**Overview of the Entire Bible Schedule**

**Week 1 – Content Overview of the Entire Bible**

**Week 2 – Storyline Overview of the Entire Bible**

**Week 3 – Jesus in the Old Testament**

**Week 4 – Pentateuch, Part 1 (Genesis 1-11)**

**Week 5 – Pentateuch, Part 2 (Genesis 12 – Deuteronomy)**

**Week 6 – Historical Writings, Part 1 (Joshua – 2 Samuel)**

**Week 7 – Historical Writings. Part 2 (1 Kings – 2 Chronicles)**

**Week 8 – Historical Writings, Part 3 (Ezra – Esther)**

**Week 9 – Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)**

**Week 10 – Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi)**

**Week 11 – Gospels & Acts (Matthew – Act)**

**Week 12 – Letters & Revelation (Romans – Revelation)**

For any questions, email bnistor@sheridanhills.org.

***Core Seminars—Overview of the Entire Bible***

**Class 8: Ezra - Esther**

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2.15)

**SIMPLE OUTLINE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ezra 1-6 | Zerubbabel builds the temple |
| Ezra 7-10 | Ezra establishes law of Moses |
| Nehemiah 1 - 7 | Nehemiah rebuilds walls |
| Nehemiah 8-12 | Spiritual Reform |
| Nehemiah 13 | Anti-Climax |
| Esther 1-3 | King Ahasuerus’s greatness |
| Esther 3 | Haman’s plot |
| Esther 4 | Esther and Mordecai plan to save their people |
| Esther 5 | Esther’s first banquet |
| Esther 6 | Haman humiliated; Mordecai exalted |
| Esther 7 | Esther’s second banquet |
| Esther 8 | Esther and Mordecai’s plan unfolds |
| Esther 9 | Feast of Purim plotted |
| Esther 10 | Mordecai’s greatness |

**SUMMARY OF EZRA TO ESTHER**

* Returning from Exile
* Rebuilding of Jewish Temple
* Reintroducing the Torah
* Rebuilding the Walls
* Esther saves her people

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT:**

* Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther were written over a period of a couple hundred years to demonstrate God’s covenant faithfulness to the remnant of Judah.

**EZRA-NEHEMIAH**

“that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled” – see Jeremiah 25:11-14; cf. 32:36-38

Prophetic hopes after exile

 Future Messianic King (Isaiah 11; Hosea 3)

 God’s presence in a new temple (Ezekiel 40-48)

 God’s kingdom over all nations (Isaiah 2; Zechariah 8)

 Fulfillment of promises to Abraham (Genesis 12)

Zerubbabel (lit. planted in Babylon) rebuilds the temple

 God’s presence and the temple?

 Leviticus 9

 1 Kings 8

 Elders cry out in grief

 Ezra and Artaxerxes

 Intermarriage – Canaanization of Judah

 Marriage annulments – partial fulfillment

 God doesn’t command Ezra to do this

 God opposed to divorce (Malachi 2:13-16)

 Nehemiah and Artaxerxes

 A city with walls?

 Zechariah 2:4-5

 Spiritual Reforms

 Ends on a downer – Judah is as disobedient as before the exile

 The need for a new heart

 Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36

**ESTHER**

King Ahasuerus

 Haman – Agagite

 Exodus 17:8-16; 1 Samuel 15:1-33

 Mordecai – Benjaminite

 From tribe of Benjamin and descendant of King Saul

 Esther

 Feast of Purim

 No Mention of “God”

 Invitation to see God’s purposes behind the scenes

 Moral Ambiguity

 Drinking, Sex, Murder

 Breaking Torah commands

Point of the book: Despite God’s seeming absence, he has not abandoned his promises.