



Progress of Redemption
Lesson 3 – Group Discussion

1. Discuss anything from the lecture that was a new idea to you. Was there anything you didn't understand that you would like for the group to discuss?
2. What is the goal to which God is aiming in this drama? What implications does this goal have in our everyday life?
3. What are the four ingredients of a legal nation which God built into Israel in Scene 1? Review as many of the 11 building steps as you can remember.
4. Despite the diversity of the Bible, we insist that it is **one** book **UNITED** around the theme of redemption. Explain the two objects we used to describe two different kinds of unity. Which of these objects represents the **unity** used in the Bible?

GROUP LEADERS PASS OUT HANDOUT 3

5. Explain this diagram showing the functional unity of the Bible. (Everybody join in.)
6. In 1 Corinthians 10:11 Paul says that the events of the Old Testament happened as examples and warnings for us. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus used an OT example in John 3:14. What was He illustrating to Nicodemus with this example?
7. Can you think of other OT historical events used as examples of redemptive truth in the NT epistles?

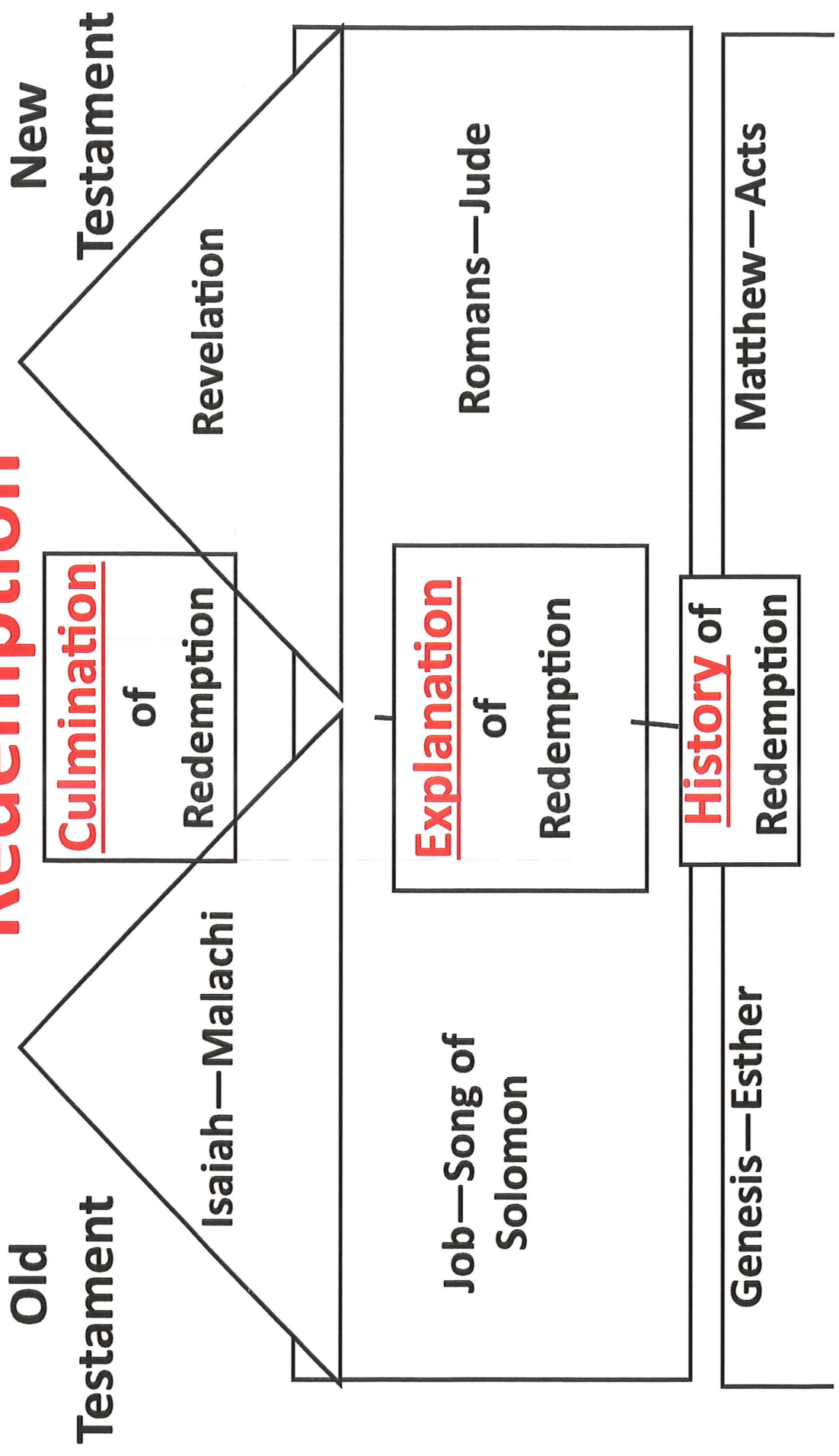
GROUP LEADERS PASS OUT HANDOUT 4

8. Let's make sure we understand where Scene 2 fits into the drama of Redemption. Fill in the blanks below.
 - A. Title of the biblical drama _____
 - B. Act 1 _____ (with Scriptures)
 - Scene 1 _____ (with Scriptures)
 - Scene 2 _____ (with Scriptures)
 - Scene 3 _____ (with Scriptures)
 - C. Act 2 _____ (with Scriptures)
9. Understand Scene 2: Take turns reading the scripture under each diagram. Explain its meaning. (There will be opportunity in your homework to go into more detail in Scene 2.)
10. Scene 2 is all about God's discipline of Israel for their disobedience. Read aloud Hebrews 12: 5-7; 10,11. Tell the group about any good changes God has brought into your life through hardship.

Prayer Focus: Spend some time praying for people in your life who are going through difficulties. Use some of the words of Hebrews 12 that we read above to guide your prayers.

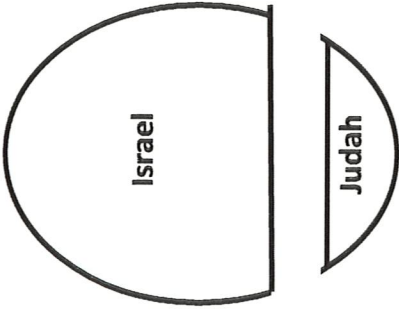
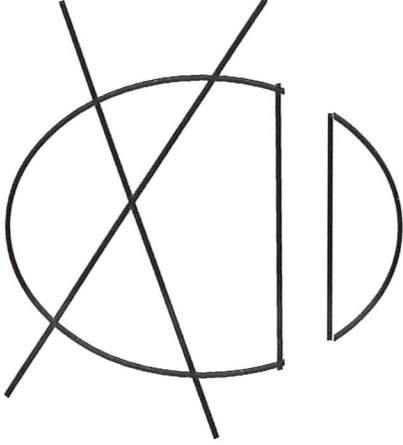
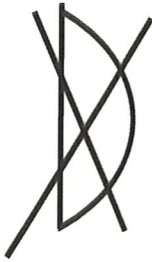
