

Discussion Questions for Small Group



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Instructions: Listen to the Shabbat audio reading together as a small group. Have your bibles with you and read along. After listening, go through the discussion questions below.

Date: August 5 & 6, 2023

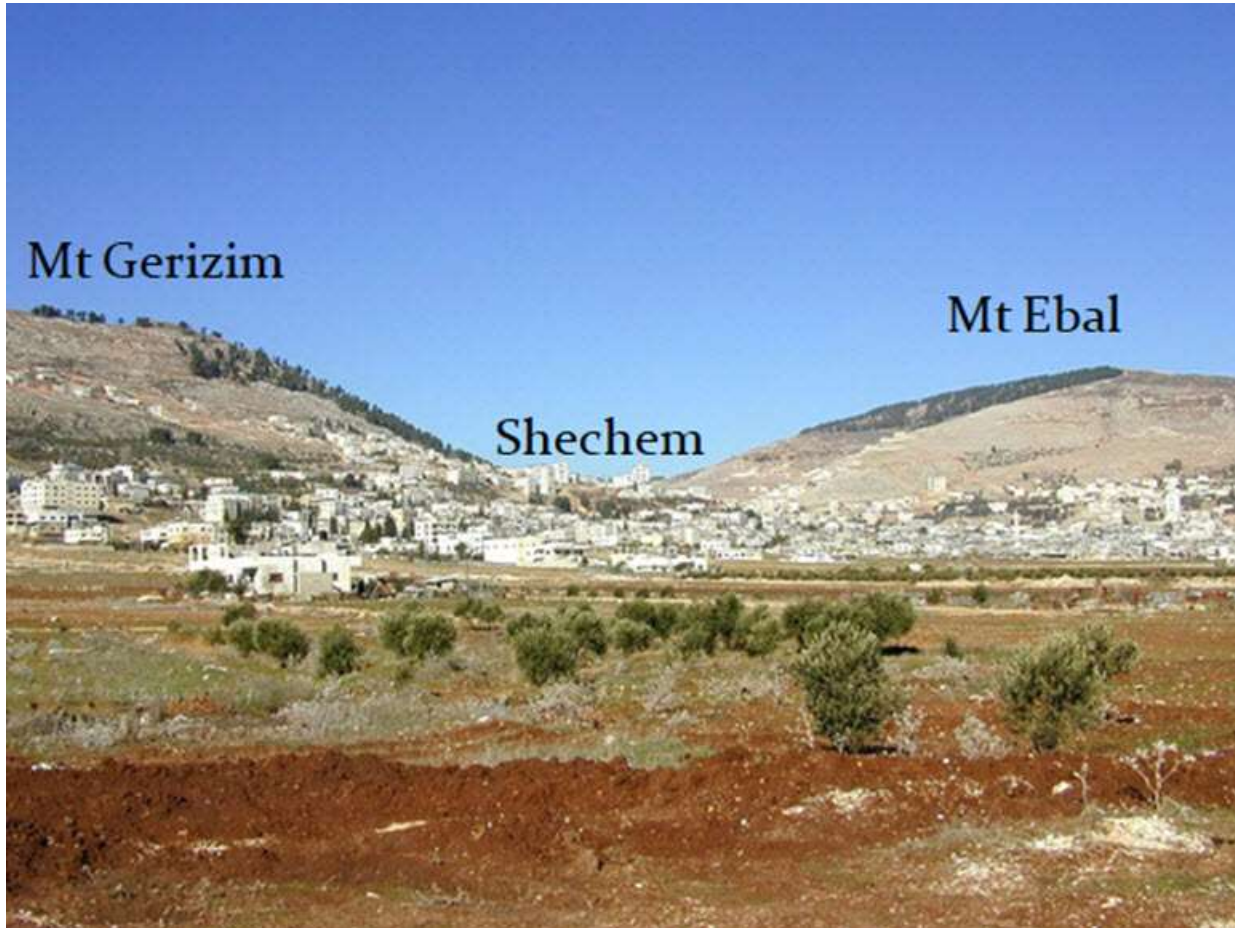
Scripture Reading: Deut 11:11-25, Ezra 1:1-2:70, 1 Cor 1:18-2:5, Psalm 27:7-14, Prov 20:22-23, Deut 11:26-12:10, Ezra 3:1-4:23, 1 Cor 2:6-3:4, Psalm 28:1-9, Prov 20:24-25

1. Read Deuteronomy 12:5. What is this place where the God of Israel chooses to place his name and where His spirit abides?

2. Review the pictures below. We see the letter Shin literally stamped into the land of Israel in the region of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. What are your thoughts/reflections about this?



3. Read Deuteronomy 11:29. Review the picture below. In Deuteronomy 28:1-15, Moses has 6 of the tribes read the blessings for obedience from Mt Gerizim. In Deuteronomy 28: 15-68, Moses has the other six tribes read the curses/judgments for disobedience from Mt Ebal. Why do you think he had them do this?



4. Read Jeremiah 25:11-12 and Jeremiah 29:10. What is the prophecy and the promise regarding the Southern Kingdom (Judah) and their exile?

5. Now read Ezra 1:1-3. What do you learn about this prophecy concerning the exile?

6. Read Ezra 3:1-4. What is the first thing the returning Jewish exiles did once they were in Jerusalem?

7. Read Ezra 4:4-6. What kind of spiritual warfare did the returning Jewish exiles experience as they were working on rebuilding the city of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple?

8. Read Ezra 4:12-13. What is the main accusation that the people living in Jerusalem are bringing against the Jews?

9. Read Ezra 4:24. What is the result of the spiritual opposition?

10. Share a time when you were called by God to work on an assignment/task He gave you. Did you experience any "push-back" or "opposition"? How did you handle it?

11. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-28. Paul is laying out a biblical principle here, that God chooses the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. Can you share an example of how you see that happening in your own life?

12. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-2. What is Paul's focus? Do WE need to refocus?

13. Read 1 Corinthians 2:3-5. If our faith is standing in the wisdom of man, what can happen? How do we know if our faith is standing in the wisdom of man?

14. Read 1 Corinthians 2:5. If, on the other hand, our faith is standing in the power of God, what will be the result?