

Unit 4 Reading Guide Answer Key

God Revealed through Holy People and Worship

Chapter 12: Rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple

Article 52: Leaving Babylon, Going Home

1. After almost fifty years of exile in Babylon, most of the Israelites, now called Jews, returned home to Jerusalem.
2. The Babylonian Exile was a crisis that triggered the Jewish People to examine their history and their relationship with God, and brought about the formation of most of the Old Testament.
3. Second Isaiah calls Cyrus God's "anointed one." He is an unexpected savior because he is not Jewish, and because he is the king of Persia.
4. After the Exile, most of the remaining Israelites live in the southern kingdom of Judah, so they become known as Judeans or Jews. This is where we also get the term for the religious faith of Judaism.
5. By the time of Christ's birth, Jewish communities are found all around the Mediterranean Sea and beyond.
6. The faith life of Diaspora Jews centers around the synagogue, a building that serves as the assembly place and center of worship for Jews who live outside of Jerusalem.

Article 53: The Temple: Worship Central

1. The First and Second Books of Chronicles were written after the Babylonian Exile and cover much of the same history as the Deuteronomist, but from a different perspective.
2. Unlike the Deuteronomist, the Chronicler hardly even mentions Moses or the Sinai Covenant, but instead emphasizes the importance of proper Temple worship as the most important thing for sustaining their relationship with God.
3. The Temple is considered God's house, so only the priests are allowed inside. The people offer sacrifices outside the Temple.
4. No one except the high priest can enter the Holy of Holies, and he only once a year, on the Day of Atonement.
5. Almost half the content in First and Second Chronicles focuses on King David and King Solomon and the building of the Temple.



Article 54: Rebuilding Jerusalem

1. When the returning exiles arrive home, they face opposition from the people who have occupied Judah in their absence.
2. Some request to join forces with the returning exiles, but the returning exiles turn them down because of their different religious beliefs.
3. Those who remain in the territory of Samaria in the north intermarry with foreigners from other religions. They become known as the Samaritans. The Jewish People develop an antagonism toward the Samaritans that lasts even through the time of Jesus.
4. The Samaritans' worship of the one true God, Yahweh, is mingled with other religious practices and worship at Mount Gerizim instead of Jerusalem.
5. Ezra forbids intermarrying with people from other lands and demands that those Jewish men who have married foreigners abandon their wives and children.
6. Nehemiah is a Jewish leader who becomes the governor of Judah. He is a selfless leader and a model citizen who engages all of the Jewish People in rebuilding the city walls.

Article 55: Psalms: Songs for Every Occasion

1. The Hebrew name for the Book of Psalms, or the Psalter, is Tehillim, which means "praises" or "hymns of praise to God."
2. We sometimes group the Psalms into these categories: hymns of praise or thanksgiving, songs of lament or petition, wisdom hymns, liturgical or worship psalms, and historical psalms.
3. A psalm is sung or recited in the Liturgy of the Word at every Mass. The chanting or recitation of the Psalms plays a major role in the Liturgy of the Hours too.

Chapter 13: Ordinary People Give Extraordinary Witness

Article 56: Tobit, Judith, Esther: A Happy Ending

1. The canon of the Old Testament includes three short novels, or novellas, of historical fiction: the Books of Tobit, Judith, and Esther.
2. The Book of Tobit's story of perseverance and trust in God was written during the period of Greek oppression when the Jewish People needed encouragement.
4. The Book of Judith tells the story of Judith, a woman and a widow, who saves her city and the nation from destruction by the Assyrians.
5. Set in the years after the Babylonian Exile, when Persia reigned over Israel, the Book of Esther points toward the goodness of God, while also explaining the origin of the Jewish feast of Purim.



Article 57: Maccabees Part 1: Fighting a Just War

1. The First and Second Books of Maccabees address a period when the Jewish People were ruled by the Greeks.
2. King Antiochus IV prohibits the practice of the Jewish religion, desecrates and robs the Temple, and murders the families who circumcise their children.
3. Mattathias and his five sons and others escape to the hills to form a rebel army to fight their Greek oppressors. This group becomes known as the Maccabees, which comes from the Hebrew word for hammer.
4. After a successful battle, the Maccabees are able to go to Jerusalem to rededicate the Temple and joyfully celebrate for eight days. Since then, the Jewish People have remembered this event during Hanukkah.
5. The Maccabees have several victories, but they never conquer the Greeks. However, without their determination and self-sacrifice, it is possible that Judaism would not have survived.

