

## Unit 4 Test Answer Key

# God Revealed through Holy People and Worship

### Multiple Choice

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. d | 8. a  | 15. a | 22. a |
| 2. c | 9. c  | 16. a | 23. d |
| 3. b | 10. a | 17. d | 24. d |
| 4. c | 11. d | 18. a | 25. d |
| 5. b | 12. a | 19. b |       |
| 6. b | 13. b | 20. c |       |
| 7. a | 14. d | 21. a |       |

### Matching

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 26. e | 34. k |
| 27. b | 35. c |
| 28. l | 36. g |
| 29. a | 37. m |
| 30. j | 38. o |
| 31. f | 39. n |
| 32. d | 40. h |
| 33. i |       |



## Essay

Responses will vary but should include the following points:

- A. How did the stories of their great heroes offer the Jewish People hope in difficult times? Use Tobit, Judith, or Esther as an example.

The Old Testament includes three short novels, or novellas: the Books of Tobit, Judith, and Esther. They emphasize the importance of prayer, courage in times of trouble, trust in God, and God’s special care for the vulnerable. They were written during times when the Jewish People needed encouragement to be faithful during the Greek Domination.

Tobit	Judith	Esther
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The story of Tobit is set in the eighth century BC, when the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians. Tobit was taken far from home to the Assyrian city of Nineveh. The book begins with two people whose lives are so bad that they would rather be dead.</li> <li>• Tobit, a good and faithful Jewish man, is blinded by a freak accident. He is completely frustrated and begs God to end his life.</li> <li>• Sarah, a young woman who is from another town, is a good person who has experienced terrible misfortune. Every single one of her seven husbands died on their wedding night before the marriage could be consummated. Like Tobit, Sarah prays to God, asking for her death.</li> <li>• The Book of Tobit addresses the mysterious ways in which God works in the lives of those who are open and faithful to him in ways we cannot foresee. It insists on God’s caring presence in our lives. God’s concern for those who suffer is just as important for us today as it was for the Israelites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judith, a woman and a widow, saves her city and the nation from destruction by the Assyrians. In Hebrew, <i>Judith</i> means “Jewish woman,” so she could represent all Jewish women of the past who have served God through their faith, courage, and decisive action.</li> <li>• Judith is a hard worker and a good, beautiful woman. She comes up with a plot to kill the Assyrian general, which requires shrewd use of her beauty and a lot of bravery. Because she is a woman, Judith is able to do something that a man cannot do. It’s quite an astonishing story considering that the Israelites were a patriarchal society in which men had all the power.</li> <li>• Judith’s actions allow the Israelites to drive away and plunder the Assyrians. Leaders from Jerusalem even come to congratulate Judith. It is a sign of Judith’s humility that her song (see 16:1–17) praises God, whom she acknowledges as the true hero of this story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written during the period the Jews were oppressed by the Greeks, the Book of Esther is set in the years after the Babylonian Exile, when Persia reigns over Israel. Esther is a beautiful Jewish woman who becomes the Persian queen while keeping her Jewish heritage a secret from the king.</li> <li>• Esther’s cousin, Mordecai, has a conflict with a powerful man in the king’s court. Humiliated by the conflict, this man seeks to eliminate all the Jewish People, and convinces the king to do so. Because they view this as a sign of God’s displeasure with them, Mordecai, Esther, and all the Jews begin to fast in order to purify themselves of whatever sins they have committed.</li> <li>• In an effort to save her people, Esther takes a chance that could cost her her life. Even as queen, she cannot approach the king unbidden. So she uses her power to host royal banquets that will create an opportunity to tell the king the truth. In the end, she defeats Haman, and her people are saved from annihilation.</li> </ul>

- B. How did the Babylonian Exile affect the Jewish People and their faith?

After almost fifty years of exile in Babylon, most of the Israelites—now called Jews—returned home to Jerusalem. The Babylonian Exile was a crisis for the Jewish People, and like most people, when they faced crisis moments, they began to question who they were and what they believed. The Babylonian Exile was the crisis that triggered the Jewish People to examine their history and their relationship with God. This in turn brought about new writings and the formation of most of the Old Testament.



After the Exile, most of the remaining Israelites lived in the southern kingdom of Judah, so they became known as Judeans or Jews. This is where we also get the term for the religious faith of Judaism. Many of the exiled Jews returned to Jerusalem, but not all of them. Some were already living in other thriving Jewish communities in cities surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. All of these communities, called the Jews of the Dispersion, once sought unity by living together in a single homeland.

The Diaspora Jews did not have access to the Temple in Jerusalem, so they centered their faith life around synagogues. A synagogue, at this time, was a building that served as the assembly place and center of worship for Jews who lived outside of Jerusalem.

Some Jews remained in Jerusalem during the Babylonian Exile. When their families returned from Babylon, together they faced the task of rebuilding the Temple and the ruined city. However, their biggest undertaking was to restore their identity as a faith community and strengthen their relationship with God.

- C. What issue does the Book of Job address? What is its main point? In your answer, include an explanation of God's response to Job's questioning.

The Book of Job explores the mystery of suffering. It provides a different take on the generally accepted Israelite belief that God punishes the wicked and rewards the good in this life, and it offers an unsettling response to the question "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

The beginning of the Book of Job offers a short description of Job, whose life seems perfect. In the eyes of the ancient Israelites, these are all signs that God has rewarded Job. He must be someone who is faithful to God and follows the Law, and therefore nothing bad should happen to him. But then bad things start happening to him. His life has been turned completely upside down.

Three of Job's friends hear about his misfortunes and travel long distances to comfort him. Job and his three friends begin to debate, and his friends argue that he must have done something to bring on his misfortunes. Job continues to proclaim his innocence.

Near the end of the debate, Job challenges God himself, and God bursts out of the storm and repeatedly asks Job questions to which Job has no good answers. Ultimately, Job faces this great mystery, and he realizes that this is a question he can never really answer. The reason bad things happen to good people is a mystery that is beyond human understanding.