Functional Unity of the Bible Around the Theme of

Redemption



Act I Scene 1 God scatters the nation of Israel as a punishment for turning to other gods.

1 Kings 11—2 Chronicles 36

Act 1: Scene 2— God scatters the nation in 3 steps		
 <p>Israel</p> <p>Judah</p>		
<p>1 Kings 11: 9-13</p> <p>“The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord.... The Lord said, ‘I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you...’</p>	<p>1 Kings 14: 15: “The Lord will uproot Israel from this good land...and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River.”</p> <p>2 Kings 15:29 “... The king of Assyria took the people (of Israel) and deported them to Assyria.”</p>	<p>2 Kings 21: 10-15 “The Lord, the God of Israel said, ... ‘I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish...and give them into the hands of their enemies...they have done evil in my eyes and have aroused my anger.’ “</p> <p>2 Kings 25:7-21—gives the details.</p>



Homework for Lesson 3

1. You may be interested to read in more detail about God's discipline of Israel through Assyria and Babylon. Using Handout 4 place these scriptures under the three pictures, and you can read more detail about each of the three steps.

1 Kings 11: 9-13

1 Kings 14: 7-16

2 Kings 21: 10-15

1 Kings 12: 19-24

2 Kings 17: 6-18

2 Kings 25: 7-21

2. The scattering of Israel is an example of the discipline of God for Israel's disobedience. **Hebrews 12: 5-11** is a rich New Testament passage which explains the meaning and purpose of God's gracious discipline. Read this passage and jot down anything that strikes you about God's discipline in your own life.

3. Answer these questions about the passage:

A. In verse 5 the author gives two challenges to those who are experiencing discipline through hardship. What are these two challenges?

B. Write out your own explanation of Hebrews 12:11.

C. What was the "harvest of righteousness" that resulted from Israel's discipline?

D. What perspective does 1 Peter 4:12, 13 shed on God's discipline of His children?

4. As a means of review see if you can fill in the parts of God's great drama

A. Title of the biblical drama _____

B. Act 1 _____ (with scriptures)

Scene 1 _____ (with Scriptures)

Scene 2 _____ (with Scriptures)

Scene 3 _____ (with Scriptures)

C. Act 2 _____ (with Scripture)