF NEHEMIAH

Introduction

Changes for improvement are known as reforms, which are either political, economical, social, religious or a combination of any of them. Examples of reformers are King David, Prophet Elijah, and Martin Luther King among others.

Nehemiah. After building the wall, Nehemiah went back to King Artaxerxes II who if you remember had given permission to go to Jerusalem and build its destroyed perimeter wall. Later he returned to Jerusalem and carried out these reforms.

Lesson outcomes: After reading this lesson, you should be able to:

a. List reforms of Nehemiah

b. Suggest what we can learn from the teachings of Nehemiah and that of St. Luke's Gospel

a. Reforms by Nehemiah. We have discussed reforms, which Nehemiah carried out during his stay in Judah, where he was the governor (Neh 5:14). The major reforms were

i Rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem as well as its gates.

ii Cleansing of the temple: Nehemiah threw him out Tobiah a foreigner who was living in the temple quarters.

iii Reinstatement of the Levites and other temple workers. Levites, and musicians had left the temple duties to work in their farms to earn a livelihood. They were supposed to work in the temple and be supported by member contributions. Nehemiah organised Jews to make offerings and tithes to support temple workers. With these contributions, Nehemiah reinstated and redeployed Levites, priests, musicians and other temple workers.

iv Reform of the Sabbath observance. The Israelites were told by the Lord to work for 6 days and rest on the Sabbath day. The Jews started working on the Sabbath day. The merchants camped outside waiting for the reopening of the gates of the temple to do business. When Nehemiah started rebuilding Jerusalem, he ordered closure of the gates of Jerusalem from the eve of Sabbath to the end of the Sabbath.

v Separations from foreigners (Neh.13: 23 – 30). It was against God's law to marry foreigners. Nehemiah cursed the men who had married foreign wives. He beat Jews, pulled their hair and forced them to take oaths that neither they, nor their sons nor daughters shall intermarry.

vi Purification of priesthood and the office of the Levites. Nehemiah cleansed the priesthood. He sent away Eliashib, a grandson of the High Priest Joshua, because he had given Tobiah a foreigner, a room in the temple.

b. Comparing teachings of Nehemiah and St. Luke's Gospel

i Nehemiah lived a prayerful life while St. Luke's gospel emphasizes importance of prayer. Jesus taught the role of prayer in Christianity.

ii Nehemiah fasted, St. Luke's gospel records that Jesus fasted.

iii Nehemiah prayed for forgiveness of sinful Jews. We see Jesus in St. Luke's gospel being a leader who prayed for the forgiveness of his enemies.

iv Nehemiah cared for the needy. Jesus showed compassion to the needy and taught his followers to follow His example.

v Nehemiah condemned evil so did Jesus

vi Nehemiah is seen as a reformer of the Mosaic Law. In St Luke Gospel, Jesus was also a reformer. He insisted on inner holiness.

vii Nehemiah cleansed the temple of traders so did Jesus.

viii Nehemiah was very strict on the Sabbath observance. St. Luke's gospel teaches that Jesus is lord over Sabbath. He healed and "Worked" on Sabbath.

ix Nehemiah was opposed to racial intermarriages, St. Luke Gospel was dedicated to Theophilus, a gentile convert

x Christianity kingdom of God in St. Luke's gospel is for all, not just the Jews.

xi. Nehemiah had good leadership skills and wisdom. These are demonstrated in St Luke Gospel.

Relating Nehemiah's teachings to Christian life today

i Prayers and fasting are fundamental to Christians just like they were to Nehemiah who led a prayerful life.

ii Nehemiah's example teaches Christians to face all forms of opposition with courage, wisdom, and firmness

iii The good leadership qualities of Nehemiah are relevant to Christians and they are to be emulated.

iv Nehemiah cared for the needy. Christians should learn to give spiritual food, physical food and clothing to the needy, orphans, widows.

v As Nehemiah renewed the covenant, Christians should seek spiritual renewal publicly and privately. They should seek for communal as well as individual forgiveness.

vi Nehemiah cleansing the temple and organised an inventory for temple contributions, offerings and tithes. He also appointed key people to look after temple contributions and pay Levites and priests. Christians should learn to use the church buildings and contributions rightly

vii Nehemiah was guided by the Law of Moses and land just like Christians are guided by the scriptures (Bible) and the law of the nation. The Bible is the source and basis of Christian principles.

Revision
questions

1. Describe the political background of Nehemiah
2. Describe the social background to the vocation of Nehemiah
3. Describe the religious background to the vocation of Nehemiah
4. Describe occasions when Nehemiah prayed
5. State occasions when Christians pray
6. What is the importance of prayer in Christian life?
7. Identify the leadership of Nehemiah's patriotism
8. Explain the relevance of Nehemiah's leadership to a Christian today
9. Explain the relevance of Nehemiah's experience to Christians today
10. explain the problems that Nehemiah encountered in his vocation
11. Explain the steps taken by Nehemiah to renew the covenant
12. State the promises the Israelites made during the renewal of the covenant

Revision questions

1. 2006 Q 5a

- (a) Outline the problems that Nehemiah encountered in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. (10 marks)

2. 2007 Q 5a, b

(a) Explain the different occasions when Nehemiah prayed (8 marks)