Article 58: Maccabees Part 2: Witness Testimony

1. The word *martyr* literally means "witness." A martyr is a person who is killed because of their beliefs.
2. The Second Book of Maccabees focuses on the variety of ways the Jewish People face persecution, and it emphasizes the importance of following God's Law, even if it means death.
3. The Greeks sometimes force the Jewish People to eat pork (which is prohibited by the Law) or be tortured and killed. By eating pork, the Jews are breaking God's Law and therefore committing apostasy, the act of renouncing one's faith.
4. The martyrdom of the woman and her twelve sons reflects the Jewish People's newly found belief in the afterlife.
5. The Second Book of Maccabees encourages later generations of Jewish People and Christians to remain faithful to God even in the face of oppression and death.

Article 59: Maccabees Part 3: Life after Death

1. For most of the Old Testament, very little is said about what happens after we die.
2. When Second Maccabees is written, there is a growing belief and hope in a future resurrection, when those who remain faithful to God will be rewarded.
3. Purgatory is the state of final purification or cleansing, which one may need to enter following death and before entering Heaven.
4. In Second Maccabees, Judas and his army make an offering to God on behalf of the dead soldiers who are found with idols to false gods.



5. On All Saints' Day, we honor all known and unknown saints, asking them to pray for us.
6. When we offer our practice of the intercession of the saints, we are not praying to them like we pray to God, but rather we are asking the saints to pray for us.

Chapter 14: The Wisdom Books

Article 60: Wisdom from Above

1. The Wisdom and Poetry Books of the Bible offer moral lessons and sage advice, guide us in our search for happiness and harmony in life, and explore life's mysteries.
2. A proverb is a short saying that is easy to recall and that communicates a wise observation on human life or expresses a religious truth.
3. One of the main themes found in the Book of Proverbs is "Fear of the Lord," which refers to having a sense of awe and reverence for God.
4. The proverbs emphasize virtuous living, offer practical advice on how to deal with daily life, and remind us what is important and what is not.

Article 61: Job: Why Do Good People Suffer?

1. The Book of Job explores the mystery of suffering and provides an alternate view to the generally accepted Israelite belief that God punishes the wicked and rewards the good in this life.
2. The conversation between God and Satan at the beginning of the Book of Job lets the reader know that this is not intended to express historical facts.
3. The early description of Job's life is surely intended to instill in the Israelites' minds that God has rewarded Job, so he must be a good man.
4. From the perspective of divine retributive justice, Job is someone who is faithful to God and follows the Law, and therefore nothing bad should happen to him.
5. After the first few chapters, the Book of Job turns into a theological debate between Job and his three friends.
6. The Book of Job responds to the dilemma of why good people suffer by saying it is a mystery that is beyond human understanding.



Article 62: Ecclesiastes: What's the Point?

1. The author of Ecclesiastes, Qoheleth, expresses the frustration that no matter how hard we work or how good we are, we will still experience pain and suffering.
2. The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us to put things in perspective when it says, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens" (3:1).
3. The teacher of Ecclesiastes identifies why our attempts to be happy are just vanity: greedy people are never satisfied; humans do not have any advantages over the animals, because in the end, we both die; and the path to wisdom is through sorrow.
4. In the end, Ecclesiastes tells us to accept the mysteries of life and points us to the wonderful presence of God, "who is working in everything" (11:5).

Article 63: Song of Songs: Love Poems

1. The Song of Songs is a book of poems that affirm the goodness of sexuality.
2. The book also can be viewed as a metaphor for the intimate covenant relationship between God and his people.
3. Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians and the Book of Revelation also use marriage imagery to describe the relationship between God and the Church.

Article 64: Ben Sira: Wisdom Far from Home

1. Because of the Diaspora, the Jewish People face many cultural practices and beliefs that conflict with their own, so they work hard to maintain their cultural identity.
2. The Book of Wisdom emphasizes that suffering is not a punishment from God.
3. Like the Second Book of Maccabees, the Book of Wisdom reflects the Jewish People's growing belief in the afterlife.
4. In both the Book of Proverbs and the Book of Wisdom, wisdom is personified as a woman.
5. The Wisdom of Ben Sira was written by a man named Jesus and contains practical advice to guide its readers toward goodness and happiness.

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