

### Introduction

The consequences for Israel of obeying or disobeying God.

## Questions

- 1. What three things will God do if they keep his commands?
- 2. If they will not do God's commandments, and will not change when he sends plagues upon them, what will be their ultimate punishment?
- 3. Why does God say he will not utterly destroy them?



## Summary Points

- v 1 and 2 A reminder that no idols are to be made and the Sabbath (see information) is to be kept
- v 3 to 13 Blessings to be enjoyed if the nation is obedient to God:
  - $_{\odot}$  v 3 to 5 good harvests
  - $_{\odot}$  v 6 to 8 peace and security
  - $_{\odot}$  v 9 to 13 increase in numbers and be God's people
- v 14 to 39 Punishments to come on the nation for disobedience:
  - $_{\odot}$  v 14 to 17 disease, no harvests or stolen harvests and defeat by enemies
  - $_{\odot}$  v 18 to 22 problems will increase if they continue to disobey
  - $_{\odot}$  v 23 to 26 problems will intensify more if they still disobey
  - $_{\odot}$  v 27 to 39 if they still disobey, famine will be so severe they will eat their own children, their cities will be rubble and they will be scattered throughout the world
- **v 40 to 43** God will remember his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob if they turn back to him
- v 44 to 46 Despite all the punishment that God will inflict on them, he will not totally destroy them

Timeline 1500 BC (see below)

# Information

#### The Sabbath

A selection of verses showing what the Bible tells us about the Sabbath. The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, equivalent to Saturday in the Western calendar.

Its importance for those under the law of Moses is emphasised because it is the fourth of the Ten Commandments given by God to Israel at Sinai:

Exodus 20 verses 8 to 11



The provision is for the benefit of all:

Exodus 23 verse 12

The law of Moses prescribes the death penalty for those who do not keep the Sabbath as specified. God regards keeping it as Israel's acceptance of God's covenant with them:

Exodus 31 verses 15 and 16

Israel's failure to keep the Sabbath law is one reason for their being taken from their homeland as prophesied in Leviticus 26:

Leviticus 26 verses 32 to 35

The king of Babylon fulfils this prophecy as recorded in 2 Chronicles:

2 Chronicles 36 verses 20 and 21

The apostle Paul tells us that believers are not required to keep the Sabbath:

Colossians 2 verse 16

The Sabbath is a reminder of God's promise of a final rest for his people:

Hebrews 4 verses 9 to 11

## Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions: Q 1: v 4, 6 and 9, Q 2: v 33, Q 3: v 45