(b) In what ways did Nehemiah demonstrate qualities of a good leader during his time? (7 marks)

(c) What is the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian today (5 marks)

3. 2009 Q 5a, b

(a) State **four** promises that the Israelites made when they renewed their covenant with God during the time of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 10:28-29) (8marks)

(b) Identify **five** final reforms carried out by Nehemiah to restore the worship of God in Judah. (5marks)

4. 2011 Q 5

a) Outline the stages followed in the renewal of the covenant during the time of Nehemiah. (8 marks)

b) Give six reasons why Nehemiah carried out religious reforms in Judah (6 marks)

c) What lessons do Christians learn from the renewal of the covenant by Nehemiah? (6 marks)

Answers

2006 Q 5a

- The officials of Tekoa did not co-operate with him (Neh3:5
- He was ridiculed by Sanballat and Tobiah. Neh 2:17 – 19, 4: 2- 3
- He received threats of violence from the enemies Neh 4: 7 – 8
- A trap was laid to drill his mission of rebuilding the wall. Neh 4: 12
- There was a plot to kill him. Neh 6: 2 -3
- Insecurity from the enemies Neh 4: 11 – 12
- False prophets tried to discourage him. Neh 6: 14
- Opposition from the Jewish nobles Neh 4: 19
- False accusation from his enemies Neh 6: 5-9 (5x 2 = 10 marks)

2007 Q5a,b

- Before asking King Artaxerxes to let him go back to Judah
- When he learnt that the Jews in Judah were suffering and the temple of Jerusalem was in ruins
- When his enemies made fun of the Jews and discouraged them from building the wall of Jerusalem
- When the enemies conspired to attack Jerusalem to stop the construction work
- After he condemned the leaders for opposing the poor
- When his enemies planned to harm him
- When he was frightened by Shemaiah to hide in the temple claiming that there was a plot to kill him
- When he cleansed and reorganized the temple for worship
- After warning the people of Judah against violating the Sabbath law
- When he had chased away the son-in-law of Sanballat
- After cleansing the Israelites of the foreign influence (4 x 2 =8marks)

- He was hardworking /committed to his work
- He faced opposition/challenges courageously
- He prayed and consulted God in all situations
- He had a vision/foresight for the nation/Jews
- He recognized other people's abilities /allowed them to perform different duties
- He was concerned about the life of his people
- He was patriotic
- He made wise/firm decision in different circumstances
- He was honest
- He served as a role model/participated in the rebuilding of the wall in Jerusalem
- He endured persecutions (7 x 1 = 7 marks)

- It enables one to gain power over temptations
- It expresses one's obedience/humility before God
- One is able to give thanks to God for the many blessings
- So as to ask for God's protection/care in all that one does
- In order to ask for forgiveness for the wrongs done
- One is able to intercede for others

- In order to ask for forgiveness for the wrongs done
- So as to praise/glorify /exalt God
- To seek for guidance/direction for God
- One is able to communicate with God

2009 Q 5a,b

- They were to live according to Gods law/obey, ail his commandments/requirements.
- They would not intermarry with the foreigners living in their land.
- They promised not to farm every seventh year/ they were to cancel all the debts.
- They would make annual contribution towards temple expenses/not to neglect the house of God
- They were to provide wood for burnt sacrifices.
- They were to offer the first fruits of their harvest/ dedicate their first born sons/flocks as required by the law.
- They would pay their tithes in accordance with the law.
- They will not do any business on the Sabbath day. (4x2=8marks)
- Cleansing of the temple.
- Reinstating of the Levites and other temple workers,
- He ordered the closure of Jerusalem for proper Sabbath observance,
- He separated the Jewish from the foreigners.
- He purified the priesthood.
- Thro wins out the household of Tobia out of the chamber.
- Cleansing the chamber in the temple,
- Returning the vessels of the house of God.
- Appointing treasures over the storehouses,
- Sopping the buying and selling of wares on the Sabbath day.
- He ordered an end to mixed, marriages/ foreigners.

2011 Q 5

- The people gathered in the public square in Jerusalem
 - The priest Ezra read the law to the people
 - They performed repentance gestures of raising/ lowering their hands
 - The people constructed makeshift tents/ shelters to celebrate the feast of the booths.
 - There was national day of confession / fasting as they wore sack clothes
 - Ezra led people in prayer of confession
 - They sealed the covenant by signing an agreement under the leadership of Nehemiah and the priest
 - The people promised not to go against the Mosaic law
 - The re-distribution of the people in Jerusalem and country side.
- (4x2 = 8 marks)
- To preserve the identity of the Jews as people of God
 - To separate the Jews from foreign influence
 - To purify the temple which had been defiled by keeping a foreigner

- To reinstate the services of the Levites as priests in the temple
- To restore the tithing system that had been forgotten for the upkeep of the temple
- To ensure that the Sabbath day was free from business activities
- In order to cleanse the Jews who had intermarried with foreigners / exposed to idolatry.

- Christian should ask for their sins to be forgiven
- They should lead righteous lives
- Christians should always pray to God
- Christians should demonstrate humility
- They should avoid groups that can negatively influence their faith in God.
- They should teach others the word of God
- They should set aside a day for worship
- They should respect the church as a place for prayer
- They should read word of God